

# Media release

---

**18 Novemeber 2025**

**WHAT:** National Apology for the Forgotten Australians

**WHO:** Glenorchy Mayor Sue Hickey; Relationships Australian Tas CEO Michael Kelly and Forgotten Australians Advocate David Henderson

**WHEN:** Wednesday 19 November, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

**WHERE:** Tolosa Park, Glenorchy

Glenorchy City Council, in partnership with Relationships Australia Tasmania, will officially open a reflection space at Tolosa Park to recognise the Forgotten Australians – survivors among the estimated 500,000 children who were placed in institutional or out-of-home care across Australia during the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The event, to be held on Wednesday 19 November from 11am-1pm will include the unveiling of a memorial dedicated to the Forgotten Australians as well as a special acknowledgement of long-time advocate David Henderson.

This commemoration marks the 16th anniversary of the National Apology to the Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants, delivered by the Australian government on 16 November 2009.

Glenorchy Mayor Sue Hickey said that the day is an opportunity to honour the strength and resilience of the Forgotten Australians, many of whom endured unimaginable hardship.

“Glenorchy is a place where everyone belongs, and as part of our community it’s a great honour to formally recognise their lives and stories, strength and courage,” she said.

“The reflection space here in Tolosa Park is a place of remembrance. It stands as a quiet, enduring acknowledgment of the pain suffered, and a symbol of our community’s commitment to truth, healing, and respect.

“We hope that this space offers comfort, recognition, and peace to all who visit.

“On behalf of Glenorchy City Council, I want to say: we see you, we hear you, and we are deeply sorry for the harm that was done.”

Mayor Hickey said that the event also honours those whose lives were cut short by the trauma they endured.

“Though they are not with us today their suffering should never be forgotten, and this memorial stands for them too.

“As Edmund Burke said, all that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing.”

Relationships Australia Tasmania CEO Dr Michael Kelly said that the unveiling represented a significant milestone for Forgotten Australians.

“This memorial is the result of years of advocacy, partnership and determination and we are grateful to Glenorchy City Council for their commitment to creating a space where truth, healing and remembrance can live side by side,” he said.

“We sincerely thank Glenorchy City Council for their partnership and for embracing the vision of a memorial that is not only respectful but deeply meaningful. Their commitment has given Forgotten Australians a space that honours the past while supporting continued healing.

“This memorial is a testament to the power of lived experience. It shows what can be achieved when Survivors' voices lead the way and when community, government and services work together to ensure their stories are never forgotten.”

Mayor Hickey and Dr Kelly will also pay special tribute to David Henderson, whose advocacy will be acknowledged through a plaque on new seating in the reflection space.

“David Henderson’s leadership and advocacy have been central to this moment,” Dr Kelly said.

“His persistence and courage ensured that Forgotten Australians in Tasmania have a meaningful place to reflect, remember and be heard. We are proud to see his contribution formally recognised.”

Following the formal proceedings, attendees are invited to enjoy a free community BBQ and receive a gift of a native plant, symbolising growth, resilience, and renewal. All are welcome to attend and share in this meaningful occasion.

## **ENDS**

**Media contact:** Katya-Rose Brownjohn-Moss | Senior Communications Officer | 0497 055 432