



MEDIA RELEASE

Monday, 25th May 2020

This Sorry Day, child removals remain a major issue for Aboriginal communities

As the nation pauses tomorrow to reflect on the multitude of injustices suffered by the Stolen Generations, AbSec CEO Tim Ireland has renewed calls for changes to the modern day NSW child protection system to ensure that history does not repeat itself.

As Mr Ireland says; “Sadly the unwarranted removal of children from Aboriginal communities is not a thing of the past. This day reminds us of what urgent reforms need to be made to the current child protection and out-of-home-care system to ensure that all Aboriginal children in NSW can grow up safe and strong within their families and culture.”

With recent [statistics from the Department of Communities and Justice](#) revealing that more children were reported at risk of significant harm last year than ever before, and that only one third of these kids were ever seen by a case worker, there is obviously still much work to be done, including through more early intervention and support services for families in need.

Despite a recent 50% reduction in funding levels for AbSec, the organisation will continue to advocate for systemic and legislative change within the child and family sector, and to provide a voice for Aboriginal children and families across NSW.

As Mr Ireland says; “the roadmap for this change is through the [Family Is Culture Review](#) which was chaired by Professor Megan Davis. Earlier this year, AbSec, as a collective, called on the government to invest in funding to implement the 125 recommendations in the review, and to also engage with Aboriginal families and communities to have voice in that implementation process. We are still awaiting the government’s response. We urge the NSW Premier not to allow the pandemic to derail the important reforms that are so badly needed in this sector.”

Although AbSec’s funding reduction will reduce the organisation’s capacity at a time where our most vulnerable members of community are at heightened risk, the organisation’s focus will continue to be on representing the best interests of Aboriginal children and families, and using the Family Is Culture review as a starting point for recovery from this pandemic.

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