



Speech by

**Hon. RAY HOLLIS**

**MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE**

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Hansard 26 May 1999

**STOLEN GENERATION DEBATE**

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I wish to refer to a speech by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition in a debate on the stolen generations in the Parliament yesterday. The comments by the Leader of the Opposition, I believe, are a reflection on the Chair. However, in view of his comments further in that speech in relation to saying sorry, I do not expect an apology.

I reserve the right to advise members from the chair on observing proper decorum in this place, particularly ahead of a sensitive debate. I am mindful of an incident in this Chamber during the recent Anzac Day debate when the insensitive approach to that debate by some members caused a member of this Assembly to break down during that debate.

As a young child I suffered an abuse of authority similar to that suffered by the stolen children, where my brothers and I were taken from my single mother and placed in an orphanage. Incidents such as this are etched in your mind forever and I will never forget the beating I received for crying when my mother left.

I regret that some members do not want to know about the deprivation that the stolen generations have suffered over many years, so I take this opportunity to express publicly my sorrow for the actions of previous Governments in relation to the stolen generations.

To the House, but especially to the Leader of the Opposition, I reiterate my intention to warn members ahead of debates on particularly sensitive matters, especially when I am aware of citizens in the gallery with an intimate interest.

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