

**Thursday 3 March 2022**

## **MEDIA RELEASE: Tandem applauds the announcement of a landmark redress scheme for Victorian Stolen Generation survivors**

Tandem applauds the announcement by Premier Daniel Andrews this morning that Victorian survivors of the Stolen Generation will be able to access \$100,000 payments under a landmark redress scheme that aims to address the disadvantage caused by the government policy.

The State Government will also apologise to Victorian Stolen Generation survivors and provide access to healing and family reunion programs.

The scheme will cover Indigenous Victorians removed from their families prior to 1977. From the mid-1800s through to this time, government policies saw First Nations children taken from their families and placed in institutions or with non-Indigenous families.

They were forced to reject their culture and barred from speaking First Nations languages.

The First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria's Co-Chair and Bangerang and Wiradjuri Elder Aunty Geraldine Atkinson spoke at the announcement this morning, saying that "the damage inflicted on our people runs across generations and the disadvantage it caused is ongoing."

"I don't believe there is anything that can heal that trauma or ever repay that loss, but the package announced today will go some way to helping people address the disadvantage caused by the inhumane practices our people have been subjected to," Aunty Geraldine observed.

Tandem CEO Marie Piu said that "today's announcement is welcome as an important step towards healing the profound and enduring mental health and wellbeing impact that past government policies have on First Nations' community members living with mental health and wellbeing distress and their families, friends and Community."

Tandem is the Victorian peak body representing family and friends supporting people living with mental health challenges. Tandem's mission is to provide leadership and coordination for the community of individuals and organisations who seek better outcomes for Victorian mental health families, carers and supporters.