

# Alliance for Forgotten Australians

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Alliance for Forgotten Australians supports the Apology to the Stolen Generation**

The Alliance for Forgotten Australians (AFA) welcomes the forthcoming apology from the Australian Government to the Stolen Generation of Indigenous Australians and the consultation that preceded it.

AFA is a national alliance representing the interests of the Forgotten Australians - people who were raised in orphanages, Homes or other out-of-home care in the 20th century.

Spokesperson for AFA, Ms Caroline Carroll, said, "The Apology to the Stolen Generation is well overdue, and we commend the Federal Government for delivering it.

"Along with these Indigenous children, I and other Alliance members spent years in institutions. We can empathise with these adults who, as children, experienced horrors in the places that were supposed to care for them: serious and often criminal physical, sexual and emotional abuse, neglect and assault. The long term impacts can include poor health, low education outcomes, a lack of trust and security, difficulty in forming and maintaining loving relationships, a history of depression or anxiety and risk taking behaviours such as substance abuse.

"The practice of removing children, and of institutionalising children, is inherently abhorrent. In the case of many Indigenous children, their removal was prompted solely by racism. As a result, these children lost their connection to their family and their culture.

"Healing begins when the pain caused to a person is admitted and is acknowledged to have been wrong. It is important for all governments to acknowledge the wrongs of the past, to say 'Sorry' and to pledge that children, black or white, will never be institutionalised again.

"We stand beside the Stolen Generation in applauding this long-overdue apology."

For further information, contact Caroline Carroll on 03 9329 1247 or the Secretariat at Families Australia on 02 6273 4885