



MEDIA RELEASE

Apology to the Forgotten Australians & Former Child Migrants

The Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement congratulates Prime Minister Kevin Rudd for the National Apology to those who, as children, have suffered as a result of being removed from their families and homes and placed into institutions and foster care in Australia.

ALRM CEO, Mr Neil Gillespie said it was the right decision and one of which we should be proud.

“They were innocent victims removed from families and in many instances never reconnected.”

“Australia has matured as a nation since the Rudd Government came to power. It has apologized to the Stolen Generations, and supported the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* and now it has said sorry to those brought to this country and who suffered through institutionalization.”

Mr. Gillespie noted the Prime Minister’s commitment to “continue to provide funding support for these organizations in the future as they continue to advocate for the interests of their number”.

Mr. Gillespie asked that with this refreshing air of responsibility and acknowledgement of past wrongs, would the Prime Minister follow through with a similar commitment to support ALRM in pursuing justice for members of the Stolen Generations as he has for the Forgotten Australians and Child Migrants.

“What the Prime Minister has done is breath life into our sense of national social responsibility.”

“He now needs to provide equal access to justice for members of the Stolen Generations as recommended by the United Nations Human Rights Committee in its communication with Australia in April 2009,” he said.

For interview

Neil Gillespie is available for comment on +61417086025

FYI: The Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement Inc provides legal services and associated activities (legal aid, legal 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 organization