

Apology

On behalf of the staff of Community Services, and in line with the National Apology, I would like to re-affirm our apology to the people of the Stolen Generations and to their families and their descendants.

The mistreatment of Aboriginal families and the lasting repercussions of previous welfare policies continue to have an effect on many lives across the country, and although government policies have since changed, many Aboriginal Australians continue to live with the legacy of these injustices.

We are deeply sorry for the pain and suffering separating children from their families has caused, and Community Services involvement in these separations.

Sadly we can not undo past wrongs. We can not make up for the childhoods lost and the damage caused to family and cultural connections.

In looking to the future we need to understand how we arrived at where we are today. Aboriginal over-representation in child-protection, out-of-home care, juvenile justice and adult prison systems, high infant mortality and shorter life expectancy are just some of the disadvantages Aboriginal families face today.

Community Services has a significant role in protecting children and young people and we are committed to doing our very best to influence and improve the long-term outcomes for Aboriginal children in NSW.

In continuing to work in partnership with Aboriginal communities, Community Services can improve on service planning and delivery for Aboriginal children and young people and enhance the promotion of self determination that will ultimately lead to stronger, more resilient families today and for future generations.



Jennifer Mason

Jennifer Mason
Director General
Department of Family and
Community Services



Family &
Community Services
Community Services

