



Australian Government

National Indigenous Australians Agency

# Personal Acknowledgement

*A response to your story as  
a Stolen Generations survivor*

Easy Read version



Territories Stolen  
Generations  
Redress Scheme

## A warning about this document



In this document, we talk about things that might bring up:

- uncomfortable feelings
- bad memories.



You can talk to someone you trust if you:

- need support to read this document
- don't feel comfortable to read this document.



We have a list of organisations who can support you with your:

- feelings
- memories.

You can find these organisations on page 21.

## How to use this document



We are the Australian Government.

We wrote this document.



We wrote some words in **bold**.

We explain what these words mean.

There is also a list of these words on page 25.



You can ask someone you trust for support to:

- read this document
- find more information.



This is an Easy Read summary of a document.

It only includes the most important ideas.



You can find the other document on our website.

[www.territoriesredress.gov.au](http://www.territoriesredress.gov.au)

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# What is the Territories Stolen Generations Redress Scheme?



**Redress** is a way to recognise and say sorry for something that harmed you.

It can include money and support.



The Australian Government runs the Territories Stolen Generations Redress Scheme.

We just call it the Scheme.

You can apply to the Scheme if you are:



- a **Stolen Generations survivor**

or



- the family member of a Stolen Generations survivor who passed away **after 5 August 2021**.

A Stolen Generations survivor is an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person who was removed:



- from their family or community



- before they were **18 years old**



- because of past rules that tried to make them follow different beliefs and **culture**.



Culture is ways of knowing, being and doing.

It gives people a way to:

- show who they are
- feel safe.



You can read our fact sheet to find out how to apply on the website.

[www.territoriesredress.gov.au](http://www.territoriesredress.gov.au)

# What is a Personal Acknowledgement?



You might want to know about this because you:

- can get redress
- might want a Personal Acknowledgement.

A Personal Acknowledgement gives you the chance to:



- tell your story about being removed and how that has made you feel



- get a response from a senior government person.



You can choose how much of your story you would like to share.



A senior government person will listen and respond to:

- the harm you've experienced
- the **trauma** you've experienced.



Trauma is the way you feel about something bad that happened to you.

For example, you might feel scared or stressed.

Trauma can affect you for a long time.

You can have a Personal Acknowledgement:



- straight away



- any time **before 30 June 2028**.

You are in control of:



- when you get it



- where you get it



- how you get it.



You can share as much or as little of your story as you like.

## Who will help you to have a Personal Acknowledgement?



There are people who will help you have a Personal Acknowledgement.

### *Personal Acknowledgement Liaison Officer*



A Personal Acknowledgement Liaison Officer will work with you to help you:

- decide on what you want from your Personal Acknowledgement
- know what to expect from your Personal Acknowledgement.



This might include choosing the type of senior government person you would like to hear from.

## Facilitators



A facilitator is a person who doesn't work for the Australian Government.

They can help you tell your story.



They will help you decide what to talk about if you have your Personal Acknowledgement face-to-face.



You can choose to have your Personal Acknowledgement in a letter.

A facilitator can help you decide what you want in the letter.

## How can you have your Personal Acknowledgement?



There are **3 ways** to have your Personal Acknowledgement.

You can:



- choose which way you want to have it



- have a support person with you.

You can choose between:



1. Face-to-face



2. A letter



3. Both face-to-face and a letter



We explain each over the following pages.

## Face-to-face



You can choose to meet a senior government person face-to-face.



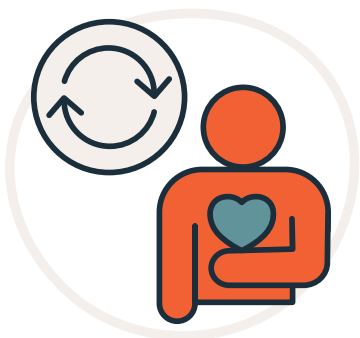
Who this person is will depend on what you:

- asked for
- need.



They will:

- listen to your story
- recognise the harm you experienced.



They will also talk with you about:

- what you feel needs to change
- what you feel will help you to heal.



You can bring a support person with you if you want.



We will check in after this meeting to see how you are going.

### *A letter*



A senior government person will write you a letter.



We will send your letter to you.



And we will check in to see how you are going.

### *Both face-to-face and a letter*



A senior government person will meet with you face-to-face.



After this meeting they will write you a letter.



The letter will be about what you talked about at the meeting.

## Making sure you're okay

### If you have face-to-face meeting



Your facilitator will check in with you soon after your face-to-face meeting.



They will make sure you and your support person are okay.



You can also have them check in with you again.

## *If you get a letter*



We will check in with you after you get your letter.

This might be your:



- Personal Acknowledgement Liaison Officer



- Facilitator.

## Looking after yourself



Talking about your story might:

- bring up bad memories
- upset you.



We will do all we can to make sure your Personal Acknowledgement is a good experience.



This includes supporting you while you plan it.



We will be in contact with you to make sure you are okay to keep going.



You are in control during the process.

This means you can plan it in a way that works for you.



There are services you can use for support if you feel upset.

For example, Link-Up services.



Link-Up services support Stolen Generations survivors and their families.



This is a free service.



We can help you find a Link-Up service near you.

You can call us.

1800 566 111



You can also find a Link-Up service near you on our website.

[www.territoriesredress.gov.au/support-services](http://www.territoriesredress.gov.au/support-services)

## Who else can you contact for support?



The information in this document might bring up:

- uncomfortable feelings
- bad memories.



Below are services you can contact for support.

**13YARN**



13YARN supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.



You can call them any time.

13 92 76

## Lifeline

Lifeline is a service for people at risk of:



- hurting themselves because of their mental health



- suicide – when someone ends their own life.



You can call Lifeline any time.

13 11 14

## *Beyond Blue*



Beyond Blue is a service that can support people with their mental health.



You can call Beyond Blue any time.

1300 224 636

## *Suicide Call Back Services*



Suicide Call Back Service is a free call service for people at risk of suicide.



You can call Suicide Call Back Service any time.

1300 659 467

## Contact us



You can contact us to find out more about the Scheme.



You can call us.

1800 566 111



You can send us an email.

[help@territoriesredress.gov.au](mailto:help@territoriesredress.gov.au)



You can visit our website.

[www.territoriesredress.gov.au](http://www.territoriesredress.gov.au)

## Word list

This list explains what the **bold** words in this document mean.



### **Culture**

Culture is ways of knowing, being and doing.

It gives people a way to:

- show who they are
- feel safe.



### **Redress**

Redress is a way to recognise and say sorry for something that harmed you.

It can include money and support.



## Stolen Generations survivor

A Stolen Generations survivor is an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person who was removed:

- from their family or community
- before they were 18 years old
- because of past rules that tried to make them follow different beliefs and culture.



## Trauma

Trauma is the way you feel about something bad that happened to you.

For example, you might feel scared or stressed.

Trauma can affect you for a long time.



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