



BTHCWA is an entirely voluntary committee, working hard, and we feel we have been very effective this year and in past years given limited resources and no paid personnel.

This year our report begins with the national picture, then the WA and Perth matters.

1. NATIONAL – participation as Executive Committee members and delegates to the Stolen Generations Alliance (SGA).

Jim Morrison, as the Aboriginal Co-chair of SGA and now completing his second unopposed year in that role, has spent hundreds of hours of unpaid time during weeks and weekends over the past year advocating for the rights of Stolen Generations both here and nationally. Ian Robinson is the WA Non-indigenous Delegate and Glenys Collard was the WA Aboriginal Delegate. BTHCWA has also provided the funding to send additional Aboriginal delegates to SGA annual meetings and community gatherings to increase representation from more parts of this big State and did so again this year (Fay Sambo from Kalgoorlie).

SGA lobbying as a result, particularly with regard to obtaining better resourcing from the Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, Caritas and FaHCSIA has been particularly effective in this reporting period but it has drawn heavily on the time available for some BTHCWA members to work more actively for BTHCWA and Stolen Generations in WA. Keith for instance not only provided a major input into the strategic planning required by SGA but also was “lent” by BTHCWA to SGA to stand in as its Secretary for several months and is now helping to draft the essential policies and procedures required by SGA and the purchasing requirements of its funding bodies. It goes the other way too. Good work done in WA helps the national body and other state affiliates, and they help us.

After SGA lobbying the greater government attention paid to the needs of Stolen Generations recently has been a great offset and this year we have seen **a major shift in government priorities in addressing the needs of Stolen Generations**. For instance we finally appear to have a well-focussed and more committed Stolen Generations Working Partnership capable of working side by side with Stolen Generations and the agencies working with them. The programs associated with this Partnership are very extensive and contain the following, listed under the separate commonwealth departments:

1a. Federal Department of Families and Housing, Community Services Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA)

- National Framework for Protecting Australia’s Children 2009–2020.
- Bringing Them Home Oral History Project, National Library and Kanyini Foundation are all recording stories and making them available online giving the community greater access to these recordings and ensuring ongoing preservation of Stolen Generations’ stories.
- **Development of Leadership Skills of Stolen Generations members**
 - Fifty-seven women and 27 men attended an Indigenous Leadership workshop October 2010.
 - Eighteen completed the Australian Indigenous Leadership Institute certificate II in Leadership.
- **Small grants funding to Stolen Generations organisations**

- to facilitate events and projects to commemorate the Apology (by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation).
- **Training for staff of government and community services with significant proportions of Indigenous clients**
 - To Personal Helpers and Mentors service providers to improve their understanding of the Stolen Generations' as a client group.
 - Awareness of Stolen Generations will be incorporated into all FaHCSIA's mainstream community programs (non-Indigenous specific programs). A Toolkit for Indigenous Service Provision has been designed to help increase the consistency of knowledge and practices supporting staff and organisations, funded by FaHCSIA to achieve a high standard of service.
- **Building linkages between specialist services for Stolen Generations and mainstream and other Indigenous services**
 - Delivered a series of workshops for SGA regarding access to mainstream and non-government funding.
- **Stolen Generations are recognised and responded to in public policy**
 - Ongoing meetings with the Stolen Generations' Alliance and the National Sorry Day Committee specifically aim to link these organisations with relevant policy areas.
 - Publication of Stolen Generations newsletter which provides information on programs and announcements of interest to the Stolen Generations, including events, funding opportunities and policies.

1b. Department of Health and Aging (DoHA) (includes the Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health – OATSIH).

- **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workforce Strategic Framework - currently being reviewed for 2010–15.**
- **National Action Plan on Mental Health 2006–2011** Workforce Support Units to support BTH counsellors and Link-Up Services workers and Substance Abuse workers. Eight **Workforce Support Units** (WSUs) nationally currently provide support services to 693 OATSIH-funded Social and Emotional Wellbeing (SEWB) staff. These services include:
 - providing peer support
 - cross-sector linkages/interagency cooperation
 - coordination of SEWB training
- **Developing Innovative Aged Care responses**
 - DoHA currently provides **aged care training** to over 600 Indigenous Aged Care Workers in urban, rural and remote regions under the National Partnership for Indigenous Economic Participation. The aged care training provided is on-site, culturally relevant and by a registered training organisation.
 - DoHA **Community Care Standards** apply to community care service providers, which include individualised assessment of needs and respecting the cultural background and dignity of each care recipient.
 - The **Charter of Rights and Responsibilities for Community Care** requires that each care recipient has a right to receive care and services that take account of his/her care arrangements and cultural preferences.
 - Developing the first Quality Framework for the **National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (NATSI) Flexible Aged Care Program**. Under the NATSI

Program there are 29 flexible aged care services, mainly in remote and very remote locations.

- The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Aged Care **Service Development Assistance Panel** (SDAP) supports capacity building and offer urgent professional assistance and guidance to services in remote and very remote areas and those providing aged care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- **Developing new policy responses to the intergenerational impacts particularly targeting young people as they transition to adulthood**
 - Better support for young people through the Link Up Program's provision of counselling for transgenerational issues relating to the Stolen Generations.
- **Training for staff of government and community services with significant proportions of Indigenous clients**
 - Support to health practitioners to identify and address mental illness and associated substance use issues in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities. E.g. Working Together textbook, an online resource portal, and the delivery of Mental Health Worker and Aboriginal Mental Health First Aid training courses to Aboriginal Medical Services nationally.
- **Social and emotional wellbeing**
 - From the recent Senate Inquiry into Suicide in Australia, develop an **Indigenous specific suicide prevention strategy**. In early 2011, a consultation process into appropriate mental health and wellbeing approaches for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities, including members of the Stolen Generations.
 - Additionally, the *Mental Health: Taking Action to Tackle Suicide* package includes funding of \$22.6m for community prevention activities for high risk groups which target groups and communities at high risk of suicide, including Indigenous Australians.
 - Improved Access To Allied Psychological Services initiative (ATAPS) for GPs, and allied health professional, to address unmet needs for services.
 - '*Working Together – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health and Wellbeing, Principles and Practices*' was released in July 2010 and is receiving overwhelmingly positive feedback with over 26,000 copies distributed to date.

1c. Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR)

- **Training for staff of government and community services with significant proportions of Indigenous clients**
 - For jobseekers in Aged Care, including the Away from Base Program, Indigenous Tutorial Assistance Scheme (ITAS) and Supplementary Recurrent Assistance (SRA).
 - Refined guidelines for the Parental and Community Engagement (PACE) Program may now include cultural awareness training which references members of the Stolen Generations.
 - The planned Remote Indigenous Professional Development Package to support the implementation of the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) recognises the participation of Indigenous Australians, including the Stolen Generations.

1d Department of Human Services (Centrelink)

- **Training for staff of government and community services with significant proportions of Indigenous clients**
 - Centrelink is developing an action plan to address barriers relating specifically to older Stolen Generations' customers.
- **Building linkages between specialist services for Stolen Generations' and mainstream and other Indigenous services**
 - Centrelink Indigenous Service Officers link Indigenous communities to government and non-government organisations that can assist with community development and renewal, capability and capacity building.
 - Where an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person has difficulty proving their identity, the *Proof of Identification – Verification for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People (RA10)* can be used. However this verification cannot in itself be used as proof of Aboriginality. Indigenous Service Officers can assist customers with referral to appropriate organisations and services that can provide advice and guidance.

1e Attorney General's Department (AGD)

- **National Indigenous Law and Justice Framework 2009–201??**, including efforts by jurisdictions to improve rehabilitation opportunities for prisoners and any links to lessons learnt from the Family Wellbeing program in custodial settings (e.g., the 'Making Good' trial at Lotus Glen, Qld, and others).
- **Access to Justice Framework** and review of data collected for the federal civil justice system. A legal assistance data working group will consider data requirements with respect to members of the Stolen Generations.
- The Department has agreed to disseminate information to its funded organisations or peak bodies as appropriate regarding the *Marumali* program, Link Up services and Bringing Them Home counsellors programs.
- The **Strategic Framework for Access to Justice** comprises five principles: accessibility, appropriateness, equity, efficiency and effectiveness, and provides a point of reference to shape future reforms to the federal civil justice system. The Framework encourages the allocation of resources towards the early provision of legal assistance, information, advice and support services, to assist users of the system to achieve greater access to justice.
- Resources that facilitate the referral of members of the Stolen Generation to appropriate services will be disseminated through the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Legal Services Forum.
- Under the **Indigenous Legal Aid and Policy Reform Program**, eight Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services were funded \$62.05M in 2010-11 to provide legal advice, information and representation in criminal, civil and family law matters for Indigenous Australians. Specific programs to assist Stolen Generations are not funded, however, the funding allocation model includes a weighted factor for members of the Stolen Generation. This ensures that the likely legal needs for members of the Stolen Generation are taken into account when distributing funding for these legal services.

1f Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (Office of the Arts)

- **National Indigenous Languages Policy**, includes data on how the Maintenance of Indigenous Languages and Records program is helping Stolen Generations to reconnect to culture and language.

CONCLUSION TO SECTION 1.

- Through the SGA, BTHCWA members will be required to constantly interact with government and government funded service providers part of the Stolen Generations Working Partnership, to gain and improve more Stolen Generations specific services. This will be a constant and long term commitment.

2. SORRY DAY WELLINGTON SQUARE MAY 26 2011

Not only did we again see the Aboriginal and Sorry Day flags flying on City of Perth flagpoles, this time for two weeks sponsored by the City, but also the reconciliation banners carrying our new BTHCWA logo alongside those of Reconciliation Australia and the Dept of Indigenous Affairs down the length of the Mall and St Georges Terrace. About 2500-3000 people enjoyed the day at Wellington Square, again a new high, with a mixed culture crowd that felt it is exactly as things should be. Lotterywest were again our biggest sponsor, and their ongoing support is enabling good healing and education to be done.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Games and Activities were swamped and we need to consider increasing these even more at future events.
- Stallholders were generally swamped from people wanting information and giveaways and we need to consider how we better arrange the setup of these in the future.
- Noongar Radio live interviews went very well as did pre-recorded shout-outs.
- Sorry Day had a social media following on Twitter. Need to have more of this.
- Elder story-tellers were rapt with the respectful listening of children and adults alike.
- Smoking ceremony. This was held earlier this year in order to give school students a chance to do this, and feedback tells us that it was very powerful for them
- *The Sea of Hands* looked great but needs to be much bigger.
- David Wirrpanda's personal appearance was popular.
- HALO entertainment was again very popular.
- Damien Thornber's entertainment was popular however we needed a bigger stage. It proved the popularity of younger Aboriginal performers and their music and this needs to be considered at future events.
- Prison band was again very good and well received by all,
- Welcome to Country (male and female Elders participated)
- Live broadcasts by Noongar Radio from Sorry Day helped increase the crowd but also allowed people to enjoy the event from more remote locations.
- The event was filmed but we have yet to see the edited version.
- Barbeque rolls and roo kebabs were again the focus of many attendees.

CHALLENGES

- **MEDIA:** Our coverage in press and mainstream radio and television is still not what it should be given the popularity of the event and what it represents.
- **CONTACT WITH SCHOOLS:** We did better with attracting the participation of government schools this year.

3. STATEWIDE CONFERENCING WITH STOLEN GENERATIONS REPRESENTATIVES

This is a goal we have sought for four years. This year we have met with the Forgotten Australians (FACT) to investigate overlapping concerns and a single statewide conference in 2012 to map out our overlapping but not identical issues. Our goal is to meet with grassroots groups and our process will focus on forming such groups, rather than with service providers. Through more consultation with local Stolen Generations people, we can gain consensus on issues and needs for the Stolen Generations and report this through SGA to government funders and service providers.

SGA is working to obtain the resources to set up a national Stolen Generations support group network and this will see the establishment of 3-5 support groups in WA funded for three years in the first cycle of the work. This should also accomplish much needed feedback from Stolen generations on works best for them and how much more and what is needed in the future.

4. OTHER SIGNIFICANT NEWS FROM BTHCWA ACTIVITIES

Red Dust Healing

In National Reconciliation Week, we provided the promotion and venue required for Red Dust Healing to successfully run its introductory program in Perth. It was very well attended and regarded thanks to Caritas funding. One complete program will run in Perth later next year, with Ruah and HALO acting as partners with BTHC.

Ruah. Reg Henry and Sheryl Carmody also worked with the BTH Committee to look at further joint venture possibilities in supporting Stolen Generations.

Volunteer grants. BTHCWA received a commonwealth volunteer grant of just under \$5000 for a laptop, a projector, software, marquees, fuel and eskies etc and has applied for another grant of a similar size for 2012.

Indigenous Community Volunteers (ICV) ICV was invited to present ideas on joint initiatives such as advanced website development and other areas in our current strategic plan. We have since provided ICV with additional detail, However followup is needed on specific Stolen Generations possibilities and actions.

WANADA supported the 2011 Sorry Day Coordinator by way of office facilities, telecommunications, computer, copying etc. Yvonne Sargent was appointed for the second time and we are indebted to her for patient, efficient and diligent work.

Reconciliation Western Australia. We have applied for financial support and sponsorship to re-establish a unit in WA. Its task will be to *build the capacity for Reconciliation amongst the people of WA through developing and coordinating an alliance to be known as Reconciliation WA*. Some positive support has emerged.

CHOGM. Jim, Alan Carter and Keith Bodman are on a CHOGM reference group along with Fred Chaney and a number of influential Aboriginal people supporting the running of an Indigenous program of 4.5hrs for the 300 CHOGM delegates due in Perth next month. Jim is presenting on Stolen Generations. It is intended to bring over Hollow Water people from Canada to meet with Aboriginal people to discuss self determined healing programs.

Guests at BTHC Meetings. Many meetings heard personal stories of removal or stories from organisations exploring the possibility of new partnerships with BTHC.

New logo. We have a new logo thanks to Ross Elliot's mate, a graphic artist, to help with some volunteer work. Andrew Broadbent's mate was responsible for the fantastic Sorry Day pamphlet/poster.

Media. Aboriginal community relationships with the *West Australian* and other media businesses have been the subject of meetings with them over the year. Jim and others have met with the editors and legal section of the West Australian and with the board and management of Noongar Radio to discuss various issues related to both representation of the Aboriginal affairs in general and more specifically where they apply to Stolen Generations. In addition both through BTHCWA and SGA we have done many local and national radio interviews and made inputs into the Koori Mail.

National Curriculum submission. SGA Co-chairs with inputs from BTHCWA members have again participated at several stages of the development of the Australian Common Curriculum for schools, advocating for the addition of studies about removal policies and transgenerational trauma. While much was positive the Committee has strongly submitted that significant gaps existed with respect to the history of removals and made several specific suggestions on what further was needed.

Website and Facebook. Sarah has launched the BTHCWA website and Facebook. Please use them, promote them and make suggestions on how they could be enhanced.

National Congress of Australia's First Peoples. Jim represented the Stolen Generations at the inaugural gathering of the Congress.

5. STRATEGIC PLANNING.

BTHCWA has held an initial Strategic Planning day facilitated by Ross Elliot – Larger issues like our need to reform the BTHC constitution, website development, membership increases and funding processes were discussed but not specifically addressed. The following plans were made.

PRIORITIES & ACTION PLAN 2011

	Priorities / Actions	Responsible	When	Status / Comment
1.	Sorry Day		26 th May	
	Finalise WACOSS person as Sorry Day organiser and have a primary point of contact for that person	Alan		Done
	Organise schools participation (including possible handouts, PALs)	Ian, Andrew, Katie, Mary C		Done
	Media strategy, including Noongar Radio, The West Australian and Regional papers	Jim		Done
2.	Annual Lecture		November	
	Coordinate with ECU	Jim, Alan.	Sept/Oct	In action
	Promotion strategy	All	Oct/Nov	
3.	Education Project			
	Terms of Reference for Stolen Generations sub-committee drafted	Keith	Feb 2012	

	Priorities / Actions	Responsible	When	Status / Comment
	Finalise project partners (ECU), including scholarship	Jim, Leigh	Feb 2012	
4.	Web Site / Social Media			
	Define requirements of the web site	Sarah, Ross		Done
	Logo – confirm if can use Kimberley hibiscus	Jim		Done
	Graphic design using logo (eg letterheads)	Ross		Done
	Build web site and add content	Sarah		Drafted
	Ongoing management of the web site	?		Need to determine funding sources
5.	Governance			
	Review Constitution	Keith, Bev, Ross	2012 first quarter if endorsed at AGM	
	Rulebook, policies, procedures	Keith, Bev, Ross		Drafted
	Strategic Plan	Ross		Drafted
	Risk Management Plan	Keith		Drafted
6.	Partnerships / Networks			
	Develop state wide Stolen Generations structure	Ian, Alan		Met with FA
	Meeting with SWALSC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through DIA to discuss trails, acknowledgement of stolen generation Just with SWALSC (Graham & Glen) to discuss including stolen generation in native title 	Jim, Ian Jim, Ian, Keith		On hold until SWALSC officers more available – currently fully occupied with Noongar Native Title work.
	Wesfarmers, Sodexo – possible partnership	Jim, Alan		Discussions with Alan Carpenter and new Aboriginal affairs manager
	Redress relationship	Exec Committee members TBD	TBD	
	David Wirrpanda Foundation David appearance at 2011 Sorry Day	Keith		Done
7.	Promotional opportunities			
	Aboriginal Flags	Committee members		Done
	Political lobbying	Alan		ongoing
8.	Stolen Generation Consultation			
	,Yarning Circles,	Laurence, Tashi	Every 3 months	Inadequate funding

6. THE 54 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BRINGING THEM HOME REPORT are always our criteria for analysing our performance and delivery. We group the 54 recommendations into the seven questions below. How did we go this year?:

- 1. HAVE WE HEARD ALL THE STORIES? Rec's 1-2 on Recording testimonies.** It is to our great sadness that Yarning Circles have ceased, but Tashi Wolf of *Connect Groups*, did some work towards re-establishing them. Yarning Circles are culturally safe and we seek to work collaboratively with Yorgum and Debarl.

Last year we drafted a book of **Education Materials**, aimed at adults in professional training, and sent it off for assessment and review. We have not had that returned.

- 2. HAVE WE SEEN REPARATIONS? Rec's 3-6** In 2011, we are all still working with the fallout from Redress, a casual disgrace that re-traumatised people for tiny compensation, spread unevenly and untransparently.

- 3. ARE MEMORIALS REMEMBERED? Rec 7, 8-9**

Yes, we keep Sorry Day May 26 in Wellington Square as a central event for the year, see more detailed report above. Other events are held in departments, businesses and schools, but Wellington Sq remains the premier event in Perth metropolitan region. For the next two years Sorry day falls on the weekend so the 'schools and office workers' approach that has been so successful will have to change. We propose a schools event during Reconciliation Week and a concert commemoration on Sorry Day itself.

We want to see a major memorial to Stolen Generations on Perth foreshore. We have asked to see the background files from an earlier near-relevant negotiation between elders, DIA and the City of Perth.

- 4. ARE REMOVED PEOPLE FINDING THEIR WAY HOME? Rec's 10-13**

Through State and Federal funded *Link Up* programmes, there are appropriate people who assist with family history research and return to country. They are supported by Language, culture and history centres at city universities, but not at regional level. Yorgum Counselling has a huge area of WA to service. Worker Burnout remains a major issue, and the new WSU (see 1b above) may help.

In a number of cases, the Aboriginal community did not support Stolen Generations return, so the hurt remains.

- 5. HAS COMPENSATION BEEN NEGOTIATED? Rec's 14-20.**

No.

Collard family litigation against WA is still in progress.

- 6. IS THERE OPEN ACCESS TO RECORDS OF FAMILIES? Recs 21-31**

No assessment of these recommendation this year.

- 7. ARE WE DOING RESEARCH AND TRAINING? Rec's 32-40**

Last year BTHC had identified a need for an academic reference group who will monitor relevant research in many disciplines. We have made no progress.

- 8. HAVE THESE JUSTICE STEPS BEEN TAKEN? Rec's 41-43**

Return of **Land holdings**. A BTHC member, Bev Port Louis is on the Mogumber project group.

9. IS JUSTICE BEING APPLIED TO THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN? Rec 44-54

The overwhelming report across Australia is that removal of children from Aboriginal families is continuing at a very high rate under 'welfare of the child' rules. Negligible support for healthy parenting is being implemented. It is outside the scope of BTHC's capacity to provide advocacy, support or direct intervention for particular cases.

After fourteen years, it is still not a good score card for government and the community in general. Out of these nine questions, we have seen substantial progress this year in only three of the questions above, but most especially the matters of education and training under question 7 Rec's 32-40. As usual, we hope to monitor impementation.

CONCLUSION

- In 2011, we have achieved a lot in advocacy with both specialist and mainstream service providers, getting the stories heard and respected. Our education materials are still not 'ready to serve'.
- Sorry Day has been a spectacular success, but all of our mob are still hurting deeply. In 2012 we are concentrating on the support groups, Yarning Circles and further roll out of appropriate healing programs.
- We also need to strategise about taking the big step into service provision and staffing. We need your help.
- Join with us in the journey that heals everyone in our nation.

Jim Morrison, Aboriginal Co-convenor & Ian Robinson, non-Aboriginal Co-convenor

September 2011