

STOLEN GENERATIONS



Coota Girls
Aboriginal Corporation

The forced removal of First Nations children from their families and whole communities took place from the earliest years of colonisation. Since 1788, governments and private organisations have endeavoured to exert control over First Nations children as a tactic in their broader efforts to eliminate First Nations culture and peoples from the stolen land.

These dates are not intended to be a complete list but a representation of the history, particularly in NSW.

60,000 BC Archaeological evidence shows that First Nations people around Australia occupy rock shelters	42,000 BC Mungo man is buried in a shallow grave	1770 James Cook arrives on East Coast and declares it a part of the British Empire	1788 The First Fleet arrives on Gadigal Country, Sydney	1789 Smallpox decimates the First Nations population of Botany Bay, Port Jackson and Broken Bay. Bennelong and Colebee were abducted and placed with Governor Phillip	1802 Pemulwuy is assassinated for his resistance to the colony	1789 Governor Macquarie opens school in Parramatta for stolen First Nations children		
1838 Myall Creek Massacre: the first time Europeans were convicted of massacring innocent First Nations babies, women and Elders	1883 The Board for the Protection of Aborigines is established to manage the lives of First Nations people operating without legislative authority until 1909	1887 Parramatta Girls Industrial School is established	1908 Bomaderry Aboriginal Children's Home is established by the United Aborigines Mission, for First Nations children under the age of 10	1909 Aborigines Protection Act was passed in NSW, with provisions to 'provide for the protection and care of Aborigines' Aborigines Protection Board gets more rights to control First Nations people in NSW	1910 Legislated forced removal of First Nations children began in NSW	1911 Cootamundra Domestic Training Home for Aboriginal Girls is established in the former hospital on the hill at Cootamundra		
1915 Aborigines Protection Board power in loco parentis over all children defined as Aboriginal in NSW	1918 Board was granted further powers to remove all children under 18 years from its reserves	1920 Bidura, in Sydney, becomes a depot and receiving home for children while they wait to be fostered out or transferred to other institutions	1923 Kinchela Training Home for Aboriginal Boys opens near Kempsey in NSW	1937 Australian Government convenes first Native Welfare conference and states adopt assimilation policies for First Nations people	1938 Day of Mourning held in Sydney to mark the 150th anniversary of colonisation	1940 Aborigines Protection Board in NSW is renamed Aborigines Welfare Board and loses power to remove First Nations Children	1941 Child Endowment Act is passed but declares no endowment should be paid to dependents of Aboriginal people	
1945 Matron Ella Hiscock is employed as the longest standing Head Matron at Cootamundra Domestic Training Home for Aboriginal Girls	1962 Electoral Act changed to give First Nations people the right to register and vote	1964 Foundation for Department of Aboriginal Affairs opened to help with housing, employment, education, welfare, and legal, medical and financial assistance	1965 The Freedom Rides takes place in NSW, protesting against racial discrimination	1967 Referendum to give Australian Government the power to make laws for First Nations people and that they be included in the census, the vote held with 90.7% saying yes	1969 Aborigines Protection Act NSW and Aborigines Welfare Board is abolished. Aborigines Act is passed. Cootamundra Domestic Training Home for Aboriginal Girls closes	1970 Kinchela Aboriginal Boys Training Home closes	1971 AMS (Aboriginal Medical Service) established in Redfern	1972 Tent Embassy is established
1975 Racial Discrimination Act created to ensure all Australians are treated equally	1980 Bomaderry Aboriginal Children's Home closes. Link-Up (NSW) Aboriginal Foundation founded by Aunty Lola and Aunty Oomera Edwards, both Coota Girls Survivors, and Peter Read, to assist all Aboriginal people who had been directly affected by past government policies to reconnect	1982 Bimbadeen Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship College takes over former Home site in Cootamundra Department of Aboriginal Affairs NSW is founded	1983 Aboriginal Land Rights Act passed in NSW	1988 Bicentennial protest: One of the largest gatherings of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and allies starting at La Perouse with a wreath laying and then March from Redfern to Hyde Park	1991 Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation established The Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody presents its final report into the deaths of 99 Aboriginal people in Australian jails	1992 Redfern Speech by PM Paul Keating acknowledges the Stolen Generations The High Court hands down the Mabo decision		
1993 UN Year of the World's Indigenous Peoples	1995 National Inquiry into Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from Their Families. The report marked a pivotal moment in what has come to be known as the Stolen Generations.	1996 The first National Reconciliation Week is held	1997 "Bringing them Home" Report is tabled in Australian Parliament Six states and the ACT issue formal apologies to the Stolen Generations	1998 The first National Sorry Day is held	1999 AbSec established as a part of the need to bring all funded Aboriginal out-of-home care agencies together to form a network of agencies to work with community to deliver better outcomes for First Nations children and families	2000 Reconciliation Bridge Walk: over 250,000 people walked across the Sydney Harbour Bridge 'Australian declaration towards reconciliation' and the 'Roadmap for Reconciliation' given at Corroboree 2000		
2001 Inquiry into Stolen Wages NSW Kinchela Boys Home Aboriginal Corporation is founded	2004 NSW Government apologises and establishes the Aboriginal Trust Fund Repayment Scheme (ATFRS) for Stolen Wages cases between 1900- 1969	2008 National Apology to the Stolen Generations in Australian Parliament by then PM Kevin Rudd	2009 Australia supports the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples	2012 Former Cootamundra Domestic Training Home for Aboriginal Girls is registered on NSW State Heritage Register Coota Girls Survivors Centenary Healing Gathering	2013 Coota Girls Aboriginal Corporation is founded Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Recognition Act 2013 passes in Australian Parliament	2022 Coota Girls reunion at the former Home site takes place Plaques are placed at Train stations at Kempsey, Wagga Wagga and Cootamundra to acknowledge the state Transport's role in the Stolen Generations	2023 Coota Girls Aboriginal Corporation hosts its first Sorry Day community event on Gadigal Country	