

MEDIA RELEASE



Friday 26th May 2017

National Sorry Day a time to reflect and learn from mistakes

National advocacy organisation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander rights ANTaR, today stands with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to reflect on the pain and suffering of the Stolen Generations and ongoing impact on First Peoples.

ANTaR National Director Andrew Meehan said that today was a day for the nation to be sorry to the Stolen Generations and their families, and learn from the mistakes of the past.

“Australians should all know about this dark period in our history, should listen to the Stolen Generations and their families, and should stand with First Peoples to ensure this can never be repeated,” Mr Meehan said.

“It is shameful that 20 years (to this day), since the Bringing Them Home Report documented this appalling period in our nation’s history, few of the recommendations have been acted upon by government.”

“The nation’s political leaders owe it to the Stolen Generations and their families to implement, in full, the recommendations of that landmark report,” he said.

Mr Meehan also expressed deep concern at the increasing rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care.

“It is completely unacceptable that today one in every three children in out-of-home care is Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. This is an increase from 20 years ago when the Bringing Them Home report found one in five children was Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander,” he said.

“Rather than just expressing sorrow, government should adopt and implement all of the recommendations of the Bringing Them Home Report, and listen to, and work with First Peoples to address this growing crisis. The Family Matters Campaign would be a good place to start,” he said.

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. ANTaR supported the development and launch of the Redfern Statement.