
Dear Ms Dennett

I write in response to Senator Barnett's question which we agreed to take on notice.

After discussion with my PIAC colleagues I can advise that PIAC, instructed by clients who were members of the Stolen Generations, sought legal advice from Senior Counsel and a national law firm in 1997 on the legal issues which might attach to a potential Federal government apology to the Stolen Generations. The advice was one of a number sought from various lawyers on a range of legal and other topics particular to the needs of PIAC's Stolen Generations clients. Extracts from some of the written advices were included in a PIAC publication, 'The Stolen Generation (sic): A Legal Issues Paper for Lawyers and Other Advisers.'

The advice from Senior Counsel on the legal aspects of an apology, was an oral advice; a written advice was provided by the law firm, which was not included in the PIAC publication. The latter remains subject to solicitor-client privilege and is not available for distribution. The gist of the contents of those advices however corresponds with my response to Senator Barnett at the hearing.

Yours sincerely

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