

Just Reflecting

May 26th



National Sorry Day 'SORRY. Still Living On Borrowed Time!'

The first National Sorry Day was held on 26 May 1998 – one year after the tabling of the report *Bringing them Home* which was the result of an inquiry into the removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families.

National Sorry Day was instituted as a day to acknowledge the harm caused to generations of indigenous families and express regret for this occurrence. Children were not only physically removed, but spiritually stolen from land, culture, identity, language and kinship.

We are thankful that the Indigenous culture has survived and we are enriched by its spirit and presence. We regret the consequences of these earlier policies and the legacy that our indigenous people now suffer.



*'Let us look back with courage; see the truth and speak it.
Let us look around with compassion; see the cost and share it.
Let us look forward with hope; see what can be and create it.'*
*Today we stand together united as one people,
committed to walking forward .*

adapted from the Prayer for the Journey of Healing

A reflection to share

National Sorry Day gives us all time to pause, to refocus, reassess and recommit to the progress of reconciliation.

So today we ask:

How would we feel if someone...
took away our dignity?
took away our land?
did not pay us for our work?

How would we feel if we were not allowed to:
speak our language anymore?
practice our culture?

How would we feel if our children were taken away and we did not know why?

And most of all, would we expect others to understand and be eternally compassionate and willing to help?

Walk Across Your Local Bridge Or Create a Symbolic Bridge

Ten years ago, hundreds of thousands of Australians walked across bridges in support of reconciliation. Good Shepherd was there.

Now, on the 10th anniversary of Bridge Walks, we acknowledge there is still work to do.

We invite you **take up the challenge** and walk across a local bridge. Pause halfway—acknowledging that the work of reconciliation and 'sorry' is only half done.

Explore different mediums as part of your own reflection for National Sorry Day: through film, music, or action. Please see our [weblinks](#) for ideas and actions.

Actively giving life the shape of justice

[Good Shepherd Download Page for Sorry Day](#)