

Media Release

The Hon Gabrielle Williams MP
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs
Minister for Prevention of Family Violence
Minister for Women



Friday, 23 April 2021

FUNERAL FUND TO SUPPORT THE STOLEN GENERATIONS

The Andrews Labor Government has established a new fund to ensure the families of members of Stolen Generations can access financial support to cover funeral expenses to honour their loved ones.

The \$300,000 Interim Funeral Fund has been designed by the Stolen Generations Reparations Steering Committee in consultation with Stolen Generations community and their families.

The fund will ensure support is available for members of Stolen Generations who pass away prior to the full Stolen Generations Reparations Scheme becoming operational.

The Labor Government is continuing to progress the landmark Stolen Generations Reparations Scheme to address the trauma and suffering caused by the forced removal of Aboriginal children from their families.

The Government is also establishing the independent Yoo-rook Justice Commission, in partnership with the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria, which will have the full powers of a Royal Commission to investigate both historical and ongoing injustices against Aboriginal Victorians – and to chart a new, shared future we can all be proud of.

The Interim Funeral Fund will operate until the commencement of the full Scheme later this year, in recognition of the urgent nature of reparations given the age and illness of many members of the Stolen Generations.

It will provide financial support to families of Stolen Generations who pass away from 1 January 2021 to the start of the full Scheme.

Eligible applicants will be provided up to \$10,000 to cover the costs of a funeral, headstone or plaque and/or repatriation of their Stolen Generation family member.

The Interim Funeral Fund will be administered by Connecting Home Limited. For further information, contact CHL at sgf@connectinghome.org.au or (03) 8679 0777.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Gabrielle Williams

"We are ensuring Aboriginal self-determination in the design of Stolen Generations Reparations, and the establishment of the Interim Funeral Fund reflects this work."

"This support will make a significant difference to the lives of many Stolen Generations families. It is also an acknowledgement of the past injustices perpetrated by the State against Stolen Generations and their families."

"We cannot change the past, but we can confront it and help make a difference to the lives of so many Aboriginal Victorian people who have suffered and continue to suffer."

Quotes attributable to Chair of the Stolen Generations Reparations Steering Committee Ian Hamm

"This fund allows families to give their loved one a dignity in death they may not have always had in life. It allows them to grieve without the additional burden of the expense of a funeral."

"It is the right thing to do; it is the decent thing to do."

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