

SORRY

As a person that was directly affected by past Government policies I was taken from my family at a very early age of 10 months along with my brothers and sisters 5 of us plus 2 others prior. I sat in the Southern Gallery and listened to Prime Minister Rudds Apology speech as he announced it to the Nation and the World. This is the second apology given to me the first was in 1997 by the sisters of mercy. What sorry meant to me was recognition of the wrongs in the past .Sorry to my mother, father, brothers, sisters, nephews, nieces and my grandparents that have passed with out hearing those special words although they can now start to rest in piece. Sorry is the first step to healing those of us left, in healing comes recognising the depravation we have suffered and still are. For me personally I have never had a Christmas with a biological family member. And we all say have a Merry Christmas I don't, how does that happen with out family. Then we say Happy New Year and I struggled with that to, when there is still so much injustice and denial with in the indigenous communities. I am now 50 years old and through Link Up was reunited with my family in 2003.I have a brother and sister left whom are like strangers to me. My sister and brother both suffer from bi polar from the sexual abuse they suffered as children in institutions. My older brother died at 38 years of age as his abuse was too much for him. My sister Joan died at Nudgee Orphanage aged 14 from pneumonia in the hands of the sisters of mercy. My two older sisters were put in Cherbourg Mission where they worked like slaves and had there money stolen from them, which the Queensland government took and used to build the Redcliffe Hospital. For many years my sister Gloria Beckett was an artist and activist on these issues. On my sisters death bed she was offered by the Beatty government \$4,000 for her 5 years of work at Cherbourg. Gloria accepted the money so that her children didn't have the expense of her funeral. She died in the hospital that her money built. Her dying words were too late too little for some. My sister died in May of 2003 I was reunited in July 2003 Yes too late. And we say sorry. No money in the world can give me the life that every person deserves the love and nurturing of mum and dad if good or bad. I was taken off the hot plate and thrown into the fire as my foster parents were abusive and cruel and eventually at the age of 9 years old was put back into an orphanage. I still carry the scares of the ironing cord.

COMPENSATION

Should the stolen generation be compensated? **YES**

You can't give me my mother or father back!

You can give me my brothers and sisters back!

You can't give me my Aunties and Uncles back!

You can't give me a family unit back!

You can't change the past but you can change the future.

You can give me a home!

Surely with the 20.5 million mainstream australian people we have in this beautiful country from around the world with there own culture and religions that have made this country home .Should understand that the indigenous population is only 500 thousand and that only a small portion left that are of the stolen generation the lady sitting beside me in the southern gallery on the 13th February was 85 years old. I hope that it isn't too late for her. Whilst in the orphanages as a child I was taught the Ten Commandments I remember one in particular " **Thou shall not steal**" so you can take us from our families and teach us this. So now it's time to practise what you preach. As you have stolen more than words can express.

So let's face it this beautiful countries laws and enforcements started with your very own convicts going up the ranks. With governments of the past impregnating the racism we still share today [you do not have to be indigenous to experience this]

Respectfully I thank your god for Prime Minister Kevin Rudd for being brave enough to have the rest of this country aware of past government policies.

RECOGNITION

So in respectfully recognising the indigenous Australians maybe this Government might put some kind of infrastructure together acknowledging indigenous arts, crafts, food and dance. May be instead of waltz sing Matildas at the opening of sporting events have an indigenous corroborry. And introduce more indigenous on main stream TV commercials. Every Australian should be taught Australian History for what really happened as not to repeat the same mistakes in the future.

IF COMPENSATION ISN'T MADE THEN THE WORDS MAY AS WELL BE WASHED DOWN THE GUTTER. PLEASE HONOUR YOUR WORD