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LIBERAL STUDENTS DISAPPOINTED BY PARTY ROOM

The Australian Liberal Students' Federation (ALSF) today expressed its disappointment at the decision by the Federal Parliamentary wing of the Liberal Party of Australia to support the apology to the stolen generation.

"As representatives of the next generation, we are disappointed that the Federal Liberal Party, although acting with the best of intentions, chose to support the apology" said ALSF President Timothy Andrews. "To force one generation to apologise for the actions of another is contrary to fundamental concepts of individual responsibility and parliamentary democracy."

"As students, we are concerned about the precedent this apology creates for victims of child abuse in circumstances where the welfare of children is best served by removing them from abusive relationships. Numerous reports exist today of Aboriginal children being kept in environments of repeated physical and sexual abuse. Authorities, in fear of reprisal from politically-correct elements of society, are not taking the necessary action to remove children from danger.

Mr Andrews praised ALSF Life Member Sophie Mirabella and other Members of Parliament who boycotted the apology.

"Decades of public policy neglect and failure of our indigenous population will not be rectified by empty rhetorical gestures, nor by cash handouts" continued Mr. Andrews. "The Northern Territory intervention was the vital first step in ending welfare enclaves, and offering ways and means for Aborigines to choose a better life. We call on all sides of politics to build upon these reforms and embrace practical, not symbolic, reconciliation"

For further information: Timothy Andrews
0415 157 429
tim.andrews@optusnet.com.au
www.alsf.org.au