

Stolen Generations Alliance

Australians for Healing
Truth and Justice

Patrons: Prof Lowitja O'Donoghue and the Rt Hon Malcolm Fraser

8th April 2008

To:

Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
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Authorised by:

Brian Butler South Australian Delegate on the Stolen Generations Alliance
Simon Boyce South Australian Delegate on the Stolen Generations Alliance

To the Committee

The Stolen Generations Alliance in South Australia welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee's inquiry into the Stolen Generation Compensation Bill 2008.

The Stolen Generations Alliance in South Australia believes that a large number of Aboriginal people including Stolen Generations members, their families, and communities have experienced pain and suffering as a direct result of government policies to forcibly remove Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders children from their families and communities.

With the handing down of the Bringing Them Home Report, and its 54 recommendations one of which was for reparations to be made by the Federal government along with an apology and acknowledgement of responsibility.

Any compensation must ensure that extensive consultation is carried out with Stolen Generation members and Indigenous Communities throughout Australia before any payment process is put into place.

Stolen Generations Alliance also recognises the need for an education campaign to ensure that the Australian public understands the truth of what happened to Aboriginal people affected by the removal of children from their families and communities, prior to any implementation of payments.

In order to facilitate the healing process the following needs to be carefully considered for example, access to employment opportunities and education, adequate housing, resources to ensure programs are successful and sustainable in consultation with Stolen Generations. These programs must include working with individuals, families and communities affected by the removals that has affected them detrimentally for many generations.

However, the Stolen Generations Alliance urges that the committee considers the implementation of the 54 recommendations in the Bring Them Home Report as a matter of urgency.

The Stolen Generations Alliance supports the Stolen Compensation Bill 2008 and asks that the committee hold a hearing in South Australia.
If the Stolen Generations Alliance of SA can be of further assistance please contact Brian Butler on 0419 801 085 or Simon Boyce on 0423 721 905.

Yours Sincerely

Brian Butler Indigenous Delegate for SA Stolen Generations Alliance

Simon Boyce Non-Indigenous Delegate for SA Stolen Generations Alliance