



**Nick McKim MP**  
Greens Leader  
Member for Franklin  
**Tasmanian Greens**

Monday 30 July 2012

The Hon. Lara Giddings MP  
Premier  
The Executive Building  
15 Murray S,  
Hobart, TAS, 7000

Dear Premier,

On behalf of the Tasmanian Greens, I and our Health spokesperson, Paul O'Halloran MP, are writing in regards to the Senate Committee Report, *Commonwealth Contribution to Former Forced Adoption Policies and Practices* released on the 29<sup>th</sup> of February this year, and specifically its recommendation that all States should issue formal statements of apology to those parents and children affected by these forced adoptions policies.

As you would be aware, on the 18<sup>th</sup> of July this year the South Australian Parliament held a special sitting for the specific purpose of issuing a formal apology as recommended by the Senate Committee. This follows Western Australia issuing a formal apology in 2010 around the time the Senate committee enquiry was being established.

The Greens appreciate that when we have raised this important matter in the Parliament you have advised that you are seeking advice and working with the Minister for Health, however I must stress that for many affected stakeholders much needed action appears delayed, especially in light of the recent South Australian apology.

Hence we write to invite you to a tripartite meeting, in the interests of moving this sensitive issue forward, on behalf of the many Tasmanian parents and children who were torn apart by these past practices, and whose lives remain affected to this day.

Many stakeholders with whom we have discussed this matter seek recognition that they were forced to give up their child against their will, and recognition that the ongoing hurt and dislocation is exacerbated by the bureaucratic hurdles that impede the unification of parents with their children even now. While a formal apology by the State Parliament will not undo these destructive actions of the past, it will be the first step along this much needed-path of recognition and healing.

These practices began in the early 1950s. Sadly this means that in some cases any recognition now is too late for those who have not lived to find their child or hear the state parliament

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apologise. We must not delay acting on the Senate Committee's recommendations in the interest of human decency and natural justice.

Mr O'Halloran and I urge you to take up this invitation to meet with both us and Liberal Leader Will Hodgman. Other tragic episodes in our history, such as the Stolen Generation and those abused as Wards of the State, demonstrate that the community expects leadership from all their elected representatives across the political spectrum, and wish to see us put aside political differences and co-operate to address the issue at hand.

With genuine goodwill we offer such a forum by we can work together to develop an appropriate way forward to finally offer formal recognition to the many Tasmanian mother, fathers, daughters, sons, sisters and brothers who were denied knowing each other.

We have written in similar terms to the Leader of the Opposition.

On behalf of the Greens, I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,



**Nick McKim MP**  
**Greens Leader**



**Paul O'Halloran MP**  
**Greens Children's spokesperson**

Enc:

1. Text of motion tabled by Paul O'Halloran MP, 6 March 2012
2. Hansard from the South Australian Parliament: Statement by the Premier the Hon. Jay Weatherill MP, the Liberal Opposition Leader Ms Isobel Redman MP, and the Greens Upper House Member Tammy Franks MP

Cc: The Hon Michelle O'Byrne MP, Minister for Children and Health