



NEWS RELEASE

Premier of New South Wales

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PREMIER TO APOLOGISE TODAY AND DELIVER \$9 MILLION TO 'FORGOTTEN AUSTRALIANS'

Premier Nathan Rees will today honour his commitment to 'Forgotten Australians' and apologise on behalf of NSW for the hurt and suffering many endured in care.

The apology will be heard during a special service in Sydney's Botanic Gardens before 500 of the estimated 200 000 people who grew up in orphanages, children's homes and foster homes in NSW.

"Today will be an important marker in the lives of many people who have lived with sad and dark memories of their childhoods," said Mr Rees.

"I hope the apology will help us all move forward.

The Premier will also announce a \$9 million funding boost over five years for additional counselling support and training for care leavers.

"The funding is a practical way of helping many people who are still working through their experiences.

"We knew that many of those affected live with poor literacy and numeracy skills, long term physical and mental health issues and drug and alcohol addictions.

"This funding will employ case workers and counsellors to help address these legacies of the past," said Mr Rees.

The Funding will:

- Help people access personal information and records
- Employ caseworkers to help access health, housing & education programs
- Offer more counselling for victims and for family members
- Set up social groups to build networks and reduce isolation
- Update the *Connecting Kin Guide* to help people separated from their families search for their records
- Index historic, archived records of children in state care
- Provide annual funding of \$35,000 to Care Leavers Australian Network (CLAN) to support their work as a peak advocacy organisation on the needs of care leavers