

Sorry (music and lyrics - Scott Darlow)

What you say, what you do
why can't you see my point today
Look around you, try to tell you
Doesn't seem to matter what I say
People hurting, people crying
Stolen history is here to stay
It's here today
Across the nation, generations
Feel the sorrow and the shame
Bloodline history, family misery
Look into my eyes and share my pain
We're dyin' inside, because of your pride
Why won't you say, won't you say
Won't you say
Sorry for the tears down through the years, you've cried
Sorry for respect, you've been denied
Many thousand years, we've been living here
With the land we've been one day and night
Then they came along, stole our land and song
Carried right on with their genocide
Yet you choose to say, that was yesterday
Sorry isn't needed here tonight
Here tonight
Sorry for the tears down through the years, you've cried
Sorry for respect, you've been denied

Synopsis

I wrote *Sorry* in 2002, at a time when John Howard was the Australian Prime Minister. At that stage, he was under a large amount of pressure to apologise to the Aboriginal people over the stolen generations. He steadfastly refused to do it, and it was a huge deal. I remember being angry that he was so closed off to this idea of really getting alongside us Aboriginal people and journeying *WITH* us. Instead he chose to have a hard heart.

I wanted to write a song that is all about empathy. Sorry isn't a word we say that apportions blame. It is often a word we use to show that we have empathised and that from doing this, we have developed genuine care (i.e. when someone dies, "I'm sorry for your loss").

This song is about saying "imagine if that was my family, that went through those things, lived that experience. Imagine if it was me! Man I'm sorry that happened. I'm sorry you had that happen!"

As I wrote the song and refined it, I realised that today's problems that Aboriginal people face, aren't *JUST* due to one factor. They are a combination of things - things that I then wrote into the song.

Bloodline history - that lyric refers to the many generations that have had pain, trauma and damage, that then go on to parent the next generation in a way that is influenced by that pain.

Genocide took place all over this country. Land displacement as well. So this song became a vehicle to recognise the *real* history of this country, and ask the listener to stop and consider how they would feel if *they* had lived it, and not just them personally, but if they were the result of 5 generations of mistreatment, racism, lack of opportunity, genocide, land displacement and the stolen generations.

- Scott Darlow