

**Submission
No 40**

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

Name: Mr Robert Eddie

Date received: 16/02/2016

My very brief submission consists of my own observations, having experienced removal from my primary carer and culture twice over a period of four years. This occurred at ages three, and six and a half years. I believe my experience to be of value even though I am not of aboriginal decent. I have a personal understanding of the impact on a child who is removed, cut off completely, taken to a different 'world' of people and place, then have the same thing happen again just a few years later. Government intervention and loop holes in process contributed to these events.

At 55 years of age now, the psychological stress of the experience is as significant or more so than at any other time in my life. In short, anyone who has experienced the type of shock and trauma that 'stolen generations' experienced can never be fully healed or whole or understand or feel a true 'belonging' ever again. Of great importance, and something I never received directly from the persons who removed me, is acknowledgement that what was done was of great harm and is now recognized as wrong and that the people concerned are truly, truly sorry and remorseful for their actions. Acknowledgment that the experience was life changing and will continue to be a source of pain for the person's entire life.

Recognition that the people who have been removed without any say in the matter, regardless of the reasons, are people who deal daily, hourly even, with painful debilitating thoughts about others and themselves and their families, is essential. Perhaps then they will feel understood, and just a little bit less alone with these thoughts.

I hope I have been able to communicate just how debilitating the experience can be, irrespective of the good intentions of subsequent carers in the child's life.

Kind Regards
Robert Eddie