



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO. 3

## MEDIA RELEASE

### MORE REPARATIONS RECOMMENDED FOR STOLEN GENERATIONS SURVIVORS

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

23 June 2016

An Upper House committee that inquired into reparations for the Stolen Generations in New South Wales tabled its important report today, in front of Stolen Generation survivors and community members who watched proceedings.

The inquiry considered how reparations could be provided to those who were ‘stolen’ from their families between the late 1800s and 1970s under past government forcible removal policies and practices. Removed children were either placed in government controlled training homes, non-government or religious institutions, or fostered or adopted into white families. Many were neglected, treated poorly and physically and/or sexually abused.

Despite measures of reparation being recommended almost 20 years ago as part of the *1996 National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Their Families* (the *Bringing them home* inquiry), the committee found that New South Wales still has much progress to make in delivering Stolen Generation survivors the reparations they so desperately need and deserve.

A key recommendation of the committee was that the government establish an administrative based reparations scheme, where eligible Stolen Generations survivors could apply for a monetary payment, similar to the schemes provided in South Australia and Tasmania. The Chair of the committee, Ms Jan Barham MLC, called on the government to establish this scheme urgently: ‘Many Stolen Generations survivors are elderly and/or in poor health. They need swift action in terms of financial reparation as they have already waited far too long’.

The committee also recommended that a Stolen Generations Advisory Committee be established to give Stolen Generation survivors a greater voice and input into the decisions and policies that affect them. Other recommendations include healing initiatives, memorials, an educational scholarship scheme, culturally appropriate aged care services for survivors, the re-establishment of the Aboriginal Trust Fund Repayment Scheme to repay ‘stolen wages’, improved access to personal records and additional funding for family reunions.

Ms Barham said that ‘no amount of financial or non-financial reparations can ever fully restore what people have lost, however it can make a difference to the future of Stolen Generation survivors and their families. We can’t change the past, but we can change the future’.

For further information about the inquiry, or to view the committee’s report, please visit the committee’s website: [www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/gpsc3](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/gpsc3).

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