

Stolen Generations Exposure Draft Bill Saturday 26 May

Queensland Senator Andrew Bartlett has tabled an Exposure Bill in the Federal Parliament on March 28 in the hope that the great outcomes in relation to compensation to Tasmanian members of the Stolen Generations can be echoed throughout the rest of Australia.

Senator Bartlett's bill, entitled the 'Stolen Generations Exposure Draft Bill' is aimed at implementing some of the key recommendations from the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission's *Bringing Them Home* report, in particular highlighting the needs for reparations for members of the Stolen Generations.

Of the Exposure Bill, Senator Bartlett said, "I believe it is important that the issue of the Stolen Generation be put back on the political agenda again. It is unfinished business for our governments, who must seek to continue to bridge the gap between Indigenous and non Indigenous people.

"My exposure draft bill is intended to give coverage to those applicants in a State or Territory where there is no State or Territory legislation.

"I am keen to hear any comment or suggestions as to whether this sort of approach is needed, how best to go about it and how to address issues such as setting a cap on reparations payments. I don't have a time limit for this stage of public consultation at this stage."

To see the bill go to Senator Bartlett's Web Site at www.andrewbartlett.com to see it or call our office on (03) 9486 6122 to request a copy.

If you have any comments in relation to Bartlett's Exposure Draft Bill feel free to contact him via the following means:

Email:
senator.bartlett@aph.gov.au

Phone:
(07) 3252 7101

Mail:
Suite 14 B1,
7/421 Brunswick St
FORTITUDE VALLEY
Queensland 4006

CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOMED

Contributions to this newsletter by members of the Stolen Generations are most welcome.

The next edition of our Newsletter will be released in time for NAIDOC Week in July. If you would like to offer an article or perhaps some pictures for our next edition please call our office on the number below.

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Victoria Ltd*



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Image Credit: Our beautiful border artwork has been supplied to us by Howard 'Chocko' Edwards. Thanks Chock! Too deadly!

*Stolen Generations
Victoria Ltd*



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A Message from the CEO



SGV CEO Tony McCartney

It is with great pleasure that I present to you the second edition of the Stolen Generations Victoria Ltd newsletter. We have had a busy two months since our last edition. This newsletter aims to summarise some of our past months' activities, and make you aware of some of our future plans and projects.

National Sorry Day is only a stone's throw away and this publication can fill you in on the planned program of activities that will take place in Melbourne on Saturday 26 May.

SGV is proud to be staging the Stolen Generations Victoria Partnerships Launch at the

**'Restoring to us
what is rightfully
ours'**

Issue Two

Thursday 17 May 2007

WATCH THIS SPACE!

Could your artwork work well as our organisation's logo?

If so, see page six of this newsletter for details on our logo competition.

Melbourne Town Hall, an event that will kick off Melbourne's National Sorry Day program. For details about the Partnership Launch see page three of this newsletter.

This year's Sorry Day Melbourne 2007 theme 'Understand Us—Stand By Us' is extremely fitting as we mark the 10 year anniversary of the *Bringing Them Home* report. It's a passionate call to acknowledge National Sorry Day in your workplaces, schools, through friends & relatives, and in our community generally.

We urge both the Indigenous and non-Indigenous community to join us in marking National Sorry Day 2007 as we reflect upon what achievements

have been made in relation to *Bringing Them Home* in the past ten years. But more importantly we urge all to reflect upon what still needs to be addressed by Government — state and federal — to ensure that this important report is acknowledged and used as it was intended.

We also bring to you fresh details of our NAIDOC Records Workshop; an article from our Client Support Officer, Eva Jo, on her attendance at a Marumali Workshop; news from MP Andrew Bartlett's Stolen Generations Draft Exposure Bill; and plenty more!

Happy reading; I look forward to seeing you on Sorry Day!



In this edition...

- Stolen Generations Victoria Partnerships Launch
- Sorry Day Update—where to be on 26 May
- Eva Jo attends a Marumali Workshop
- SGV Logo Competition—closing soon

...and more!

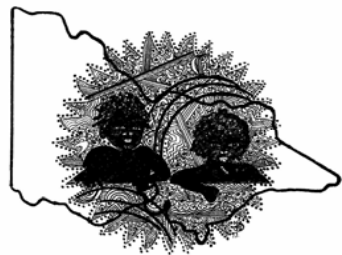


Next week will mark an important day in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander annual calendar — May 26 — National Sorry Day.

National Sorry Day was first staged nine years ago in 1998, to mark the day that the *Bringing Them Home* report was tabled in Federal Parliament. This year's National Sorry Day will signify ten years since the tabling of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity *Bringing Them Home* report in Federal Parliament.

The Stolen Generations Victoria Sorry Day Committee have been busily organising this year's event and encourage everybody to join us in marking this important milestone in our country's annual calendar.

If you would like further information about Sorry Day Melbourne or if you assist us as a volunteer please contact our Sorry Day Coordinator, Rob, on (03) 9486 6122 or email stolengensvicsorrday@hotmail.com



The Victorian Stolen Generations Sorry Day Committee

Sorry Day Melbourne 2007 Understand Us Stand by Us Saturday 26 May



'UNDERSTAND US
STAND BY US'

Sorry Day Melbourne 2007 Saturday May 26

- 10.30am Melbourne Town Hall** (Swanston & Collins Sts)
Stolen Generations Victoria Partnerships Launch
- 11.30am Melbourne Town Hall** (Swanston & Collins Sts)
To begin the walk to the steps of Victorian Parliament
- 12.15pm Victorian Parliament** (Bourke & Spring Sts)
Speeches, laying of the wreath, traditional dancers
- 1pm Federation Square** (Swanston & Flinders Sts)
Acknowledging 10 years of the *Bringing Them Home* report, entertainment, kids activities.

*Be sure to wear a t-shirt from a past Sorry Day to acknowledge our past events and their respective themes.

For those of you that got your hands on our last newsletter you may have read about the proposed Stolen Generations Victoria (SGV) and Public Record Office Victoria (PROV) day NAIDOC seminar aimed at promoting a greater understanding of Aboriginal records available to the Victorian Aboriginal community.

At the time of printing our last edition we hadn't secured the venue, date and time for the event but we now have more details to let you know of our plans, they're all in the panel on the right...

The seminar will provide participants with an understanding of the Aboriginal records available and how best to access these important resources.

There are many stories told about Aboriginal people between 1839 to 1960, however few people ever read the official documents from the time period. These records tell their own unique story — one that is rarely heard.

If you have ever wanted to find out more about your family history or are just interested in Aboriginal history, come along and discover the journey of past Aboriginal descendants. It will be a very valuable workshop.

Discovering Your Past Through Records NAIDOC Event



Discovering Your Past Through Records

- DATE** Wednesday 11 July (NAIDOC WEEK)
- VENUE** Darebin Arts Centre
(Cnr Bell St & St Georges Rd, Preston)
- TIME** TBC 1/2 a day (beginning in the morning)

The workshop will include information and presentations from

- Link Up Victoria
- Koorie Heritage Trust
- National Archives Australia
- State Library of Victoria
- Public Record Office Victoria; and
- Stolen Generation Victoria Ltd

For more information, or to register to be involved please call our office on (03) 9486 6122 or email bryan.andy@stolengenerationsvictoria.org.au

Presented by the following organisations



CALLING ALL ARTISTS! Stolen Generations Victoria Logo Competition

Stolen Generations Victoria have put a call out for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists to contribute artwork that could be used as our organisation's logo.

We have already received a number of beautiful works as possibilities for our new logo. We remind people that our deadline for submissions is **Monday 21 May** so pull out your sketch books or canvasses and get cracking! We will accept artwork

proposals in any format or media so feel free to paint, etch, draw, computer animate, collage...whatever!

As part of our Stolen Generations Victoria Partnerships Launch event (see page three of this newsletter) we will exhibit all artwork submissions that we receive so those that attend our event can make comment on the possibilities.

For more information about submitting work please call Bryan on (03) 9486 6122.

Some tips for those of you that want to submit artwork for the SGV Logo Competition:

- The logo should be able to be reproduced in both color AND black & white
- We only want a graphic – no text will be necessary as we have our own fonts that we will incorporate into the chosen graphic
- Please note that the logo will be mostly reproduced at a size of less than 5cm (50mm) so your image should be able to convey its message at such a small size
- The selected winner will receive \$250 for their work
- Stolen Generations members are encouraged to submit artwork
- All artwork must be clearly labeled—on the back so we know whose work it is.
- All unused artwork will be returned.
- All artwork must be received by **Monday 21 May 2007**.

Stolen Generations Victoria Ltd will begin Melbourne's National Sorry Day program of events with a special Partnerships Launch at the Melbourne Town Hall.

Proceeding at 10.30am on Saturday May 26, the Launch will bring together some of Victoria's key service agencies that have relevance to members of the Stolen Generations to show their commitment to assisting our members' in their respective journeys of healing.

The partnerships that will be proposed and endorsed on National Sorry Day are a crucial part of the overall operations of our organisation. They will provide a basis for our organisation to engage with other community services to ensure that they acknowledge their role in service delivery to members of the Stolen Generations.

The partnerships that will be forged on National Sorry Day are part of the service delivery function that Stolen Generation Victoria will continue to address in the state.

Some of the issues that we aim to address in our partnerships include records access, public education, health and social wellbeing and academic research.

Stolen Generations Victoria Ltd Partnerships Launch Saturday 26 May



Official proceedings will begin at 10.30am, but we offer a little tip: as it's a public event we encourage our members & guests to get there from 10am so you can secure a good position and enjoy a cup of tea before the event gets underway.

For more details please feel free to contact our office on (03) 9486 6122.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Stolen Generations Victoria Ltd Partnerships Launch

DATE Saturday 26 May
(National Sorry Day)
VENUE Supper Room at
the Melbourne Town Hall
(Cnr Swanston & Collins Sts)
TIME 10am for a 10.30am
start

SGV Membership Drive Do you know someone who is NOT a member with SGV?

Know someone who is not a signed up member with Stolen Generations Victoria Ltd? If so, you should give them this newsletter once you have finished with it and encourage them to get involved with our

organisation. We have had a very successful membership drive to date but we are always on the look out to build our membership base so we can continue to advocate, spread the word and be guided and influenced by those we represent. If you don't want to give up this newsletter then you can direct

them to our website at www.stolengenerationsvictoria.org.au where you can download a membership form to fill out and send back to us. Alternatively have them call our office on (03) 9486 6122 to get a form posted out, or they can drop in and see us at 391 St Georges Road, Fitzroy North for a yarn.



Marumali Workshop

Eva Jo Edwards

April 2007

From Monday 16 – Friday 20 April 2007, I attended the very useful Marumali Healing Workshop for Workers in Shepparton.

The Workshop participants were from all around the state of Victoria; participants included BTH Workers, Social, Emotional & Well-Being workers and Mental Health workers. These workers also used the workshop to help them in dealing and understanding their own personal journey – journeys that are often unknown to themselves.

Our main focus for the workshop was looking at ways of supporting our Stolen Generations clients, other than using western medicine, even though at times it may be necessary.

The workshop focuses on taking us back to find the spirit of the innocent child that has been battered and hidden for so long, which lies within each of us.

Undergoing this journey was hard and emotional, and gave us all a better understanding of the difficulties we have faced over the years of being misunderstood and misdiagnosed. A few of us had been told in the past that we were ‘crazy’.

We progressed through the journey by using a healing circle, within the healing circle we hoped to address issues and ways in which we are able to assist our clients more effectively.

Initially we looked at the triggers in our lives, and how we can use these triggers to help heal our spirits. As part of this, we looked at the methods of removal and where our children were placed and the effects it had on the child, family and community.

Then there was the realization of reality; looking at the traumas affecting us, depressions, and what our losses are, to all of those affected.

The next part of the journey was talking. During

this we looked at making sense of the ‘why me’ and realizing that it is not our fault. We looked at identity and what this means to me, and challenging all the negative thoughts which have been implanted within us all by the system. We looked at what issues are still affecting us and what supports there are available to us. Reclaiming Aboriginal values and shedding values that have been implanted within our people by the system.

We then looked at facing our demons. This process is not easy when you have been carrying such pain and trauma for many years. This process defines the time to stop running from the pain and hurt and time to face our fears and anxiety. It is described as a time to reconnect with the inner spirit child. It was important to note that this process of facing our demons can only begin to happen when we are ready!!!

The next aspect we focused on was going home. This was a daunting and scary venture as you were looking at all concerned: the child removed, parents who had lost the child and the community and the affects it has on all these people. We looked at how difficult it is to return back to the parent, family and community after being away for so many years. We looked at common thoughts, hurts and feelings –

at both the positive and negative aspects of returning home.

We acknowledged home as being a place of belonging. We then looked at issues that concerned the adopted or fostered child, what common thoughts and feelings they may have both before and after their journey.

We then looked at the process of reclaiming the future and where all of this information can we lead us. We looked at the issues arising with the client, both negatively and positively and what could help and hinder the client. We reaffirmed the need to always remind the client that they always have a choice.

We looked at the journey of peace, identity and strength and how the client may feel: peace, strange, uncomfortable, loss without fear.

We found that once we were able to make sense of all that’s happened and that it is not the fault of the child; the journey becomes a little less painful. Even though we know the journey never ends for a stolen or removed child. We learnt that we must always remember that strength is within and that we must stay connected with the inner child spirit which will always guide and strengthen you

when called upon.

I believe that this healing program should be able to be accessed a lot more easily than it is and that no cost be associated to members of the Stolen Generations. When this healing program has been completed, so much support needs to be put in place because during this time you become so emotionally torn and confused as the journey does not only stop here, because it takes more than one program to heal us as stolen or removed children from our families and communities.

If you would like to know more about the Marumali Program and my experiences of it, give me a call me on (03) 9486 6122.

The Marumali Program

The five-stage model of healing, called the Marumali Program, has been developed to train counsellors in the skills necessary to deliver appropriate counselling techniques to Indigenous people who suffer grief and trauma as a result of being part of the Stolen Generations.

The Marumali Program, provides a basis for identifying and understanding common symptoms of long-standing trauma and an overview of the healing journey and how it may unfold.



**SGV Client Support Officer
Eva Jo Edwards**

