



Apology to people hurt by past forced adoption practices

The Tasmanian community acknowledges and takes responsibility for the past practices of forced removal and adoption of children.

We deeply regret that these past practices have caused great pain and suffering to mothers and their children, who are now adults, and have profoundly affected the lives of fathers, grandparents, siblings, partners and other family members.

To those people who have held their pain close for so many years, who have lived their lives under a shadow of secrecy, shame, anger, guilt and deeply held trauma and loss, we offer you our unreserved and sincerest apologies.

We accept with profound sorrow that mothers were not afforded the opportunity to give informed consent to the adoption of their children, nor were they informed of their rights or provided with the support that mothers need.

We deeply regret that mothers were treated in cruel and deeply disrespectful ways, and that many were not allowed to see or hold their babies.

To those mothers who had their babies taken from them, we acknowledge that you loved your babies and did not willingly give them away, and we are deeply sorry for this injustice and the harm it has caused.

We recognise that practices of our past mean that there are members of our community today who remain disconnected from their families of origin.

To the adopted children, who are now adults, and who were denied the opportunity to grow up with, and be loved and cared for by their mother, father, siblings and extended families, we offer you our sincere and unreserved apology.

We acknowledge your loss of identity and the many difficulties created by not knowing your origins. For that we are deeply sorry.

To those Tasmanian families separated by an adoption that was forced upon them we express our heartfelt sympathy and we are sorry.

We acknowledge the lifelong damage that has been done to the lives of those affected by past forced adoption practices, and we commit to ensuring that these unethical, immoral and illegal practices are never repeated.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Lara Giddings'.

Lara Giddings MP
Premier

18 October 2012