



Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care

## MEDIA ALERT

10 June 2013

### STOP THE CREATION OF ANOTHER STOLEN GENERATION MELBOURNE FORUM, FRIDAY 14 JUNE

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children continue to be removed from their families at alarming rates. Today, over one third of the 39,621 children\* in out-of-home care in Australia are Indigenous — even though Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children represent only 4.6 of the child population.

The causes of this over-representation are complex and centre on poverty, the legacy of past policies of forced removals, intergenerational effects of separation from family and culture, and cultural differences in child rearing practices.

A lack of early intervention measures and support for at-risk Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families are also leading to the high removal rates — at great human cost to children, their families and communities.

**Professor Kerry Arabena**, Chair for Indigenous Health and Professor and Director, Onemda VicHealth Koori Health Unit, University of Melbourne will explore these issues in a conversation with Aboriginal, national and international experts on child protection and wellbeing.

Forum participants include:

- **Professor Muriel Bamblett**, CEO of the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency
- **Aunty Lorraine Peeters**, Stolen Generations advocate and founder of Marumali
- **Eva Jo Edwards**, Case Manager and Programs Officer, Connecting Home
- **Megan Mitchell**, National Children's Commissioner
- **Dr Helen Szoke**, Chief Executive of Oxfam Australia.

Another panel member is **Marta Mauras**, former vice president of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child. In a damning report on Australia in June 2012, the UN committee expressed concerns at "the serious and widespread discrimination faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children."

\* Figure as at 30 June 2012, from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

### FORUM DETAILS: FRIDAY, 14 JUNE 2013

**WHERE:** The Edge, Federation Square      **TIME:** 11am–1pm

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**SNAICC: The national peak body for Aboriginal and  
Torres Strait Islander children**