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## **Congress urges support for members of the Stolen Generations**

The National Congress of Australia's First Peoples (Congress) endorses the call by the Healing Foundation for the recommendations of the Bringing Them Home report to be fully implemented, including compensation for members of the Stolen Generations.

The forcible removal of children from their parents was undoubtedly traumatic for many families and often led to cultural and spiritual alienation; loss of identity; loss of connection to family, community and country; isolation; depression; and family breakdowns. It was not uncommon for children to be neglected and abused in care in institutional settings. The impact of this social dislocation has been inter-generational, with many people still directly affected.

While Prime Ministerial apologies are welcome, it is time for the Australian Parliament to move beyond symbolic efforts and to seriously redress this sorry part of our history. "Money alone can never make up for or heal the trauma that members of the Stolen Generations experienced, but combined with other programs, compensation may help alleviate the burden that our people have suffered," said Rod Little, Congress Co-Chair.

This week marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1967 referendum that enabled the Commonwealth to be involved in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs. It also marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Bringing Them Home report. Yesterday the Healing Foundation provided an update showing that almost all of the 54 recommendations in the original report have either not been implemented at all or have not been done so poorly.

Rather than continue the old paradigm of doing things to us or for us that led to such disastrous consequences as the Stolen Generations, I am encouraged that Prime Minister Turnbull and Minister Scullion have shown interest in working *with* us to address Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues," said Jackie Huggins, Congress Co-Chair. "We look forward to working with the Commonwealth, State and Territory governments to implement the Redfern Statement," she said.

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