

Embargoed till 2pm

KEEPING THEM HOME

The most recent data shows that children being moved into out-of-home care in the Northern Territory is increasing at an alarming rate and that two-thirds of these children are placed with non-Indigenous families away from their communities

'concerned Australians' invites the Chief Minister to join the campaign to keep Aboriginal children safely in their communities.

We know Adam Giles cares very greatly about the safety of children and we call on him and his Ministers, and all those in the Northern Territory who have the capacity to influence policy, to throw their support behind:

- An increase in Aboriginal-managed Family Support services in all Aboriginal communities including the establishment of Family Group Conferencing processes when there are concerns regarding child safety
- A reversal of the decision that cut funds to the Community Sector

We ask you to hear the words of Elder Dr Djiniyini Gondarra OAM:

A Yolŋu child has a spirituality, his own 'skin', his culture, language, and place in his community. He belongs to that country and its people. You are committing a deep wrong by taking that away from him.

And,

This is why so many of the Stolen Generation have suffered so much. The deep psychological trauma from being taken away has led so many of them to substance abuse, contact with the criminal courts and family breakdown. And the trauma is then passed onto their children.

This is a matter of urgency. We do not wish to see the emergence of another Stolen Generation.