

Stolen Generations Community Reparations Fund

Summary of Consultations

February 2017

www.statedevelopment.sa.gov.au/stolengenerationsscheme



Government
of South Australia

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Introduction

The South Australian Government's Stolen Generations Reparations Scheme includes an Individual Repayments Scheme (\$6m) and a Community Reparations Fund (\$5m).

Before opening the Community Reparations Fund a community consultation process was initiated in the second half of 2016 to seek the views and voices of Aboriginal and other South Australians about the types of projects they would like to see supported.

The consultation started informally in June 2016 and was officially launched by the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation in October 2016. An on-line survey was open between October-December 2016. A link to the survey was sent to over 250 people/organisations on our distribution list and it was also promoted widely as being accessible via our web site and via social media.

It was important that the consultation included ideas and suggestions from members of the Stolen Generations and their families about the best use of the Fund.

We also heard from people (both volunteers and paid staff) and agencies who provide a range of services to Aboriginal people in South Australia.

Consultation reach



MORE THAN 100
ATTENDED
MEETINGS/TELEPHONE
CONVERSATIONS

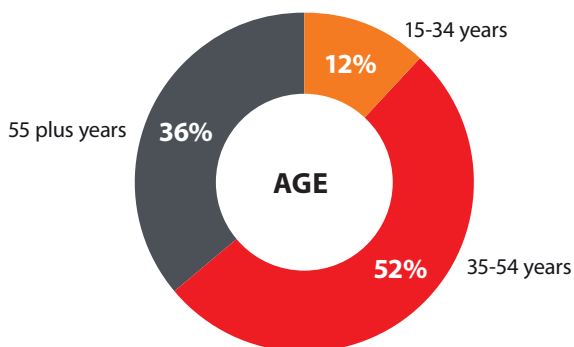


91
PARTICIPATED IN
THE ON-LINE SURVEY

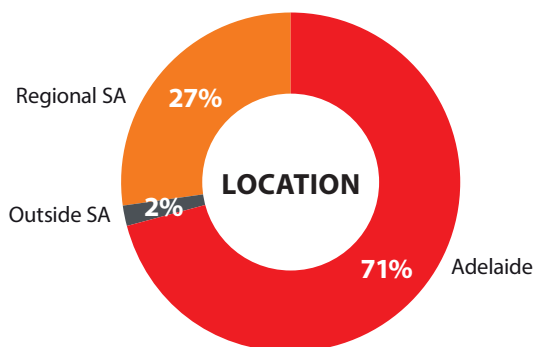


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SUBMISSIONS
FROM ORGANISATIONS

Survey – profile of participants



ABORIGINALITY 63%



Favourable responses to the question, 'Should the Community Reparations Fund Support...':

ORAL HISTORY **87%**

ABORIGINAL FAMILY HISTORY **85%**

HEALING PROGRAMS **84%**

ARTS AND CULTURE **79%**

COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND RESEARCH **79%**

MEMORIALS **67%**

EDUCATIONAL AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS **61%**

Detailed Responses

Outlined below is a summary of the main themes raised by people both in discussions at meetings, telephone conversations and in the survey. This is followed with direct quotes from participants in the survey.

Oral History

Main themes

- The importance of recording people's stories given the disconnection of Stolen Generations from family, community and country
- Story-telling can lead to further personal research about family and community
- Creating a place/a centre to enable people to record their stories and to undertake, with assistance, personal and family research
- Need for ownership and control by Aboriginal people of the oral history process
- Opportunity to make use of contemporary tools (multi media) to record these stories and make them more accessible.

Comments from Survey Participants

'I personally don't know a lot about my Aboriginal Ancestors and would love information for my children and their children etc.'

'Oral history is great as an anthropological historical account of Stolen Generation survivors but I don't think the reparation fund should be used for this purpose - this should be funded by SA Museum or State records'

'Oral History is important specially for those future generations to understand what happened to those who were affected. It also helps those telling the stories to heal and remember their identity'

'it also helps those telling the story to remember their native tongue languages in which we are trying to revive and restore those endangered languages. The Indigenous heritage was always oral'

'I think it's a great idea but ... where will these oral histories be held and who can access them - will the oral histories just be for the family members of those recording the oral histories or will they be made available to the general public?'

'Those providing oral histories also need to have their intellectual property rights and copyright protected. The oral histories could form part of an exhibition with photos of those providing them, including old photos. Further, they could be made into a good quality book.'

'it is hard to locate records on our old people and who their parents were, I have been working on our family genealogy and I have found it very hard to track down records with full details on my elders and their children due to being a member of the stolen generation.'

'Record them in a wide range of media ie. video'

'They are good for educating everyone about the importance ... of Cultural history. Stories about ancestors are good but also need to tell stories of people's lives recent past, present and hopes/aspirations for the future.'

'Preserving oral history is a critical first phase of genealogical research and data preservation. Other significant records may turn up in the course of an oral history interviews and this information may provide additional family information. Our children need to continue to be strong in their culture and this comes from having the knowledge of family and connections.'

'If these projects are funded they should include reference to support from suitably qualified & experienced facilitators, counsellors (possible both) or practitioners skilled in working with Aboriginal people who are sharing very private and deep emotional issues'

'There are no services to provide for this to happen and it is important for Individuals to be able to record their stories, if they are comfortable to do so'

'An Oral history project is important because stolen generations are ultimately voiceless, their stories hidden, untold and unshared'

'The use of Aboriginal media organisations to produce and project these stories in language is important'

'A repository for the safe and sustainable housing of oral history documentation as a space for community to interact and gain a deeper understanding of this legacy of experience -A truth telling and sharing place'

'I would like to see community based projects where training in good oral history method and sound recording could be provided to communities to establish and run their own projects.'

'I do not support the ownership of those stories being vested in government departments.'

'Recording our oral history is vital.'

'very worthwhile - a lot that can be done in this area, particularly in association with documenting photography collections, etc.'

'I believe that Elders stories need to be captured so that their experiences can be shared with future generations and family members.'

'I think it is important to record these stories for future generations. In addition, these stories are important for Australians to have an understanding of Aboriginal history'

'I think oral history & stories of what happened to my mother's family needs to be recorded so it helps her heal but also us as a family heal. We have some history to keep for our generations to come.'

'Oral stories are a vital medium in sharing culture, life experiences and raising awareness'

'Such projects need to be embedded in ACCHOS, and ownership of the material made very clear. Accessibility is also a consideration - is the material online and accessible to all?'

'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures are 'oral history cultures', in that we have learned and taught language culture and history from oral history stories and the like throughout our collective history. So something like this makes perfect sense.'

'With Oral history it will be great to record songs in traditional native language or talking in traditional native language to preserve and use to teach further generations.'

'Having a place for Stolen Generations members to record & keep their history is important for the individual, their families & the respective communities they belong to'

'Since many of us - Members of the Aboriginal Stolen Generations - have been affected by various circumstances. I suggest & ask that our family genealogies are completed - for the purposes of various aspects including Native Title.'

Aboriginal family history

Main themes

- Knowing your story helps create a sense of belonging
- Make it easier for Aboriginal people to access information about their family histories – often very difficult at present
- Create a service centre where people can be taught how to find information about their family history
- Improve processes and the storage and indexing of records held by the government
- Photographic collections – need to create a consolidated and digitised collection which is easy to use on-line
- Strengthen existing services (eg. SA Museum, Aboriginal Link Up etc.)
- Government records and some privately-held records are not easily accessible.

Comments from survey participants

'Lots of Aboriginal Peoples have been disconnected from their past through no fault of their own and it is their Inherent Right to Feel Connected and Supported in their Journey of Belonging which brings Healing.'

'support for Elders and families to retain family history and opportunities given to community - Dance - song - story telling'

'Records of South Australian Aboriginal Family History are difficult to locate and access by Aboriginal people. Anything that assists the people in this regard is of great value. Establishing family connections through genealogy research programs is particularly important.'

'Aboriginal Family History plays an important role in reconnecting Aboriginal people with families and communities'

'People should be able to track where they are from, who their parents are and if they have any siblings as a minimum.'

'our culture needs to survive and keeping Aboriginal Family History is important to make sure our future generations do not intermarry with relatives as many children taken away and need to know who family is and where they belong.'

'No, this should fall under the State Records policies.'

'I would like to be supported on gathering Aboriginal family history on my family as it has been hard to do a genealogy and I would like a section to be displayed on my elders at our cultural centre to educate others on the impacts of being a stolen generation members and its effects on future generations.'

'Such projects would significantly contribute to a pathway for the stolen to begin to have a sense of belonging to an extended family group as well as being a member of a nation group (or groups)'

'Due to the disconnection for individuals they need to know their family links and history so that their families don't inter-marry but to also help with families reconnecting but to also have available information for future generations'

'As a stolen generations survivor I have first hand experience of the "hit and miss" approach to Aboriginal family ... The process of accessing State, and Church based records is cumbersome, confusing, uber slow, and again inconsistent ... This needs to be fixed as a priority.'

'Systematic recording of Family histories using contemporary media'

'If there is strategic thinking around the coordination of a place where both oral history can be documented as well as individuals and family groups to conduct self-research that would be the ideal scenario. I would suggest this space/ place involves SA Museum and SA State Library.'

'Absolutely - it should support anything that empowers Aboriginal people to find out about family, culture and country. Family History workshops in communities which would assist people to know where to start with their own family history . . . Also support for people who wish to write their stories once they have researched them. Funding One-Stop-Shop Family History services in regional areas would be great'

'Family history is important as it returns people to their roots and to their country which is very important culturally.'

'Yes I would support some changes to the accessibility of Aboriginal family history's, and the reduction of 'red' tape within Government departments to support individuals and families in their efforts to access their personal and family records.'

'SA Museum has a great resource which should be more widely available and would benefit a lot from additional resources'

'family reunions need to be supported so siblings & their families can reunited & from this do up their family history/trees.'

'The principal challenge with projects of this nature is records accessibility - not all records holders are prepared to make records available and not all records holders have sufficient staff to support the volume of research requests they receive.'

'It would be great to have an online genealogy that is accessible to view family connections, to view photos so we know what our elders looked like and to hear oral recordings of our people'

Healing programs

Main themes

- Create a Healing/Interpretative Centre
- Stage more Healing events/programs
- Direct support to Stolen Generations descendants who are risk
- Support more opportunities for Return to Country experiences

Comments from survey participants

'Healing is the number one process that has been left out of the continuous struggle for Stolen Gens to come to terms with regarding their history of Abuse and silencing of their stories.'

'Healing as in Attention to Alternative Healing and Pampering that just takes care of each of the Stolen Generations Physically Socially Emotionally and Intellectually.'

'a lot of survivors have already accessed counsellors individually and been on healing retreats etc but the main crux of these is they are in a hired venue where collectively they don't feel welcome or their families cannot be with them so it doesn't become a healing for families'

'On country healing programs need to happen with the appropriate people and done in a culturally sensitive way that Aboriginal people wish to do the program'

'Resources need to be put towards getting people back on country and allowing access to cultural activities'

'I strongly believe that the biggest 'gap' for the Stolen Generations, is healing programs. Funding could be provided for camps for the Stolen Generations, trips to the outback to learn more about traditional culture, healing medicines and specific healing programs for people to work through their grief and loss are required'

'providing people who were stolen or given up with their family information. . . can be a very emotional time. For some of the older people, it was a generational problem of not speaking and this is still current today. This will be a way of encouraging people to talk about what happened to other people in shared in shared experiences.'

'This is likely to achieve the best outcomes but should be discussed with members of the Stolen Generations.'

'Healing programs should be done with activities on country as the connection to land helps do the healing and it should incorporate other Cultural Activities when on country eg. language learning, art, song, dance'

'stolen generations survivors/members often suffer from complex and a multitude of diagnosed and undiagnosed disorders, stressors and or other physical or mental health related issues. There needs to be a focus on understanding this and address it.'

'A healing centre or healing activities are always well received by the community'

'the Healing camp in June was a good experience for people and these should be held within regional South Australia as well.'

'The funding should not be about personal therapeutic services as there is money and support already for that. It should be about Community projects that tell the truth as to what happened in the community. It should have links to the oral history projects. There should be monuments and commemorative sites in the community. It should list all the names of the children taken. Set in stone. Never to be forgotten. Never to be lost!'

'Therapies that could help Aboriginal people come to terms with what has happened to them but also allowing them to heal this hurt and anger they have carried for many years. Broken hearts, broken families, broken souls.'

'I think cultural relationship healing is important to target - healing diverse communities together and enabling local communities to drive this work.'

'If our people cannot deal and mend from the past how do they move forward.'

'this should be used to benefit ALL not just a FEW... BUILD US A HEALING CENTRE CENTRAL to house it in...'

Arts and Culture

Main themes

- A way for Stolen Generations and descendants to connect, explain and share stories through practical activities
- Opportunities for art, film, writing workshops, dance therapy, musical workshops and events
- Strengthening and creating more Aboriginal language programs
- Identifying and placing on-line Aboriginal heritage items.

Comments from survey participants

'create art centres that also have exhibition spaces specifically for SG then that may be an option - so a place where SG can go and use their arts practice and develop skills for their art as many use different artforms for healing purposes and to tell their stories'

'Arts and Culture are critical to Developing a Framework for Aboriginal Reparation, however this needs to be funded through other means'

'Are there other funds that could be made available for these initiatives rather than use this one-off funding for Stolen Generations?'

'the maintenance and revival of Aboriginal languages has strong and measurable positive outcomes for the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal communities and families.'

'Aboriginal people express themselves through Art, either it being painting, dancing, story telling, singing traditional songs that are linked to the land. All of these need to be preserved and taught to revive and restore our cultural identities that will help with healing those who have been taken and also for those who haven't been taken but been affected due to their parents being taken.'

'arts projects ... are a wonderful way for people to express their lived experiences. It can also be therapeutic for people who have experienced trauma.'

'some of our records have been used in performances and exhibitions. This has assisted with the healing especially for those people to express themselves artistically. It also promotes the story. It is important to involve individuals and community in the process.'

'we have a group of Aboriginal youth ... who have performed live ... on a number of occasions (using) contemporary dance. Members of the Stolen Generations have loved the performances and we have received positive feedback from them.'

'Language is the base of the Aboriginal Culture and is involved in everything we do and our Identity and belonging to country, as the language belongs to the country we come from.'

'Artistic expression is a form of sharing of story, experience and truth telling with an underlying framework for healing to take place for individuals and collective communities as a whole'

'Arts and culture could be utilised to assist survivors in the healing journey, and re-connect people to their culture. there should also be consideration of language revival for those members of the stolen generation and their families, loss of language has had devastating impacts on Aboriginal people lives.'

'Arts and Cultural Activities/Mediums can be very healing and beneficial to help people express themselves in other ways around Stolen Generation themes. Supporting language programs are vital part of such investments.'

'series of exhibitions in partnership with different communities, e.g. documenting historical sites in communities, or undertaking a survey of material culture traditions to underline diversity across the regions, etc.'

'the benefits of healing through story telling incorporating arts, culture, identity and experiences can only help the community to grow and move forward. This can also open up culture and the experiences of Aboriginal people to mainstream Australia'

'This is both informative and educational for our youth. Young people express themselves better through arts and culture.'

'language recovery would be good and online so regional people can access it'

'Storytelling using theatre, writing and visual art is a great way to share stories broadly, not just with Aboriginal people but the broadest possible audiences.'

'Language programs definitely'

Community education and research

Main themes

- Importance of involvement of Aboriginal people and Aboriginal organisations in the design and implementation of projects and programs
- Opportunity to educate the wider community about the Stolen Generations
- Need to improve the knowledge of younger people, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal about Stolen Generations
- Create a multi-purpose website to include historical information as well as a point of access for records search.

Comments from survey participants

'The funds should come out of other Government supports as there is so little funding for Reparations to support Families directly.'

'Community education and research projects need to be conducted in partnership and under the control of Aboriginal people.'

'Projects that... facilitate the respectful inclusion of Aboriginal views and perspectives should be supported.'

'Why should the wider community gain from our fund?'

'The general community is not aware of the extent of the atrocities systematically carried out.'

'We have so much written materials and educational resources that are stored in Archives within the Museums etc that we need to make sure we have access to these to preserve and revive our culture to keep it alive.'

'Government workers in Housing, Centrelink and so on, need to be aware that they are dealing with survivors of trauma with many people suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.'

'enables understanding of what has previously taken place in history. It also breaks down barriers between the Aboriginal Peoples and other cultures in Australia.'

'Research projects for community education is a great tool to share the history of Aboriginal people the various mediums to which this can be shared would be special for healing for families.'

'I have met and heard of many stolen generation people wanting to know more of why things happened, how they happened (part of the healing process) and what supports are available now'

'Not sure about exhibitions ... I believe Educating everyone about today's stolen gen as well as previous is important so that it is brought out in the open rather than pushed under the carpet.'

'The members or survivors of stolen generations acts are largely marginalised and silent members in the broader Aboriginal communities they come from or live within ... There is a vast sense of "not belonging" within the stolen generations. ... there needs to be Community Education around these and other related issues.'

'There is no Museum in SA that tells the story of SA Stolen Generations. This is something that should be funded in the way that the Holocaust Museum is in Europe. This could exist both as a physical and a virtual Museum.'

'There are some excellent examples of community education programs which have been implemented in Canada in relation to their residential school policies which have been delivered to over 15,000 school children and broader community members.'

'as long as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are involved, protocols are observed, permissions gained and research ethics are implemented then this will have many benefits.'

'possibly could have a story trail that highlights all of the places that the Aboriginal children were taken that can be accessed in person and or as a website tour online for people who have moved outside of SA or are not mobile enough to visit all of the places'

'there are still a large amount of Australians that have no idea what happened.'

'In our region not enough is being done to educate people about the Stolen Generation. We live in a red neck community with very poor acknowledgement of Aboriginal culture & history & it needs to be recognised'

'(We) recently did a Journey to Respect Workshop and found a lot of our young people had no or very little knowledge of their parents background, tribal groups, skin name and history of their migration from one area to another'

'the Aboriginal population have been subject to vast amounts of research, often with poor cultural consideration and not always for any benefit to the community so research projects should be treated with caution.'

'I feel the emphasis needs to be placed on non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people learning about their ancestors, and the ways in which they've inherited the mess left for them'

'This should come out of normal funding lines through the relevant government agencies with responsibility for Aboriginal affairs'

Memorials

Main themes

- Plaques/interactive message posts at places of removal and relocation
- A statement/plaque at an important and central location
- Restoration/ improvement works/property purchases at a range of locations
- May not be the most effective use of funds
- Headstones and memorials in cemeteries.

Comments from survey participants

'Memorials that are interactive and Honour those who were STOLEN and continue to be Stolen.'

'A way to remember people and a place to go re this as well.'

'there are many places of significance throughout SA that Aboriginal individuals/families could benefit by having memorials as they seek healing in the future.'

'Aboriginal people feel a deep connection to place. Acknowledgement of the significance of places and events, whether the memories are sad or happy, is important.'

'the focus and interpretation of such places and events, should be under the direction of the Aboriginal people involved.'

'I think that the Government should fund a Memorial/Plaque that acknowledges that this did happen, their role within that, and the steps they've taken to apologise and the reparation. I believe this should be placed in Parliament House or near Parliament House, and be spoken of at all Parliament House tours.'

'Personally, I think memorials are a waste of money.'

'Memorials, places, people, descendants of those affected need to have a place to heal.'

'This should include supporting families who find deceased loved ones. This includes supporting families to place appropriate headstones and memorials.'

'Physical structures that tell the story contribute to education of the mainstream community.....such structures need to be in public places, not just in communities or 'Aboriginal' locations'

'there are memorials at Eden Hills, and Elizabeth, maybe one needs to be placed in the heart of the city under a new memorial, which could be a focal point for remembrance ceremonies or other such activities.'

'Only if families believe it to be important'

'This allows for grieving but also informs the wider community.'

'Memorials, plaques and sculptures are another expression and important symbolism of such an important matter of Stolen Generation. These in itself can promote/assist healing for those affected (they should have the opportunity to be involved in memorials from decision making determinations to designing, launching etc.). Memorials, done well, can be great educative tools as well'

'Never I strongly oppose this idea again this is only to benefit the non SG cultural awareness and memorials deflect from the fact people Living today are affected. Seems to infer its past history'

'This should be supported only if it is a priority of the members of the stolen generations.'

'this has no practical benefit for Stolen Generations members'

'a memorial should be established on this Lower Southern Arrente Country where countless groups of children were housed waiting to be taken south on the train. Restoration project or establish a church where the foundation lay in the design of the Original Colebrook Home is what should be done in Oodnadatta. and incorporate it as part church and part museum with old photos and stories on display'

Educational awards and scholarships

Main themes

- Providing educational opportunities will assist in the mobility and advancement of young Aboriginal people
- Target to descendants of Stolen Generations
- Could be impractical and difficult to manage, number of programs in place now.

Comments from survey participants

'1st, 2nd, 3rd Stolen Generation members and their families should be supported around Educational awards & Scholarships to help in their quests to gain relevant education and professional development'

'I'm not sure how this would be executed'

'Not for all community, only direct benefit for Stolen Generations and their descendants'

'this seems to be a one off and not something that can be supported / continue long term'

'Scholarships are a good incentive for the children to continue their schooling'

'I do think getting the children at a younger age into boarding schools would benefit as in my family most poor attendance is really the lack of parenting.'

'The guidelines would need to be clear - are they for children of direct descendants of removal for example- a lot of work needs to be planned out.'

'There are enough awards and scholarships around now which are often challenged to get 'applications for take up.'

'Although there is already awards/scholarships I think it is beneficial to make sure there is more available due to the struggle of financial hardship within the Aboriginal Communities.'

'Scholarships have good intent, but often end up being awarded to recipients that they were not intended for, and often not appreciated by the recipients ... Scholarships are fraught with the possibility of being misused, misguided and undervalued'

'supporting Educational Awards and Scholarships could legitimately be another way to effect a positive outcome on something that has and continues to have trauma'

'Huge potential, e.g. with placements at museums, libraries etc.'

'There are plenty of scholarship programs out there for Nunga Kids.'

'I think having a scholarship for students completing their SACE could greatly benefit the community and potentially support a student to complete that may otherwise not be able to'

'It needs to support those children who have parents or grandparents that are members of the Stolen Generations'

'As much as these are always helpful, it maybe doesn't seem as important in the healing of stolen generation people and their descendants. I feel it is more important to put money towards reconnection.'

Other possible projects/programs

- Provide housing programs for Stolen Generations and descendants
- Initiate funeral payments programs
- Genetic testing to enable identification of possible hereditary conditions
- Program to link members of Stolen Generations to Native Title claims
- Create a Trust Fund to support a range of activities over time
- Make use of Bringing Them Home Report's recommendations as a basis for projects
- Projects should, where possible create a long term legacy.

Comments from survey participants

'holidays for the Stolen Generations to a location that feeds their Soul and Spirit'

'Stronger families program to help our younger families maintain growth within their communities etc'

'I believe that the Fund should support innovative IT solutions and projects. The subjects and issues surrounding Aboriginal history, language and culture need to be presented to young people in a way that is stimulating and involving to them.'

'Popular technology, supported in hand held devices, for example, should be utilised and integrated into the projects that the Community Reparations Fund supports. In this way, the value of the programs will also be able to be shared by non-Aboriginal Australians, to inform and educate the broader community.'

'a physical space that SG survivors own and can go to be with their families would be a wonderful use of this fund... don't forget these people have no place to call home most of them as they were removed from their homes!'

'Parents of Stolen Generations should receive reparation. Children/families of Stolen Generations should receive reparation (as per Bringing them Home Report).'

'Language Revival and Restoration on country for those who have lost their languages due to being taken away and also for their offspring to be able to go with their family to learn.'

'Men's anger management & Domestic Violence prevention/support'

'There is a strong need for a Centralised System to manage the ever increasing requests for Confirmation of Aboriginality - One organisation should manage this process with the support from Communities and Organisations. Perhaps some funds could be provided to establish this process and promote it throughout the State.'

'Support for groups taken from particular regions/families to come together and mourn the loss of time and love they missed with family/share and support each other'

'Assistance with Housing Purchase for those wanting to buy'

'Where are the reconnection projects? Gaining a sense of belonging somewhere or to someone? I still feel that as a stolen generation survivor that I need to be welcomed home, this to me would help my sense of place and health and well-being. It is the core to my pain and contributes to my ongoing marginalisation and discrimination.'

'Identifying and making certain that records held by government and non-government organisations are listed, indexed and made accessible. Re-establishing the Records Task Force that was one of the recommendations of the BTH report to work on achieving the above and on developing sensitive and across the board access principles.'

'Documentation of cultural traditions and important sites (historical, cultural, ecological, etc.). Projects which result in data which can be passed on to future generations.'

'I would like to see some funding go into bereavement as in transport to funerals, all too many times stolen generations people meet family at funerals'

'Support for SG specific housing'

'Perhaps some of the funds should be allocated to the health of Stolen Generations members. i.e. testing for genetic related illnesses due to not having a family medical history (e.g. genetic testing for the breast cancer gene is only free for people who have a history of breast cancer in their family).'

Other comments

- Fund should not provide recurrent support to organisations or create new programs where there are already existing programs
- The application process for the fund should not be too rigid or difficult to use
- Make use of contemporary technology to encourage younger people to find out more about the Stolen Generations story.

Comments from survey participants

'Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the discussion and responses. So many Stolen Generations are told by others as to what they want...'

'Please can you also let me know what you will be doing with this survey and the outcomes.'

'I believe the Community Reparations Fund should be prepared to support quite broad-based Aboriginal history, culture and language programs as this provides the context for the Stolen Generation and also satisfies people's personal need for connection, meaning and sense of place in their lives.'

'This money should have been placed in trust earning interest while determinations are carried out - and that interest given to the SG'

'This one-off funding should only be made available to Stolen Generations Community.'

'Compensation could also be in the form of a package of support - counselling, assistance to return home, parenting programs and educational support.'

'this is a great fund and I hope that our community group ...can be considered to access this fund for programs to bring our family together to learn native language, words of native plants and to heal together to better our wellbeing and our next generation.'

'My journey sees three generations of immediate family being removed affecting us across three states I have done a lot of research to date, but there is no support to me financially to continue and/or to now seek a historian /author to help put our family's story into something that our children and future children can look at and share.'

'when a program is designed, it is important that a well established, long standing Aboriginal organisation with good governance and management systems is involved in the implementation of the programs. Members of the Stolen Generation need to have confidence in the Aboriginal organisation helping them with this very important role. The Aboriginal organisation also needs to have a good track record and the confidence of the Aboriginal community to achieve the best outcomes.'

'Be careful not to make the paperwork too difficult for small grants or people will not apply for lack of emotional energy when living with trauma.'

'Do the right thing! Support this program to make a difference within the families and communities of stolen generations.'

'it would be good to see a series of exhibitions produced in local communities, in secure premises, so that historically and culturally important material can be displayed in loan exhibitions of high quality, attracting local communities and media, for example.'

'About time Stolen Generation people are being recognised & compensated. It can't change the past but it may be a small step forward in healing the past wrongs & hurts they have suffered & still suffering today.'

'A place to call home is all I ask'

'I think the Community Reparations Fund should support all of the above and also support stolen generation men and women with money to aid them in the support they require and for what they have missed out on.'

'As someone who has lived with gross disconnection from culture due to government policies I already suffer with shame and a sense of not belonging so it is extremely difficult to turn up to things for the 'Aboriginal community' that I don't feel a true part of. My desire to connect with my culture and other Aboriginal people is so strong and I know who and what I am inside but Aboriginal cultural events often seem inaccessible to me. I don't know how but if somehow these funds and programs could help change this, it would be invaluable'

'Please consider building a Church / Museum on the site of the first Colebrook Home – Oodnadatta'

'BUILD US A HEALING CENTRE'

Summary of suggestions for projects from community consultation discussions

Oral history

- Story telling/recording and retaining stories
- Create a significant oral history project
- New and better ways to record, store and make available to the community.

Aboriginal family history

- Easier, streamlined access to records
- Creating improved genealogy services (like ancestry.com)
- Service centre for family history with focus on resources and learning (self-service)
- More sophisticated storage and access to information
- Link existing separate databases
- Records digitisation (selected key data sets)
- Family history workshops
- Create a repository of stories/testimonials
- Photographic collections – create a consolidated, digitised collection
- Local records preservation projects.

Community education and research

- Travelling exhibitions to regional locations
- Creating local Aboriginal community histories
- Mixed media web site similar to Child Migrants web site
- Influence curricula of schools and tertiary institutions
- Exhibitions in central cultural institutions
- Cultural awareness projects
- Write a history of Stolen Generations in SA
- Hold a Stolen Generations conference and publish the findings.

Arts and Culture

- Creating various local projects to encompass oral history/language revival/collections of artefacts, documents and photographs/storage of local records/plaques and memorials/music
- Music therapy for high needs young people
- Music workshops and concerts
- Animated short films to improve awareness of Stolen Generations

- Language program for vulnerable people - in care, in institutions
- New on-line applications for cultural heritage sites
- Place names projects
- Collections of artefacts/information – digitise where possible.

Healing programs

- Return to country events for Stolen Generations and descendants
- Healing events and workshops – provision of therapy/trauma services
- Support for prisoners past and present
- Support for frail aged.

Memorials/buildings

- Plaques/information at many sites of removal/relocation
- Creating a Healing Centre
- Renovate and improve existing Stolen Generations sites of significance
- Significant memorial in a high profile location
- Memorials at a number of regional cemeteries
- Marking unmarked graves of Stolen Generations
- Improvements to old community buildings/cemeteries
- Restoration (buildings) projects.

Educational awards and scholarships

- Scholarships linked to descendants of Stolen Generations
- Create an Aboriginal Education Trust Fund to focus on Year 9 to university.

Other

- Funeral assistance scheme
- Create a service to enable Stolen Generations to be linked to native title claims
- Aboriginal trainees in projects supported by the Community Reparations Fund
- Consider reparations payments for parents of children who were removed, and for children of Stolen Generations
- Better advocacy for Stolen Generations.

Conclusion

We would like to thank the many people who have contributed to the consultations through meeting with us, talking to us on the telephone or completing the on-line survey.

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