

Parents separated from their children by forced adoption or removal

It is important also to note that although the CHSP policy framework defines this group as parents affected, it is important to note that the National Apology was for all people affected by Forced Adoptions including other family members

Strategies to consider include:

- Conducting training for staff to enhance understanding of the range of issues affecting Parents separated from their children by forced adoption or removal
- Validating experiences of separation and adoption as most people affected have lived in silence and have not been able to talk openly and freely about their experiences.
- Understanding that the effects of the separation and adoption experience are real for the people involved and are often 'triggered' by subsequent life events eg birthdays, births or deaths within a family
- Understanding that there may have been complicity by doctors and nurses, and this mistrust and suspicion carries forward into how affected people trust health professionals today.
- Doctors, mental health professionals and nurses providing sensitive and appropriate professional services across a range of situations.
- Referrals to adjunct services providing peer support and search and connect services when people are seeking their personal information or wishing to reconnect with their original families

Partnerships and relationships to consider:

- Victorian Adoption Network for Information and Self Help (VANISH)

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