

Your ref:
Our ref: SRO/2005/057
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30 April 2007

Mr Tony Calma
Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner
Human Rights & Equal Opportunity Commissioner
GPO BOX 5218
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Mr Calma,

“BRINGING THEM HOME” REPORT

Thank you for your letter of 4 April 2007 requesting information as to how the State Records Office is commemorating the 10th anniversary of the *Bringing Them Home* report.

Several key recommendations of the *Bringing them Home* report relate directly to the operations of Australian archival institutions. The report identifies the relationship between records and identity and this is an area that we have been working with to ensure that Indigenous peoples have every opportunity to access records which relate to themselves and the policies under which their lives were controlled.

To this end, the State Records Office has built very strong partnerships with the Department of Indigenous Affairs, and the W. A. Government Office of Native Title to implement a large scale access examination of all files held in the State Records Office relating to Indigenous Affairs, from the earliest records of the Aborigines Protection Board in 1886. This is an enormous undertaking which will ensure that access to these records is managed appropriately and with the appropriate level of sensitivity.

More broadly, staff in the State Records Office have been involved with their professional association the *Australian Society of Archivists*, in promoting the profession to Indigenous Australians, and mentoring Indigenous archives students.

Our commitment to the issues raised in the *Bringing Them Home* report remains unstinting, and we are all working towards improving access to information for Indigenous, and for all Australians.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke ending in a small flourish.

Tony Caravella
Director of State Records Office