



Level 1  
156 George Street  
Fitzroy VIC 3065  
Mail: PO Box 1144  
Collingwood, VIC 3066  
Phone: (03) 9486 9549  
Fax: (03) 9486 9547  
email: [admin@nembc.org.au](mailto:admin@nembc.org.au)  
Website: [www.nembc.org.au](http://www.nembc.org.au)

## MEDIA RELEASE

### SORRY – The debt of the nation

4 February 2008

The National Ethnic and Multicultural Broadcasters' Council (NEMBC) is very happy to support the federal government in its apology to the stolen generations of Aboriginal children at the head of its Parliamentary agenda, and calls on the Opposition to give its bipartisan support.

NEMBC President George Zangalis said the issue had been a running sore on the body politic for a long time, more than 10 years since the Stolen Generations Report, during which Australia's indigenous people have had to wait for a change of government to see the apology implemented and more importantly for concerted action to right the many wrongs and injustices imposed on Indigenous Australians.

Suggestions by the Opposition that the apology is a "rush job" and that there are more pressing needs to address are simply wrong. Mr Zangalis said, "we have had a decade to think about it. There is nothing that the Rudd government can do to fix inflation and rising interest rates on the first sitting of parliament. However, saying sorry would be a big and historic step towards reconciliation and an affirmation of multiculturalism.

"Resolving this issue can unite the nation so that we can face these pressing national and international problems together.

"I do hope the Opposition will come on board and give its support for an apology which will be hugely significant to Australia's indigenous people and of which Australians of all ethnic backgrounds can be proud."

George Zangalis  
**President**  
**NEMBC**

For more information please contact Mr Zangalis on 0417 319 705