



Claire and Senators Sue Boyce, Rachel Siewert and Bridget McKenzie. They were members of the Senate Committee inquiry into Forced Adoptions Policies and Practices



Senator Claire Moore Weekly Update 22 Mar 2013

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On the 21st of March 2013, Prime Minister Julia Gillard apologised, on behalf of Australia, to the people affected by forced adoptions policies and practices in Australia. Six years ago three women visited me and told me about their experiences and their heartache as mothers who were displaced from their children decades ago. It has been a long journey for these mothers – and the many thousands of other affected mothers and their families. Along with the other members of my Community Affairs Committee who held the inquiry into the Forced Adoption Policies and Practices I joined Prime Minister Gillard at the National Apology. After the many years of working towards this outcome it was wonderful to see these women and their families receive the apology and recognition they deserved. It was a good first step.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Claire Moore'.

Senator Claire Moore, Labor Senator for Queensland

National Apology for Forced Adoptions On Thursday, Prime Minister Gillard the Prime Minister, delivered a national apology, on behalf of the Australian Government, to people affected by forced adoption or removal policies and practices.

"My fellow Australians, no collection of words alone can undo all this damage or make whole the lives and families fractured by forced adoption, or give back childhoods that were robbed of joy and laughter, or make amends for the birthdays and Christmases and Mothers' or Fathers' Days that only brought a fresh wave of grief and loss. We can promise you all that no generation of Australians will suffer the same pain and trauma that you did: the cruel, immoral practice of forced adoption that will have no place in this land any more." – Julia Gillard, 21 March 2013

Gillard Government passes NDIS Bill through Parliament This is a major step towards providing peace of mind to people with disability, their families and carers, and to Australians who may acquire a significant and permanent disability in the future. The NDIS will give people with disability choice and control over the care and support they receive, rather than exposing them to the cruel lottery that currently exists. The Bill establishes the National Disability Insurance Scheme and the NDIS Launch Transition Agency (the Agency) to deliver the launch of the scheme. About 26,000 people with significant and permanent disabilities, their families and carers, will benefit from the first stage of the NDIS. The Gillard Government has provided \$1 billion to launch the NDIS from 1 July this year.

National Disability Insurance Scheme Forum Sen Claire Moore will host the Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Carers, Sen Jan McLucas at a public forum to discuss the National Disability Insurance Scheme on **Monday the 25th March 2013** at the **Carson Room, Mt Gravatt Bowls Club** (1873 Logan Road, Upper Mt Gravatt). The forum will be in two sessions,

Forum 1: **11am** for people with disability, their families and carers

Forum 2: **12:45pm** for disability service providers and disability sector workers

Please RSVP with your name and contact number to: doug.stewart@aph.gov.au or 07 32527101 before NOON on Wednesday 20 March 2013. Include with the RSVP if any assistance on the day will be required.

2013 People of Australia Ambassadors congratulated The Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Senator Kate Lundy, on Thursday congratulated 53 Australians who have been recognised for their outstanding work building strong and cohesive multicultural communities. The local champions have been independently selected as People of Australia Ambassadors and were officially appointed at a ceremony at Parliament House today.

“These Ambassadors are leaders in their community and will play a critical role in providing the Australian Government and the Australian Multicultural Council [AMC] with important grassroots information about life in multicultural Australia,” Senator Lundy said.

Harmony Day Workplaces around Australia have today celebrated workplace diversity at celebrations to mark Harmony Day. At Parliament House the spirit of harmony was showcased by a distinctly multicultural morning tea. Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Senator Kate Lundy, who hosted the morning tea, said that not only was diversity at the core of Harmony Day, but it was also at the heart of Australia’s workplaces.

“Australia is a vibrant multicultural nation with different cultural experiences weaving rich stories into our everyday work,” Senator Lundy said.

“Harmony Day is a day of cultural respect and an opportunity for all Australians to celebrate our diversity,” Senator Lundy said.

For more information on Harmony Day events, go to www.harmony.gov.au

Consumers Benefit as Government Enshrines the Terms ‘Financial Adviser’ and ‘Financial Planner’ The Minister for Financial Services and Superannuation Bill Shorten introduced legislation into Parliament that empowers Australian consumers to identify genuine providers of financial advice. The reforms will enhance protections for Australian consumers by prohibiting anyone who is not a licensed financial planner or financial adviser from telling consumers that they are. This will protect consumers from unlicensed operators, such as property spruikers, who may represent that they are genuine providers of financial advice when they are not.

“These reforms will enable consumers to know who to trust with their financial affairs, and build consumer confidence in the financial product advice industry”, Mr Shorten said.

National action to tackle Australia’s deadly asbestos legacy The Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations today introduced legislation into Parliament to establish the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency. The Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency Bill 2013 will establish the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency and will work with jurisdictions for a nationally consistent approach on asbestos eradication, handling and awareness, including environmental and public health issues.

“The Gillard Government is committed to a plan of action for asbestos eradication and handling across Australia that eliminates exposure, and establishing the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency is a critical step in that process,” Mr Shorten said. The agency will work in tandem with all levels of government, unions, industry and support groups to implement a plan of action to eliminate asbestos exposure. This is the first time that we will have a coordinated approach to eradicating, and handling asbestos beyond our workplaces.”

We encourage input for the plan to address asbestos; removal, handling, storage and disposal; awareness and education; ways to achieve a coordinated approach across all levels of government; and identification of asbestos containing materials (including in residences).

Public feedback on the draft plan is encouraged and will be available on the Office’s website at <http://deewr.gov.au/office-asbestos-safety>. The plan will provide a road map for tackling asbestos issues.

Australia and US Host Workshop to Combat Online Extremism To tackle the threat of online extremism, Australia and the United States have combined to host an international workshop in Washington DC. Federal Attorney-General Mark Dreyfus opened the workshop via video link. In his speech, the Attorney-General highlighted the challenges that are presented by the current online environment with regards to security. Attendees to this workshop discussed the current and emerging threat environment, and shared their experiences and approaches to addressing this evolving issue. This workshop reflects the Australian Government’s commitment to

the *US-Australia Joint Statement on Countering Transnational Crime, Terrorism and Violent Extremism*. So far, the Australian Government has contributed more than \$4 million to community organizations that foster social cohesion and build resilience to violent extremism through the Building Community Resilience Grants Program.

Extra Funding for Playgroups to Give Kids a Better Start Playgrounds Australia will be provided with \$600,000 of additional funding by the Gillard Government. This funding, part of the *Better Start Playgroup Community Events* initiative will fund 72 community events in metropolitan and regional areas around Australia for the next three years. These community events, which will be available for all families, will allow children to get the best possible start in life. This funding and initiative has built upon the Government's *Better Start for Children with Disability* initiative, which has helped more than 6000 children with disabilities access more than 80,000 early intervention services since July 2011. For more information on Playgroups and National Playgroups Week visit <http://www.playgroupaustralia.com.au>

Child Care Flexibility Fund to Deliver More Child Care Options The Australian Government will establish a \$1.3 million Child Care Flexibility Fund to help community organisations and interested stakeholders provide more flexible child care to better meet the needs of Australian families. This week, Minister for Early Childhood and Child Care, Kate Ellis announced the fund as part of an \$11 million package of initiatives to increase the flexibility and accessibility of child care options. Trials will be run at over 50 locations around Australia to provide more flexible child care hours. This increase in flexibility is just another element of the Gillard Government's Child Care platform, which includes increasing the Child Care Rebate from 30% to 50%, and increasing the cap to \$7500 per child per year.

Native Title Tax Treatment to be Examined The Australian Government will establish a Treasury-led working group to examine the tax treatment of Native Title payments and how they can better benefit Indigenous communities now and into the future. The working group will explore how to strengthen governance and promote sustainability in the management of Native Title payments, as well as how to effectively hold, manage and distribute Native Title Benefits. The Coalition has indicated that they intend to remove Schedule 1 from the *Tax Laws Amendment (2012 Measures No. 6) Bill 2012*, that clarifies the taxation arrangements regarding the Native Title system. This would amount to an increase in taxation upon holders of Native Title as well as their partners in the Mining Industry.

Best Practice Code for Engagement with Not-For-Profits Released A draft Code of Best Practice for Engagement with the not-for-profit sector has been released by the Gillard Government. The Engagement Code undertakes to develop consultation materials in partnership with the NFP sector, to be clear about the purposes of consultations, to provide a broad range of methods for submission, and to provide meaningful feedback on the sector's submissions. The draft Engagement Code has been developed collaboratively by the Government and the NFP Sector Reform Council, following consultation with the sector. The Government plans to implement the code across all areas of government, including through 'Compact Advocates' who have been appointed at the Deputy Secretary level in all Commonwealth departments. A copy of the draft Engagement Code may be found at www.notforprofit.gov.au. Submissions on the draft Engagement Code can be made until 29 April 2013.

Abbott's Message to New Mums: Get a Job Tony Abbott's paid parental leave scheme plans to leave stay-at-home mums \$70,000 behind. Under this plan, lawyers and executives would receive \$75,000 in government assistance, while their stay-at-home counterparts receive only \$5000, or \$70,000 less. In a recent interview with Madison Magazine, when asked about this difference Mr. Abbott replied "Well, if you want to get the dough, go into the workforce."

Sir James Gobbo awarded Australian Migration and Settlement Lifetime Achievement Award The award, presented by the Australian Migration Council of Australia recognize finalists from around the country who are exemplary in their commitment to providing world-class services to migrants. The Gillard Government congratulates the Migration Council Australia for showcasing the dedication of community organisations and individuals, who work tirelessly to assist new migrants to settle, feel included in communities and participate in the workplace. Sir James, former chairman of both the Australian Multicultural Foundation and Council

of Multicultural Affairs, was awarded this honour in recognition of his ongoing commitment to Italian community affairs in areas of welfare, language teaching, oral history and care of the aged.

Regional Australia Flying High New data released from the Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics shows that traffic through regional airports has increased 25 per cent since 2007. In 2012, there were 24.4 million passengers flying on regional flights in Australia, with the number of regional airports receiving services increasing to 171. In addition to this increase in services, the average regional air fare is now 35% cheaper than they were 10 years ago. The Gillard Government is committed to working with airlines, airports and regional communities to ensure strong and competitive aviation services for our regional areas now, and into the future.

Boost for Quality Early Childhood Education The Gillard Government will invest \$300 million over two years to boost the quality of early childhood education and support workplace reform. Grants will be provided to services in order to offset the cost of employing a higher qualified workforce and ensure quality education and care is being delivered while maintaining affordability for parents. To qualify for grants, Child Care Benefit approved long day care providers must be able to demonstrate a commitment to quality outcomes for children, including how their services will meet the National Quality Framework qualification requirements. Eligible services will receive grants to promote productivity and increase wages for employees with a Certificate III by \$3 per hour from July 1. There will also be proportional increases for staff across the existing classification scale.

Portrait of a Nation: Australian Schools Portrait Project Arts Minister Simon Cream launched *Portrait of a Nation: Australian Schools Portrait Project* at the National Portrait Gallery in Canberra this week. The project is an innovative arts education initiative that utilises high-speed broadband and technology and is connecting young people from schools around Australia. The *Australian Schools Portrait Project* is a nationwide educational resource website that encourages local and remote community engagement with Australia's National Portrait Collection. The project allows children to engage with the arts no matter where they live or go to school and gives them a sense of belonging to the wider Australian community during Canberra's centenary

Former Origin Greats Jobs Program Starts Season 2013 The Former Origin Greats program of expos to promote job opportunities for young Indigenous job seekers and students in Queensland starts its fourth season tomorrow, in Cairns. Former Origin Greats Gene Miles, Allan Langer, Steve Walters, Gary Belcher and Steve Price will join local industry and businesses at the Indigenous Employment and Career Expo. The Minister for Indigenous Employment and Economic Development, Julie Collins, said the expos are a great opportunity for young Indigenous Australians to connect with employers and trainers and mentors to help decide on a career path.

2013 FOGS Indigenous Employment and Careers Expos:

- Sunshine Coast, 24 April, Lake Kawana Community Centre
- Mount Isa, 29 May, Xstrata Entertainment Centre
- Townsville, 23 July, Townsville Entertainment and Convention Centre
- Rockhampton, 14 August, Rockhampton Showgrounds
- Toowoomba, 11 September, Clive Berghofer Recreation Centre
- Brisbane, 17 October, Suncorp Stadium.

WHAT'S ON? UPCOMING EVENTS AND FUNDRAISERS

NDIS FORUM WITH SENATOR CLAIRE MOORE AND PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY FOR DISABILITIES AND CARERS SENATOR JAN McLUCAS — The First Forum will be for people with disabilities and their families and carers from 11.00 a.m. and the Second Forum will be for disability service providers and disability sector workers. **Forum 1 at 11.00 a.m and Forum 2 at 12.45 p.m.** Both forums will be held on **Monday 25 March 2013** at the **Carson Room, Mt Gravatt Bowls Club**, 1873 Logan Road, Upper Mt Gravatt.

Please RSVP with your name and contact number to: doug.stewart@aph.gov.au or **07 3252 7101** before **12.00 Noon on Wednesday 20 March 2013**. Please let us know, when you RSVP, if you will require any assistance on the day or if you have communication needs.

SKIN CANCER AWARENESS AND SKIN CANCER EDUCATION WALK – Walk for Melanoma awareness on **Sunday 24th March 2013** at **Wynnum Bandstand Park, Lower Esplanade, Wynnum**. Highlights will include face painters, balloon sculpting, characters on stilts, zorb balls, Storm Troopers, raffles and much, much more. Register today by calling **1300 377 666**. There will also be a walk on the Sunshine Coast on **March 10**. For more information follow the [link](#).

APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN FOR NATIVE TITLE ANTHROPOLOGIST GRANTS PROGRAM

Applications are now open for funding to support anthropologists interested in native title work. Anthropologists play an integral part of the native title claims system by identifying Indigenous connection to land. A shortage of anthropologists leads to a delay in the resolution of claims, and this government is determined to deliver faster and better outcomes from the native title system. All eligible applicants are encouraged to apply for the grants program in order to promote the professional development and support of anthropologists working in the native title system.

The closing date for applications is 19 April 2013 at 5:00pm.

Further information on the grants is available at www.ag.gov.au

2013 CARER-FRIENDLY BUSINESS AWARDS – Nominations for the 2013 Carer-Friendly Business Awards are now open. These awards recognise businesses and individuals who have gone the extra mile for carers. To nominate for the awards visit www.carerqld.asn.au

SEQ BUS NETWORK REVIEW

The Queensland Government has proposed substantial changes to bus routes in South East Queensland. A list of affected routes is available [here](#). Lodge your feedback on the proposed changes [here](#) before Sunday 7 April 2013.

Claire's current committee work:

- **Aged Care (Living Longer Living Better) Bill 2013; Australian Aged Care Quality Agency Bill 2013; Australian Aged Care Quality Agency (Transitional Provisions) Bill 2013; Aged Care (Bond Security) Amendment Bill 2013; Aged Care (Bond Security) Levy Amendment Bill 2013**
- **Aboriginal Land Rights and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013**
- **Therapeutic Goods Amendment (2013 Measures No. 1) Bill 2013**
- **The involuntary or coerced sterilisation of people with disabilities in Australia**
- **Impacts on health of air quality in Australia**
- **Supply of chemotherapy drugs such as Docetaxel**
- **Care and management of younger and older Australians living with dementia and behavioural and psychiatric symptoms of dementia (BPSD)**

You can be involved in the work of a committee by lodging a submission to current inquiries. Claire has been involved in many Senate committees, and encourages everyone to [find out more info](#) on the role of committees, and to have a look at the [list of current committee inquiries](#).

Want to know how to get the Federal Government to consider your petition? Find out about petitioning the Senate [here](#), or petitioning the House of Representatives, [here](#).