



**WEST AUSTRALIAN STOLEN GENERATIONS ABORIGINAL
CORPORATION**

Trading as Yokai

WASGAC supports the healing of WA individuals and families adversely affected by policies and practices of separating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families, communities, Country and Culture.

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To our First nations Brothers and Sisters in Canada,

The Stolen Generations of Western Australia have heard with great sadness of the discovery of the lonely resting places of the 215 children found on the grounds of the Kamloops Indian Residential School and of death through abuse and neglect of at least three thousand children at other residential schools.

The similarity of this tragedy with the government regulated and usually church administered cruelty to the 100,000+ children of the Stolen Generations of Australia from “settlement” to the 1970’s, is a shameful indictment of British colonialism and Christian ethics (primarily Catholic), not only of the time but continuing today. In Western Australia 56% of Aboriginal people are of the Stolen Generations or are descended from them and the impact on our culture and wellbeing is a wound that will never heal. Any apologies we have had from government and churches here have been hollow in the absence of telling the truth about our cultural and attempted racial genocide, our transferred family trauma, lies in education, true justice and the resources for us to heal ourselves in our way.

The affinity we feel with you is as if you are family, so similar are the ways our men and boys have been murdered or enslaved, our women raped, our lands and livelihood destroyed and the ways our little children have suffered over the generations of colonialism.

This week is Reconciliation Week in Australia starting with Sorry Day on the 26th of May, commemorating the handing down of the *Report of the National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from their Families, Communities, and Country, The Bringing Them Home Report* – April 1997. A sobering reminder of our joint histories.

We extend our deep sympathy and solidarity in truth-telling, justice and healing.

“May our campfires burn forever!”

Jim Morrison

Chair

West Australian Stolen Generations Aboriginal Corporation.