



**Hon Dr Tony Buti MLA**  
**Minister for Education; Aboriginal Affairs;**  
**Citizenship and Multicultural Interests**

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Our Ref: 80-09656

Hon Peter Foster MLC  
Chair, Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs  
Legislative Council of Western Australia

Via email: [env@parliament.wa.gov.au](mailto:env@parliament.wa.gov.au)

Dear Mr Foster

*Peter*

**PETITION NO. 72 – STOLEN GENERATIONS COMPENSATION**

Thank you for your letter of 18 May 2023, regarding the Western Australian (WA) Government's intentions on Recommendations 3 and 4 of the *Report of the National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from Their Families (Bringing Them Home)*, as raised by the petitioners in the above matter.

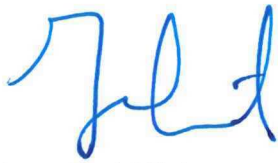
My initial submission to the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs (Standing Committee) on this matter, dated 20 January 2023, noted that the WA Government is supporting Aboriginal Western Australians through the implementation of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, underpinned by the Aboriginal Empowerment Strategy 2021-2029. My submission highlighted a \$374 million commitment towards Aboriginal wellbeing for 2022-2023, which includes a component of more than \$600 million in Closing the Gap initiatives. This has been bolstered by an additional \$281.5 million commitment for 2023-2024. The funding includes a range of initiatives addressing Aboriginal health and wellbeing, social and emotional support, a commitment to truth-telling, and addressing the ongoing impacts of intergenerational trauma.

While these are not specific responses to *Bringing Them Home*, they broadly address many of that Report's recommendations and provide ongoing assistance to members of the Stolen Generations, their families, and their communities, which help address the long-lasting effects of this period from our nation's history.

With specific reference to the provision of reparations as proposed by Recommendations 3 and 4 of *Bringing Them Home*, I reiterate the proposal in my initial submission that any process on this issue should be led and informed by Aboriginal Western Australians, especially members of the Stolen Generations. Whether this is best done through a process convened by the WA Government or through a Parliamentary Inquiry process, is a matter to which I am sure the Standing Committee will give serious thought and consideration.

Thank you for your continuing work on this important issue.

Yours sincerely



Dr Tony Buti MLA  
**MINISTER FOR ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS\**

26 JUN 2023