



## Department of Human Services

Incorporating: Health, Community Services, Mental Health, Senior Victorians and Housing

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08 OCT 2008

OUR REF: E1350848

YOUR REF:

Ms Cherie Marian  
PO Box 5097  
RINGWOOD VIC 3134

Dear Ms Marian

Thank you for your letter of 29 August 2008 to the Minister for Community Services, the Hon Lisa Neville and the Treasurer, the Hon John Lenders regarding compensation for care leavers. As these matters are the responsibility of the Minister for Community Services, I am replying to you on behalf of the Minister.

Thank you for your submission to the Advisory Group which is assisting in the development of the new service. Your submission will inform the development of the service model and will help ensure services are meaningful and relevant to care leavers.

As you are aware, the Victorian Government has not established a compensation scheme for care leavers, however the Government is committed to addressing the needs of people who have been affected by their experience in care. The announcement of funding of \$7.1 million for new services is a demonstration of this commitment.

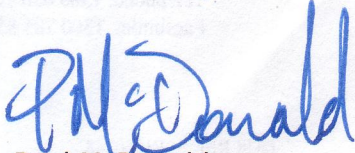
I have noted your concerns about the auspice of the new agency; that past provider agencies may seek to provide the new service. This view was expressed by a number of care leavers at the recent consultation focus groups. However, a number of care leavers expressed the view in the focus groups that they have received valuable support from past providers. It is important that the full range of views is considered in the development of the new service and that care leavers are able to access services in the way that best suits their needs.

In relation to an apology, the former Premier, the Hon Steve Bracks made an apology to care leavers in the Parliament on 9 August 2006. The Victorian Government recognises this as an important step in the healing process for people who grew up in care. A Federal apology is a matter for the Commonwealth Government.

The consultation process for the development of the new services has aimed to be sensitive in acknowledging the ways in which the lives of care leavers have been affected by their past experiences and in listening and recording the ideas and insights. These valuable contributions will assist in developing services which will be relevant and helpful to care leavers.

I thank you for your views and contribution to this important process.

Yours sincerely



Paul McDonald  
Executive Director  
Children, Youth and Families

08 OCT 2008

Ms Cheryl Horgan  
10 Fax 5003

Dear Ms Horgan

Thank you for your letter of 29 August 2008 to the Minister for Community Services, the Hon  
Lia Williams and the Treasurer, the Hon John Latham regarding compensation for care leavers.  
As these matters are the responsibility of the Minister for Community Services, I am replying  
to you on behalf of the Minister.

Thank you for your submission to the Advisory Group which is assisting in the development of  
the new service. Your submission will inform the development of the service and will  
help ensure services are meaningful and relevant to care leavers.

As you are aware, the Victorian Government has not established a compensation scheme for  
care leavers, however the Government is committed to addressing the needs of people who  
have been affected by their experience in care. The announcement of funding of \$7.1 million  
for new services is a demonstration of this commitment.

The Victorian Government is committed to providing the best possible outcomes for  
care leavers. The recent consultation focus group, however, a number of care leavers expressed the view in  
the focus group that they have received valuable support from past providers. It is important  
that the full range of views is considered in the development of the new service and that care  
leavers are able to access services in the way that best suits their needs.

In relation to an apology, the former Premier, the Hon Steve Bracks made an apology to care  
leavers in his Parliament on 8 August 2006. The Victorian Government recognises this as an  
important step in the healing process for people who grew up in care. A further apology is a  
priority for the Commonwealth Government.

