

Mr Peter Hallahan
Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



THE SOCIAL
RESPONSIBILITIES
COMMISSION

ANGLICAN PROVINCE
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Stolen Generation Compensation Bill 2008

Dear Mr Hallahan

The Social Responsibilities Commission has advocated for justice for Indigenous Australians since its establishment in the early 1980s. This has taken the form of education activities in the Church and the wider community, taking business to church synods and in engaging in community and political lobbying.


The Commission provided the Church in Western Australia with research support during the period of the *National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from Their Families*. Subsequently, the Commission made my services available to the Bringing Them Home Committee (WA) Inc – which has organised the Sorry Day commemorations in Perth since 1998 – and the Bringing Them Home Trust. The latter was a community based trust which made funds available to members of the Stolen Generations for family reunions and to enable people to return to country. Sadly the Trust was wound up in November 2007 as the few sources of funding available had dried up.

This submission is very simple. It reiterates the Commission's support for those recommendations of the Bringing Them Report which call for compensation and reparations. To the extent that the Stolen Generation Compensation Bill 2008 fulfills those recommendations, the Bill is supported. Where it falls short, it is preferable that the schema set out in the Report be followed.

There remains one issue of contention. It has been the practice of this Commission to refer to Stolen Generations (plural), and the Bill should reflect the reality that the removal policies covered multiple generations of Indigenous people.

I wish the Committee well in its deliberations and look forward to the report.

Yours sincerely



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Executive Officer

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