

17 April 2023

MEDIA RELEASE

Landmark settlement approved in NT Stolen Generations class action

A historic \$50.45 million settlement reached on behalf of Northern Territory Stolen Generations descendants has been approved by the New South Wales Supreme Court.

The class action was brought against the Commonwealth by Shine Lawyers on behalf of the descendants of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders who were removed from their families and placed in institutions or with foster parents in the Northern Territory, or those in a close personal relationship with a removed child.

During the settlement process, Shine conducted an outreach program to gather feedback from affected communities. As a result of this process, an application was granted by the court to broaden the eligibility criteria to include descendants from removed family members during the period January 1912 to December 1973.

Shine's Joint Head of Class Actions, Vicky Antzoulatos, said the case was an opportunity to confront the appalling race based policies lurking in the not too distant shadows of Australia's past.

"The Stolen Generation is one of the darkest chapters in our country's history, which no amount of money will ever make up for. It's our hope though that this settlement will go some way towards helping with the healing process.

"I want to acknowledge the courage and determination shown by our group members in bringing these proceedings," Ms Antzoulatos said.

The class action was funded by Litigation Lending Service (LLS).

"This settlement marks an important step towards acknowledging the extreme harm caused by past segregation policies and practices to First Nations peoples.

"It is an important step towards a more just and equitable future for all Australians.

Shine Lawyers has grown to become one of Australia's largest compensation law firms with over 1,000 staff in 46 offices across Australia and New Zealand. For more than 40 years, we have helped thousands of Australians to right wrong by following our core values: always stand up for the little guy, be ahead of the pack, and dare to be different. For more information visit www.shine.com.au or phone 13 11 99

“LLS is proud to have supported the action and applauds the efforts of the parties – the Australian Government, the Northern Territory Stolen Generations Aboriginal Corporation, the lawyers, and the Court in working to have this matter resolved expeditiously for group members,” LLS Chairman Shaun Bonétt said.

While registrations for this class action have closed, the Commonwealth has established a redress scheme since it was filed for survivors who were removed as children.

Details and eligibility for the Territories Stolen Generations Redress Scheme can be found at <https://territoriesredress.gov.au>.

Media Contact: Joe Hill | 0408 962 453 | jhill@shine.com.au