

National Apology concert celebrates resilience and healing

Celebrating the National Apology, 10 years on

Some of Australia's most popular Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists will share the stage to send a message of unity and healing at a concert to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the National Apology to the Stolen Generations.

The concert, which will be a free public event, will take place on February 13, 2018, at Federation Mall (Lawns of Parliament House), hosted by the Healing Foundation.

The Healing Foundation is a national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisation established in 2009 to address the ongoing trauma in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities caused by past actions like the Stolen Generations. By building culturally strong, community designed and delivered pathways to healing, it is creating real change in the social, spiritual and emotional wellbeing of survivors and their families. On February 13, The Foundation will lead a range of commemorative activities for all Australians to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and inspire healing informed and trauma aware national action.

The concert will be hosted by Aboriginal comedian Steven Oliver and TV and radio presenter Myf Warhurst. It will feature live performances from Archie Roach, Shellie Morris, The Preatures, Busby Marou and Electric Fields.

Entitled 'Apology10 – Heal Our Past, Build Our Future', the concert will shed light on the continued strength and resilience of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

"This anniversary is a great opportunity for all Australians to come together and acknowledge a significant milestone in our history," said Healing Foundation CEO Richard Weston.

"The National Apology made in Federal Parliament on 13 February 2008 was a landmark event, as the first formal, national recognition of past atrocities and a first step towards national truth telling and reparation.

"It was a significant event for members of the Stolen Generations and their families, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and other Australians. It really was a time to feel proud about being Australian."

By coming along to the concert, Australians can continue to acknowledge what happened to the Stolen Generations and therefore support their ongoing healing. They can also celebrate the strong spirit and strong culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people today, including our musicians who have been taking the world by storm in recent years.

Aboriginal music icon Archie Roach, whose well known song, 'Took The Children Away', speaks to the very heart of Stolen Generation's trauma and healing.

Members of the Stolen Generations, from around Australia, will be there for the celebrations and I hope Canberrans, and anyone from interstate who wants to make the journey, will come along and show their support and solidarity for building a different future."

"The National Apology means a great deal to me. It means that the Government of the day recognised the great injustice to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people by the forced removal of children from families. It means they are sorry and ashamed that such practices took place."

"I am still grateful for the National Apology but we need to address the high number of our children still in out of home care," said Archie. "The 10th anniversary will bring attention to the fact there is much more work to be done, and that all Australians can work together to heal the past."

"In particular, we need to people to understand the impact and reach of Intergenerational Trauma and its link to social and health issues in in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, including suicides family violence, substance abuse, incarceration rates and the high number of children entering the protection system", said Mr Weston.

"The Healing Foundation is partnering with communities to design and deliver successful healing initiatives, which have had significant impact but we need to scale this work up".

CAPTION: *CEO of the Healing Foundation, Richard Weston*

Event Details:

Federation Mall, Canberra (the lawns in front of Parliament House)

Tuesday 13th February 2018 / 6pm – 10pm

Facebook: [facebook.com/healingfoundation](https://www.facebook.com/healingfoundation)

Twitter: @HealingOurWay

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