Stolen Generations

Details

The Stolen Generations are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who, when they were children, were taken away from their families and communities as the result of past government policies. Children were removed by governments, churches and welfare bodies to be brought up in institutions, fostered out or adopted by white families. The removal of Aboriginal children took place from the early days of British colonisation in Australia. It broke important cultural, spiritual and family ties and has left a lasting and intergenerational impact on the lives and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Government policies concerning Aboriginal people were implemented under different laws in the different states and territories of Australia. These laws meant that the lives of Indigenous people were controlled by government: marriages, work, wages, housing, children and access to health care.

Records about the Stolen Generations and their families were kept by governments, as well as by churches and missions. But many records have been lost: fires, floods, poor recordkeeping and changes to government departments can make it very difficult to trace family connections.

Link-Up

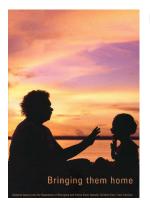
Link-Up organisations around Australia provide family tracing and reunion services to members of the Stolen Generations, their families, and foster and adoptive families. These services include:

- researching family and personal records
- emotional support when accessing family and personal records
- finding family members
- assistance and support at family reunions
- support and counselling before, during and after family reunion.

Link-Ups give priority to first generation members of the Stolen Generations who have directly experienced removal or separation from family and community, especially those who are elderly or have urgent health concerns.

Link-Ups also provide services to subsequent generations of family members who have been affected by intergenerational trauma related to removal, and to members of families and communities from whom children were removed.

Gallery



Front cover of the Bringing them home report (1997)



Back to Cootamundra

Description: [This description was taken from the caption published on the SBS Living Black channel on YouTube. This episode aired on 9 June 2012] Its been a long journey of healing for former residents of the Cootamundra Girls Home in southern New South Wales. But nearly a hundred years after it opened members of the stolen generation still find the memories as fresh as they are painful.



The Lost Children of Sydney [Aboriginal Children's Services]

Description: This is a photograph taken from an Australian Women's Weekly article.

More info

Related Entries

Related Events

- Victorian Government Apology to the Stolen Generations (17 September 1997)
- Stolen Generations Reparations Package, Victorian government (2022 current)
- Territories Stolen Generations Redress Scheme, Australian government (2021 current)
- Stolen Generations Reparations Scheme, New South Wales government (2017 2024)
- Stolen Generations Reparations Scheme, South Australian government (2015 2018)

Related Legislation

- Aborigines Welfare Ordinance 1954, Commonwealth of Australia (1954 1965)
- Aborigines Welfare Repeal Ordinance 1965, Australian Capital Territory (1965 1977)
- Children's Welfare Act 1954, Victoria (1955 1959)
- An Act to Provide for the Protection and Management of the Aboriginal Natives of Victoria, Victoria (1870 -1890)
- Infants' Welfare Act 1935, Tasmania (1935 1961)
- Child Welfare Act 1960, Tasmania (1960 2003)

Related Organisations

- Ballarat Orphanage (1909 1968)
- Hope Valley Mission (c. 1896 May 1942)
- Hope Vale Mission (c. 1950 1986)

- Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, State Government of Queensland (12 November 2020 May 2023)
- The Babies' Home Walkerville (1912 1945)
- St Francis House (1946 c. 1961)
- St Mary's Mission of Hope (1904 1953)
- Catholic Girls' Home Parkside (1930 1943)
- St Vincent de Paul Orphanage (1866 1975)
- Umeewarra Mission Children's Home (1937 1964)
- Blackburn South Cottages (1963 1988)
- Bedford Park Boys' Training Centre (1961 1965)
- Boys Reformatory, Magill (1891 1967)
- House of Mercy and Retreat for Women (1881 1974)
- Karingal Youth Hostel (1952 1964)
- Kennion House (1955 1982)
- Convent of the Good Shepherd "The Pines" (1942 1974)
- Lochiel Park Boys' Training Centre (1958 1995)
- Kate Cocks Memorial Babies' Home (1954 1976)
- Lentara (1960 1977)
- Barton Vale Girls' Home (1922 1947)
- St Gabriel's Babies' Home (1935 1975)
- Glandore Industrial School (1949 1958)
- Sacred Heart Orphanage (1940 1979)
- St John the Baptist Home for Boys (1898 1941)
- St Joseph's Orphanage Largs Bay (1907 1960s)
- St Joseph's Refuge (1868 c. 2001)
- Campbell House Farm School, Meningie (1959 1963)
- Central Depot (1900 1965)
- Edwardstown Industrial School (1898 1949)
- McBride Maternity Hospital (1914 1975)
- The Salvation Army Boys' Home, Mount Barker (1945 1982)
- Allambie Reception Centre (1961 1990)
- The Salvation Army Boys' Home, Kent Town (1929 1972)
- The Salvation Army Girls' Home, Fullarton (1945 1969?)
- Colebrook Home (1927 1981)
- McNally Training Centre (1967 1979)
- Seaforth Convalescent Home (1921 1946)
- Struan Farm School, Naracoorte (1947 1969)
- Vaughan House (1947 1979)
- Windana Remand Home (1965 1975)
- Allambi Girls' Hostel (1947 1977)
- Kumanka Boys' Hostel (1946 1980)
- Luprina Hostel (1971 current)
- Stuart House Boys' Hostel (1964 1990)
- Koonibba Children's Home (1913 1963)
- Gerard Mission (1946 1974)
- Kali Boys' Hostel (1971 1972)
- Oodnadatta Children's Home (1924 1974)
- Ooldea Mission (1933 1952)
- Tanderra Girls' Home (1952 1973)
- Aboriginal Women's Home, North Adelaide (1926 c. 1975)
- Estcourt House (1894 1978)
- Stolen Generations Victoria Ltd (2005 2010)
- Junior Red Cross Home, Henley Beach (1933 1946)
- Kurbingai Hostel (1958 1962)
- Mareeba Babies' Hospital (1917 1960)
- Morialta Protestant Children's Home (1924 1972)
- Oodnadatta Hostel (1971 1986)

- Poonindie Mission (1851 1894)
- Warrawee, Grange (1950 1975)
- Wiltja Hostel (1956 1978)
- Methodist Children's Homes (1924 1960)
- The Church of England Boys' Home at Walkerville (1903 1955)
- St Joseph's Home (c. 1911 1980)
- St John's Boys Town (1941 1954)
- Umeewarra Mission Home, Davenport Reserve (1964 1995)
- Glandore Children's Home (1958 1966)
- Glandore Boys' Home (1966 1973)
- Seaforth Home (1946 1975)
- Convent of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Carrieton (1942 1945)
- St Mary's Home for Children (1953 1990)
- Methodist Home for Babies and Unmarried Mothers (1937 1954)
- Balaklava Aboriginal Welfare Institution (1942 1946)
- Ernabella Mission (1937 1974)
- Central Board for the Protection of Aborigines, Colony of Victoria (1869 1900)
- Nepabunna Mission (1931 1977)
- Girls' Probationary School (1901 1945)
- Fullarton Children's Home (1969 1986)
- Boys' Probationary School (1900 1945)
- Minda Home (1911 1976)
- Lady Hore-Ruthven Junior Red Cross Home (1946 1959)
- Church of England Hostel for Inland Children (1945 1946)
- Swan Reach Mission (1926 1946)
- Yalata Mission (1954 1974)
- Point McLeay Mission Station (1859 1974)
- Point Pearce Mission Station (1868 1915)
- Finniss Springs Mission (1939 c. 1961)
- Manunka Mission (1901 1916)
- Killalpaninna Mission (1867 1915)
- Koonibba Mission (1901 1975)
- Magdalen Home (1893 1974)
- St Joseph's Orphanage (1879 1970)
- Clarendon Children's Home (1922 2004)
- Central Board Appointed to Watch Over the Interests of Aborigines (1860 1869)
- Kennerley Boys' Home (1869 1969)
- Ashley Home for Boys (1926 1999)
- Wybra Hall (1956 1988)
- Northern Tasmanian Home for Boys (1921 1973)
- Barrington Boys' Home (1946 1981)
- Maylands Salvation Army Home for Girls (1945 1981)
- Weeroona Girls' Training Centre (1959 1979)
- West Winds Boys' Home (1967 1983)
- Rochebank Hostel (c. 1950 c. 1980)
- Abermere Hostel (1965 1975)
- Casablanca Receiving Home (c. 1968 c. 1980)
- Gilburn Receiving Home (1959 c. 1980)
- Malmesbury Receiving Home (c. 1962 c. 1980)
- Omaru Receiving Home (1910? 1968)
- Queen's Orphan Asylum (1833 1879)

Aboriginal children were removed from Flinders Island in the 1840s and placed in the Queen's Orphan Asylum.

Related Archival Collections

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs Records (1880s - current)

Resources

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