



26 May, National Sorry Day

Each year, 26th May commemorates the delivery of the Bringing Them Home Report by the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission. The Report was the result of an inquiry into the removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families. One of its recommendations was that a “National Sorry Day” should be declared. A year later over half a million people responded, signing Sorry Books and taking part in ceremonies on Sorry Day. In May 1999 the people’s movement launched the ‘Journey of Healing’.

The Journey of Healing offers the community opportunities to participate and be involved in activities to acknowledge the impact of the policies of forcible removal on Australia's Indigenous families and communities. Former Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser once described it as ‘a day to pause, a day to grieve together for the harm done, and to commit ourselves afresh to make things different.’ For many who suffer as a result of the removal policies, this expression of community empathy helps towards healing. For this reason, **it is vitally important that the community as a whole continues to participate in these commemorative events.**

South Australia has an active Journey of Healing Committee and has commemorated National Sorry Day without fail since 1998.

This year, National Sorry Day will be commemorated with a Journey of Healing event in Tarndanyangga (Victoria Square) on **Wednesday 26TH May from 10am - 5pm.**

If you’re asking yourself - WHAT CAN I DO ??

- * Please come along and bring your Friends and Families.
- * Organise a **Staff representative** to attend.
- * Organise a representative from your **Church** or the whole fellowship.
- * **Volunteer** your time to help serve food and free give-away or set-up displays for the Missions.
- * Come and watch the Performers and Singers.
- * **Schools :-** There will be an Information Trail for students to follow, gathering free information for projects and an understanding of past, present and future issues facing The Stolen Generations. So, Teachers and Educators start getting organised for a great afternoon outing.

For further information, or to get more involved in this important work or would like to become a financial member (Cost \$5.00) contact the Chairperson of the Journey of Healing Association (SA) Inc. on Email journey_of_healing@iprimus.com.au or **Mobile :- 0413 431 246**

For more information on the Journey of Healing or the Video “**Sorry Proof Country**”, go to the Indigenous Information S.A. Online Website www.iisao.com. and click on the Journey of Healing Logo

Thank you for your participation.

Ivan Copley

Chairperson - **The Journey of Healing Association Inc. in SA**