

Appendix 2 - Stolen Generations Consultation Results Report

Consultation Methodology

The objective of the Reparations consultation process led by the Steering Committee was to collect qualitative and quantitative data for the purposes of integrating Victorian Stolen Generations, descendants, and parents input into the design of Stolen Generations Reparations.

Data collection operated within comprehensive engagement principles that focussed on a trauma informed and responsive consultation process specific to Stolen Generations, including allowing for flexible consultation options. The consultation process was supported by a Victorian Aboriginal Health Service Counsellor who provided support in person at group sessions and follow up supports as required. De-identified consultation data was collected and information stored confidentially to ensure the privacy of all consultation participants was protected.

A total of 411 Stolen Generations and family participated in the consultation process.

Consultation - Group Sessions

Stolen Generations Reparations group consultation sessions collected qualitative information and were guided by a topical focus of what Reparations outcomes are required by Stolen Generations and family. This focus aimed to maximise Stolen Generations input into the design of Stolen Generations Reparations through a needs-based discussion, to limit re-traumatisation and avoid the re-telling of stories.

Group consultation sessions for Stolen Generations and families were held in person across Victoria and online and the sessions ran for around four hours each. 276 people participated across 24 in person sessions and 1 online group.

Three Aboriginal agencies were engaged to facilitate the consultation sessions and were guided by criteria developed by the Steering Committee. The three agencies were Mirriyu Cultural Consulting, Arabena Consulting, and Nicole Cassar consultancy. Although the three agencies used unique methods of facilitation all were guided by the following criteria:

1. The below questions aimed to focus consultation on the most beneficial outcomes that Stolen Generations would like to see from Reparations outside of monetary compensation and what is most needed to support Stolen Generations moving forward.
 - What outcomes of Reparations beyond monetary compensation do Victorian Stolen Generations find important?
 - Future planning: what is needed in aged care, funeral funds, and health programs for Victorian Stolen Generations?
2. The below questions aimed to focus consultation on the most supportive process for Stolen Generations when applying to the Stolen Generations Reparations and after receiving payment.
 - What services would best support Stolen Generations in going through the Reparations process (application to payment and beyond)?
 - How can a Reparations process be culturally safe and respect the needs of Stolen Generations?
3. The below questions aimed to understand how intergenerational healing outcomes can best be included within Reparations for Stolen Generations descendants. Although these were not key criteria within the consultation process, these themes were noted where there was a high number of descendants in a session or where Stolen Generations felt this was an essential part of Reparations.

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- How do descendants of Stolen Generations see intergenerational trauma being addressed?
- Future planning: what is needed in mental health, cultural, and healing programs for descendants of Victorian Stolen Generations?

Additionally, it was requested the facilitators record any themes arising from consultation on eligibility but not to directly inquire about these topics to ensure that lateral violence and triggering topics could be minimised within the sessions. Any arising theme that was not covered under the above criteria was also included.

Support was provided for participants in group consultation by Bringing Them Home Workers, Social Emotional Wellbeing Counsellors, or a support worker or carer nominated by the participant. The Steering Committee and Secretariat attended the group sessions to ensure Stolen Generations were supported throughout the process.

The information collected from the group consultation sessions will be reflected in the results below.

Consultation - Survey

The Stolen Generations Reparations survey collected qualitative and quantitative data and was also guided by a topical focus on Reparations outcomes required for Stolen Generations and descendants for the same reasons noted above. The survey also collected some personal data to assist the Steering Committee in making recommendations on eligibility requirements for Stolen Generations Reparations.

The survey was established on a Survey Monkey platform and completed by participants with support from the Steering Committee Secretariat, a nominated carer or support person. Some participants completed the survey independently. 94 Stolen Generations and family members completed the Stolen Generations Reparations Survey:

Identity

- 63 identified as being Stolen Generations. Of these 8 Stolen Generations were also children of Stolen Generations, 3 were also grandchildren of Stolen Generations and 3 were also parents of Stolen Generations.
- 47 identified as being a family member of Stolen Generations, 31 children of Stolen Generations, 9 grandchildren of Stolen Generations and 7 parents of Stolen Generations.

Age

Of the 63 people that identified as Stolen Generations:

- 4 people were born in the 1930s (1) and 1940s (3).
- 23 were born in the 1950s.
- 20 were born in the 1960s.
- 7 were born in the 1970s.

State of Birth

- 71 participants were born in Victoria
- 10 participants were born in New South Wales
- 9 participants were born in South Australia (1), Tasmania (1), Northern Territory (3), Queensland (2) and Western Australia (2).

The information collected from the survey will be reflected in the results below. The following is a copy of the survey questions as provided to participants online, by phone or in person.

Victorian Stolen Generations Reparations Design Survey

Survey Information

Your participation in this survey is to assist the Stolen Generations Reparations Steering Committee in making recommendations to the Victorian Government on designing the Victorian Stolen Generations Reparations package.

Reparations aims to amend past wrongs that were experienced by Stolen Generations due to separation from family, community, country and culture. The components of Reparations can be a compensation payment or other assistance needed for Stolen Generations in Victoria. In this survey we want to know what would most benefit you in a Reparations package.

If you require Social Emotional Well Being support or another support person to assist you in completing this survey please contact us using the below phones or email.

Your participation in this survey does not affect your Reparations application, all surveys will be confidential and your identity will not be recorded. You do not need to complete this survey to access

Reparations, if you do not wish to complete this survey please notify us.

It is not expected that you complete this survey in one go, you may leave and come back to it at any time. You are not required to answer any question you do not wish to or to tell your story.

For further information please contact the Steering Committee Secretariat:
Phone: 1800 747 732
Text Option: 0438 157 068
Email: sgr@connectinghome.org.au

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1. What is the best way to provide you with information about Stolen Generations Reparations?

- Facebook
- Posters at an Aboriginal Health Service
- Community Members
- Prison Service
- Justice Service
- Disability Service
- Other (please specify)

2. How would you prefer to apply for Stolen Generations Reparations?

- Simple application form (phone, online, mail)
- Detailed application form (phone, online, mail)

- Speak to the Reparations staff who will complete application for me
- Speak to a support worker who will complete application for me
- Other (please specify) support worker you would use to support you

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3. Which of the following may support you through the Stolen Generations Reparations process?

- Social Emotional Well Being Counsellor
- Bringing Them Home Worker
- Legal Agency
- Financial Planning Agency
- Corrective Services
- Disability/NDIS Support
- Other (please specify)

- None of the above

4. Which of the below you would benefit from in Stolen Generations Reparations package?

- Compensation
- Letter of Apology

- Verbal Apology
- Counselling
- Access to family history and other records
- Funeral Fund
- Unmarked graves plaque fund
- Other please describe at Question 13.

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5. Which of the below do you need better access to?

- Access to Stolen Generations Healing Centres
- Access to Culture, Language and Return to Country Programs
- Appropriate aged care assistance
- Corrective services / post release assistance
- Housing / Homelessness assistance
- Disability/NDIS assistance
- Other please describe at Question 14

6. How do you see intergenerational trauma being healed?

- Stolen Generations and Family Healing Centres / Healing Fund
- Culture, Language, and Return to Country Programs

- Improvements to current child protection system
- Scholarship and Education Programs
- Copy of family history and other records
- Video / Audio recording of your families Stolen Generations story
- Cultural and Intergenerational Trauma Training for all service providers and government agencies
- Improved access to trauma informed and/or cultural mental health services

Other (please specify)

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7. Which of the following that best describes you
(select as many as relevant)

- Stolen Generation
- Child of Stolen Generation/s
- Grandchild of Stolen Generation/s
- Parent of Stolen Generation/s

Other (please specify)

8. What year were you born?

9. What state were you born in?

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MJXKRRF>

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- Victoria
- New South Wales
- South Australia
- Tasmania
- Northern Territory
- Queensland
- Western Australia
- ACT

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10. Please select the following removals you or your family experienced

- Institution
- Foster Care
- Adoption
- Unknown
- Removed to another state
- Removed from another state

Please specify which state you were removed from or to:

11. Please tick what year you or your family were removed

- 1920s-1940s

- 1940s-1960s
- 1960s-1970s
- 1980s
- Unknown
- Other (please specify)

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12. Please select how long you or your family were removed for

- 1-6 Months
- 6-12 Months
- 1-5 Years
- 5-10 Years
- 10+ Years
- Unknown

Other (please specify)

13. What officials were involved in you or your families removal?

- Social Worker
- Police
- Church agency

- Charity agency
- Unknown

Other (please specify)

14. What is the most important part of Stolen Generations Reparations to you?

15. What cultural or healing programs that you have attended do you find beneficial and are they easy for you to access?

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Consultation - Individual Submissions

Stolen Generations Reparations Individual Submissions aimed to provide an alternate means for Stolen Generations or family members to contribute to consultation within a flexible qualitative process. This process was also guided by a topical focus on Reparations outcomes for Stolen Generations and descendants for the same reasons noted above.

The individual submissions were completed by participants with support from the Steering Committee secretariat, Deaf Indigenous Community Consultancy, or with a nominated carer or support person. Some participants completed an individual submission independently.

41 Stolen Generations people made individual submissions to the Steering Committee, 35 Stolen Generations who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing completed individual submissions about Stolen Generations Reparations, the demographic findings of this are:

- 14 Deaf (Sign language users) who identify as being removed between 1942 and 1973.
- 21 Hard of Hearing people who identify as being part of the Stolen Generation between 1948 and 1975.
- 17 who identify as male.
- 10 who identify as female.
- 8 who identify as gender fluid.
- 15 who identify as living in Metro Melbourne.
- 20 who identify as living in regional and rural Victoria.
- There were 22 people who identify as being removed to foster care.
- There were 3 people who identify as being adopted.
- There were 6 people who identified as being sent to the Deaf school.
- There were 4 people who identified as being returned to family (many times removed by the department).
- There were 27 people who receive pensions.
- There were 8 people who work in their local communities (mainly labouring jobs).
- There were 19 people who were caring for young children.
- There were 16 people who were living independently.

Please note that the 35 individual submissions were collated by Deaf Indigenous Community Consultancy and provided as a collective submission.

The information collected from the individual submissions will be reflected in the results below.

Consultation - Evaluation

The Steering Committee Secretariat is in the process completing an evaluation with all consultation participants and the preliminary results find that majority of participants understood the process, felt heard and that the consultation allowed space for everything they wanted to contribute. Participants felt safe and that sharing their experiences and input as a group was a positive experience. Full results of the evaluation can be accessed by contacting Connecting Home.

Consultation Results – Stolen Generations Reparations Package

The following information reflects the consultation results from group sessions, the survey and individual submissions that have informed the recommendations in the final Stolen Generations Reparations Steering Committee report. Each section below relates to Stolen Generations Reparations framework as detailed in the final report.

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Financial Reparations

The Stolen Generations Reparations survey indicates 59 of 63 participants who identified as Stolen Generations would benefit from financial Reparations and 24 of 63 stated that it was the most important part of Reparations for them.

Consultation sessions and individual submission results found the following on financial reparations for Stolen Generations:

- Compensation is important in recognition of trauma, pain, suffering and fractured families, including for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Stolen Generations.
- It was noted that compensation can create a perception of who is more deserving but that payments should not be based on levels of abuse.
- Self-Reliance, such as owning land and a house, is important. Compensation money can provide security through land ownership and ongoing connection to cultural practices and ancestors.
- Please note that compensation is the term widely used by Stolen Generations consultation participants for financial reparations.

The topic of financial reparations was raised at 14 of 24 consultation sessions, noting that this was not the focus topic of discussions.

Funeral Fund

The Steering Committee's Stolen Generations Reparations survey indicates 27 of 63 participants who identified as Stolen Generations would benefit from a Funeral Fund and 33 out of 94 Stolen Generations and family would benefit from an Unmarked Graves Plaque Fund as part of a Reparations package.

Consultation sessions and individual submission results found the following about a funeral fund and an unmarked graves fund for Stolen Generations:

- Funeral funds should be provided to those deemed eligible for Reparations. The process needs to be culturally safe and include costs for funeral, burial on Country, plaque and coronial costs.
- It was found important to provide Deaf and Hard of Hearing Stolen Generation mob with appropriate supports for funeral planning and access to the funeral fund.
- It was found important to support Stolen Generations who have put monies into existing funeral funds be supported to withdraw their funds, to the total amount, if requested.
- Funeral Fund should provide information on appropriate funeral services in Victoria.
- It was consistently noted as important to support families of deceased Stolen Generations who have been buried in unmarked graves to have a memorial plaque put on their burial site, including those on missions, so they are remembered. It was also noted that support may be needed to locate lost family and gravesites.
- It was also consistently stated as important to have Stolen Generations repatriated back to Country if buried elsewhere.

The topic of a funeral fund or unmarked grave and repatriation fund was raised at 19 of 24 consultation sessions.

Apology and Acknowledgment

The Stolen Generations Reparations survey indicates 25 of 63 participants who identified as Stolen Generations would benefit from a letter of apology and 14 out of 63 participants would benefit from a verbal apology. 18 out of 63 Stolen Generations people who completed the Stolen Generations Reparations survey stated that acknowledgment and recognition of their experiences was the most important part of Reparations for them.

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Consultation sessions and individual submission results found the following on apology and acknowledgment:

- It was found important that as part of the reparations process, the Government provide a personal letter of apology and/or a state apology for what has occurred to the Stolen Generations.
- It was found important that Stolen Generations have the opportunity to memorialise and receive public acknowledgment of their experience, for example:
 - A large central walled tribute in the cultural precinct in Melbourne.
 - Regional memorials to Stolen Generations such as at Fitzroy Gardens, Swan Hill.

The topics of apology and memorials was raised at 15 of 24 consultation sessions.

Post Reunion Support

The Stolen Generations Reparations survey indicates 30 of 63 participants who identified as Stolen Generations need better access to Culture, language and return to Country programs and 36 need better access to Stolen Generations healing places. Many survey participants further noted that being on Country was a method of healing for them and that accessing and learning cultural practices such as weaving, learning cultural heritage and history, smoking ceremonies, languages, dreaming and creation stories have supported this. Some of the existing healing programs that were noted by survey participants as useful were Marumali Program (3), Ngarra Jarra Noun Healing Programs (4), Bringing Them Home Workers Programs (4) and Wulgunggo Ngalu Learning Place (1).

Consultation sessions and individual submission results found the following on post reunion support for Stolen Generations and family:

- It was found important to provide access for Stolen Generations to re-connect to community, Country, Culture and language, examples were provided as:
 - Healing retreats or camps that allow for connection to Country, family, community, sharing stories, learning Culture, including from elders, learning language and strengthening identity.
 - Cultural care plans for Stolen Generations to regain cultural connections.
 - Back to Country reunions for Stolen Generations and families including a welcome home ceremony.
 - Healing programs that also assist in diversionary programs for those at risk of returning to prison.
 - Healing centres, gathering places, groups and yarning circles where you can talk to others on a regular basis, one consultation group stated a state forum for all Stolen Generations is important.
 - Truth-telling within family sessions but facilitated support may be required.
 - Arrange for family/community/Stolen Generations reunions to be held at the homes and orphanages where Stolen Generations were institutionalised, it was noted that group reunions appeal to some not all Stolen Generations.
 - Many participants expressed a desire to learn traditional arts and crafts, cultural sites and artefacts, and about cultural lore, including men's and women's business, one group suggested a cultural awareness program specifically for increasing Stolen Generations awareness of Culture.
 - Access to cultural education materials books, activities, information such as information held by AIATSIS was said to be important.
 - Many participants express a desire to learn their traditional language, one participant stated this would be a gift that could then be shared with the next generation.
- To support the post reunion journey for Stolen Generations it was found important that there are more Bringing Them Home and Link Up Workers.

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- It was found important to Stolen Generations to have a good support worker who can support regaining community connection. It was noted that regional funding and compassion are needed to make a good worker.
- It was found important to provide access to any service that reconnects Stolen Generations with family and Country for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Stolen Generations and for all accessibility needs.

The topic of post reunion support was raised at all 24 consultation sessions. Learning language was raised as 13 of 24 consultations sessions, returning to Country was raised at 16 of 24 consultation sessions, access to group healing camps or centres was raised at 20 of 24 consultation sessions and learning Culture was raised at 22 of 24 consultation sessions.

Records Access

The Steering Committee's Stolen Generations Reparations survey indicates that 33 of 63 participants who identified as Stolen Generations would benefit from access to family history and other records as a part of a Reparations package. The survey also shows that out of 94 participants, Stolen Generations and family, 46 see intergenerational healing as occurring through receiving access to family history and other records.

Consultation sessions and individual submission results found the following on records access issues for Stolen Generations and family:

- Stolen Generations consultation participants consistently stated that access to records and family tracing was especially important for healing, one participant stated that 'I want an identity, I want to belong' in relation to difficulties accessing records to reconnect. Another participant stated that 'There is a need to understand family history for our own kids, and there needs to be recognition of what the Stolen Generations fight looked like - especially from the perspectives of those that are no longer here'.
- It was noted that the digitisation of records should be advocated for so they are freely and easily accessible by Stolen Generations.
- It was important for Stolen Generations to have improved access to, including a fee waiver, for:
 - Births, Deaths and Marriages certificates, including those interstate,
 - Deed Poll,
 - Ward files,
 - Hospital birth records and medical history of birth family where appropriate.
- It was also important to Stolen Generations to make sure that the Ward files 'tell the truth', for the state to acknowledge the derogatory words used in Stolen Generations records and an acknowledgement that institutions may hold falsified records.
- It was important that people have access to counsellors as they are reading the records, one person stated 'My thought is how many people have died with broken hearts from believing they were unwanted children. This could or would be through reading the paperwork. How many have completed suicide from this.'
- It was important for Stolen Generations that education around what is included and not included in the records they receive. Ensure that redactions are made clear to community when accessing records, for example why are redactions for deceased people needed.
- It was important that descendants be supported to undertake family tracing themselves, to relieve Stolen Generations from having to answer questions they often do not have the answer for. However, it was noted by some Stolen Generations that they do not want children accessing their records while they are living.
- It was important to have better access to family tracing services including within prison.
- Family trees considered important for intergenerational healing.

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The topic of records access issues including family history was raised at 22 of 24 consultation sessions.

Consultation Results – Stolen Generations Reparations – Enhanced Service Provision and Policy Responses

Enhanced Service Provision and Policy Responses

The Stolen Generations Reparations survey indicates that 49 out of 94 participants see intergenerational healing occurring through cultural and intergenerational trauma training for all service providers and government agencies.

Consultation sessions and individual submission results found the following on the development of enhanced service provisions and policy responses for Stolen Generations:

- It was found important that the Reparations model consider the development of services that are specifically for Stolen Generations, including with trauma trained workers.
- Professional development and training for staff, including in regional areas, is important to ensure the Stolen Generations community are able to access Stolen Generations sensitive staff, feel safe and supported in Centrelink, health, including specialist services, mental health, housing, employment and educational organisations, aged care and healing facilities. Organisational audits need to be included to ensure greater accountability for programs related to Stolen Generations.
- It was found important that any training needs to include how to ask culturally sensitive questions about people's identity when they do not have deep knowledge of their cultural connections and working with unique experiences and varied ways of healing for all Stolen Generations, for example one participant stated, 'There are different ways of being Stolen'.
- It was found continually important when developing any service within a Reparations response that the resilience of Stolen Generations be considered and included.
- It was noted that a Stolen Generations safe organisations means, time out or safe spaces for people to be when they are not feeling well or are not coping, a cultural safety plan in place for employees, memorials and welcome to Country statements that recognise Stolen Generations and their need for recognition, access to Stolen Generations specific health and wellbeing services, for example Link-Up or Bringing Them Home Workers, and counselling and debriefing services for workers that have lived the Stolen Generations life.
- It was noted that it was important to develop career opportunities for Stolen Generations to support one another and promote investment in peer-to-peer strategies and workforces.
- It was found important that there is a consistency and continuity of care and care coordination across and between services for Stolen Generations, such as a 'one stop shop for all Stolen Generations needs'.

Enhanced service provision and policy responses was raised at all 24 consultation sessions.

Telling the Stories of the Stolen Children

This was not covered by the Stolen Generations Reparations survey.

Consultation sessions and individual submission results found the following on telling the stories of the Stolen children:

- Many consultation sessions raised the importance of recording the Stolen Generations stories, some examples were given as:

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- A 'museum' or some keeping place for their mementos and where they have the ability to tell their stories.
- Having a book celebrating the lives of Stolen Generations in Victoria.
- Support to author own story, including through poetry and art.
- It was found important to know your life journey and have a place to record this, similar to Koorie Heritage Trust Oral History Program Uncle Sandy Atkinson conducted.

The topic of telling the Stories of the Stolen children was raised at 20 of 24 consultation sessions.

Health

This was not covered by the Stolen Generations Reparations survey, however one Stolen Generations participant stated that the most important part of Reparations for them was 'funding to better access medication' alongside other fundamental requirements.

Consultation sessions and individual submission results found the following on health for Stolen Generations:

- It was found throughout consultation that it was important to Stolen Generations to have a 'Gold Health Card', including natural and cultural health care, which has the same level of access to health care as returned veterans. It was noted that this card be made available for people directly impacted by removal and includes access to cultural healing modalities.
- It was found important that Stolen Generations should be immediately eligible for disability pension.
- Stolen Generations stated it was important to them not to leave home or Country to receive healthcare, as it creates unnecessary separation and having to be away from home and costs money.
- It was found important that health professionals should be better trained the history of and health needs of Stolen Generations.
- Many participants stated that it was important to them to receive traditional healing.

The topic of health was raised at 22 of 24 consultation sessions.

Social Emotional Well-Being

The Stolen Generations Reparations Survey found that 23 of 63 Stolen Generations participants would benefit from counselling and 13 participants stated that this was the most important part of Reparations for them.

Consultation sessions and individual submission results found the following on social emotional well-being for Stolen Generations:

- It was found important to develop better mental health services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Mob around the impact of being from the Stolen Generations. For example, provide Deaf and Hard of Hearing Stolen Generation mob with access to First Nations counsellor who can use sign language or provide interpreters to give access to the services around counselling.
- It was stated throughout consultation that counsellors are not always appropriate, they do not know how to support Stolen Generations, as they have not experienced the suffering, finding the right counsellor also takes time and sometimes money.
- It was found important that mental health practitioners receive training on supporting Stolen Generations, including addressing mental health without requiring Stolen Generations to re-tell their story.

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- It was stated that family should be included in counselling sessions; this is culturally appropriate and could be like a roundtable discussion. This related to intergenerational trauma being passed on to children and cycles being supported to be broken.
- Stolen Generations also spoke of the need for all hours support to be available for when 'it hits you' including for the transgenerational trauma being suffered by their children and in correctional centres.
- Need to have a Stolen Generations rehabilitation clinic established and connected with corrective services and better support generally for Stolen Generations and substance abuse counselling.

The topic of mental health or social and emotional well-being was raised at 20 of 24 consultation sessions.

Aged Care

The Stolen Generations Reparations survey indicates 24 of 63 participants who identified as Stolen Generations need better access to appropriate aged care assistance and the majority of Stolen Generations participants were aged 52 or over.

Consultation sessions and individual submission results found the following on aged care for Stolen Generations:

- It was found important that Reparations consider the development of aged care services that are specifically for Stolen Generations, such as aged care facilities or aged care support for independent living where possible.
- It was found important that aged care agencies were trained to provide Stolen Generations with tailor made aged care packages.
- End of life assistance was important for Stolen Generations and was raised at many consultation sessions, areas where it was state support is required were:
 - Palliative care supports, including death on Country and appointment of guardian.
 - Stolen Generations want supports for carer to be put into place that will support their wellbeing and quality of life as they get older, including navigating the health system for an accessible service.
 - Stolen Generations see it important to have legal support and education around end-of-life choices, such as wills and funeral planning as this supports families before and during grief and loss and takes stress off Stolen Generations – Similar to VALS wills roadshow, for example. 'I want to put things into place for my family. Wills are very important and will reduce family conflict, as will having a funeral plan.'
 - It was found important that all aged care services can cater to Deaf and Hard of Hearing Stolen Generations, such as interpreters, support workers and accessible information.
- Aged care was raised at 15 of 24 consultation sessions.

Housing

The Stolen Generations Reparations survey indicates 18 of 63 participants who identified as Stolen Generations need better access to housing or homelessness assistance.

Consultation sessions and individual submission results found the following on housing for Stolen Generations:

- It was found consistently important that efforts go into securing affordable housing for Stolen Generations, such as rent to own schemes, in ways that ensure it becomes a family asset and able to be part of the legacy left for children and grandchildren. It was

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noted this could assist in the generational inequity in home ownership for Stolen Generations and descendants.

- It was found important that Stolen Generations people and families have access to priority public housing and that the public housing sector receive education on Stolen Generations.
- It was found that owning land and a house can provide security and ongoing connection to cultural practice and ancestors through land ownership

The topic of housing was raised at 19 of 24 consultation sessions.

Aboriginal Policy and Decision Making

This was not covered by the Stolen Generations Reparations survey, however several participants commented that they felt the Aboriginal community, Aboriginal organisations and events could better include Stolen Generations.

Consultation sessions and individual submission results found the following on Aboriginal policy and decision making for Stolen Generations:

- It was found important to educate Aboriginal communities, corporations and other agencies about respecting Stolen Generations. For example, disrespect was felt in the following ways:
 - Aboriginal Elders who are impacted by removals are not being recognised as Elders in the community.
 - Stolen Generations not wanting to be judged when they do choose to practice or learn the practice of cultural and spiritual healing. There is a notion of not being black enough but at the same time trying to learn their Culture can be blocked or challenged.
 - Stolen Generations surname may not be known to Aboriginal community and the identity of Stolen Generations is challenged by labelling of Stolen Generations as coconuts or Johnny come lately etc.
- It was found important that workplaces have statements that recognise leave entitlements for their employees to participate in Stolen Generations specific activities and provide employees access Stolen Generations specific health and wellbeing services.
- It was found important to support Stolen Generations to Return to Country is as connection to the land is healing, however the issues surrounding native title may impact this connection, community can get suspicious and may not accept the Stolen Generations, creating new traumas. One participant stated that they feel like lost property as they do not feel welcome on Country. It was stated that Traditional Owners need to be more accepting of Stolen Generations returning home and actively welcome people home.
- It was found important that Stolen Generations be included in a variety of land and environment activities, as Country was found to help with spiritual revitalisation, spirit connectedness, healing, safety and comfort.
- Stolen Generations stated throughout consultation that it was difficult to obtain Confirmation of Aboriginality and that they wanted a specific Stolen Generations process around this.
- It was noted that not having access to confirmation of Aboriginality creates a new Stolen Generation, a lost generation: 'it is so hard to get a confirmation of Aboriginality for our children they are not accepted because we are not.'

The topic of Aboriginal policy and decision making was raised at 17 of 24 consultation sessions.

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Disability Services

The Stolen Generations Reparations survey indicates 19 of 63 participants who identified as Stolen Generations need better access to disability or National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) assistance.

Consultation sessions and individual submission results found the following on disability service enhancements for Stolen Generations:

- It was found important that Stolen Generations are supported through the NDIS process with a specific worker.
- It was found important to fund full time advocacy roles for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to access the necessary services they require.
- It was noted that research and service development needed on the connection between disability and childhood trauma.
- Many consultation participants stated they would benefit from a support animal.
- Some consultation participants noted they need better disability support within prison.

The topic of disability services was raised at 6 of 24 consultation sessions.

Police, Justice and Corrective Services

The Stolen Generations Reparations survey indicates 5 of 63 participants who identified as Stolen Generations need better access to corrective services or post release assistance. It is noted here that this data is limited due to the accessibility to the survey for those who are incarcerated currently.

Consultation sessions and individual submission results found the following on police, justice, and corrective services enhancements for Stolen Generations:

- It was found that specific long-term support and arrangements need to be developed for Stolen Generations people transitioning from corrective services to mainstream society, such as better trauma informed, age specific and disability support services.
- It was found that more supports are needed for Stolen Generations in custody, such as trauma healing and interstate transfers to be closer to family and Country,
- It was found that Stolen Generations need help not going to jail such as tailored diversion programs, behavioural programs, offender behavioural programs, that understand the Stolen Generations history and cultural healing. Examples were given of a Dardi Munwuro, including developing a similar program for women, Aboriginal workers at the Reconnect Program, increased access to Wulgunggo Ngarlu cultural and language programs.
- It was consistently found important that all Stolen Generations are supported to expunge their childhood criminal record, including absconding, as a matter of urgency.
- It was stated as important that Magistrates and Judges and workers involved with the courts need to do training on working with Stolen Generations.
- It was found important to provide training to police on history of Stolen Generations and why families of Stolen Generations still fear child removal and fear police due to historical child removals.
- It was noted that it is important that the appropriate elders are utilised when supporting those who are incarcerated off Country.
- It was found important to develop better services that connect corrective services experiences with domestic violence recovery, counselling, education, and diversion.
- It was found important to educate Stolen Generations and descendants in corrective services on family wellbeing and support children in out of home care to reconnect to family and learn identity.

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The topic of police, justice and corrective services was raised at 14 of 24 consultation sessions.

Intergenerational Healing

The Stolen Generations Reparations survey indicates out of 94 participants:

- 52 see intergenerational healing occurring through Stolen Generations and family healing centres and healing funds.
- 49 see intergenerational healing occurring through cultural and intergenerational trauma training for all service providers and government agencies.
- 49 see intergenerational healing occurring through improved access to trauma information and cultural mental health services.
- 46 see intergenerational healing occurring through access to a copy of family history and other records.
- 45 see intergenerational healing occurring through Culture language and return to Country programs.
- 44 see intergenerational healing occurring through improvements to the current child protection system.
- 38 see intergenerational healing occurring through scholarship and education programs.
- 37 see intergenerational healing occurring through video or audio recording of family Stolen Generations stories.

Consultation sessions and individual submission results found the following on intergenerational healing for Stolen Generation families:

- It was important for descendants to increase life skills, such as financial literacy, education - such as a scholarship program to help break the cycle, including regional scholarships so that can be closer to family, community, Country - intergenerational trauma awareness programs, parenting programs, mentoring programs, access to services and well-being supports such as groups and therapeutic interventions that children and grandchildren of can do together.
- It was important that descendants of Stolen Generations to be recognised for the role they may have played as carers to their parents, siblings and others through the provision of carer training and support, or if needed intensive family support, such as a care team, for family violence/drug alcohol abuse.
- One descendant stated, 'I need to heal for my mum', many others stated that they needed support and tools to build empathy they may not have been shown in their own upbringing and understand their inherited trauma.
- Stolen Generations found it important to leave a legacy for their children and grandchildren, but many are unsure of what this is going to look like. Having supports to identify the goals they want to achieve in preparing for the final staged of their lives was found to be important to realise this.
- Important for all services to understand intergenerational trauma and pain and more research to support this change.

The topic of intergenerational Healing was raised at 20 of 24 consultation sessions.

Child Protection

The Stolen Generations Reparations survey indicates 44 out of 94 participants see intergenerational healing occurring through improvements to the current child protection system.

Consultation sessions and individual submission results found the following on child protection for Stolen Generation families:

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- It was stated consistently throughout consultation that where possible and by whatever means possible, the cycle of trauma has to be stopped so children stop transitioning into out of home care and being disconnected from family, community, Culture and Country. Solutions were given as:
 - If children are taken-away they are placed with family, do not split the kids up and support the family. If kids cannot stay with family, they must stay connected in the community in an Aboriginal placement.
 - Culturally informed transitional programs for kids coming out of VACCA fostering; ways of connecting the kids back to their communities.
- That people affected by Stolen Generations provide advice and support in child reunification, engagement and rehabilitation services in a lived experience capacity. This can be achieved through membership on boards, committees and in advisory capacities.
- It was also noted as important that consideration of the needs of affected Stolen Generations who are providing additional care and support to their children and grandchildren be considered in the development of the reparations model. Such as support for the longevity of the out of home care placement to keep their grandchild out of the system if and when they can no longer be their primary caregiver.
- Participants also wanted to be supported to return their grandchildren to their care from out of home care.
- Culturally appropriate parenting programs were stated as important.

The topic of Child Protection was raised at 19 of 24 consultation sessions.

Education

This was not covered by the Stolen Generations Reparations survey, however 10 participants, out of 94, commented that educating the broader community was essential part of Reparations.

Consultation sessions and individual submission results found the following on education on Stolen Generations history:

- It was consistently found important to Stolen Generations to standardise education to ensure history includes Stolen Generations, including paying Stolen Generations to tell the stories in schools, although not all Stolen Generations want to tell their story or be the educator.
- It was found important to develop training and teaching material, such as Auslan related case studies and Deaf and Hard of Hearing Aboriginal people to tell stories, for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people to understand the Stolen Generation history.
- It was important that general public and government officials also received education about the Stolen Generations experience.

The topic of education was raised at 18 of 24 consultation sessions.

Consultation Results – Stolen Generations Reparations – Operational Matters

Design Principles

Several participants noted in the Stolen Generations Reparations survey that is essential that Reparations be established urgently due to the age and ill health of Victorian Stolen Generations.

Consultation sessions and individual submission results found the following on design principles for Stolen Generations Reparations:

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- It was consistently stated that it was important to urgently establish Reparations due to the age and ill health of Victorian Stolen Generations. One participant stated they want this to be finished business now.
- It was noted as important to ensure the development of Reparations consider the 'type of narrative' (such as self-determination vs welfare narratives) in both supporting Stolen Generations and Intergenerational Trauma. One participant stated for example 'we don't want handouts we want hand-ups.'
- It was found important that Reparations include the qualities and features of a Stolen Generations safe organisation and of a Stolen Generations safe workforce.
- It was stated as important that the whole process needs be confidential and not involve lawyers.

The topic of design principles was raised at 13 of 24 consultation sessions.

Eligibility

The Stolen Generations Reparations survey indicates the following statistics out of 94 participants who identified as Stolen Generations or representing a family member of Stolen Generations:

Type of removal:

Please note that most participants indicated there were more than one agency involved in their removal.

- 33 participants stated that police were involved in their or their families removal
 - 16 of these stated that police and a social worker were involved
 - 8 of these stated that police and a church agency (7) or charity agency (1) were involved
 - 1 of these stated that police and a school were involved
- 24 participants stated that a social worker was involved in their or their families removal
 - 16 of these stated that a social worker and police were involved
 - 5 of these stated that a social worker and a church agency (4) or charity agency (1) were involved
 - 1 of these stated that a social worker and a hospital agency were involved
- 16 participants stated that a government agency was involved in their or their families removal
 - 7 of these stated that a government agency and social worker or welfare worker were involved
 - 5 of these stated that a government agency and police were involved
 - 3 of these stated that a government and church (2) or charity (1) were involved
- 12 participants stated that a church agency was involved in their or their families removal
- 3 participants stated that a charity agency was involved in their or their families removal
- 31 participants did not know what official was involved in their or their families removal.

Consequence of removal:

- 49 Stolen Generations were in institutional care.
- 41 Stolen Generations were in foster care.
- 13 Stolen Generations were adopted.
- 12 Stolen Generations were removed to another state from Victoria.
- 6 Stolen Generations were from to Victorian from another state.
- 9 persons did not know what form of separation they or their family experienced.

Era of removal:

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- 6 Stolen Generations were separated between 1920s and 1940s. [family only, no living Stolen Generations participant selected this]
- 28 Stolen Generations were separated from family between 1940s and 1960s.
- 40 Stolen Generations were separated from family between 1960s and 1970s.
- 0 were separated in 1980s.
- 4 Stolen Generations did not know when they were separated from family and 3 descendants did not know when their relative was removed from family.

Length of time in care:

- 3 Stolen Generations were separated from family for between 1 and 6 months.
- 1 Stolen Generations person was separated from family for between 6 to 12 months.
- 7 Stolen Generations were separated for between 1 and 5 years.
- 13 Stolen Generations were separated for between 5 and 10 years.
- 45 Stolen Generations were separated for over 10 years.
- 12 participants did not know how long they or their family was removed for.

Consultation sessions and individual submission results found the following on eligibility for Stolen Generations Reparations:

- It was found important to ensure an inclusive view of people who can be included under the banner of 'Stolen Generations', such as wards of the state, forcibly adopted, in institutional care and those who were actively discouraged or not supported to reunify with their families.
- It was found important that Reparations refers to the length of time children spent in out of home care arrangements in ways that acknowledge the compounding issues of long-term removals as opposed to short-term removals which children were able to reunify with family and Culture.
- It was stated as important that Reparations identify the primary beneficiaries of the reparations model and be clear about direct and indirect benefits.

The topic of eligibility was raised at 3 of 24 consultation sessions, noting that this was not the focus topic of discussions.

Publicising and Promotions

The Stolen Generations Reparations survey indicates the following statistics from 63 participants who identified as Stolen Generations:

- 26 participants stated that they would prefer to be provided with information about Reparations through an Aboriginal Co-operative.
- 25 participants stated that they would prefer to be contacted directly by mail, phone or email to receive information about Reparations.
- 22 participants stated they would prefer to be provided with information about Reparations from a disability (8), prison (6), justice (4), Stolen Generations, noted as Connecting Home or Bringing Them Home Worker (4), service.
- 19 participants stated they would prefer to be provided with information about Reparations from Facebook.
- 16 participants stated they would prefer to be provided with information about Reparations from community members.

Consultation sessions and individual submission results found the following on promotions for Stolen Generations Reparations:

- It was found important that all information, including social media, needs to be accessible for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Mob to access Reparations services and supports

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- It was stated that having a mail list to receive a newsletter from Steering Committee is important to be distributed regularly keeps Stolen Generations informed.
- Community forums were noted as an important way to provide information, including supporting members with transport needs to attend.
- Ensure plain language is used in all forms and advertisements about the reparations scheme, including information about the difference between Stolen Generations Reparations and other schemes (primarily the National Redress Scheme), clarity about what Reparations provides and eligibility.

The topic of promotions was raised at 5 of 24 consultation sessions.

Application Process

The Stolen Generations Reparations survey indicates the following statistics out of 63 participants who identified as Stolen Generations:

- 30 participants stated that they would prefer to complete a simple application
- 29 participants stated they would prefer to complete an application with a support worker, support workers were further specified by four participants as Ngarra Jarra Noun (2), Aboriginal Co-Operative worker (1) or family member (1).
- 26 participants stated that they would prefer to complete an application with Reparations staff for assistance.
- 9 participants stated they would like to complete a detailed application form, with one further specifying they would like to tell their story on the form.

Consultation sessions and individual submission results found the following on the application process for Stolen Generations Reparations:

- It was stated important that forms accessible to Stolen Generations by ensuring the language is simple, the forms are short and that the process is not triggering and the assessment can be completed in as short a time as possible.
- It was stated as important to support appropriate guardianship processes if Stolen Generations applicant goes into hospital or palliative care during the assessment process.
- It was important that searches for records be broad and flexible as Stolen Generations names were changed during removals, searching removal dates can help with connections.

The topic of the application process was raised at 6 of 24 consultation sessions.

Threshold of Evidence

One Stolen Generations participant of the Stolen Generations Reparations surveys stated that the application process should include a permission to access records on behalf of applicants so that they do not have to re-tell their story.

Consultation sessions and individual submission results found the following on the threshold of evidence required for Stolen Generations Reparations:

- It was consistently stated throughout consultation that Stolen Generations did not want to tell their stories again but that Reparations should locate records to determine eligibility.
- It was also found important that evidence be flexible for example if two siblings had been removed together but one did not have records of removal, they would be considered eligible as they were recorded in the sisters file.

The topic of thresholds of evidence was raised at 10 of 24 consultation sessions.

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Administration of Payments

Two Stolen Generations Reparations survey participants noted that

- It was important for elderly and ill Stolen Generations to nominate a next of kin on the Reparations application in case they pass away during the assessment process.
- It was important for self-determination around payments and financial counselling to be included in the process including nominating payment requirements at the application stage.

Consultation sessions and individual submission results found the following on the administration of payments for Stolen Generations Reparations:

- Ensure that Reparations payment do not impact the National Disability Insurance Scheme allowance for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Stolen Generation mob.

The topic of administration of payments was raised at 4 of 24 consultation sessions.

Support Services

The Stolen Generations Reparations survey indicates the following statistics out of 63 participants who identified as Stolen Generations:

- 31 participants indicated they would be supported through a Reparations process with a Social and Emotional Wellbeing Counsellor.
- 24 participants indicated they would be supported through a Reparations process with a Bringing Them Home Worker
- 12 participants indicated they would be supported through a Reparations process with disability or NDIS support.
- 19 participants indicated they would be supported through a Reparations process with a legal agency (9), financial planning agency (7) or corrective services (3).
- 9 participants further detailed they would be supported through Ngarra Jarra Noun (1) or a similar targeted service (1), family support (2), support group lead by a counsellor (1), interstate assistance (1), Connecting Home (1), Reparations staff (1), or a support worker who could transcribe the information (1).
- 7 participants indicated they would not need support through a Reparations process.
- 1 participant stated that having support to go through the process was the most important part of Reparations for them.

Consultation sessions and individual submission results found the following on the support services required for Stolen Generations Reparations:

- There should be a hotline for support with applications and regional support services.
- Current Stolen Generations specific organisations be funded to support people through the Reparations process, for example how to apply, locating relevant identification and understanding eligibility, ensuring appropriate case management loads are taken into consideration.
- It was important to develop a one stop shop where Stolen Generations can access counselling, culturally appropriate legal and financial advice in relation to Reparations, including for financial planning, securing funeral funds, organising a will, financial planning, power of attorney, support for Stolen Generations and coercion of payments.
- Supports, including advocacy, need to be provided for diverse accessibility requirements such as Deaf and Hard of Hearing mob who also have disabilities.
- Provide a Deaf or Hard of Hearing Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person as the go to person to assist in the claiming of any reparation funds and ensure any

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Reparations outreach includes Auslan interpreters and support workers and considers all accessibility needs.

- Reparations support services need to be age specific to the different generation's removals and needs. The support services need include access for applicants who are incarcerated.
- It was found important that any support phone line or service provide some after hours access to ensure flexibility and access for all Stolen Generations.
- It was found important that self- determination be a foundation for applicants accessing Reparations support services.

The topic of support services was raised at 11 of 24 consultation sessions.