



## National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day - August 4

### Worship Prayer Resources: *Laments, thanksgiving and petitions*

God our loving Creator and Father,

We grieve the time in our history when the impact of white settlement was so disastrous for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples that very few children were born and even fewer survived.

We give thanks that that establishment of Christian missions in the past provided a safer—if regimented—environment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander parents to conceive and raise children.

We grieve

- the cooperation of Christians in the policy of separating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families in order that they might blend in to white Australian society, and that even then most people in white Australian society did not accept them as equals
- the trauma the family separation policy inflicted on both parents and children, and that the harmful legacy of this policy is still playing out generations later.

We pray for well-designed initiatives to heal the damage to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and adults caused by past and present injustices. We pray for their success, and that where possible, we might contribute to that success.

We pray especially for present day Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children living in foster care, separated from their families because of welfare concerns. We pray that efforts to improve their family situation will succeed, and that they can reunite with their parents.

We pray for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander boys and girls from disadvantaged backgrounds who are or have been in touch with the juvenile justice system. We pray for initiatives designed to shift the trajectory of their lives onto a more positive path.

We pray for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander parents and grandparents trying to raise their children so they can retain positive cultural knowledge and values while also succeeding in mainstream society.

We pray for non-Aboriginal Christians that they will see the image of God in every person, not just in their own children or in people most superficially like themselves.