

# Sorry Day Flowers

Stolen Generation Commemorative Flower



Please join us in the simple and meaningful journey of making a handcrafted flower. This e-booklet tells you more about why and how.



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We thank the Elders in the Kimberley for choosing the native hibiscus flower for its resilience and survivor instinct which characterises Stolen Generation members and their offspring who continue to suffer transgenerational trauma because of Government Policies since colonisation. We also say thank you to them for supporting us in our plan to continue to distribute handcrafted flowers.

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*Information sourced from the KSGAC website and used with permission by Madjitil Moorna Inc.*

# Sorry Day Flowers

**Stolen Generation Commemorative Flower**  
*For the mothers and children of the Stolen Generation*



The five-petal Native Cotton, Desert Rose, or Native Hibiscus as we know it, was chosen by the Kimberley Stolen Generations Aboriginal Corporation (KSGAC) members to symbolise the scattering of the Stolen Generations and their resilience to the eugenic policies of Australia. Initially proposed by members of the Kimberley Stolen Generation Aboriginal Corporation, this was later endorsed by the National Sorry Day Committee. It is wholeheartedly supported by the National Stolen Generations Alliance. This flower was adopted because it is found widely across Australia and it is a survivor. Its colour denotes compassion and spiritual healing.

The Kimberley Stolen Generations Aboriginal Corporation has produced a large quantity of silk imitation native hibiscus flowers. <http://kimberleystolengeneration.com.au>

Madjitil Moorna choir members and friends feel privileged to sing Kerry Fletcher's Sorry Song and to wear handcrafted flowers in remembrance of the members of the stolen generations. You can show your solidarity for genuine remembrance and healing by wearing the flowers on Apology Day and Sorry Day.

Please spread the word and help raise awareness by considering the bulk purchase of Sorry Day flowers for National Apology Day 13<sup>th</sup> February and Sorry Day 26<sup>th</sup> May each year to support the Kimberley Stolen Generation Aboriginal Corporation and members of the Stolen Generation. For more information or to purchase, please contact staff at Kimberley Stolen Generation Aboriginal Corporation, Tel (08) 9193 6502.

Free Call Number 1800 830 338

Email Enquiries and Orders: [reception.ksgac@iinet.net.au](mailto:reception.ksgac@iinet.net.au).

## Making a Stolen Generation Commemorative Flower



Hand crafted mauve native hibiscus flowers with brooch pins attached to the back made by Madjartil Moorna Choir members and friends



The National Sorry Day Committee, endorsed by the Stolen Generations Alliance, developed this **commemorative silk flower as a national symbol for Indigenous children removed from their families, choosing the native hibiscus 'because it is found widely across Australia and it is a survivor. Its colour denotes compassion and spiritual healing.'** (*Kimberley Stolen Generation Aboriginal Corporation website, 2011.*) In 2008 the flowers were given to many Australians in thanks for then Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's Apology to the Stolen Generations. Later editions of the flowers have since been worn on National Sorry Day as a reminder of recommendations in the Bringing Them Home Report yet to be implemented.

Madjartil Moorna choir members and friends with support from local Elders have been handcrafting flowers in the last few years.

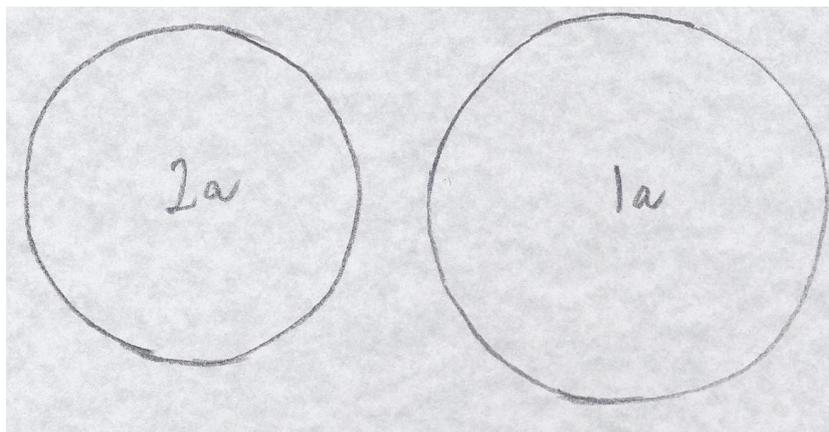
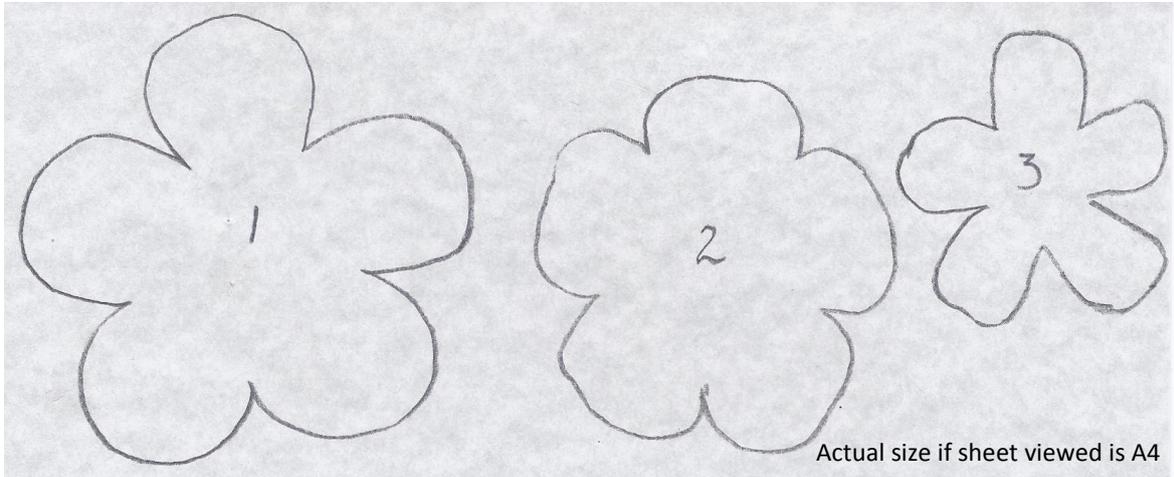


Felt and flower  
crafted by  
Marie Jacquier

*Please join us in this simple and meaningful journey.*

## What you need

- Template (or make your own) for a 3 layered or 5 layered hibiscus brooch



- Felt /other fabrics of different hibiscus range colours - lilac, mauve, pink
- Yellow + /- red sewing thread
- One pin, one needle, scissors
- Friends to share stories with while you make the flowers
- A desire to gift the brooch to Elders / family members or a plan to wear the brooch yourself as an act of remembrance particularly on National Apology Day February 13<sup>th</sup> & Sorry Day May 26<sup>th</sup>

## Let's begin

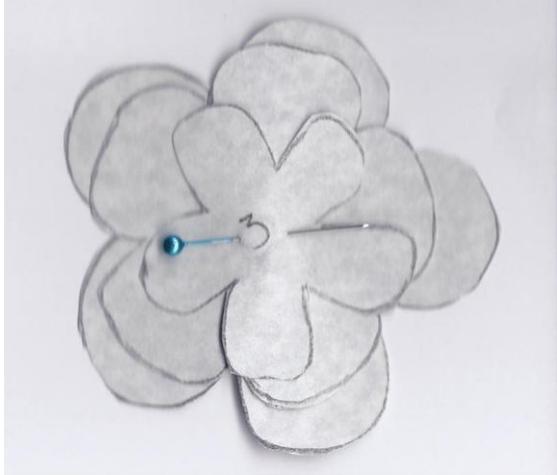


1. Cut some felt and other fabrics using the template guide. Here are some suggestions....



Use circle template to make light circular or other layers. Pinking shear edges to make zig zag look if you wish.

2. Layer the flower sections to make 3 layers or 5 layered flowers



or



3. Secure with yellow thread or other thread



4. Experiment with your own ideas and have fun ☺



Made by Jo Randell



Made by friends from the Parky Craft Group



### Helpful Links

- <http://kimberleystolengeneration.com.au> Kimberley Stolen Generations Aboriginal Corporation (KSGAC)
- <http://www.sorrysong.com.au/> Lyrics Of The Sorry Song by Kerry Fletcher
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eKHExD3slR4> PM Apology Perth Singing the Sorry Song
  - Madjitil Moorna Choir [www.madjitilmorrna.org.au](http://www.madjitilmorrna.org.au)
- <http://bringingthemhomewa.com/>
  - Bringing Them Home Committee WA Inc Western Australians for truth, healing, justice reconciliation
- <http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/> Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies- the world's premier institution for information and research about the cultures and lifestyles of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, past and present.

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Kerry Fletcher wrote Sorry Song in 1998, on behalf of all of us whose hearts ache when we think of the pain those children and communities suffered and the pain which they still endure today.

## Sorry Song

*If we can now say that we're sorry  
To the people from this land*

*They cry, they cry, their children were stolen  
They still wonder why*

*Sing, sing loud, break through the silence  
Sing sorry across this land*

*We cry, we cry, their children were stolen  
Now no-one knows why*

*Sing, sing loud, break through the silence  
Sing sorry across this land*

*We sing with our hearts, respect for each and everyone,  
Together with hope burning strong.*

*Sing, sing loud, we've broken the silence,  
Let 'sorry' start healing our land.*

The forced removal of so many Aboriginal children from their mothers, families and communities inflicted profound grief, suffering and loss that continues to affect them, their communities and descendants.

A new verse and chorus has been added to reflect the overwhelming community response since the federal government broke its silence by making the historic Apology in Canberra on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2008.



All Lyrics and music by Kerry Fletcher © 2007. All rights reserved.



