# National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from Their Families, Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission

1995 - 1997

# **Details**

The National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from Their Families was established by the Federal Attorney-General in 1995. It was conducted by the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC). In April 1997, the Commission handed down the report, *Bringing them Home: Report of the National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from Their Families* containing 54 recommendations.

The basic terms of reference for the Commission were to inquire into and report on the following matters:

- a) what were the laws, policies and practices that resulted in the removal of children in the past, and what effect did they have?
- b) were the (then) current laws and practices (related to services available) adequate enough to help people whom had been affected by removal in the past?
- c) what factors were important to consider when thinking about compensation for people who had been removed?
- d) whether the (then) current laws and policies around removal needed to be changed.

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# Gallery

# Bringing them home

### Front cover of the Bringing them home report (1997)

## More info

### Related Entries

### **Related Events**

- Apology to the Aboriginal people of Australia for the separation of children from their families, Parliament of New South Wales (18 June 1997)
  - The NSW apology to the Aboriginal people of Australia was a response to the National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from their Families.
- Apology to Aboriginal People, Government of Tasmania (1997)
  - The National Inquiry led to the apology to Aboriginal people by the Tasmanian state government.
- Apology to Aboriginal Families by the Parliament of Western Australia (28 May 1997)
- Victorian Government Apology to the Stolen Generations (17 September 1997)
- Apology to Australia's Indigenous Peoples, Parliament of Australia (13 February 2008)

### **Related Glossary Terms**

• Aboriginal Child Placement Principle (1983 - current)

### **Related Legislation**

- Aborigines Welfare Ordinance 1954, Commonwealth of Australia (1954 1965)
- Aborigines Welfare Repeal Ordinance 1965, Australian Capital Territory (1965 1977)

### **Related Archival Collections**

- Bringing Them Home after the Apology oral history project [sound recording], National Library of Australia (2009 - current)
- Bringing Them Home Oral History Project [sound recording] (1998 2002)

### **Related Organisations**

Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (1981 - current)
SNAICC was instrumental in bringing the story of the 'Stolen Generations' to prominence and calling for a national enquiry.

### Resources

- Swain, Shurlee, History of Australian inquiries reviewing institutions providing care for children, October 2014
- Parliament of Australia, <u>Apology Transcript</u>, We say Sorry The National Apology to Indigenous Peoples of Australia, Parliament House, Canberra, 13 February 2008, 2008
- Victorian Koorie Records Taskforce, wilam naling ... knowing who you are: Improving access to records of the Stolen Generations: a report to the Victorian Government from the Victorian Koorie Records Taskforce, 2006
- Briskman, Linda, The black grapevine: Aboriginal activism and the stolen generations, 2003
- Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, <u>The Stolen Generations</u>, No date

- Marie Wood interviewed by Ann-Mari Jordens in the Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants oral history project [sound recording], 13 May 2010
- Australian Human Rights Commission, Bringing Them Home: The 'Stolen Children' Report (1997), 2011
- Australian Human Rights Commission, Bringing them home, 2010
- McDonald, Ashley, <u>Are We Family? And if so, Can I Still Sue You?</u>, Murdoch University Electronic Journal of Law, March 2000

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