



**NAATSIHWP**  
National Association of Aboriginal and Torres  
Strait Islander Health Workers and Practitioners

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **National Sorry Day 2022**

Today, we acknowledge the strength and resilience of Stolen Generation survivors; pause to reflect on the abuse and harm caused by the forced removal of children under race-based government policies; and call for greater investment in the delivery of trauma aware, healing informed and culturally safe services for our families and communities.

Although the 1997 Bringing Them Home Report and the 2008 Apology to the Stolen Generations helped to draw attention and grow shared understandings about the harm that has been inflicted upon our people, the removal and incarceration of our children and human rights breaches are still occurring at alarmingly high rates and trauma is a persistent stressor in our lives today.

In a country whose Governments and people value fairness and justice there is still much work to do.

While we understand we can't change the past, we can all learn from it and work together to create a future that inflicts no harm. Governments and stakeholders working across Indigenous Affairs must work to instil ways of working that are consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and in ways that safeguard our children and enable them to grow in enriching environments surrounded by family, in community, on Country and immersed in culture. Until this is achieved, health and wellbeing outcomes will not be improved.

In the meantime, we thank Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Health Practitioners across the country for improving health outcomes and ensuring our mob have access to culturally safe and responsive care. We are incredibly proud of the work that you do.

We also acknowledge the work of the [Healing Foundation](#) and the critical role it plays in supporting, caring for, protecting and enabling our families and communities to heal from the past and grow with dignity and strength into the future.

Finally, on its fifth anniversary we also welcome the incoming Government's commitment to the implementation of the Uluru Statement of the Heart in full. A First Nations voice enshrined in our constitution and the establishment of a Makarrata Commission for truth-telling, conflict resolution and agreement making will provide a powerful basis for healing our nation and addressing the injustices that continue to impact Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.