




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

National Sorry Day

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.35 am): Today is National Sorry Day, a very significant day for all Australians. National Sorry Day is held every year on 26 May and provides the opportunity for us all to reflect upon the hurt and suffering endured by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who formed the stolen generation. On this day, as individuals and as a nation it is important to acknowledge the wrongs of the past and commemorate the profound grief, suffering and loss caused by the forcible removal of those children.

My government is committed to closing the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians in health outcomes, educational achievements and the opportunity to participate in Queensland's economic and social lifestyle. To this end, earlier this month we launched Towards a Queensland action plan for vulnerable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families, which will support the development of a whole-of-government action plan by the end of the year. The action plan is in recognition that much more needs to be done to overcome the broader issues of social and economic disadvantage. We have also announced \$150 million in funding over five years to establish a community run family wellbeing service to address the overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the child protection system.

National Sorry Day serves as a reminder to us all that we must continue to acknowledge and reflect on the wrongs of the past to support the process of healing and recovery. Importantly, we must move forward together.