Greetings,

A few months ago you participated in a study about identity and attitudes of Indigenous Australians towards White Australians in the context of the Stolen Generations. At that time you said that you would be interested in hearing about the results. We appreciate your help with our research, and we are happy to tell you about the findings. The study was conducted by Emerald Quinn under the supervision of Dr. Winnifred Louis. If you would like to ask questions, to comment on what you read, or to find out more, you can contact project staff by phoning (07) 3346 9515, by emailing w.louis@psy.uq.edu.au, or by writing to Dr. Winnifred Louis, School of Psychology, McElwain Building / University of Queensland / St. Lucia, QLD 4072. You can also read about other studies that we’ve done investigating Australian social attitudes at http://www.psy.uq.edu.au/~wlouis/.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS: IDENTITY AND THE STOLEN GENERATIONS: ATTITUDES OF INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS. Working paper, 11/10/06. This paper has not been peer reviewed. Please do not copy or cite without author’s permission. (Under “peer review”, other researchers get a chance to scrutinize the methods and analyses and make suggestions, before anything about the study is published as an official result. This process usually takes a couple of years, in my field, during which time the results of the study should be seen as preliminary. This shouldn’t affect your personal discussions of the results, or internal group / organization discussions, but just means that the results should not be published officially till looked over by other researchers.)

WHAT WE WERE LOOKING FOR.

This study examined the reactions of Indigenous Australians to the Stolen Generations. One goal was to get a picture of responses overall. There were several different things we looked at. We looked at how much people identified as an Indigenous Australian and how ready people were to engage in collective action. We also looked at whether people assign collective guilt to White/European Australians, forgive them for the Stolen Generations, have favourable attitudes to them in general, and feel socially close to them.

A second goal was to examine the effect of changing identities on Indigenous Australians’ attitudes to White Australians. There were two different ways in which we asked about attitudes, that is, two different versions of the questionnaire. Half of the participants, in the “human identity” version, read a paragraph describing the Stolen Generations as an event in which humans behaved heartlessly and ignorantly towards other humans. The other participants, in the “group identity” version, read a paragraph describing the Stolen Generations as an event in which White/European Australians behaved heartlessly towards Indigenous Australians. We were interested in the consequences of Indigenous Australians perceiving themselves and White Australians as distinct social groups (i.e., Indigenous Australians and White Australians) or as part of a single, inclusive category (i.e., humans). In the results, below, we call this the “Effect of How Issue is Framed”.

Past research has indicated that people are more likely to think positively towards members of their own social groups. This would suggest then that when Indigenous Australian participants consider themselves and White Australians as one inclusive human group they may feel less negatively towards today’s White Australians. People who think about one inclusive human group may be more likely to forgive contemporary White Australians and may not feel as strongly that White Australians should feel collective guilt for the atrocities committed in the past. However, research also shows that perceiving distinct groups promotes feelings of solidarity and commitment by members of disadvantaged groups. People who feel more of a sense of solidarity and group commitment are more motivated to
take collective action for social change. Perceiving people as one human group rather than two distinct groups could mean that people would be less motivated to take collective action. It was our goal to test these predictions. We should note a limitation of our study, however: we did not seek nor obtain a representative sample of Indigenous Australians, so we are not trying to generalize about the results to all of Australia on statistical grounds.

There was also space for participants to give personal responses to the issue. A list of these personal responses to the issue can be read online here (Appendix I).

**SOME DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ABOUT PARTICIPANTS**

During April-August 2006, 82 Indigenous Australians completed the study. Participants were drawn from various online Indigenous networks, including Indigenous forums, news groups and student associations within Australian universities. Additional participants were recruited on a voluntary basis from a community organisation in far north Queensland. Participants ranged in age from 18 to 65 (with a mean of 37 years), and were predominantly female (80%).

**WHAT WE FOUND**

1. **OVERALL RESULTS.** All of the participants identified with being an Indigenous Australian. About half of the participants (56%) agreed that White Australians should feel some collective guilt or ownership of the actions taken by their ancestors during the years of the Stolen Generations. However, just under half of respondents (43%) thought that White Australians should be extended forgiveness for the actions of their group in relation to the Stolen Generations. The vast majority of the participants felt that Indigenous Australians need to undertake collective action to improve the social and economic position of their ethnic group (93%). Most participants (87%) stated that they felt there was social distance between themselves and White Australians, such that they sometimes had difficulty interacting with White Australians.

2. **EFFECTS OF HOW ISSUE IS FRAMED.** It was expected that when the Stolen Generations topic was framed as humans behaving badly to other humans, participants would perceive themselves to be more similar to White Australians. This was supported, as participants in the inclusive human identity condition did indeed perceive Indigenous and White Australians as being more similar than did participants in the separate group identity condition.

   We then examined the effect of framing the stolen generations as humans behaving badly to other humans on participants’ attitudes, emotions and behaviours. The version of the questionnaire (humans mistreating other humans, or White/Europeans mistreating Indigenous people) had no effect on participants’ beliefs about the assignment of collective guilt. However, Indigenous participants were more willing to forgive contemporary White Australians when they had framed the stolen generations as humans behaving badly to other humans. The way the issue was framed also had a significant effect on social distancing. Indigenous participants stated that they were less distanced from White Australians in the human identity condition than in the group identity condition. In some sense, this supports the value of framing the issue in human terms to promote reconciliation.

   However, participants who received the human identity version of the questionnaire reported that they did not identify as Indigenous Australians as strongly as did participants who received the group identity version of the questionnaire. Also, participants who received the human identity version of the questionnaire reported they were less motivated to engage in collective action than those who received the version of the questionnaire about Indigenous vs. White/European Australians. Further analyses revealed that those participants who read
descriptions emphasising the human nature of both social groups identified less as Indigenous Australians, and hence reported a higher likelihood of forgiveness. These results highlight the cost of framing the issue in human terms, that is, while framing it as a human issue may promote forgiveness, it also may undermine identification and activism among Indigenous Australians.

CONCLUSION

In this study we found that overall, participants all identified with being an Indigenous Australian, were divided about allocating guilt and forgiveness, and in the overwhelming majority supported collective action to improve the social and economic position of Indigenous Australians. We also found that different descriptions of the Stolen Generations issue were associated with different responses to the issue, as predicted. When thinking about the Stolen Generations as humans behaving badly to other humans, Indigenous participants were more likely to state that they could forgive White Australians for past events, saw themselves as more similar to White Australians, identified less strongly as Indigenous Australians, and stated that they were less likely to engage in collective action. These are interesting results that we are following up in other work.

One of the additional studies that we did was to conduct a similar study with White Australian students. A summary of this is online at http://www.psy.uq.edu.au/~wlouis/, as well as by mail request from the author (contact info above). But the gist of the results for the other study is that the human-to-human condition seems to have the effect of making Indigenous Australians more psychologically inclusive and less politically militant, whilst the advantaged White/European Australian students continued in their original views unchanged. We continue to explore interventions which will promote Reconciliation in Australia in our present work.

THANKS AGAIN…

So that’s a description of what we found in this study. If you have any questions, or would like a copy of the longer write-up when we get that done (in several months) please get in touch. And thank you again for your participation and interest!
Appendix I:
Summary of qualitative responses

We asked, “What do you think today’s White/European Australians could do to help mend the wrongs of their ancestors?” and “Do you have any other thoughts, comments or feelings you would like to express regarding these issues?”

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We asked: “What do you think today’s White/European Australians could do to help mend the wrongs of their ancestors?” Some themes are: Nothing, Acknowledge, Apologise, Make reparations, Reconciliation.

Participants responded:

Acknowledge what has happened in the past.

You can’t. But they can try.

Nothing. Move on and live for today and the future.

Acknowledge and accept the past wrongs, perhaps apologise. Agree to work together for better economic opportunities for Indigenous people.

Accept that Aboriginal people are different, respect those differences without ethnocentric judgement. Difference does not equate to being a less valuable individual.

Accept that the wrongs did occur and stop denying the inhumanities European's inflicted on my people. Acknowledge that this is an extremely racist country and actively enforced the anti-discrimination act.

Non-Indigenous Australians need to recognize the initial and trans-generational impact colonisation has had on Indigenous people. Recognition, acknowledgement, understanding, acceptance and genuine regret will help to close the wounds and commence the healing process. We cannot expect such atrocities to disappear overnight and we cannot allow a history of lies to be taught to future generations. The truth needs to be known by all.

black people still get looked down on, i think that we all need to treat each other equally. it is getting better but there are some very hostile people who are still teaching younger generations that black people are not equal.

Admit to the truth about the past wrongs without guilt or telling us to “just get on with it”

At least acknowledge what wrong was done to our people! Genuinely accept the wrongs and then pass the knowledge to their children.

I don't believe that it is a matter of the current generation trying to make right the wrongs that were done to the Indigenous peoples of Austrilia, i believe instead both cultures should come together. It's a matter of getting into a mind frame, the past happened, we can not change, we don't have to like it or agree with it but what we can do now is shape the future. Prove that we have come a long way and are moving forward and strengthening as a country and not having such a great divide between us.

take the time to LISTEN and UNDERSTAND what our people are trying to say today and to be recognised as a significant race that we are.
Just accept what has occurred in the past and acknowledge the impacts these injustices have on our people today.

acknowledge that the forceful removal of aboriginal children from their mothers, fathers and family was wrong in one simple word SORRY.

Apologise and admit to their ancestors wrongs. Give us back out land that we occupied for thousands of years before White/European Australians came and invaded our land!!

Invite Aboriginal people into their homes, treat them us equals and provide us with exactly the same opportunity they would to anyone of their own race. Promote Sorry Day in the media making it compulsory on commercial channels.

Nothing - Just we should all get on my life - Aboriginal people are using and wasting time wanting poeple to say sorry - But their not sorry for neglecting their children, and providing unsafe households, and sitting back and waiting for things to be put in their hands instead of participating in mainstream and playing the game of life.

Acknowledge the injustices Aboriginal people suffer today due to past practices

Support a National Day of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mourning whereby Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples can mourn their heros, and those who fought for First Nation peoples rights, citizenship, recognition of our humanness, for keeping tribal and Sacred lands and significant places intact. A day in which all Australians participate alongside each other in activities that reflect forgiveness, healing, and harmony

Stop making excuses for them.

Govt apology Apology unite move on with reconciliation activities work together not in opposition celebrate and acknowledge the culture of Indigenous Australia treat everyone equal move away from steri-typing

Say Sorry, accept reconciliation with open arms hearts and minds.

they could be better educate white/European Australians about Aboriginal and Torres strait people and our cultures,ie. instead of teaching Japenese, German in the schools teach the kids about our culture.

I think that today's white/European Australians really don't have anything to do with what happened. I think that the powers that were should be held accountable. If the white people of today were not so open minded and wanting change.....we would still [sic]

i think that if John Howard acknowleged his acncestors past wrongs, which is what Aboriginal people have wanted for a long time, it would make the stolen generations feel as if their history was officially acknowleged. John Howard refusing to say 'sorry' to these people because it was not his generation committing these crimes, is nothing short of rediculous. if he ever says sorry, the stolen generations could move forward somewhat.

Pay more attention to the current needs of aboriginals, let the White/European youth of today know and understand the hardship they went through. An apology is just the begining to the acceptance of the local indigenous people. The sterotypical view of aboriginals is highly negative, i believe this could be changed with support and a better understanding of the general lives they live.
Not go back to those ways at all. Cultural awareness programs shows how far we all have come.

Acknowledge and accept that there were wrong doings to Aboriginal people in the past and for the Australian Government to work in a pro-active manner to address this by accepting and acknowledging this.

I think learning about Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander history and government policy impact and then use that knowledge to positively contribute to the mending/reparation process

They can return land to our people, practice equality, pay stolen wages with interest, basically its due time they payed up!

White/European Australians could help right the wrongs of their ancestors by acknowledging that what was done was wrong, and that they are sorry for what occurred. Saying sorry on their part would not be taking the blame for what their ancestors did, it would be apologising for the ignorance of their ancestors and recognising that this action would be fundamental for how Aboriginal people look at white Australians. For it was not only those who were stolen who were affected by the stolen generation, the generations to come are still paying the price and struggling with identity.

Admit what they did.

To acknowledge the past injustices of policies placed on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of this country and how this has had a devastating effect on it's peoples. To develop economic opportunities for it's traditional owners through partnership ownership of lands and seas, this will ensure the traditional owners can continue cultural practices and maintain a strong connection to the land and seas. Develop and improve education institutions nationally to allow Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and history to be taught throughout these systems.

Not to rewrite the past in our future generations.

I think White/European Australians need to be educated/informed of the black history of this country. They need to acknowledge the injustices perpetrated on Indigenous people and lobby governments for better treatment of our people. They shouldn't feel guilty/sorry for the past injustices, they should acknowledge it, be empathetic and work with Indigenous Australians to better this country.

i think one of the biggest problems with white/european australians today is that they do not except that what happen to the past in the past to the aboriginal and torres strait islander people is a part of their history. they choose to believe that no of it happened. if they acknowledge that it did happen i believe that it would be a great starting point to move on from the past and start thinking about the future to make sure that nothing happens like that again.

Acknowledgement of events/history through involvement in National Day of Healing and similar activities. Inclusion of topics such as the Stolen Generations, Stolen Wages, Aborigines Protection Act within school curriculum as part of SOSE or History.

Learn about, think about and learn to appreciate the many differing indigenous cultures in Australia and what significance it has for our nation as a whole. Learn that Indigenous Australians are not one homogenous group and stop the stereotyping.
nothing they can do will fix the past. our people just need to stick together

firstly they must recognise and accept the true black/white history of this country since invasion day. secondly they must then recognise and accept our inalienable right to the sovereignty of our traditional lands. thirdly they must recognise and accept the absolute right for treaties for each of our traditional nations. fourthly they must recognise and accept the absolute requirement that all social justice issues, such as stolen wages, death and custodial issues, among others. then fifthly they must instruct their respective governments to implement policies to positively address the above points. then and only then, can we all implement true reconciliation.

learn their own history thoroughly make decisions think more carefully about who they elect into parliament get educated

If they admitted that what happened was wrong and decided to treat my people with the respect that they deserve it would create a better living environment. Admittedly the generations have changed but some White Australians still see us as inferrior and this makes us work all the more harder to prove them all wrong. Looking at us in the say way as every other human being would help us to maybe know why they did what they did.

Acknowledgement that my ancestors were put through, and that our people still live with today, after the white invasion. Give Aboriginal people full control over Aboriginal issues, stop mainstreaming our services.

The past is history, we should be thinking about improving the present and the future and stop dwelling on the past.

Support us in the progress towards reconciliation. They could train and help us in all aspects of education so as we could become more self determining. The stereotypes which are thrown at us could be better understood through the above processes. Give us a fair go and better opportunities to be trained in all areas of the workforce. A treaty would be the answer for gaining some of the land back. All Australians should be trained at an educational level towards the understanding of indigenous people in this country. This would break down a lot of misunderstandings towards indigenous people.

Firstly there are some, who need to acknowledge that these things did happen. And it wasn't that long ago, as early as 30 years ago. They also need to stop comparing the Stolen Generation to the English who were taken away from their families and sent to Australia in what is believed to be similar situations. Those people did not have to change their language, beliefs, and whole culture to fit into a culture/belief system that was alien to them.

Admit the policies & practices did happen & are wrong! Become more educated about ATSI cultures, lifestyles & spirituality to learn to drop their dominant cultural ways sometimes & they may find they even enjoy our ways!

Australia needs to acknowledge what happened in the past - i.e. own it as fact. While it is denied the victims can't move forward in their healing as they have to fight to have their voices heard. Everyone needs to be able to express their abhorrence of the past atrocities in the spirit of commitment that those things won't be allowed to happen again - that authorities that try to enact genocide will be publically challenged al 'ordinary citizens'.

acknowledge that the cruelty and stolen generations/wages and the continual racism exists
Listen and learn and try to understand what happened before so it will never happen again. Teach the children right from wrong and to be respectful of others no matter what colour or creed we are. Indigenous people were labelled savages, but they were not, they had a society, laws and respect. My ancestors might have worn lap laps or maybe nothing but by today's standard, within the white society, nothing much has changed but they call it fashion. The government of today chose not to apologise and that's a sad indictment on Australia today. We tell the world we live as one nation, so now we need to become one nation.

To accept outwardly and in their hearts that Aboriginals are the traditional owners of this land. We don't particularly want them to love us but we want them to understand where we're coming from. To understand that Aboriginals treasure their family, land and nature more than gold. That there must be something more in non-indigenous thinking than raping and designating the land for money because if they keep it up, there will be nothing is left in this land of beauty or any other lands.

Need to apologies to our elders for the wrong that was done to our mothers. As I was only two I had no recollection of what was going on during the Government's decisions to forcibly remove children.

Firstly understand and know aboriginal culture, history and society

Finding different ways of involving Indigenous and non-Indigenous people together by allowing the healing process to begin with each other as a Nation.

Definitely acknowledge and recognise what occurred in the past. Get involved in activities where all Australians benefit and are treated equally and fairly. Learning about the black history of Australia will give non-Aboriginal Australians insight into why they think so many Aboriginal people are angry. Especially learning about how Transgenerational stress and trauma has had a major impact on future generations health status and why it hasn't improved much in the past two decades.

get white people together, treat them callously, like their ancestors did to ours and see how they feel after their torment.

acknowledge the past and realise the struggle has not stopped. Working in an atsi organisation such as child protection is a struggle every single day. you not only struggle with your people, the dept of child safety but your bosses"

they need to apologise and help the stolen generation and children of the stolen generation get some closure on what happened; there need to be a formal treaty or agreement; give people ownership of the repat process (ask me what I want); formally acknowledge that native title issues are dividing families; improve the system of native title; get rid of the ICC and the silo's this has created; return ALL the responsibility and dollars of Indigenous affairs back to the states; develop and design innovative ways of giving Indigenous people sustaining themselves and family in a way that is wholistic, encouraging; return the bones of loved ones who died in missions back to their region at no cost to families;

education of their children, and to not accept any discrimination. Punishment for discrimination

Participate more often in cross cultural activities. Sit and listen to their stories. Invite more indigenous people to participate in their functions. Acknowledge that they do understand that what happened was wrong. Respect the fact that the Stolen Generations people are also half
of them as they are also descendants of White/European Australians and they should accept this, and should treat them as they would like to be treated. THAT IS AS EQUALS.

To help mend the wrongs of the ancestors of the White/European Australians of today would be to better educate their children about the Indigenous Australian history and issues. The whole education curriculum should incorporate Indigenous Studies as a compulsory measure for the senior High School Certificate. Education is the key.

Have the PM say SORRY would be a good place to start. Sign a Treaty with Aboriginal people and pay compensation for the theft of their land. Let Aboriginal people determine their own terms of treaty and have self management of their own destiny. Change native title from what it is and get input from Aboriginal people. Dissolve Howard's National Indigenous Council.

By accepting what has happened and think before comments and attitudes are made about Aboriginal people

Get educated about what really happened to Indigenous Australia. Most of the problem that lies with todays society is a lack of education.

Acknowledge the past and the events that occured. Teach the young the real Australia and the real events that happened, not just from a European point of view. This country continually educates our youth on a pack of lies.

1. Acknowledgement of what really happened would be a good start. 2. Lobby the Government in regards to the issues that need pushing e.g. stollen wages, an apology and so on. 3. Get involved in some way, go to Survival Day Celebrations, visit Aboriginal Art Galleries, make sure when you buy something that is Aboriginal that it is genuine... our people have lost too much already. 4. Don't judge from the media or word of mouth, meet Aboriginal people and make up your own mind. 5. Learn about what really happened, only then can you begin to know the pain that was carried and passed on to so many generations. 6. Be patient, we are still learning to deal with our past and for many it feels like it happened yesterday. 7. Know that if you take the time to listen to an Aboriginal person, especially an Elder, you will learn a great deal more than you thought

apologise for what their ancestors did and work along side each other

When I read this information you are requesting I was feeling a little uneasy actually, because this process you have taken to find answers to the stolen generation issue, is not the culturally appropriate way to ask, yet on the other hand this approach will begin to answers some of the questions. Should we meet one day my friend by sitting and listening and most importantly educaring. Look at it like this. You would protect someone you love at just about any cost, I believe we have just began to unfold the pain and touch the surface to reconciling. It is nice to know you from a distance, who ever you are.

Recognise that this event happened. Acknowledge the repercussions- educate the community so they are aware of the devastation of families and how this will take support and help to rectify the damage done.

Incorporate true Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history and current issues into school syllabus and teaching practices in Australia. All teachers and employees should have Cultural Awareness/Education training to help understand current and social issues. Authentic representation in all forms of media for all minority groups!!!
Support equality and justice for Indigenous people. Assist in finding/reuniting families
Assist with housing and health

Acknowledge the past. say sorry

say sorry! Our people should not forgive them until they express their regret

I personally feel that acknowledging the fact that this happened here in Australia to Aboriginal people purely on account of colour" which was definitely wrong and unjust. My mother should be acknowledged as she is 81 years of age today, and me, as her daughter cannot come to terms with her as my Mum. The gap is far too great for us and we can only accept one another as human beings. It is sad but I feel the Government should meet with her and apologize to the wrong that was done to a young mother back in the 1940"s."

Treat Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander persons with respect in regards to their cultural values and beliefs that is their lore. Don't paint every black person with the same brush (eg lazy bludgers, alcoholics etc). Model positive talk in front of their children with regard to the indigenous community that they may live in.

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We asked, “Do you have any other thoughts, comments or feelings you would like to express regarding these issues?”

Participants responded:

its something that can not be fully repaired

I am [x] years old and many of my immediate relatives were affected by the Stolen Generation. My family are proud and industrious and don't blame other people or circumstances for past injustices. We chose to contribute positively to today's society through community participation and have made a real difference to other people we have encountered. I am half white half Indigenous (exact origins unknown), my husband is white, our two daughters are half white half Indigenous and I ensure they celebrate and are proud of every aspect of their cultural history. The socio-economic problems faced by discreet Indigenous communities and their people are problematic and there is no quick fix. Everyone is responsible for their own actions and it is about time that our people realise that, and realise the wonderful potential that everyone possess.

It won't happen in total they will acknowldege some parts of the history. (Wrongs and injustices) However they will not apologise as it may leave them open to legal action.

Stop the new move towards assimilation of Aboriginal programs, we are about to lose the progress we've made. See Aboriginal legal services, the mainstreaming of those services will have a long and devastating effect and it won't be a positive one.

The emotional scars remain forever. No money, no apology will change what has happened. There must be financial repatriation, as would be expected by white man. We must receive from whiteman what whiteman sees fit for himself - whiteman must see us as equal and that justice is for all.
We need to take responsibility for our own individual healing processes. Do not rely on others and make them the excuse for our 'lot' in life. Forgiveness is a major part of the healing process. We need to cease the 'victim mentality' mind set. Our Stolen Generation needs to be remembered and acknowledged to ensure this does not happen again in the future. I am well aware that just like a mutating virus - humans are capable of anything and will just adapt and change the implementation process to achieve what they set out to do - both good or bad.

i would just like to acknowledge the people who are trying to make a change for the better, both black and white.

most of your questions are almost like statements

I hope this survey makes a difference...

In relation to the Stolen Generations it is a very touchy issue due to the fact that this has only stopped happening recently. I do not know one Indigenous family that has not felt the effects, to this day, of having a member of the family removed from them. This is something i believe that should be recognised and understood as well as respected.

The Stolen Generations isn't past history, it is our living history today and we can't still get an apology, do they all need to pass on before someone recognises our Stolen Generations. We build monuments and mark calenders to remember Non-Indigenous people during certain times, why can't this be the same for Indigenous people and the entire country stops and remembers and acknowledges the injustices that happened so history doesn't repeat itself. The policies such as assimilation and so on have been abolished , but unfortunatley the policy thinking is still there and very much alive.

We need to imbed these issues into the school curriculum a lot more. If we as Australians what to change attitudes then I believe as an Aboriginal woman that we need to start with our young ones white and black.

i believe that words have more power than monetary compensation...i believe that aboriginal people and families that were affected can begin the healing process if the australian government takes responsibility for the actions of those that were in positions of power at the time this occurred. i don't believe that every australian person should feel guilty today...it needs to be looked at in perspective of the time in australian history that it occurred and addressed by the those that are in positions of power today.

I probably would, but I just can't think of any at the moment! Sorry, but thank you.

i feel really sorry for those of the stolen generation who are unable to move on, more money should be made available to train Aboriginal counsellors to help people adjust to present day.

I'm a Aboriginal person and work in [x], I have noticed over many years Aboriginal community and indiviuals are getting lazy and wanting everything to be done for them, our Aboriginal children are growing up without an education becasue parents say it's not culturally appropreiate - Another excuse. We should focus of being individuals becasue we failed as a people to move forward. We no longer share and care as aprt of our culture. Because in another 20 years we will be in the same situation. But may have the dumb
generation of Aboriginal people - The way out for us is education and our koori kids are not wanting it - Plain and Simple

When a nation continues to ignore, overlook, change historical accounts, or arrogantly continue the myth that they are not responsible for the past dealings of their ancestors with First Nation's people our people will continue to wait for the day when a

An apology from govt acknowledging the past wrong doings and heal the past with a treaty that can be recognised so that all Australians can move forward towards reconciliation in a passive and positive manner.

It was an atrocity that should never happened. How dare anybody treat another? How would they feel if the shoe was on the other foot. As someone that has been effected by the stolen generation I have forgiven as sometimes you need to, so as to move on with our lives. As long I dont forget. It is like the ANZACs We shouldn't forget them so we should not forget our fallen.

We as a people need to land on our feet...OUR FEET...not the government payouts. we have university graduates in finance, accounting, medicine, nursing, law, engineering, journalism,business, HR, teaching and so on. We have no excuses to be lagging. we

Aboriginal people have lived in Australia for around 40 - 60,000 years; european Australians have lived here for 217 years and look what they have done to us in that time. i think that it is now up to Aboriginal people to decide our future; education is the key. i am very pround to be an Aboriginal Australian and will work to better the education outcomes for Aboriginal children and adults.

If it is filtered down through the families. These are the families that need to be educated. The ones who don't associate with Aboriginies/Torres Strait Islanders.

I feel there are many non-Indigenous people that are aware of the issues surrounding the stolen generation" and they can be a tool to advocate for change as they are less confronting to other non-Indigenous people which means the advocacy would be more widely received"

Although we as Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people have suffered and endured a great deal since European invasion/settlement, we have yet to learn a very important lesson, that although we have overcome all the atrocities of the past, we have not recognised that we as a nation have the power to make change without having White/European Australians say anything to us, across the country there are many little sparks in our communities, but together we could become the biggest bushfire ever seen. Let us not be the flower that blows away in the wind, let us be the rock that stands proud and strong.

The past injustices have come at great cost to the Indigneous people of Australia, however we as the traditional owners recognise this and fight to address this everyday to no avail. It is important for mainstream society to be made aware of the social disadvantages Indigenous people have in todays Australia, such as the over representation of Health & welfare. Australia's first people have the highest mortality rate compared to Canada, NZ, USA 22 years below other Australians yet nothing has been done to address this. This is what needs to be highlighted in media to illustrate the inequity and equality of services to it's tradtional people.
Not as yet.

More recently with the racial disharmony between the Aussies and the Lebs/Muselims" I have witnessed a lot of White/Europeans mouthing off about "un Australian this, un Australian that, that if they (Muselims/Lebs) don't like the values of this country then they should go home. I wonder if those that invaded this country thought of the values of the Indigenous people of this country? I wonder when the "WHITE/EUROPEANS AUSTRALIANS" responsible for the removal of Indigenous children from their families thought much of the values of the people and families. I wonder if the "WHITE/EUROPEANS AUSTRALIANS" that broke the lore (law) of this country ever thought to go home... NO let's not forget Australia is BLACK"

from what I've seen and heard in my community and on the news, the australian government is sitting back laughing at us. why?? i'll tell you why because we aboriginal and torres strait islander's spent to much time arguing between each other about, how much money the government should, who originally comes from this land, where the borders are, who should get the next land council house. we as a people, if we want any kind of reconciliation or acknowledgement for what has happened in the past need to stop fighting between each other and start working together. we need to turn our anger towards the real problem in australia today. we need to go back to the ancestor days and work together as one. maybe then we will see a change in the way white/european australians look at their past history and maybe even get an acknowledgement or two.

I think it is mostly a lack of awareness/understanding of the Stolen Generations and the ongoing cause and effect on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people today. Education both within school programs and at a community level may enhance this understanding.

i believe that the past needs to acknowledged before we can forgive. we cant just be expected to get over it""

whilst i neither want or need an apology, i know others who do. as a policy of governments it only ceased mid-70's so the pain will linger on yet.

- Too many defective & misguided white people exploit this issue for personal gratification -

The Stolen Generations has become a blanket excuse for whitethink people (particularly children born to white women and absent Aboriginal fathers) to claim Fir

Our culture is what keeps us going and believing in this keeps us believing in our selves. We pass our culture onto our children so it will survive for generations to come and our children will know where they came from and how we got here. We are an intelligent race and we are willing to share this with the rest of our local communities and to educate people about who we really are.

The governments assimilation policy is spreading widely. Our services are all being mainstreamed, we refer to ourselves as Indigenous Australians, rather than Aboriginal, which then takes away our rights as the owners of this land, white people are using reconciliation" as a way to lessen the impact of the white invasion, our children go to schools based on european curriculam, our courts and legal system are all based on the needs of white people, and
Aboriginies, as it seems are the only group of people who do not have the right to control their own destinies."

Bjelke-Petersen left a legacy of learned racism and racism based on assumptions in Queensland, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people need to recognise this to be able to move on.

Living with and understanding what indigenous Australians endured at the hands of their European protectors makes me feel very sad as to what has been exposed to date and what hasn't been exposed. There is still such a lot of hurt in the community and the effect it has had on all Aboriginal families. The past and future generations will continue to suffer with profound effects which are reflected in government statistics. Some of these are evident in cases such as prison incastrations, suicide, substance abuse, etc. These issues will not go away unless the Australian community and government bodies and all stake holders deal with them.

I am not personally of the Stolen Generation as I grew up with my mother, but it breaks my heart to think that some of my cousins were taken and never seen again by their families. I did a painting to reflect my feelings on the Stolen Generation, in the centre is a black woman crying with circles all around her and figures representing babies in them. I called it Where are my babies? "For their own Good!" I hope that one day all Australians will look at what happened and how many are affected by this. It's astronomical, for one person taken, their is the biological extended family and the generations that follow who are all affected in one way or another by one person taken away."

No amount of $$ compensation, could ever make up for the cost of just being with your own family & community! My heart goes out to all those on their healing journey's......go gently!

Money alone won't heal the past wrongs, but where people receive acknowledgement for the impact of the past, and a small damages payout it will assist them to move forward. Resistance to providing larger compensatory payments is linked to the belief the Aboriginal people can't manage money. That this is a consequence of the recency of control over resources is obvious but not understood by people who haven't participated in forums leading to Reconciliation. The loss of public monies for Reconciliation activties that were beginning to make a positive impact in altering attitudes will make it a longer road to healing on both sides.

more education is needed for people to understand where Indigenous people are coming from, education is needed for everybody not just school students

I'm a descendant from Stolen Generation Grandparents, but I rejoice in the fact that I have survived and can now teach my son what happened and to respect his past and rejoice in it.

It would be good for a movie to be made about the invasion of Australia, where the Europeans play the role of the Aboriginals & the Aboriginals take the roles of the Europeans - where the spiritual side of Aboriginal culture, their values & attitudes, and their complex & sever laws are really" taken into consideration & appreciated."

Yes, I feel that we are all humans and that the Government has made a divide for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people throughout the Acts of Assimilation. This definitely needs to be
rectified before too long. Also support our younger generation and see that they can be strong for our Aboriginal leaders of tomorrow.

aboriginal history should be compulsory in the education system, teaching the REAL history, then maybe non indigenous australians may have some understanding of how aboriginals feel today.

To me I feel giving each other an equal go at everything is what will bring a change, I feel that equality is what the over all value is within any situation that involves people

My mother was from the stolen generation and I know that myself and my other siblings experienced some transgenerational conditioning, trauma, stress etc.

We need to educate and involve our people more. We need to put our issues out into the community where all humans will hear us. Issues regarding invasion, civil rights and equality, don't get heard, they get pushed to the bottom or convinently lost. I'm into spiritualism, I find that helps me alot and to keep level headed. My Great Grandmother is always with me in spirit, she inspires me and supports me whenever I need her in our world. Nan keeps me open minded, culturally. We need to have all Indigenous people working together at a national level. Our ancestors are always with us, backing us up all the way, we will not give up, how ever long it takes.

As a daughter of a member of the stolen generation it is debilitating that my Father died without an apology for being forcibly removed from his mother at such a young age. His story is the same as many others but the pain, suffering and anguish is living still in our lives.

It would be good if the Government of today took time to sit and ask Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Peoples for their advice on How things could be improved ", and actually listen and act on the advise that they get."

I'm increasingly disgruntled with the amount of Australians today who constantly remark that Australia has no 'real' culture. That Australia has no collective history, other than what is expressed through the White/European colonial history. This upsets me greatly. What is also upsetting is the amount of White/European Australians today who object to the benefits that I believe Indigenous Australians are expeditiously entitled to.

Have the PM say SORRY would be a good place to start. Sign a Treaty with Aboriginal people and pay compensation for the theft of their land. Let Aboriginal people determine their own terms of treaty and have self management of their own destiny. Change native title from what it is and get input from Aboriginal people. Dissolve Howard's National Indigenous Council.

No

We cannot go forward until we resolve the past.

I am what I call 3rd generation stolen - my Grandmother was taken, my Father and all his siblings were taken and my siblings and I are living the effects of what happened not only to our Father and Grandmother, but to all our people. Depression has become a huge factor in Aboriginal peoples lives and yet for the most part it is not really recognised or dealt with. I
mean who would you go see... a white doctor with no cultural understanding? We have come a long way, but we still have a long way to go.

no

I invite you to come and join my circle it is an ancient one.

It still amazes me that citizens of australia are still oblivious to the autrocities and their repercussions.

I think I've said all I needed to say :)

I still hold resentments for things that happened, but I am going through an Indigenous healing program. I do not trust corporate culture or businessmen or rednecks. Indigenous people know what their problems are and what the solutions are, but are short on resources and skilled workers. Funding appears to get eaten up with administration.

What can one say at times when the need to belong and fit in both societies is a struggle that we as Stolen Generation"people have to contend with on a day-to-day basis. [x]

Everyone of us are human, and we will make mistakes, but when we do make mistakes, let us be big enough to own up to it with a resolution that has a win-win outcome for all concerned.