



Preamble

In 1999, in response to the findings of the Forde Commission of Inquiry into the Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions, the government offered an apology to those who were harmed in church or state run children's institutions in Queensland.

Since that apology was offered, the Government has endeavoured to assist those who suffered abuse to rebuild their lives. The Government has established and funded the Forde Foundation Trust Fund and community based support services, and has entered into dialogue with victims of abuse, through the Historical Abuse Network, on appropriate reconciliation strategies.

The Government has heard the pain and suffering of those who, during their childhood and while under a care and control or care and protection order of the State, experienced abuse in adult mental health facilities. The Government acknowledges the stigma many have suffered as a result of placement in adult mental health facilities and the advice offered by those whose lives were adversely affected by these experiences as to the symbolic and healing nature of an apology.

Apology

To those who as children in the care of the State of Queensland suffered in any way while resident in an adult mental health facility

The Government acknowledges that the apology offered in 1999 following the Forde Inquiry did not extend to those who, while under a care and control or care and protection order of the State, suffered maltreatment or neglect or were inappropriately placed in Queensland adult mental health facilities.

We acknowledge the special vulnerability of children in State care who were treated as inpatients in the adult mental health system and who, through the circumstances of their placements, witnessed or experienced maltreatment or neglect. We acknowledge that for some, such placements led to an incorrect diagnosis of mental illness, which has had a significant impact on their lives. We sincerely apologise to all those who, as children, suffered in any way while resident in adult mental health facilities and express deep sorrow and regret for the hurt and distress suffered by those who were victims of abuse.

We recognise the value of formal reconciliation experiences in healing the hurt some have suffered, and undertake to plan these in consultation with those who were harmed in care.

We are committed to doing all we reasonably can to ensure that children in our care are protected from harm as a paramount consideration. Further, we are committed to ongoing review and improvement of our services to children and families.

Handwritten signature of Paul Lucas in black ink.

The Honourable Paul Lucas MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for Health

Handwritten signature of Karen Struthers in black ink.

The Honourable Karen Struthers MP
Minister for Community Services and Housing
Minister for Women