

It is my pleasure in honour of the Wodlianni Stolen Generation and on behalf of the Journey of Healing, and in acknowledging the Letters Patent to

Acknowledge:

HIS EXCELLENCY REAR ADMIRAL KEVIN SCARCE

The Governor of South Australia

And his wife

MRS LIZ SCARCE

THE HON. JAY WEATHERILL MP

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation,
and representing the Premier.

DR DUNCAN McFETRIDGE MP

Shadow Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and
Reconciliation, and representing the Leader of the Opposition.

MR MICHAEL HARBISON,

The Rt. Hon. the Lord Mayor of Adelaide.

**PROFESSOR PETER BUCKSKIN; PROFESSOR LOWITJA O'DONOGHUE
PROFESSOR ROGER THOMAS; EMERITUS PROFESSOR PAUL
HUGHES**

And all of our other distinguished guests present today. Aboriginal Elders,
Ladies and Gentlemen

*i.e. (THE HON. LINDSAY SIMMONS MP JP
Member for Morialta,
Board Member Reconciliation SA Inc*

*THE HON. DAVID WINDERLICH MLC,
Parliamentary Leader, Australian Democrats*

*THE HON. MARK PARNELL MLC
Parliamentary Leader Greens SA.*

*SENATOR SARAH HANSON-YOUNG,
Senator for South Australia (Australia Greens).*

*MR GARY JOHANSON
Mayor of Port Adelaide Enfield*

*MR HIEU VAN LE,
Lieutenant Governor of South Australia.)*

Australia is thought of by many as a great nation. It is a country that has evolved throughout history to become a world leader in many fields. But we are gathered today to honour the Wodlianni Stolen Generation who commemorate the 1836 Letters Patent.

The apology of 13th February 2008 made national history in the annals of Australian responsible government.

The colonisation of South Australia by Great Britain was intended to be the commencement of responsible government under the Letters Patent.

Today we in South Australia are making history in acknowledging the Letters of Patent and their promise for the Kurna descendants and their Aboriginal neighbours across South Australia.

We are in particular only acknowledging today how the Wodlianni Stolen Generation suffered greatly whom over time the promise of the Letters of Patent were not respected by successive government and the Crown.

Instead, as John Birch (2004:19) said in response to the Redfern riots notes:

'White Australia's history of the occupation of Indigenous Land and country had been reliant on particular forms of violence enacted to dispossess Indigenous people of both land and cultural identity'.

Today we have Kurna people in Adelaide City who have no tenable land rights under the Native Title Act.

Their children have been removed by successive governments over the years with different types of failed colonial policies, from forced assimilation, segregation and genocide to the neo colonial community welfare policies run by non-aboriginal government.

The resultant Kurna population are now part of the stolen generation and remain as powerless today as ever in attempt to negotiate their recognition under the Letters Patent apart from compensation or reparation for their loss.

The fact is that it would take more than an apology just to compensate all the descendants, individuals and families for their feelings of loss of their indigenous culture, traditions and their homelands, which includes Adelaide. This is why we are here today – to recognise how we must respect these feelings and go forward together in a positive partnership aimed at righting the wrongs still being suffered.

John Browne

Chairperson Journey of Healing (SA) Inc.,

Date: 19/2/09