



Minister for Community Services

Hon Lisa Neville MP

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Senator Claire Moore
Chair
Community Affairs References Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Moore

Thank you for your letter dated 23 September 2008 to the Premier, the Hon John Brumby MP regarding the Community Affairs References Committee Inquiry into the Implementation of the Recommendations of the *Lost Innocents* and *Forgotten Australians* reports and your invitation for the Government of Victoria to make a submission to the inquiry. The Premier has referred your letter to me for reply as this matter falls within my portfolio of responsibilities.

In response to the *Lost Innocents* report in 2001, the Victorian Government has provided funding to the Child Migrant's Trust, contributing \$30,000 per annum to enable the Trust to provide services to the Victorian child migrants. As child migration is a Commonwealth responsibility, the Victorian Government does not intend to make a submission to this inquiry in relation to the *Lost Innocents* report.

In regard to the *Forgotten Australians* report, as you will be aware, the Victorian Government this year announced funding of \$7.1 million over the next four years to further develop support services for care leavers. In addition, the Victorian Government has made a significant contribution of \$30,000 to a Victorian memorial for care leavers which is currently being developed, and is a partner in the 'Who am I?' research project with Melbourne University to look at how care leavers can gain better access to records about their time in out of home care.

Victoria is currently focusing its efforts on establishing the new services which will improve and increase the level of support given to care leavers and is unable at this time to make a submission in relation to progress on implementation the recommendations of the *Forgotten Australians* report to the inquiry.

Yours sincerely

Hon Lisa Neville MP
Minister for Community Services

19/12/2008