

7.

Using sources

Quotes resource sheet

All the teachings that we received from our [foster] family when we were little, [were] that black people were bad ... I wanted my skin to be white.

(Confidential evidence 132, Victoria *Bringing them home* report)

We have power to deal with people of any race within our borders, except the aboriginal inhabitants of the continent, who remain under the custody of the States. There is that single exception of a dying race; and if they be a dying race, let us hope that in their last hours they will be able to recognise not simply the justice, but the generosity of the treatment which the white race, who are dispossessing them and entering into their heritage, are according them.

Attorney General Alfred Deakin, 1901

Genocide includes 'forcibly transferring children of the group to another group' committed 'with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group'.

UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, 1948

The consequence of [Indigenous people's] history is the partial destruction of Aboriginal culture and a large part of the Aboriginal population, and also disadvantage and inequality of Aboriginal people in all the areas of social life where comparison is possible between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people ... this legacy of history goes far to explain the over-representation of Aboriginal people in custody, and thereby the death of some of them.

Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, Volume 1.4.19

Several indicators of Indigenous well-being and involvement have seen a reversal in recent years. There are now fewer Aboriginal people at university than there were five years ago, and fewer Aboriginal people in the public service than a decade ago.

Statement by former Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser, 2005

In 2003, the infant mortality rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander infants was recorded as three times that of non-Indigenous infants. In 2004 it was found that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders were up to twice as likely to be hospitalised for mental and behavioural disorders as non-Indigenous Australians. In 2005, two thirds of Indigenous Australians were reported to have a long-term health condition, and one in three had vision problems.

Speech by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, Tom Calma, 2007

I hated white people with a passion because of this. I actually tried to bleach my skin when I was in grade 3 because being black meant too much pain. When I reached 16-17 years of age, I gave up. I found a sense of belonging in alcohol, drugs, violence and gambling, and having no self-respect for myself. It was my 'pit' for years until I reached a point where I didn't want to live any more. I was prepared to take my life. I wanted to die.

Speech of Christine Jacobs, 'Stolen Generations' survivor, 2005



Focus questions

Why is it useful to refer to a variety of sources to understand the events of the past?

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Draw a spider diagram showing the range of people involved in the separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from their families.