
From: Dina & Harry Smith
Sent: Tuesday, 8 April 2008 10:20 AM
To: Legal and Constitutional, Committee (SEN)
Subject: Submission -Senate Inquiry into the Stolen Generation

Attention; Committee Secretary.

To all it may concern:

I would like the legitimacy of the following statements to be examined and validated by the Inquiry into the stolen generation:

‘Every Aboriginal person and therefore all have been in some way adversely affected by the crimes against the stolen generation.’

‘The lives of some of the worst affected continue to provide social hurdles for others, who are judged by stereotypes and feel for their friends and relatives.’

‘The complete decimation of some aboriginal cultures needs to stop. There are many Aboriginal cultures who are struggling to maintain their traditional heritage and way of life. Once this knowledge is gone, it is gone forever. This should be made a priority and learning is an act of respect.’

‘There are many other examples of crimes committed against aboriginal people like the stolen generation that still need to be accepted and admitted to. The stolen generation is an example of a systematic intervention into the freedom and sustainability of these people. Many of the negatively perpetuating cycles evident today started after these events.’

‘The Link up websites has proven to be a great resource in helping the stolen generation and have contributed greatly to national solidarity. All should have free access to this Website. It is now the young who have the skills to access the digital age and pass it on to others, benefiting and connecting the whole community.’

‘In a similar attempt to the work by the Steven Spielberg’s Shoah Foundation, each Aboriginal person should be given an opportunity to put on record how they were affected by the stolen generation and other events, with priority given to the eldest. Many stories will be collaborated and many will feel closure.’

‘Research has shown that focusing on pre-natal care and early childhood education (e.g. mentoring) is proving highly successful and offers the best long term returns and value.’

‘Aboriginals from strong, independent, and joyful communities are in the best position to reach those who are disillusioned.’

‘Aboriginal people want to govern their communities. To the most part there are white Australians in the legal, police and financial power positions.’

I pledge my support these assertions as a media communicator and would like to conclude with a quote from my Grandmother; ‘It is certainly time that the Aboriginal people received their due recognition and justice but nothing can make up for the fact that their children were taken from

them.'

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions,
With Truth then dare,

Roy S. Smith