



Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement Inc.

MEDIA RELEASE

LITTLE PROGRESS AFTER THE HISTORIC NATIONAL APOLOGY

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As we near the first Anniversary of Australia's historic National Apology to the Stolen Generation, Aboriginal people are disappointed at the lack of progress on either a compensation or reparation scheme.

ALRM CEO, Mr Neil Gillespie said there had been little action by both State and Australian Governments to address outstanding issues.

“The devastating impact of those policies had an inter-generational effect which cannot be fixed with words alone,” Mr Gillespie said.

“What is required is a commitment to long-term strategies that are developed in consultation with Aboriginal people.”

ALRM has offered to meet with the State Government to work towards a just outcome, but the offer has fallen on deaf ears.

“In South Australia the Rann Government continues to deny responsibility for Aboriginal people in legal aid and also members of the Stolen Generation and is, we believe, in breach of international obligations under the *Universal Declaration on Human Rights and the Convention for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination*.”

“Regrettably the Rann Government also continues its quest in appealing the decision in the Trevorrow Stolen Generation case – even though dropping the appeal would be the right thing to do after Mr Trevorrow's death,” Mr Gillespie said.

“I call on the Premier Mike Rann to do what is right. Right the wrongs of the past and do something constructive – rather than continue the destructive policies of past governments.”

CEO ALRM, Neil Gillespie is available for comment:
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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 organization