



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **the Premier and Cabinet**

Minister for Community Services

Media Statement

Attention: News Editor/Chief of Staff

17/12/08

Stolen Generations who suffered in care urged to seek redress option.

Community Services Minister Robyn McSweeney is urging members of Western Australia's stolen generations who suffered in State care to consider applying to Redress WA before the initiative closes on April 30 next year.

Mrs McSweeney said the \$114million Redress WA initiative was open to any adult who was abused or neglected as a child in State care before March 1, 2006.

"I urge those Aboriginal people of the Stolen Generations who think they are eligible to contact Redress WA for more information and confidential advice on the application process," she said.

"The Aboriginal Legal Service and other Aboriginal organisations in WA have been funded on a fee-for-service basis to help indigenous people apply.

"While the Redress WA Scheme does not address the issue of how people came to be in care, it does acknowledge their treatment in care, particularly the abuse and neglect many suffered.

"No amount of money can compensate people for this type of suffering.

"However, it is hoped that through Redress WA, people can be helped to move forward in their lives by providing acknowledgement, counselling and an ex-gratia payment in recognition of the abuse suffered."

Applicants may be eligible for an ex-gratia payment of up to \$10,000 for reasonable likelihood of abuse or up to \$80,000 for proof of medical or psychological problems stemming from abuse. Applicants with a terminal or life-threatening illness may receive up to \$10,000 as an interim payment.

Those eligible to apply include child migrants, former wards of the State, including Aboriginal people put in care as children, and anyone placed in State-approved private institutions and foster homes. People who have moved interstate or overseas are also eligible.

Further information can be obtained from Redress WA on 1800 617 233 or <http://www.redress.wa.gov.au>

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