

submission

COUNCIL FOR THE NATIONAL INTEREST
WESTERN AUSTRALIAN COMMITTEE.

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Parliament of Australia – Senate
Canberra ACT 2900

A submission to a Senate Committee Inquiry

We refer to an advertisement in the Australian newspaper dated Tuesday 25th March 2008 inviting submissions to the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs and in particular to a heading : Stolen generation --- compensation

Our submission is, in essence, quite simple. The Prime Minister of Australia, Kevin Rudd made a speech to the House of Representatives on the 13th February 2008 (Hansard page 167). Implicit within that speech Mr. Rudd advised the house that there would be no compensation paid to those people referred to as 'The Stolen Generations'.

We submit to the Senate Committee that for them to proceed with this Bill could well raise false hopes of compensation among those who feel that they have claim. We further submit that to raise false hopes would be detrimental to the thrust of the "sorry" initiatives of the government.

On the 14th February 2008 Senator Bartlett speaking to a second reading of a Senate draft bill entitled:- Stolen Generation Compensation Bill 2008. "A bill for an Act to provide for ex gratia payments to be made to the stolen generation of Aboriginal children and for related purposes".

It is a submission of this Council that the Senate Committee should be made aware of the statements by the Prime Minister and to the announced policy of the Australian Labor Party that no compensation will be made under or pursuant to 'stolen generation' claims.

In a radio interview on 'Sunrise' on 28th January 2008 Mr. Rudd said :-
" I said before the election, I say it again But at the level of National Government, we will not be establishing any compensation fund "

Whilst it is appreciated that legislation can be initiated in the Senate it is the parliamentary practice of this country that the policy of the House of Representatives, the lower house, should prevail.

This submission is made pursuant to a resolution of the Council for the National Interest, the Western Australian Committee, at a regular committee meeting held on Thursday 28th March 2008.

Signed D. O'Sullivan - Chairman
Dated this 1st Day of April 2008.


