



## AUSTRALIAN COMMERCIAL GALLERIES ASSOCIATION

### MEDIA RELEASE

#### ACGA JOINS AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENT IN SAYING SORRY

13 February 2008

The Australian Commercial Galleries Association (ACGA) strongly supports and endorses the apology to the stolen generations given in the Australian Parliament today.

Today is an historic day for Australia's Indigenous and non-indigenous alike. Saying sorry is a vital step in the process of reconciliation and righting the wrongs of past injustices. Guy Abrahams, National President of the ACGA said: "It is significant to see bipartisan support for the apology and agreement that both parties will work together on programs to reduce the gap between Indigenous and non Indigenous Australians."

Art is one of the areas where Indigenous Australians have achieved world recognition and is a major contributor to the social wellbeing and economic independence of Indigenous Australians. The Australian Commercial Galleries Association has as one of its central tenets the ethical representation of all Australian artists, and we look forward to working with the Federal Government in developing and implementing policy that furthers the opportunities for and livelihood of Indigenous and non Indigenous Australian artists nationally and internationally.

The ACGA is currently working with and is represented on the Reference Group for the development of an Indigenous Australian Art Commercial Code of Conduct. The ACGA is committed to working on the issues faced by the Indigenous art market through that process.

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