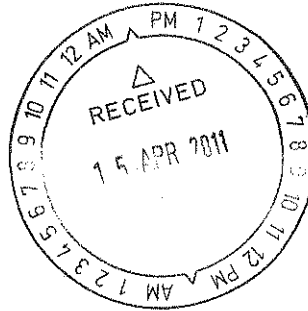


12 April 2011



Dr. Timothy Kendall
Acting Committee Secretary
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600



Dear Dr. Kendall,

Thank you for your letter dated the 4th April 2011, regarding the **Inquiry into the Commonwealth Contributions to Former Forced Adoption Policies and Practices.**

By way of background, Jewish Care (Victoria) is one of the largest and oldest providers of care in Victoria. We were established in 1848 to provide accommodation and care for the homeless, destitute and frail. Based on foundational principles of justice, righteousness, inclusivity and moral responsibility, it is our express mission to support and enhance the wellbeing of the Jewish community of Victoria, many of whom migrated to these shores precisely because of our nation's reverence for life, liberty and justice and the promise of protection from unlawful and harmful actions which Australian citizenship represents. Accordingly, our organisation applauds the Government in initiating this important inquiry and endorses the promotion of social justice which this inquiry represents.

We thank you for bringing to our attention the adverse comments submitted to the Senate Community Affairs Committee, which we have reviewed with great concern. Regretfully, records and historical knowledge of this incident are now unavailable, and we are therefore unable to comment on the alleged events and consequences.

Nonetheless, we empathise with the plight of the individual identified in Submission 169 and would welcome the opportunity to meet with a view to assisting with reconciliation and counselling.

If you wish to discuss anything with regards to this issue or any other matter pertaining to Jewish Care Victoria, please feel free to contact me on **(03) 8517 5692.**

In closing, I genuinely wish the Senate Community Affairs Reference Group much success in developing a national framework to assist states and territories to appropriately support the individuals within our community who were subject to forced adoption policies.

Yours Sincerely,

Bill Appleby
Chief Executive Officer

רחם
chesed
kindness

משפחה
mishpacha
family

דרך ארץ
derech eretz
respect

צדקה
tzedakah
charity

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