



CARE LEAVERS AUSTRALIA NETWORK PRESS RELEASE Tuesday 27th October 2009

APOLOGY RELEASE DATE

Care Leavers Australia Network (CLAN), the national support and advocacy group for people who grew up in Australia's orphanages and Children's Homes is pleased to announce the confirmation of a formal apology to people who suffered at the hands of the nation's 500 plus Orphanages, Children's Homes & Foster Care.

The apology is to be given by Prime Minister Kevin Rudd on the 16th of November 2009 in Canberra.

CLAN President Leonie Sheedy stated that "care leavers are overjoyed with the announcement of the date of the apology and care leavers have been waiting a lifetime for this apology. It will truly help in healing our people."

CLAN was instrumental along with former Senator Andrew Murray in bringing to the nation's attention the neglect, abuse, trauma and suffering of people raised in the 500 plus orphanages, Children's Homes and foster care. After tireless lobbying alongside former Senator Andrew Murray there was a Senate Inquiry initiated into Children in Institutional Care in 2005. CLAN has remained a leading organisation run by care leavers for care leavers in raising awareness of care leaver issues.

Leonie continued that "the date of the apology will be a historic day for the many thousands of Australians who were abused, assaulted and neglected while in the care of the state. Finally, we will be acknowledged in our own country by our Prime Minister. Finally we have a Government which is prepared to show moral leadership on behalf of the nation, in issuing a formal statement of acknowledgement and apology to long-suffering people."

It is vital that the Premiers of each State and representatives of each Church and Charity that ran the 500 plus Orphanages and Homes be present on the 16th November.

Leonie stated "it is important that they acknowledge the damage done to children in their care and in their orphanages and Homes."

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