

Apology

To Those Harmed in Queensland Institutions
during their Childhood

We the government and churches together welcome the report of the Forde Commission of Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions.

We acknowledge that there have been failures with respect to the children entrusted to our care, despite all the good the Institutions did in the light of their day. The result has been a system in which some children have suffered maltreatment, and their social, emotional, and physical needs have been neglected.

We sincerely apologise to all those people who suffered in any way while resident in our facilities, and express deep sorrow and regret at the hurt and distress suffered by those who were victims of abuse.

We accept the finding of the Forde Inquiry that government under-funding and consequent under-resourcing was a significant factor in the failure to provide adequate services to children in care.

We are committed to establishing and continuing dialogue with victims of abuse in institutions to discuss the basis for providing appropriate responses. We acknowledge that discussions are well advanced between some parties.

We are committed to working together with victims of abuse in institutions to ensure the provision of appropriately coordinated services through the establishment of a "one stop shop", as recommended by the Forde Inquiry. This initiative will be integrated with church and government run services and processes for bringing about reconciliation with victims of abuse in institutions. The focus will be on providing victims with the most effective path to healing. We are committed to continuing to provide such services as long as they are needed.

We recognise the value of formal reconciliation experiences in healing the hurt some have suffered, and undertake to plan these in consultation with former residents.

We are committed to doing all we reasonably can to ensure that children in our care are not subject to abuse and neglect. Further, we are committed to ongoing review and improvement of our services to children and families.



Peter Beattie MLA
Premier of Queensland



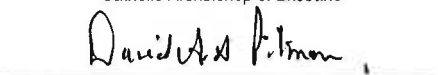
Anna Bligh MLA
Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care
Minister for Disability Services



The Most Reverend John Bathersby DD,
Catholic Archbishop of Brisbane



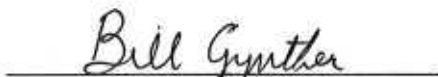
The Most Reverend Peter Hollingworth,
Anglican Archbishop of Brisbane



Reverend Dr David Pitman, Moderator,
Uniting Church in Australia (Qld Synod)



Hillmon Buckingham, Commissioner,
Territorial Commander, Australia Eastern Territory,
The Salvation Army



Bill Gynther, President,
Baptist Union of Queensland



Reverend Peter Overton, Conference President,
Churches of Christ in Queensland