

Stolen Generations Victoria Ltd



PO Box 101
Preston VIC 3072
ABN 49114217248

Phone (03) 9470 3477
Fax (03) 9470 3499
www.stolengenerationsvictoria.org.au

"Restoring to us what is rightfully ours"

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 13 February 2008

"Wednesday 13 February will now be an extremely significant day in Australia's history" stated Lynette Austin the Chairperson of the Stolen Generations Victoria Ltd.

Stolen Generations Victoria has been supported by a range of organizations including DHS (Children Youth and Families) and Aboriginal Affairs Victoria, Reconciliation Victoria, City of Darebin, Mackillop Family Services, Anglicare Victoria enabling us to support 60 members to travel to Canberra to attend the apology at Parliament House.

Stolen Generations Victoria together with the Aborigines Advancement League, Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency, Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation, Victorian Aboriginal Health Service and Victorian Aboriginal Community Services Association Limited is also sponsoring an event at the Aboriginal Advancement League in Thornbury for both community members and supporters to come together to witness this significant day in our history.

"I would like to acknowledge all Stolen Generations members, elders, past and present and also our brothers and sisters who are currently in prisons throughout the country and trust that they are able to watch the telecast of this historic event" said Ms Austin. "We must never forget our people who may be out of our sight due to being locked away, but they are always in our hearts and minds, and our thoughts are with them all today" she said.

It is very heartening to have this long overdue apology made by the Prime Minister Kevin Rudd as the first order of business of the new parliament since the election. "We have been waiting for more than ten years for the apology and it is very sad to think that many of our members passed away before they could see this day and witness this apology" said Ms Austin.

In Mick Dodson's words, this is a "monumental" for all Australians and we view this as a significant step in our continuing journey of healing. We see this day as not only significant for Aboriginal Australia but also for Non Indigenous Australia as it marks a significant step on our path to reconciliation.

There are more steps to take, including reviving the government's commitment to the recommendations in the Bringing Them Home Report. These recommendations include consideration of compensation and reparation for

Stolen Generation Members. These and many other recommendations in the Report require government's immediate commitment to enable our journey of healing to continue and one day in the not too distant future be over.

"I hope we can all work together to make sure that members who were so brave in telling their stories to the Inquiry get to see real results in the form of the implementation of all 54 recommendations from this report." Ms Austin said.

Stolen Generations Victoria will continue to work with members to assist them on their healing journey. We look forward to a future where the pain of the past begins to subside and our members can live out their lives knowing that Australian's together are Sorry for the deeds of the past. Together we must work to ensure this never happens to any other generation or generations of our people.