Connecting Home

Based in Victoria, Connecting Home is committed to providing a broad range of wraparound support services to survivors of the Stolen Generations and their families across South-Eastern Australia. Support includes case management, support with Stolen Generations reparations, National Stolen Generations Redress Scheme support, disability services and support, Stolen Generations Funeral Fund, support with needs related to ageing, and support with redress for Historical Institutional Abuse.

Connecting Home was established in 2010 in direct response to reports such as the *Bringing them home* report and *Closing the Gap* – with sensitivity and understanding that past removal policies still affect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and communities.

How the Collective Healing Grant was used

Connecting Home used their 2025–26 Collective Healing Grant for strategic planning and to create a client information management system.

Engaging a consultant to help them, Connecting Home developed a 3–5 year strategic plan, setting the organisation's direction, priorities and actions. The process involved significant stakeholder engagement.

Connecting Home also developed a client information management system focused on enhancing their client support. The system will make it easier for staff to input and interact with, and also make reporting to various stakeholders more efficient.

Impact of the Collective Healing Grant

The grant has significantly impacted the organisational capabilities of Connecting Home, providing greater capacity for them to support healing activities for Stolen Generations survivors and their families. The projects also facilitated connection and collaboration with other organisations working in the sector.

Developing the strategic plan required consultation with and input from elders across the region, providing an opportunity for extensive engagement and relationship building. Paul Davis, Executive Leader – Corporate Services at Connecting Home said:

> *'We had a lot more consultation and input from elders in the processes than what we thought we would have been able to do initially, which was good.'*

Connecting Home
a service for the Stolen Generations

Connecting Home
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Collective Healing Grants have been distributed by The Healing Foundation to Stolen Generations Organisations on behalf of the National Indigenous Australians Agency since 2012.

The Collective Healing Grants support Stolen Generations survivors and their descendants through initiatives that promote healing, strengthen community connections, and enhance wellbeing for Stolen Generations survivors and their communities. These initiatives are delivered by dedicated and committed organisations working to create lasting and positive change across Australia.

The grants program emphasises the importance of intergenerational connections, cultural preservation, and capacity building within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Without the Collective Healing Grant, Connecting Home would not have been able to undertake the strategic planning and develop the client information management system to the same degree. In particular, the system has a lot more capability to do what is needed. Paul reflected:

> *'The Collective Healing Grants are good because they are quite flexible … there aren't too many options in terms of funding for building capacity.'*

Future plans

Connecting Home has received a 2026–27 Collective Healing Grant. This grant will be used to support project management and governance for a major project with the Department of Justice and Community Safety as part of the Victorian Stolen Generations Reparations Package, to record survivor stories.

Key learnings

> *Activities for both projects took longer than originally anticipated.*
> *A key takeaway is to allow enough time for the unexpected complexity and time required to effectively engage with stakeholders and deliver better outcomes.*