

TEN YEARS LATER:

Bringing them home and the Forced Removal of Children

In April 1997 the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission released *Bringing them home*. The report followed a two-year National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from Their Families.

It is now ten years since this landmark report was completed. Separate to the Inquiry, there has been over a decade and a half of litigation aimed at providing compensation for Indigenous people removed under previous government policies. Although there have been some successes, to date litigation has not provided a resolution to the harms caused by forcible removal.

The Indigenous Law Centre and the Crime and Justice Research Network at the UNSW, in conjunction with the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, are hosting a one-day conference to mark the tenth anniversary of *Bringing them home*.

The aim of the conference is to provide information and discussion on a number of key developments in the struggle for justice for Indigenous people affected by policies of forcible removal. These include:

- Discussion on litigation strategies including the recent successful *Trevorrow* case
- Reflections on the *Bringing them home* inquiry and an overview of government responses to the *Bringing them home* recommendations
- Community initiatives to deal with the long term effects of removal
- Discussion on reparations and compensation – including the compensation scheme developed in Tasmania, and examples of ‘stolen wages’ compensation schemes in New South Wales and Queensland
- Discussion on the problem of the contemporary removal of Indigenous children and young people through child protection and juvenile justice agencies.

PROGRAM

8:00 Registration opens

8:55 **Welcome to Country,
Metropolitan Aboriginal Land Council**

9:00 **The *Bringing them home* Inquiry**

- Mr Tom Calma, Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, Human Rights & Equal Opportunity Commission
- Professor Mick Dodson, National Centre for Indigenous Studies, Australian National University
- Professor Robert Van Krieken, Department of Sociology and Social Policy, University of Sydney

Chair: Professor Chris Cunneen,
NewSouth Global Chair in Criminology,
University of New South Wales

10:20 Break

10:40 **Litigation**

- Jack Rush SC, Barrister, Victorian Bar
- Joanna Richardson, Legal Practitioner

11:40 **Community Initiatives to Deal with Long
Term Effects**

- Alfred Davis, Lecturer, School of Human Services, Griffith University
- Helen Moran, National Sorry Day Committee
- Hannah McGlade, Sister Kate’s Home Kids
- John Bond, Stolen Generations Alliance

Chair: Emeritus Professor Garth Nettheim,
Faculty of Law, University of New South
Wales

1:20 Break

2.20 **Reparations and Compensation**

- Michael Mansell, Legal Director, Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre
- Robin Banks, Director, Public Interest Advocacy Centre
- Andrea Durbach, Associate Professor and Director, Australian Centre for Human Rights, Faculty of Law, University of New South Wales

3.40 **Afternoon Tea**

4.00 **Contemporary Removals of Indigenous
Children and Young People**

- Terri Libesman, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Law, University of Technology Sydney
- Professor Chris Cunneen, New South Global Chair in Criminology, University of New South Wales
- Associate Professor Helen Milroy, Director, Centre for Aboriginal Medical and Dental Health, University of Western Australia

Chair: Ms Megan Davis, Director,
Indigenous Law Centre and Senior
Lecturer, Faculty of Law, University of
New South Wales

5.20 End

5.30 Drinks