

Stolen Generations

Details

The Stolen Generations are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who, when they were children, were taken away from their families and communities as the result of past government policies. Children were removed by governments, churches and welfare bodies to be brought up in institutions, fostered out or adopted by white families. The removal of Aboriginal children took place from the early days of British colonisation in Australia. It broke important cultural, spiritual and family ties and has left a lasting and intergenerational impact on the lives and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Government policies concerning Aboriginal people were implemented under different laws in the different states and territories of Australia. These laws meant that the lives of Indigenous people were controlled by government: marriages, work, wages, housing, children and access to health care.

Records about the Stolen Generations and their families were kept by governments, as well as by churches and missions. But many records have been lost: fires, floods, poor recordkeeping and changes to government departments can make it very difficult to trace family connections.

Link-Up

Link-Up organisations around Australia provide family tracing and reunion services to members of the Stolen Generations, their families, and foster and adoptive families. These services include:

- researching family and personal records
- emotional support when accessing family and personal records
- finding family members
- assistance and support at family reunions
- support and counselling before, during and after family reunion.

Link-Ups give priority to first generation members of the Stolen Generations who have directly experienced removal or separation from family and community, especially those who are elderly or have urgent health concerns.

Link-Ups also provide services to subsequent generations of family members who have been affected by intergenerational trauma related to removal, and to members of families and communities from whom children were removed.

[Click here to see the full Find & Connect glossary](#)

Gallery



Front cover of the Bringing them home report (1997)



Back to Cootamundra

Description: [This description was taken from the caption published on the SBS Living Black channel on YouTube. This episode aired on 9 June 2012] Its been a long journey of healing for former residents of the Cootamundra Girls Home in southern New South Wales. But nearly a hundred years after it opened members of the stolen generation still find the memories as fresh as they are painful.



The Lost Children of Sydney [Aboriginal Children's Services]

Description: This is a photograph taken from an *Australian Women's Weekly* article.

More info

Related Entries

Related Events

- [Victorian Government Apology to the Stolen Generations \(17 September 1997\)](#)

Related Legislation

- [An Act to Provide for the Protection and Management of the Aboriginal Natives of Victoria, Victoria \(1870 - 1890\)](#)
- [Infants' Welfare Act 1935, Tasmania \(1935 - 1961\)](#)
- [Aborigines Welfare Ordinance 1954, Commonwealth of Australia \(1954 - 1965\)](#)
- [Children's Welfare Act 1954, Victoria \(1955 - 1959\)](#)
- [Child Welfare Act 1960, Tasmania \(1960 - 2003\)](#)
- [Aborigines Welfare Repeal Ordinance 1965, Australian Capital Territory \(1965 - 1977\)](#)

Related Organisations

- [Queen's Orphan Asylum \(1833 - 1879\)](#)
Aboriginal children were removed from Flinders Island in the 1840s and placed in the Queen's Orphan Asylum.
- [Poonindie Mission \(1851 - 1894\)](#)
- [Point McLeay Mission Station \(1859 - 1974\)](#)
- [Central Board Appointed to Watch Over the Interests of Aborigines \(1860 - 1869\)](#)
- [St Vincent de Paul Orphanage \(1866 - 1975\)](#)
- [Killalpaninna Mission \(1867 - 1915\)](#)

- [St Joseph's Refuge \(1868 - c. 2001\)](#)
- [Point Pearce Mission Station \(1868 - 1915\)](#)
- [Central Board for the Protection of Aborigines, Colony of Victoria \(1869 - 1900\)](#)
- [Kennerley Boys' Home \(1869 - 1969\)](#)
- [St Joseph's Orphanage \(1879 - 1970\)](#)
- [House of Mercy and Retreat for Women \(1881 - 1974\)](#)
- [Boys Reformatory, Magill \(1891 - 1967\)](#)
- [Magdalen Home \(1893 - 1974\)](#)
- [Estcourt House \(1894 - 1978\)](#)
- [Hope Valley Mission \(c. 1896 - May 1942\)](#)
- [St John the Baptist Home for Boys \(1898 - 1941\)](#)
- [Edwardstown Industrial School \(1898 - 1949\)](#)
- [Central Depot \(1900 - 1965\)](#)
- [Boys' Probationary School \(1900 - 1945\)](#)
- [Girls' Probationary School \(1901 - 1945\)](#)
- [Manunka Mission \(1901 - 1916\)](#)
- [Koonibba Mission \(1901 - 1975\)](#)
- [The Church of England Boys' Home at Walkerville \(1903 - 1955\)](#)
- [St Mary's Mission of Hope \(1904 - 1953\)](#)
- [St Joseph's Orphanage Largs Bay \(1907 - 1960s\)](#)
- [Ballarat Orphanage \(1909 - 1968\)](#)
- [Testing duplicating ballarat \(1909 - 1968\)](#)
- [Omaru Receiving Home \(1910? - 1968\)](#)
- [St Joseph's Home \(c. 1911 - 1980\)](#)
- [Minda Home \(1911 - 1976\)](#)
- [The Babies' Home Walkerville \(1912 - 1945\)](#)
- [Koonibba Children's Home \(1913 - 1963\)](#)
- [McBride Maternity Hospital \(1914 - 1975\)](#)
- [Mareeba Babies' Hospital \(1917 - 1960\)](#)
- [Seaforth Convalescent Home \(1921 - 1946\)](#)
- [Northern Tasmanian Home for Boys \(1921 - 1973\)](#)
- [Barton Vale Girls' Home \(1922 - 1947\)](#)
- [Clarendon Children's Home \(1922 - 2004\)](#)
- [Oodnadatta Children's Home \(1924 - 1974\)](#)
- [Morialta Protestant Children's Home \(1924 - 1972\)](#)
- [Methodist Children's Homes \(1924 - 1960\)](#)
- [Aboriginal Women's Home, North Adelaide \(1926 - c. 1975\)](#)
- [Swan Reach Mission \(1926 - 1946\)](#)
- [Ashley Home for Boys \(1926 - 1999\)](#)
- [Colebrook Home \(1927 - 1981\)](#)
- [The Salvation Army Boys' Home, Kent Town \(1929 - 1972\)](#)
- [Catholic Girls' Home Parkside \(1930 - 1943\)](#)
- [Nepabunna Mission \(1931 - 1977\)](#)
- [Ooldea Mission \(1933 - 1952\)](#)
- [Junior Red Cross Home, Henley Beach \(1933 - 1946\)](#)
- [St Gabriel's Babies' Home \(1935 - 1975\)](#)
- [Umeewarra Mission Children's Home \(1937 - 1964\)](#)
- [Methodist Home for Babies and Unmarried Mothers \(1937 - 1954\)](#)
- [Ernabella Mission \(1937 - 1974\)](#)
- [Finniss Springs Mission \(1939 - c. 1961\)](#)
- [Sacred Heart Orphanage \(1940 - 1979\)](#)
- [St John's Boys Town \(1941 - 1954\)](#)
- [Convent of the Good Shepherd "The Pines" \(1942 - 1974\)](#)
- [Convent of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Carrieton \(1942 - 1945\)](#)
- [Balaklava Aboriginal Welfare Institution \(1942 - 1946\)](#)
- [The Salvation Army Boys' Home, Mount Barker \(1945 - 1982\)](#)
- [The Salvation Army Girls' Home, Fullarton \(1945 - 1969?\)](#)

- [Church of England Hostel for Inland Children \(1945 - 1946\)](#)
- [Maylands Salvation Army Home for Girls \(1945 - 1981\)](#)
- [St Francis House \(1946 - c. 1961\)](#)
- [Kumanka Boys' Hostel \(1946 - 1980\)](#)
- [Gerard Mission \(1946 - 1974\)](#)
- [Seaforth Home \(1946 - 1975\)](#)
- [Lady Hore-Ruthven Junior Red Cross Home \(1946 - 1959\)](#)
- [Barrington Boys' Home \(1946 - 1981\)](#)
- [Struan Farm School, Naracoorte \(1947 - 1969\)](#)
- [Vaughan House \(1947 - 1979\)](#)
- [Allambi Girls' Hostel \(1947 - 1977\)](#)
- [Glandore Industrial School \(1949 - 1958\)](#)
- [Hope Vale Mission \(c. 1950 - 1986\)](#)
- [Warrawee, Grange \(1950 - 1975\)](#)
- [Rochebank Hostel \(c. 1950 - c. 1980\)](#)
- [Roland Boys' Home \(1951 - c. 1993\)](#)
- [Karingal Youth Hostel \(1952 - 1964\)](#)
- [Tanderra Girls' Home \(1952 - 1973\)](#)
- [St Mary's Home for Children \(1953 - 1990\)](#)
- [Kate Cocks Memorial Babies' Home \(1954 - 1976\)](#)
- [Yalata Mission \(1954 - 1974\)](#)
- [Kennion House \(1955 - 1982\)](#)
- [Wiltja Hostel \(1956 - 1978\)](#)
- [Wybra Hall \(1956 - 1988\)](#)
- [Lochiel Park Boys' Training Centre \(1958 - 1995\)](#)
- [Kurbingai Hostel \(1958 - 1962\)](#)
- [Glandore Children's Home \(1958 - 1966\)](#)
- [Campbell House Farm School, Meningie \(1959 - 1963\)](#)
- [Weeroona Girls' Training Centre \(1959 - 1979\)](#)
- [Gilburn Receiving Home \(1959 - c. 1980\)](#)
- [Lentara \(1960 - 1977\)](#)
- [Allambie Reception Centre \(1961 - 1990\)](#)
- [Bedford Park Boys' Training Centre \(1961 - 1965\)](#)
- [Malmesbury Receiving Home \(c. 1962 - c. 1980\)](#)
- [Blackburn South Cottages \(1963 - 1988\)](#)
- [Stuart House Boys' Hostel \(1964 - 1990\)](#)
- [Umeewarra Mission Home, Davenport Reserve \(1964 - 1995\)](#)
- [Windana Remand Home \(1965 - 1975\)](#)
- [Abermere Hostel \(1965 - 1975\)](#)
- [Glandore Boys' Home \(1966 - 1973\)](#)
- [McNally Training Centre \(1967 - 1979\)](#)
- [West Winds Boys' Home \(1967 - 1983\)](#)
- [Casablanca Receiving Home \(c. 1968 - c. 1980\)](#)
- [Fullarton Children's Home \(1969 - 1986\)](#)
- [Luprina Hostel \(1971 - current\)](#)
- [Kali Boys' Hostel \(1971 - 1972\)](#)
- [Oodnadatta Hostel \(1971 - 1986\)](#)
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