



SENATOR CLAIRE MOORE

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MEDIA RELEASE

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National apology to the Forgotten Australians and former child migrants

Senator Claire Moore, Senator for Queensland said the national apology to be delivered by the Prime Minister to those Australians who spent their childhood in institutions and out of home care, will help the healing process for many people across Queensland.

The Minister for Families, Jenny Macklin, has announced that the Australian Government will formally apologise at a special remembrance event in Canberra on **16 November**.

“We know that from the 1920s to the 1970s around 500,000 children, known as the Forgotten Australians, lived in out-of-home care such as children’s homes and orphanages. Around 7,000 child migrants arrived in Australia through historical child migration schemes and were subsequently placed in institutions, Senator Moore said.

“With more than half a million Forgotten Australians and former child migrants in Australia, chances are most us know, or work with, or are related to someone who grew up in an institution or in out of home care.

“They could be your neighbour, the local butcher, a nurse at the hospital or a favourite teacher.”

Senator Moore said the apology was a significant step forward in the healing process for Forgotten Australians and former child migrants.

“The experiences of the Forgotten Australians and the former child migrants are a largely invisible part of Australia’s history. People in our community may not be aware of the abuse and neglect experienced by many children while in out-of-home care.

Following the event, the apology will be tabled in the House of Representatives and the Senate.

I urge those wishing to attend the remembrance event to register their interest by calling the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs on **1800 634 147**.

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