

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd: Apology to Australia's Indigenous peoples (2008)

Watch the speech [here](#).

- 5 Today we honour¹ the Indigenous² peoples of this land, the oldest continuing cultures in human history.
- We reflect on their past mistreatment³.
- We reflect in particular on the mistreatment of those who were Stolen Generations - this blemished⁴ chapter in our nation's history.
- 10 The time has now come for the nation to turn a new page in Australia's history by righting the wrongs of the past and so moving forward with confidence⁵ to the future.
- 15 We apologise for the laws and policies of successive⁶ Parliaments and governments that have inflicted profound⁷ grief, suffering and loss on these our fellow Australians.
- We apologise especially for the removal⁸ of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander⁹ children from their families, their communities and their country.
- 20 For the pain, suffering and hurt of these Stolen Generations, their descendants¹⁰ and for their families left behind, we say sorry.
- To the mothers and the fathers, the brothers and the sisters, for the breaking up
- 25 of families and communities, we say sorry.

¹ **Honour:** ære

² **Indigenous:** oprindelige

³ **Mistreatment:** mishandling/dårlig behandling

⁴ **Blemished:** (her) plettede

⁵ **Confidence:** selvtillid

⁶ **Successive:** på hinanden følgende

⁷ **Profound:** dyb

⁸ **Removal:** fjernelse

⁹ **Torres Strait Islander:** den oprindelige befolkning på [Torres Strait Islands](#) – en øgruppe nord for det australske fastland.

¹⁰ **Descendants:** efterkommere

And for the indignity¹¹ and degradation¹² thus inflicted on a proud people and a proud culture, we say sorry.

- 30 We the Parliament of Australia respectfully request that this apology be received in the spirit in which it is offered as part of the healing of the nation.

- For the future we take heart¹³; resolving that this new page in the history of our great continent can now be written. We today take this first step by
35 acknowledging the past and laying claim to a future that embraces all Australians.

- A future where this Parliament resolves that the injustices¹⁴ of the past must never, never happen again.

- 40 A future where we harness the determination of all Australians, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, to close the gap that lies between us in life expectancy¹⁵, educational achievement¹⁶ and economic opportunity¹⁷.

- 45 A future where we embrace the possibility of new solutions to enduring problems where old approaches have failed.

A future based on mutual¹⁸ respect, mutual resolve and mutual responsibility.

- 50 A future where all Australians, whatever their origins¹⁹, are truly equal partners, with equal opportunities and with an equal stake in shaping the next chapter in the history of this great country, Australia.

¹¹ **Indignity:** ydmygelse

¹² **Degradation:** nedværdigelse

¹³ **Take heart:** fatte mod, være optimist

¹⁴ **Injustices:** uretfærdigheder

¹⁵ **Life expectancy:** Forventet levetid

¹⁶ **Educational achievement:** uddannelsesmæssige resultater

¹⁷ **Economic opportunity:** økonomiske muligheder

¹⁸ **Mutual:** gensidig

¹⁹ **Origins:** ophav