



Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement Inc.

MEDIA RELEASE

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SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S STOLEN GENERATION TAKES LEGAL ACTION

South Australia's Stolen Generations victims have taken legal action following continued refusal by the State's Attorney General to resolve a large number of claims.

ALRM CEO, Neil Gillespie says ALRM has recently filed legal actions on behalf of six Stolen Generations claimants and further actions will follow.

"It's a move that follows months of continued silence by Attorney General, Michael Atkinson not to negotiate or resolve Stolen Generation issues as an alternative to the courts."

"The number of potential Stolen Generations claims in South Australia has grown to more than 150, with victims left with no choice but to take action through the legal system," Mr Gillespie said.

Mr Gillespie says it's a legal fight that may cost the State millions of dollars in legal costs and compensation payouts, when it could have been easily resolved in a fair, just and equitable way through negotiation outside court.

"A range of legal actions will be pursued by ALRM, with ALRM also assisting a number of private legal firms who are preparing instructions from a number of Stolen Generations clients. Consideration is also being given to a class action," he said.

Mr Gillespie said in contrast to the State Government, the State Opposition Leader, Isobel Redmond is understood to support a scheme to right the wrongs in relation to the Stolen Generations.

"ALRM has serious concerns about the conduct of the State Government, particularly following the United Nations Human Rights Committee expressing concern in regard to members of the Stolen Generations and making recommendations in regard to reparation and compensation," Mr Gillespie said.

For interview

Neil Gillespie is available for comment on 0417086025

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.