

8th April 2008

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on
Legal and Constitutional Affairs

Dear Secretary

Re: Submission into the Senate Committee Inquiry into the Stolen Generation Compensation Bill 2008

The Northern Territory Stolen Generations Aboriginal Corporation (NTSGAC) support the Stolen Generations Compensation Bill and therefore, would like to be involved in future discussions in regards to this Bill.

NTSGAC has continued to participate in the Stolen Generations Movement since the 1994 “ Going Home Conference”, also known as “The Long Road Home”, conference at Kormilda College in Darwin. During this conference recommendations were made supporting compensation, education and litigation. These recommendations later led into National consultations and discussions by Stolen Generations Peoples telling their stories in the “Bringing Them Home”, Report (BTH).

The NTSGAC has participated at a National Level in regards to Stolen Generations issues while involved with the National Sorry Day Committee, and is currently represented on the National Stolen Generations Alliance – Australians for Healing, Truth & Justice. It must also be brought to attention the recently successful tender for The Top End Link – Up Service now housed within this Corporation. Our organisation has now formed an MOU with Central Australian Stolen Generations and Families Aboriginal Corporation, Katherine Regional Stolen Generations and the Kimberly Stolen Generations as part of the Northern Stolen Generations Movement.

NTSGAC supports the Western Australian Governments response to their compensation package and the “Redress Scheme”, also the Tasmanian Compensation package, that has been important to assisting the “Healing” process for many Stolen Generations Peoples with both their State Governments taking responsibility of this issue. Taking this in mind the Northern Territory has a unique position in this as they have always had direct linkages and come under the Federal Government policies. In stating this the Federal Government should acknowledge and negotiate with the Stolen Generations from the whole of the Northern Territory for clear and concise directions and consultation. The NTSGAC also supports the implementing of all 54 Recommendations from the Bringing Them Home Report.

Yours Sincerely
Cynthia Santiago
Chairperson for NTSGAC