
From: Jane Paterson
Sent: Tuesday, 8 April 2008 7:40 PM
To: Legal and Constitutional, Committee (SEN)
Subject: STOLEN GENERATIONS COMPENSATION SUBMISSION

For the Senate Inquiry Into Stolen Generations Compensation Committee

We, Perth Women in Black, strongly support Senator Bartlett's Bill re Compensation for the Stolen Generation, because we believe that compensation has to follow the APOLOGY as a mark of national sincerity: a concrete sign that demonstrates our belief our Laws have delivered great harm which we wish to redress.

We hope that such compensation can be given in a spirit of generosity and from all political parties so as not to destroy the effect of the gesture. It should be given as a right.

We particularly agree that ongoing compensatory support systems must be set up for the long term long term as the long term harm is likely to take some generations to undo.

We would like to paraphrase some words of Patrick Dodson when he spoke at the Latrobe University's Centre for Dialogue in September 2007:

"it really only takes the courage to act..and to seek something better..and to begin the dialogue we are all capable of."

And to quote Xavier Herbert:

"Until we give the black man (sic) a bit of the land that was his, and give it back, without anything but generosity of spirit in concession for the evil we have done him-until we do that we shall remain what we have always been so far, a people without integrity, not a nation but a community of thieves."

Perth WA Women in Black