



# Apology

## FOR FORCED ADOPTION PRACTICES

20 September 2012

The NSW Government expresses its great sorrow and remorse for the lasting damage the forced adoption practices of the past have caused in the lives of so many. We are sorry that those who suffered have waited so long for this acknowledgement. We know that you live with the loss every day.

We say sorry for the forced adoption practices that severed the fundamental life-giving bonds between a mother and her child.

We apologise to the mothers who were never given a choice about the future for their child.

To the women who have carried the pain of loss, grief and separation throughout their lives, we say sorry.

We say sorry to the people forcibly adopted as children who grew up never knowing the truth of their birth or how much they were wanted and loved.

We apologise to the fathers who were carelessly written out of the lives of their children.

We apologise to the families of those affected by forced adoption practices who were denied the opportunity to build the loving and enduring relationships with a brother or sister, niece, nephew or grandchild they were never allowed to know.

We acknowledge the partners and children who have watched loved ones struggle with the traumatic effects of their adoption experience, often without knowing or understanding the gravity of past wrongs.

We thank you all for your generosity of spirit in listening to our words of regret, sorrow and remorse that are long overdue. We hope your journey of recovery and healing is made easier by this apology.

Hon. Barry O'Farrell MP  
Premier

Hon. Pru Goward MP  
Minister for Family and Community Services  
Minister for Women