

Senator Andrew Murray
Australian Democrats
Senator for Western Australia

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MEDIA RELEASE

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FINALLY! A VOICE TO THE PLIGHT OF ABUSED CHILDREN

The Australian Democrats welcome today's Senate approval of Senator Andrew Murray's motion to hold a Senate Inquiry into the issue of child abuse in institutions and in care.

"We are pleased that the Senate strongly supports this new inquiry into this pressing social issue of child abuse," said Senator Andrew Murray.

"We particularly thank the Labor Party and Senator Steve Hutchins for their support.

"We are positive that this inquiry will provide very useful insights into the chilling abuse and neglect suffered by institutionalised children and children in care.

"This is the third in a trilogy of inquiries, the previous two being the Stolen Generation and Child Migrant Inquiries.

"It has been found that many Australians who were not covered by the previous inquiries felt they had been forgotten, without a forum to recount their experiences.

"The Democrats believe this inquiry will serve to influence and encourage federal and state governments to fund research for programmes to minimise harm to individuals and to society.

"It will also help to evaluate the long-term social and economic effects on individuals and society as a whole.

"This Committee inquiry will be a very good start in redressing an unjust state of affairs for Australia's children.

"Most of all, we hope this inquiry will help in healing the hurt and tragedy that victims have undergone, and provide some ideas for solutions and policies to address these issues," concluded Senator Murray.

For more information, please contact Grace Tan at 02 6277 5747 or 0417 174 302

(The motion is available from Senator Murray's office upon request.)

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