

# *Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia*

February 14, 2008

The Hon Kevin Rudd MP  
Prime Minister  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister

I write on behalf of the Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia, which represents 1450 members throughout Australia, and in Papua New Guinea and Pakistan.

Our Institute affirms with delight and considerable relief the initiatives your Government has taken in the brief time since it was elected. Among these, we wish to highlight the visits by members of parliament to homeless shelters; the ratification of the Kyoto Protocol; the closure of the Detention Centre on Nauru and the granting of visas for the people who had been held there.

In particular, we applaud you for the very significant apology to the 'Stolen Generations' which you made yesterday on behalf of our Federal Parliament. We further rejoice that your motion to ensure ongoing, effective ways of addressing Indigenous concerns received clear bipartisan support. These two developments indeed constitute an historic event for all Australians, reflecting as they do the deep values of justice, mercy and truth. In this regard I am enclosing for your information the public statement we have made on our Institute website: [www.mercy.org.au](http://www.mercy.org.au) .

As you would be aware, Prime Minister, the Sisters of Mercy have a preferential care for the poorest and most marginalized people in our country. As such, we welcome your commitment to working for a fairer and more compassionate society.

Sincerely

Sister Nerida Tinkler RSM  
President  
Institute of Sisters of Mercy Australia