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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **SA GOVERNMENT IS RIGHT NOT TO CHALLENGE COMPENSATION**

South Australia's peak Aboriginal Legal Rights organisation (ALRM) has applauded the State Government's decision not to challenge a compensation payout to Ngarrindjeri man, Bruce Trevorrow.

A landmark Supreme Court decision yesterday awarded Bruce Trevorrow just over \$500,000 compensation, after a 10 year legal battle.

ALRM CEO, Mr Neil Gillespie said it was a wonderful outcome that the judge recognised a wrong; in that Mr Trevorrow was stolen from his Aboriginal parents as an infant under the assimilation policies of that time.

"For Aboriginal people this is an historic win and one that gives hope to other Stolen Generations people," Mr Gillespie said.

Mr Trevorrow sought legal opinion from ALRM in 1994 as to whether he had a case. The legal battle continued with a private legal practitioner, Joanna Richardson.

"I congratulate Joanna Richardson and her legal team; and also acknowledge the work of those at ALRM, who worked on the case in its early stages."

Mr Gillespie said the decision by the State Government not to challenge the compensation awarded must also be applauded; but said more was needed to heal the hurt for others.

"ALRM would like to see the State Government establish a form of tribunal to address any further claims through a compensation fund. ALRM would appreciate being part of the establishment of any fund or tribunal," Mr Gillespie said.

Mr Gillespie said the Commonwealth Attorney-General, Phillip Ruddock must also be congratulated for his financial support in running the test case.

"A formal apology to the Stolen Generations would really be a good next step," Mr Gillespie said.

#### **Media Contact**

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FYI: The Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement Inc provides legal services and associated activities (legal aid and native title 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 organisation.