



## FULL TEXT: APOLOGY TO ABORIGINES (FEB 13<sup>TH</sup> 2008)

The following is the historic formal apology given to the Aboriginal people of Australia by Prime Minister Kevin Rudd on behalf of its parliament and government.

Today we honour the Indigenous<sup>1</sup> peoples of this land, the oldest continuing cultures in human history.

We reflect on their past mistreatment<sup>2</sup>.

We reflect in particular on the mistreatment of those who were stolen generations - this blemished<sup>3</sup> chapter in our nation's history.

The time has now come for the nation to turn a new page in Australia's history by righting the wrongs of the past and so moving forward with confidence<sup>4</sup> to the future.

We apologize for the laws and policies of successive<sup>5</sup> Parliaments and governments that have inflicted<sup>6</sup> profound<sup>7</sup> grief<sup>8</sup>, suffering and loss on these our fellow Australians.

We apologize especially for the removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families, their communities and their country.

For the pain, suffering and hurt of these stolen generations, their descendants<sup>9</sup> and for their families left behind, we say sorry.

To the mothers and the fathers, the brothers and the sisters, for the breaking up of families and communities, we say sorry.

And for the indignity<sup>10</sup> and degradation<sup>11</sup> thus inflicted on a proud people and a proud culture, we say sorry.

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<sup>1</sup> indfødt, oprindelig

<sup>2</sup> dårlig behandling

<sup>3</sup> vanærende, skæmmende

<sup>4</sup> tillid

<sup>5</sup> skiftende

<sup>6</sup> påført

<sup>7</sup> dyb

<sup>8</sup> sorg

<sup>9</sup> efterkommere

<sup>10</sup> ydmygelse, krænkelse

<sup>11</sup> nedværdigelse

We the Parliament of Australia respectfully request<sup>12</sup> that this apology be received in the spirit in which it is offered as part of the healing of the nation.

For the future we take heart<sup>13</sup>; resolving<sup>14</sup> that this new page in the history of our great continent can now be written.

We today take this first step by acknowledging<sup>15</sup> the past and laying claim to<sup>16</sup> a future that embraces<sup>17</sup> all Australians.

A future where this Parliament resolves that the injustices of the past must never, never happen again.

A future where we harness the determination of all Australians, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, to close the gap that lies between us in life expectancy, educational achievement and economic opportunity.<sup>18</sup>

A future where we embrace the possibility of new solutions to enduring problems where old approaches have failed.<sup>19</sup>

A future based on mutual<sup>20</sup> respect, mutual resolve<sup>21</sup> and mutual responsibility<sup>22</sup>.

A future where all Australians, whatever their origins, are truly equal partners, with equal opportunities and with an equal stake<sup>23</sup> in shaping the next chapter in the history of this great country, Australia.

Story from BBC NEWS:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/asia-pacific/7242057.stm>

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<sup>12</sup> anmoder om

<sup>13</sup> fatter mod

<sup>14</sup> idet vi beslutter os for

<sup>15</sup> idet vi vedkender os

<sup>16</sup> gør krav på

<sup>17</sup> omfatter

<sup>18</sup> En fremtid, hvor alle australiere, indfødte og ikke-indfødte, samarbejder målbevidst om at bygge bro over kløften imellem os i henseende til forventet levealder, uddannelse og økonomiske muligheder.

<sup>19</sup> En fremtid, hvor vi griber muligheden for nye løsninger på langvarige problemer, hvor gamle metoder har slået fejl.

<sup>20</sup> gensidig

<sup>21</sup> beslutning

<sup>22</sup> ansvar

<sup>23</sup> interesse