

Tuesday 13th February 2018

10th Anniversary of the Apology a time to learn from and act with Stolen Generations

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander rights organisation ANTaR today paused to reflect on the horrors, and honour the courage of, the Stolen Generations on the 10th Anniversary of the Prime Minister's Apology to the Stolen Generations.

Nation Director ANTaR, Andrew Meehan said that the Apology delivered 10 years ago today was a watershed moment of healing for the nation that must be followed with stronger efforts to address trauma, support healing, and provide reparations and care to surviving Stolen Generations' members.

"The Apology was an incredibly important moment for the country but we must move beyond words to action. It is positive that the Leader of the Opposition committed a future Labor government to reparations, and further support for the Healing Foundation yesterday."

"Such initiatives should be bipartisan. All sides of Parliament have acknowledged the terrible hurt and suffering caused by decades of government policy, surely some support in the form of reparations in the dying years of Stolen Generations' members is something the government can come on board with," he said.

Mr Meehan also expressed serious concern about the appalling rates of child removal currently occurring, and called for government to act on the Family Matters Campaign Roadmap for eliminating the overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out of home care.

"It is incomprehensible that the rates of Aboriginal child removal have almost doubled since the Apology was delivered. Government must listen to the voices of First Peoples to address this crisis," Mr Meehan said.

He noted that out of home care is an predictor for juvenile detention and then prison, having a life long devastating effect on children removed, and their communities, and continuing the intergeneration trauma experienced by First Peoples.

ANTaR is the only non-Indigenous organisation dedicated solely to supporting the aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and working to educate the wider community, shape public opinion, and speak up for justice, rights and respect for Australia's First Peoples.