

# Alliance for Forgotten Australians

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Alliance for Forgotten Australians welcomes release of the Mullighan report in South Australia**

The Alliance for Forgotten Australians (AFA) welcomes the release by the South Australian Government of Commissioner Ted Mullighan's report into the abuse of children in care and congratulates the Commissioner on his work.

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. AFA members can empathise with those 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.

Spokesperson for AFA, Ms Caroline Carroll, said, "AFA would like to express its admiration for all those who took part in the inquiry, telling their stories and re-living the pain of the past. It is never easy to revisit the memories of an unhappy childhood, but it is essential that these stories be told. This is part of Australia's history, and the survivors need understanding and help.

"It is pleasing to see that the State Government is now looking to issue an apology. This is well overdue and is very important to the survivors. AFA would also welcome a commitment from the South Australian Government to an across the board redress scheme for victims. Any suggestion that existing opportunities to obtain redress are adequate ignores the extreme difficulty traumatised individuals experience in being forced to act alone against the state. A general recognition of the damage caused, and an attempt to provide easily accessible redress, is appropriate and indeed necessary. Tasmania, Queensland and now WA have gone down this path, and we commend them for it."

For further information, contact Caroline Carroll on 03 9329 1247 or the Secretariat at Families Australia on 0407 343 741.