

Apology



On behalf of the staff of the Department of Family and Community Services (FACS) and in line with the National Apology, I would like to affirm our apology to the Aboriginal people of NSW, especially those from the Stolen Generations and to their families and their descendants.

The mistreatment of Aboriginal families and the lasting repercussions of previous welfare policies continue to have an effect on many lives across the country, and although government policies have since changed, many Aboriginal Australians continue to live with the legacy of the injustices.

We are deeply sorry for the pain and suffering separating children from their families and communities has caused, and for FACS involvement in these separations.

Sadly we cannot undo past wrongs. We cannot make up for the childhoods lost and the damage caused to individuals, families and cultural connections.

In looking to the future we need to understand how we arrived at where we are today and ensure that we do not repeat the past injustices earlier performed against Aboriginal people.

As an agency, FACS has a significant role in protecting children and young people and we are committed to doing our very best to influence and improve the long-term outcomes for Aboriginal children in NSW.

We acknowledge that Aboriginal children learn at an early age the kinship ties that exist within their community and their place culturally in the community. We recognise the significance that family and community play in providing children with a sense of belonging and resilience.

FACS will enhance partnership work with Aboriginal communities, improve service delivery for Aboriginal children and young people and continue to promote Aboriginal self-determination. This way of working will support stronger, more resilient families for current and future generations.



Michael Coutts-Trotter
Secretary
NSW Department of Family and Community Services