



## Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

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## MEDIA RELEASE

### National Sorry Day, 26<sup>th</sup> May 2018

The first National Sorry Day was held on 26 May 1998, which was declared by several community organisations to remember the tens of thousands of children who were forcibly removed from their Aboriginal families from the early 1900s to the 1970s. So, this year marks the 20th anniversary of this event.

However, there was a formal apology, in 2008; the famous Apology Speech to *Stolen Generations*, by the then Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd.

The *Stolen Generations* are a part of a vast plan and various policies enacted by the different Australian Governments up until the 1970s, which took the collective name of *White Australia Policy*.

The Aboriginal community was highly affected by these policies which had the aim to erase the Aboriginal culture as well as its traditions.

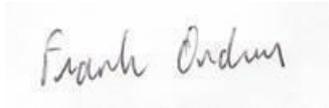
The National Sorry Day can be seen as one of the results of the 1997's *Bringing Them Home Report*. The inquiry was established by the federal Attorney-General, Michael Lavarch, on 11 May 1995, after years of constant pressure by Aboriginal organisations to see a formal recognition of their struggle. The *Bringing Them Home Report* was a thorough investigation into the forcible removal of Aboriginal children from their families to extricate them from their traditions and culture.

The publication of the report in 1997 raised the public awareness of what the Aboriginal community suffered in the past years, and how a large number of stakeholders, among them religious associations and governmental agencies, were involved at different levels in this awful process.

Householders' Options to Protect the Environment (HOPE) invites its members, families and colleagues to learn more about this infamous occurrence known as Stolen Generations. Knowledge is power, and knowledge of the past helps us not to forget and not to repeat the same atrocities in the future: especially in periods like the current one, in which waves of racism seem to be increasing in Australia. There are simple and symbolic things to do to remember this event, for example visit the Queensland Museum to learn more about this aspect of Australia's history.

To know more about the National Sorry Day: <http://time.com/3890518/national-sorry-day/>

To read the 1997's Bringing Them Home Report: <https://www.humanrights.gov.au/publications/bringing-them-home-report-1997>

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frank Ondrus". The signature is written in a cursive style and is centered within a light gray rectangular background.

Frank Ondrus, President – HOPE Inc., ph 07 4639 2135  
(Written by Alessio Claudi, HOPE volunteer (Qld))