



1 Gardiner Street Darwin NT 0800
PO Box 1064 Darwin NT 0801
Ph: (089) 815266 Fax: (089) 812393

Gary Foley

By facsimilie:

26 January 1996

**Re: Lack of funding for the
Human Rights and Equal Opportunities
Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal
and Torres Strait Islander children from
their families**

Dear Gary,

We write to seek your support in making representations to government about the lack of funding for the HREOC Inquiry into Separation from Aboriginal families.

We have written strong letters to the Prime Minister, the Attorney-General and all Commonwealth parliamentarians raising these serious concerns and now we are writing to Aboriginal organisations to request that letters of support go to the Attorney-General to ensure that Aboriginal organisations and communities are properly resourced to participate in an Inquiry which is genuinely able to address our concerns.

We believe that Australian Government cannot seriously talk about reconciliation, constitutional reform or the republic without addressing the ongoing damage resulting from previous government policies of removal.

The Stolen Generations in the Northern Territory held the Going Home Conference in October 1994 to discuss major objectives regarding their removal from families and homelands under previous government policies. The issues discussed were access to archives, rights to land, social justice and compensation. Since the Going Home Conference the Stolen Generations have begun a constitutional action where it is argued that implied protection's exist within the Constitution which renders the legislation and policies of removal invalid and that loss suffered by those people affected by those policies is compensable. This constitutional challenge is to be heard 12 February in the High Court, by the Full Bench, for four days in Canberra. The cases are known as *Kruger and others vs the Commonwealth* and *Bray and others vs the Commonwealth*.