

Apology to Forgotten Australians and Child Migrants, Parliament of New South Wales

19 September 2009 – 19 September 2009

Details

On 19 September 2009 then New South Wales Premier, Nathan Rees, held a special ceremony in the Botanic Gardens to formally apologise to the state's Forgotten Australians and child migrants. Mr Rees and then Community Services Minister Linda Burney unveiled a memorial as 'a lasting tribute to the children who suffered in care in NSW'.

The Sydney Morning Herald reported that:

Apologising to all those who suffered, [Premier Rees] said: 'I say on behalf of the government, I am sorry for any hurt and distress you suffered in the care of the state. This should never have happened.'

'I'm sorry that some of you were physically, psychologically or sexually abused. This should never have happened.'

'I'm sorry for any lasting disadvantages you have experienced as a result of your childhood suffering. This should never have happened.'

'I'm sorry that many of you have been unable to return to your families and loved ones.'

The premier vowed that the state would never revisit this dark chapter in its history and asked for the forgiveness of all who had spent childhood years in the state's care ... However, Mr Rees did not broach the subject of compensation.'

More info

Related Entries

Related Events

- [Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care, Parliament of Australia \(2003 - 2005\)](#)

The NSW Premier's apology was a response to the Senate Community Affairs Reference Committee Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care.

Resources

- Senate Community Affairs References Committee Secretariat, Parliament of Australia, [*Lost Innocents and Forgotten Australians Revisited: Report on the progress with the implementation of the recommendations of the Lost Innocents and Forgotten Australians Reports*](#), 2009
 - Senate Community Affairs References Committee Secretariat, Parliament of Australia, [*Forgotten Australians: A report on Australians who experienced institutional or out-of-home care as children*](#), 2004
 - Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, [*The Forgotten Australians, Business of the House, Speakers Hornery Ms Sonia; Goward Ms Pru; Ashton Mr Alan; Maguire Mr Daryl; Morris Mr Matthew*](#), Hansard, 25 November 2010
 - Benns, Matthew, [*Rees offers apology to casualties of care system*](#), The Sydney Morning Herald, 20 September 2009
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