

The Hon. Jeremy Rockliff MP
Premier of Tasmania
GPO Box 123, Hobart TAS 7001

Subject: Tasmania's Forced Adoption Redress Scheme

Dear Premier Rockliff,

On behalf of Jigsaw Queensland, Australia's longest-running post-adoption support organisation (established 1976), I write to acknowledge and commend your Government's announcement of a redress scheme for mothers separated from their children through forced adoption.

This is a welcome and long-overdue recognition of the profound trauma caused by adoption practices that separated families and altered the lives of hundreds and thousands of Australians. Your commitment to a trauma-informed process and to providing counselling and financial support is an important and compassionate step forward.

We respectfully encourage your Government to work in close partnership with lived-experience stakeholders, advocacy groups, and specialist post-adoption support services Australia-wide to ensure that the scheme's design and delivery reflect the needs of those it seeks to redress.

However, we are concerned by the decision to exclude adopted people and fathers who wished to keep their children. The pain and loss caused by adoption are shared — they are not confined to one group. Every act of coercion and separation affected not only the mother, but also the child whose identity and family were erased and whose experience was disenfranchised by a society who saw only gain in their experience, and some fathers who were denied a voice.

Excluding any of these groups risks repeating the injustice the scheme seeks to acknowledge. Redress must be comprehensive if it is to be healing.

We also note that the financial component of the scheme has not yet been announced. Transparent communication about the quantum of payments, the rationale for determining the figure, and the evidence informing it will be essential to building public trust and confidence among those affected.

As Queensland's counterpart governments advance redress — Victoria in 2023, Tasmania now in 2025 — our own state risks falling further behind. Queensland has not yet established a redress process for any group affected by adoption, despite a formal apology delivered in Parliament in 2012. We hope Tasmania's leadership reignites a national conversation about the need for consistent, inclusive and evidence-based recognition across all jurisdictions.

We commend your Government for taking this important step, and we encourage you to consider broadening eligibility to include adopted people and fathers, ensuring that Tasmania's model sets a national standard for fairness, inclusivity, and trauma-informed design.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Jo-Ann Sparrow
President | *Jigsaw Queensland Inc.*