

Submission  
No 22

## INQUIRY INTO REPARATIONS FOR THE STOLEN GENERATIONS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

**Organisation:** NSW Council of Social Service

**Date received:** 16/10/2015

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The Director  
General Purpose Standing Committee No. 3  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000



16 October 2015

Dear Director,

**RE: Reparations for the Stolen Generations in New South Wales (Inquiry)**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the Inquiry into reparations for the Stolen Generations in New South Wales.

The NSW Council of Social Service (NCOSS) works with and for people experiencing poverty and disadvantage to see positive change in our communities.

When rates of poverty and inequality are low, everyone in NSW benefits. With 80 years of knowledge and experience informing our vision, NCOSS is uniquely placed to bring together civil society to work with government and business to ensure communities in NSW are strong for everyone.

As the peak body for health and community services in NSW we support the sector to deliver innovative services that grow and evolve as needs and circumstances evolve.

Aboriginal community controlled organisations and peaks have a strong and vibrant history of advocating for the rights and interests of Aboriginal people, and delivering services to Aboriginal people that meet their needs and are culturally appropriate.

AbSec's submission to this process notes that all Aboriginal families have been touched in some way by past policies of forced removal. As such, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children continue to be overrepresented amongst children experiencing poverty and are particularly disadvantaged across a range of indicators. Of particular concern is the significant and ongoing over-representation of Aboriginal children within the out of home care system.

In working to make reparations to members of the Stolen Generations and their descendants, and address the persistent disparity in outcomes, Aboriginal people and representative organisations are best placed to shape the policy, programs and services that are relevant to their communities and peoples.

**We therefore strongly endorse the submission made by AbSec to this process, particularly the call to support Aboriginal communities to exercise self-determination with respect to the child and family welfare sector in NSW.**

We also note that reducing disadvantage and poverty among Aboriginal people is the joint responsibility of all Government agencies and service providers. As a matter of course, all stakeholders should:

- Commit to the principles of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous peoples in program design and policy development;
- Seek, respect and value the skills, expertise and knowledge of Aboriginal peoples and communities; and work in partnership with the strong, existing network of Aboriginal community controlled and representative organisations and peaks when developing government policies, programs and services;
- Work in partnership with community controlled organisations to develop meaningful service KPIs that reflect culturally appropriate and holistic service delivery;
- Ensure procurement processes and funding models are built to support the development of Aboriginal community controlled organisations; and
- Require all service providers to ensure cultural safety for clients and staff via their KPIs and funding contracts.

NCOSS would welcome the opportunity to engage further with the Inquiry on the details of this submission. Should you require any further information, please contact John Mikelsons, NCOSS Deputy CEO, on [redacted] or via email at [redacted]

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]  
Tracy Howe  
Chief Executive Officer