

Apology to Australia's Indigenous Peoples, Parliament of Australia

13 February 2008 – 13 February 2008

Other Names: • Apology to the Stolen Generations
• The National Apology to Australia's Indigenous Peoples

URL:

https://www.aph.gov.au/Visit_Parliament/Art/Exhibitions/Custom_Media/Apology_to_Australias_Indigenous_Peoples

Details

On 13 February 2008, then Prime Minister Kevin Rudd opened the Parliament of Australia by apologising to the Indigenous peoples of Australia.

The Prime Minister said:

We apologise for the laws and policies of successive Parliaments and governments that have inflicted profound grief, suffering and loss on these our fellow Australians.

We apologise especially for the removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families, their communities and their country.

For the pain, suffering and hurt of these Stolen Generations, their descendants and for their families left behind, we say sorry.

To the mothers and the fathers, the brothers and the sisters, for the breaking up of families and communities, we say sorry.

And for the indignity and degradation thus inflicted on a proud people and a proud culture, we say sorry.

Invited Members of the Stolen Generations heard the apology first-hand in the gallery of The House of Representatives chamber at Parliament House, Canberra. The Opposition Leader, Brendan Nelson, replied.

Crowds of people across Australia watched the Apology on large screens in their own cities and towns. Photographic and video records of those witnessing the Apology, show sombre and reflective faces as the Prime Minister spoke of the wrongs governments had inflicted on Indigenous peoples across Australia and a huge wave of tears, relief and applause when he finished speaking.

Gallery



Sorry Day, 2007

Description: This is a copy of an image from the Stolen Generations timeline on the Creative Spirits website, with the caption: 'Sorry Day 2007. Someone had planted an Aboriginal flag on the ground expressing his sorrow for what had happened to Indigenous people'.



Sorry, Kevin Rudd's Apology to "The stolen Generation"

Description: This is a link to a video on the Kevin Rudd YouTube channel, of Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd apologising to the Stolen Generations.

More info

Related Entries

Related Events

- [National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from Their Families, Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission \(1995 - 1997\)](#)
- [Apology to the Aboriginal people of Australia for the separation of children from their families, Parliament of New South Wales \(18 June 1997\)](#)

The Federal Parliament's apology to Australia's Indigenous People was the last of a series of apologies issued by state and territory governments in the period 1997 to 2008.
- [Apology to Aboriginal People, Government of Tasmania \(1997\)](#)

Related Archival Collections

- [Bringing Them Home after the Apology oral history project \[sound recording\], National Library of Australia \(2009 - current\)](#)
- [Bringing Them Home Oral History Project \[sound recording\] \(1998 - 2002\)](#)

Resources

- Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, [Bringing Them Home: Report of the National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from their Families](#), 1997
- Olsson, Kristina, *All the lost children*, The Weekend Australian Magazine, 30 March 2013
- Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, [The Stolen Generations](#), No date
- Small, Marilyn, *Unfinished business: the Forgotten Australians*, 2009
- [Marie Wood interviewed by Ann-Mari Jordens in the Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants oral history project \[sound recording\]](#), 13 May 2010
- [Bessie Ejai interviewed by Mary Anne Jebb in the Bringing Them Home after the Apology oral history project](#), 22 July 2010
- [Allan Mansell interviewed by Lyn McLeavy in the Bringing Them Home after the Apology oral history project \[sound recording\]](#), 9 August 2001 - 14 August 2001
- Parry, Naomi, [Federal Government Apologises For Child Abuse](#), newmatilda.com, 16 November 2009
- Australian Human Rights Commission, [Bringing Them Home: The 'Stolen Children' Report \(1997\)](#), 2011
- Australian Human Rights Commission, [Bringing them home](#), 2010