



## OPEN LETTER

12 February 2009

The Prime Minister of Australia  
The Hon Kevin Rudd MHR  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

On 13th February 2008 the Stolen Generations came together as One. We cried as One. We felt pain as One. Now it is time to come as One and have One Legal Agreement with the Australian Government for compensation of our Abuse as One.

Stolen Generation	Versus	Australia
I people	I claim	1 resolution

Nearly a year has gone and it would be sad if we now have to spend the rest of our lives in Court waiting for compensation. I don't know about any of you, BUT I never thought in my life time I would ever hear the word "Sorry".

If I don't receive compensation, then I rather not hear the word "Sorry".

So this is my letter to you, Prime Minister, Mr Kevin Rudd:

Dear Mr K Rudd  
And  
To the Speaker of the House

I am a Stolen Generation person in South Australia and I originally wrote this letter when I came back from Canberra.

I would like to say "Thank You" for saying "Sorry".

I thought I would never ever hear that in my life time.

So to you, Kevin, and the Labour Party, some of the Liberals, Nationals and any other Party people, "Thanks to all", and to the Australian public too for saying "Sorry" on Wednesday 13th of February 2008.

When I sat in Parliament House I felt Kevin that you as Mr Rudd, Prime Minister, were telling all of Australia about my life as a Stolen Generation.

I sobbed quietly to myself as tears ran gently down my face while my heart was being torn up into many pieces. To sit there and watch our uncles, our aunties, our cousins, all of them who were softly sobbing, some with their heads leaning down, just broke my heart even more.

I also thought of the Indigenous Fellas who were looking down from Heaven, some who had died in pain and some with their hearts that were broken and some who could just cope not knowing who their parents were, not knowing who they were.

They too never thought that they would be sitting up there in Heaven listening to you Kevin saying the word "Sorry". A few extra tears ran down my face as I thought of my sister Lorraine who always believed that the Nungas would live in a better Australia.

She never stopped trying to make it better for the Nungas.

The word "Sorry" was good to hear, but the pain just came right back. To feel your memories of your life going past you so fast as each memory felt like it was caught inside a single tear as it ran down your face and fell down onto your lap.

I was only one person coping with my feelings of being Stolen.

But to feel them rise up from the deepest parts of your mind and then your heart makes you feel that you have just been Stolen again.

So just imagine every one of us who has been Stolen to hear the word "Sorry" and then all of our feelings rising up like a Phoenix.

So when Dr Brendan Nelson began his speech it started off good. I thought that this man has a heart. But sadly enough his speech then turned to nothing.

Little did he realize that his speech had just turned him into an indirect racist person.

Racism can be hidden in words so easily and implied as a single sentence. I felt sad at that moment not knowing if it was him or his Party's belief.

To say "Sorry", and then blame the Indigenous people for not getting over it - well that's "Food for Thought" isn't it. Then to say it was that the Churches and Government people at that time that "Thought they were doing the right thing".

But that is not justifiable by any means. It wasn't just the Non Indigenous people who were Abused by Church ministers/nuns/Orphanage workers/Fostered and Adopted parents and other people. It also happened to Indigenous people too.

So why have the Non Indigenous people received their payment for their Life time of Abuse?

We were children not adults.

We were Indigenous people without any rights. We did not have a say on our lives, and neither did our parents nor our grand parents. We were ripped away from the arms of our mothers and fathers, torn away from our families and culture, then lied to.

They then openly justified the reasons why we were Stolen.

Then some were made Ward of the State, slaves in some homes and sex toys to the undesirables.

"It was not Dr Nelson's fault of course". "It was everyone else's fault".

If that is not hand balling then I must be a dumb arse. Well the Liberal Government were in power at that time when I was Stolen. Robert Gordon Menzies was the Prime Minister (2nd time) at that time.

So why didn't he say "Stop Stealing those Indigenous children from their parents" ?

The big question is: Are the Liberal Party and the other Parties going to support our quest for compensation for a life time of Abuse, Heartache and Confusion ?

Or are you all going to follow suit of the last 100 plus years like your predecessors ?

Funny thing is we could all work together on a Legal Agreement that will focus on the Last of the Stolen Generations compensation.

John Howard can promise 1 Billion Dollars on a campaign that he didn't win - how is that justifiable?

When a woman from Queensland gets locked up for only 6 months in a detention prison in Australia and then gets 2 million for her grief, how is that justifiable?

Then what do I get for being Stolen; molested at the age of 8 years and verbally abused within the community; abused within the education system; abused here and abused there – etc ?

I am only 1 person of the Stolen Generation and I have had all the signs ranging from mental /sexual / abuse and I saw physical abuse and don't forget verbal abuse in my life time.

It even happened last week at Colonnades shop. And when there is an abusive moment, what does that come under?

Is it self esteem that comes under the banner of being Stolen ?

Or do I get told: "Get over It" !

If a man or woman kidnaps a child or children, then that is an offence and they are charged. Then a jail sentence is served upon them. Compensation to that child is the next procedure.

If a few men or women kidnap a child or children, then that is an offence. They are charged. Then that is called conspiracy to kidnap a child or children. Then a jail sentence is served upon them. Conspiracy is a bigger offence. Compensation to that child is the next procedure.

So is there a charge for punishment within the legal system for stealing a Stolen Generation child?

Or were I and the rest of the Stolen Generation just kidnapped for fun ? Or were we in some conspiracies to be kidnapped as children ?

Should they be charged? And then a jail sentence served upon those who took us ?

Compensation to that child and so for the whole Stolen Generation is the next procedure.

I have heard that the meaning of the word “Stolen” = Past - participle of “steal”.

steal [*stee*l]

v (past stole [*sto*l], past participle sto-len [*st?l?n*], present participle steal-ing, 3rd person present singular steals)

1. vt take unlawfully: to take something that belongs to somebody else, illegally or without the owner's permission.
2. vt take furtively: to take or get something secretly, surreptitiously, or through trickery

Furtively = fur-tive [*fúrtiv*]

adj

1. secretive: done in a way that is intended to escape notice - conspirators exchanging furtive glances
2. shifty: with the appearance, or giving the impression, of somebody who has something to hide.

Are there grounds for a charge for punishment here and does Compensation need to go to that Stolen Generation child or children ?

To gain one's own history is to have your own culture, families' ties, beliefs, customs, spiritual & physical elements which builds the inner you, creates that certain you within the family and clan structure.

But to find your personal self lost within another environment is not just missing out.

It's the biggest whole of emptiness within you that you always carry all your life: a sense of not belonging anywhere just existing and carrying a burden that you have done something wrong.

A life time of being “The Skeleton in the Closet”.

Being of the Stolen Generation has now filtered to my children and my grandchildren.

My children are, and have gone, down the same road as me when it comes to being Indigenous. Knowing that you're black but not knowing what kind of black that you are or are not.

They feel that they only half belong within the Indigenous family lifestyle. Well, I also looked at my grandchildren and they too are going down the same road.

3 Generations of disarray to the Stolen Generations: 3 Generations – “Wow” now that is very sad and that is 3 times Stolen.

Because as the head of my family I don't know how to change the outcome to my life, how can I change my children's lives and my grandchildren and their brand new lives. Being the 1st in my family to be Stolen is not a honour. It's a curse.

So this is how I see it happening Mr Rudd.

If I receive \$2 million every 6 months - Eg like that lady in Queensland for her stress, pain, abuse, grief, and suffering, then as I am 53 yrs old now so my life of stress, pain, abuse, grief and suffering adds up to \$212 million for my life on these terms.

Well what about it Mr Rudd ?

OR

Here is my Legal Agreement to start by 13th February 2009 called **“For the Term of My Natural Life”** - Payment /compensation per month & per year:

**“For the Term of My Stolen Life”**

- 1/ That Total Amounts of all my payments I receive as a Stolen Generation to be passed on to my children / grandchildren when I die.
- 2/ These payments to be divided within my family.
- 3/ All children and grand children nominated by families to a State Stolen Generation Lawyer eg a Family Account in each Family name.
- 4/ Unexpected grandchildren to be nominated on Birth.
- 5/ Lawyer to be inform of a Death.
- 6/ Tax Free benefits
- 7/ That a **“Cost of Being Stolen”** 5% rise to each consecutive year from 2008

Remember: there are between 50,000 and 30,000 Stolen Generation People left.

**Stolen Generation Self-Government Body**

- 1/ 1 Committee per State and Territory and from them 2 reps to a New National Committee
- 2 / Non Indigenous people Reconciliation associates to New National Committee
- 3/ Brief: Each State and Territory to work with their own Stolen Generation People in the Finances and other issues.

**Tax Free Contribution for Each State and Territory**

Each State and Territory to get money from the Commonwealth and institutions and bodies involved in the stealing - for every Stolen Generation Person:

- 1/ \$20,000 per mth x 12 mths = \$240,000
  - 2/ plus bonus of \$ 7,000 (Birthday Gift)
- Sub Total \$231, 000

**Housing**

Government housing

- Each Stolen Generation Person will be given their own house. Own Home (Rent or mortgage cost)
- To be paid by Govt. per month.

Breakdown of \$20,000 per month

(to be taken out automatically - B/pay)

Each Stolen Generation Person gets

\$200 per mth x 12mths = \$2400 Petrol per year

Each Stolen Generation Person gets

\$300 per mth x 12mths = \$3600 Food per year

Each Stolen Generation Person gets

\$200 per mth x 12mths = \$2400 Electricity per year

Each Stolen Generation Person gets  
\$200 per mth x 12mths = \$2400 Gas per year

Each Stolen Generation Person gets  
\$250 per mth x 12mths = \$3000 Telephone per year

Breakdown	Sub Total	\$ 1,150	per mth
	Sub Total	\$ 13,800	per year
Personal	Sub Total	\$ 18,850	per mth
	Sub Total	\$ 226,200	per year
Bonus	Sub Total	\$ 7,000	per year
	Total	\$ 231,000	per year

Total per person is \$240,000 per year and a bonus of \$ 7000

**Environmental Clause (Stolen Generation self-sustainability)**

1. Each person has to purchase - within the 1st year @ cost price  
Water Tank  
Solar Panelling
2. Money to come from their payments for 1 year - B/pay.

This is a simple and effective way of payments to bring compensation.

Due to the Issues of who has control of the National Sorry Day Committee Inc, in Canberra, that certain people have inflicted on the rest of Australia, I find myself disheartened and once again in disarray in being apart of the Stolen Generations.

I find that there are too many committees / groups and too many Clan groups being represented by lawyers wanting to go to court - way too many people are having a say on my life again.

Alternatively, there are people saying and doing things that I do not agree with. This is "my life" – "I was Stolen". So talk straight to me and not some committee / group / or govt body or anyone else. All compensation to each Stolen Generation can be easy if the Churches / State Govt/ Federal Govt all participate in payment for the Stolen Generation.

**My Poem**

Sorry is a start  
Give us hearts to understand  
That to destroy some-one's life is to create confusion;  
No matter what reason it was for  
Just does not change the outcome

As I ponder through my thoughts  
And wonder what my life would have been  
A life of an Indigenous person  
A true blue Aussie  
That I'll never ever can be.

I'll never see my true culture  
I'll never will be there  
To watch them sing and dance  
Because I never grew up in their care

My heart is in two places  
With my feet placed evenly on the ground  
I don't know where I belong  
As I tried to look all around  
Not quite fitting in either camps  
Not sure where to stand  
To have this ugly feelings  
As I hold out both my hands

It feels that no-one cares  
That I have cried and cried  
All my life of tears  
At times it's too hard to bare

I don't feel whole in my life  
No, Never, Not at all  
At times I've forgotten who I am  
I can't find my heart or soul  
I'm just not there

As a child in no mans land  
Its was hard to get to back to my home  
To the life of an Indigenous person  
To a family I had left behind

They had distorted my knowledge of myself  
And the knowledge of my life  
A past that was shaded in shadows  
A past of lies that now we know.

Buster (M.C.Turner) 2008

Who said?  
We have sought only our own security.  
We have exploited simply for our own ends.

I said!  
To be exploited simply for their ends is not ours.

A belief that to take some-one's life and place them in an environment that is culturally wrong is to wreck their appearance, is to blind us from their beauty.

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