



Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement Inc.

MEDIA RELEASE

VICTIMS COMPENSATION

The Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement congratulates Premier Rann and his Government in introducing a compensation scheme for victims of "*Children in State Care*" as a result of the Mullighan Inquiry.

ALRM CEO, Neil Gillespie said it is a responsible response by a Government that appears to care for abuse victims.

"I personally express my best wishes to all future claimants in their pursuit of justice for their suffering and sincerely hope this goes some way to easing their pain, suffering and emotional stresses," Mr Gillespie said.

"This is the type of decision that any responsible and compassionate Government should make on behalf of those that have suffered at the hands of others whilst in State care.

"These victims have suffered over many years and it is refreshing that the Rann Government is establishing a suitable compensation scheme so that these victims may move on with their lives."

Mr Gillespie said he also expected that there will be other relevant and appropriate support services available to assist those victims because while the quantum is not significant, it is a start, that will enable those in pain to receive some relief, including Aboriginal victims".

"I hope, indeed expect, that Aboriginal victims of the Stolen Generations are treated equally in accessing justice through a compensation scheme to be introduced by the State Government, thereby reducing their torment in the same manner as the victims of abuse suffered by *Children in State Care*".

It is ALRM's view that the Rann Government has a moral obligation now to address the compensation claims of the victims of the Stolen Generations in a similar manner to the scheme announced for *Children in State Care* and in line with similar schemes in other State jurisdictions.

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For interview

Neil Gillespie CEO ALRM 0417 086 025

FYI: The Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement Inc provides legal services and associated activities (legal aid services, financial counselling, law reform and advocacy, the Aboriginal Visitors Scheme and community education) for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in South Australia. ALRM is an independent incorporated Aboriginal community organisation.