



MEDIA RELEASE

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Sorry Strengthens Reconciliation

UnitingCare Wesley has welcomed the Australian Government's formal apology to the Stolen Generations and called for all of the recommendations of the *Bringing them home* report to be promptly implemented.

"The forcible removal of Aboriginal children from their families and culture caused unimaginable suffering for generations of Aboriginal people," Rev Peter McDonald of UnitingCare Wesley said today.

"Saying 'sorry' won't wipe out all of that pain but it can breathe new life and hope into damaged relationships and strengthen the healing process."

"The heart of the Christian gospel is that saying sorry leads to reconciliation and hope for the future."

"I am very glad that we are hearing sorry from the Federal government as this will strengthen reconciliation and create hope for all Australians."

"The Government's apology is a momentous occasion for this nation but it should not be simply thought of as a one-day event. We look forward to the Federal government acting on its commitments to Aboriginal people."

"Over ten years ago, Australia's Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission released the *Bringing them home* report. It contained 54 recommendations, one of which called for official apologies from Australian Parliaments and 'appropriate reparation'."

"We call on the Australian Government to resist the temptation to cherry-pick recommendations from the *Bringing them home* report."

"UnitingCare Wesley is calling for all of the recommendations of the *Bringing them home* report to be promptly implemented," Rev McDonald said.

Further Comments

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