



Victorian Parliamentary Apology

for Past Adoption Practices

Thursday 25 October 2012

This Parliament expresses our formal and sincere apology to the mothers, fathers, sons and daughters who were profoundly harmed by past adoption practices in Victoria.

We acknowledge that many thousands of Victorian babies were taken from their mothers, without informed consent, and that this loss caused immense grief.

We express our sincere sorrow and regret for the health and welfare policies that condoned the practice of forced separations.

These were misguided, unwarranted, and they caused immeasurable pain.

To the mothers and fathers who were denied the opportunity to love and care for your children, and for the pain and trauma you experienced, we are deeply sorry.

To the sons and daughters for whom adoption meant continual anxiety, uncertainty and the deprivation of a natural family connection – we offer our sincere apology.

Today, with all Members of the Parliament of Victoria gathered in this House, we acknowledge the devastating and ongoing impacts of these practices of the past.

To all those harmed we offer our heartfelt sympathy and apologise unreservedly.

We undertake to never forget what happened and to never repeat these practices.

A blue ink signature of Ted Baillieu, consisting of a large, sweeping initial 'T' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Hon. Ted Baillieu MLA
Premier of Victoria

A blue ink signature of Peter Ryan, featuring a complex, multi-looped initial 'P' followed by several smaller loops.

Hon. Peter Ryan MLA
Deputy Premier of Victoria

A blue ink signature of Daniel Andrews, with a large, stylized initial 'D' and a long, sweeping horizontal line.

Hon. Daniel Andrews MLA
Leader of the Opposition

A blue ink signature of Greg Barber, featuring a large, stylized initial 'G' followed by a long, wavy horizontal line.

Mr. Greg Barber MLC
Leader of the Victorian Greens