

Today is the now 12 months since Kevin Rudd and Malcolm Turnbull issued their bi partisan apologies to all Care Leavers and Forgotten Australians.

What a significant, but emotionally charged day the 16th November was for many Care Leavers and their families, who were in Canberra and those across Australia.

Our apology has meant a lot to Care Leavers in that it will hopefully create knowledge and greater understanding of the children who passed through the 600 plus orphanages, children's Homes and foster care in the last century.

The National Apology was Australia's first positive step in beginning the healing process for many people.

However, hearing that the federal government in the May budget had committed 26.5 million dollars for the new Find and Connection service. This will greatly assist those Care Leavers to reconnect with their lost families and records.

This important funding is the first time in Australia's history that Care Leavers have been acknowledged in a budget in this country.

This is a result of Minister Jenny Macklin and her department. Thank you to Jenny and your advisors for listening to CLAN and others who lobbied your government.

We appreciate Care Leavers were invited to participate and contribute to the 4 projects, the National Educational Curriculum, National Aged Care Project, NLA oral history and lastly the NMA exhibition- "Life in a Children's Homes"

We are very encouraged and sometimes overwhelmed by the speed of these projects. But we look forward to continuing to support these initiatives.

These projects offer hope to Care Leavers that something tangible has eventuated from our apology.

The Number one recommendation of the Senate Inquiry was implemented 12 months ago. There are many more recommendations to be addressed and the big elephant in the room is Recommendation no 6- A National Reparations Fund.

We need the Federal Government to continue to show leadership in righting the wrongs of the past and to urgently implement the national reparations fund.

Today is a day to celebrate our National Apology Anniversary, let's bring on the celebrations!!!