



**The Uniting Church in Australia**  
**The Assembly**

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Mr Gary Foley,  
186 Nicholson Street  
FITZROY 3065

Dear Gary,

I wrote to you several weeks ago but I had the wrong address and so my letter has been returned. It is a long time since I have seen you.

I happened to be in Melbourne in July when your article was published in the Age and also in the Sydney Morning Herald. I also had the radio on when I was travelling up to the Mallee later that day and heard you interviewed on the ABC.

Gary, that was an excellent article and also a very good interview. I hope many people read your article. With right-wing politicians appealing to the basest attitudes in people, and bankers, miners and others denigrating Koories and other Aboriginal people out of blatant self-interest, it is hard to break down the racist stereotypes. Articles and interviews such as yours help a great deal.

Then after I had written to you, I heard that your son and foster son had both been bashed up outside a pub in Fitzroy. I am sure that the hysteria that has been whipped up by some politicians and others concerning the flow-on from the High Court decision in the Murray Islands case has whipped up racist feelings and groundless fear. I was really sorry to hear though that your boys had been bashed. That is really bad.

I hope that they are both improving.

These days I am working full-time trying to bring about change in relationships between members of the Uniting Church and Koories. I am travelling up and down the Eastern states talking, arguing and trying to persuade. There is a long way to go.

Thank you again for your article and interview.

*I shall try to get in touch when I am in Melbourne next time.*  
*Yours sincerely* John Brown