

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 \(2015 - 2018\)](#)
- [WA Stolen Generations Redress Scheme, Western Australian government \(2025 - current\)](#)

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.

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