



NATSILS

**NATIONAL ABORIGINAL & TORRES
STRAIT ISLANDER LEGAL SERVICES**

MEDIA RELEASE

26 May 2016

Sorry Day

It's Sorry Day and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services (NATSILS) acknowledges the pain and continued suffering of those Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children forcibly removed from their families and from country since Invasion.

When the Bringing Them Home report was published in 1997, it found there were 12,363 children in out-of-home care, with 2,419 of those were of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent. In 2014, there were 43,009 children in out-of-home care, 14,991 of which were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

'Greater investment is urgently needed to eliminate the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care', said NATSILS Chairperson Mr Wayne Muir.

'Nationally, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are ten times more likely to be on care and protection orders and almost eleven times more likely to be in out-of-home care than non-Aboriginal children. The high rate of child removal in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities is driven by a number of complex factors and we must work together to reduce the number of our kids unnecessarily coming into contact with the child protection system'.

'We need systems of accountability and long-term funding for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Organisations to inform policy development in our struggle to address the overrepresentation of our children in out-of-home care'.

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