

The case for a Queensland Stolen Generations Redress Scheme is compelling.

Link-Up (Qld) recommends that the Queensland Government establish a comprehensive, Survivor-led Queensland Stolen Generations Redress Scheme to provide reparations to Survivors of forced removal policies and practices and their direct descendants. The Queensland Government should establish a Scheme for the following reasons:

- 1. Historical injustices and harms are established:** Successive Queensland Governments enacted laws, policies and practices that authorised the forced removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families, communities and cultures between 1897 and 1984 and beyond. These removals, based on racist "protection" and "assimilation" ideology, broke cultural, spiritual and family bonds, causing profound trauma and ongoing intergenerational impacts.
- 2. A National Inquiry recommended that reparations be made to Survivors:** The National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from their Families, which heard testimony from more than 500 Survivors and produced the *Bringing Them Home* report (1997), recommended that "reparation be made to all who suffered because of forcible removal policies..." and found that forced removal violated human rights.
- 3. All other jurisdictions have established redress schemes:** Tasmania, South Australia, NSW, Victoria, Commonwealth Territories and Western Australia have established schemes, leaving Queensland as the only remaining jurisdiction without one. Governments of all political persuasions across Australia have established these schemes.
- 4. A Scheme will support healing and reconciliation:** A comprehensive Scheme building on the 1999 Queensland Government Apology and including access to records, monetary compensation and dedicated healing services can provide long-overdue recognition and justice, help break cycles of intergenerational trauma, demonstrate genuine commitment to reconciliation, and enable community healing and cultural reconnection.

5. **Queensland Survivors represent a significant population:** An estimated 6,700 Survivors remain in Queensland, around 20% of the national Survivor population.
6. **Health disparities for Survivors are documented:** AIHW data (2021) shows that Stolen Generations Survivors aged 50+ experience substantially higher rates of kidney disease, diabetes, asthma and mental health conditions, as well as welfare dependence and overcrowded housing.
7. **Survivors will die soon:** Many Survivors are elderly, and since 1997 an estimated 1,500+ have died without redress; without timely action, hundreds more Queensland Survivors will die in the coming years.
8. **The Queensland Government accepts the principle of reparations:** A Scheme would be consistent with the principle of reparations established through the Stolen Wages class action and the Queensland Government's participation in the National Redress Scheme for survivors of institutional child sexual abuse.
9. **Establishing a Scheme will likely reduce the risk of a class action or other litigation:** A proactive, government-established Scheme would allow the Queensland Government to control the timeline and costs, provide meaningful redress, avoid lengthy and costly litigation, and move towards reconciliation and healing. Class action litigation would be costly, uncertain and potentially prolonged.
10. **Timing is critical:** 2027 marks the 30th anniversary of the *Bringing Them Home* report, presenting an opportunity for Queensland to honour its recommendations and provide redress to Survivors. An announcement before the 2032 Olympics would demonstrate Queensland's commitment to human rights and justice for past wrongs.

Take action

Ask the Queensland Government and your local MP to support a comprehensive, Survivor-led Queensland Stolen Generations Redress Scheme.

Scan the QR code to access a letter template.



Link-Up (Qld) Aboriginal Corporation has supported Stolen Generations Survivors and their families since 1984. We help Survivors and descendants reconnect with family, Country and culture through family history research, reunions, counselling and culturally safe, trauma-informed healing services.

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