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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **HEALING FOR STOLEN GENERATIONS CAN NOW BEGIN**

South Australia's Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement says the historic apology today to the Stolen Generations will go a long way towards healing the pain of the policies that have devastated Aboriginal families, over many generations.

ALRM Chief Executive Officer, Mr Neil Gillespie said with the apology, the Australian public has recognised the forcible removal of Indigenous children was a gross violation of human rights and should now move quickly to a more practical commitment to redressing the wrongs.

"It is the responsibility of the states to put in place a compensation fund that directly assists members of the Stolen Generations and their families, so that they can begin to work through the trauma of what has happened to them."

"Tasmania took the lead in 2006 and the others should now follow. There is nothing to stand in the way of following Tasmania's example—to do so would be to ensure that this gesture was not just symbolic," Mr Gillespie said.

In South Australia, Bruce Trevorrow was the first person from the Stolen Generations to secure compensation after a long hard struggle through the courts.

"The courts recognised that compensation was owed to him."

"The challenge now is for other governments across the country to demonstrate that they can deal with this issue in a fair and just manner. It would be sad and only adds to the pain if Aboriginal people had to keep going to the courts to be compensated for the wrongs done to them," Mr Gillespie said.

For interview, contact ALRM CEO, Neil Gillespie (m) 0417 086 025 or (08) 8113 3702

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.