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**MEDIA RELEASE**

13 February 2012

*For immediate release*

**AASW Recognises Anniversary of the National Apology**

Today marks the fourth anniversary of the National Apology to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people for the pain and suffering arising from government policies of forced removals of children. AASW pays respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and we apologize for the role care workers played in implementing unjust policies.

Glenice Garvie, who is the first director appointed to the specific Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander AASW Board position, states "Today is a very emotional day for me as I remember the lives of people who were and are part of my life and who helped shape me to be the person I am today. To me the apology was a very powerful thing as it acknowledged what we Aboriginal people knew to be the truth. That is all I needed to know and now I can move on with my life and not pretend nothing happened."

The anniversary of the National Apology provides the social work profession with a powerful reminder of the continuing impact of history on our profession and the communities our profession serves. We take this opportunity to acknowledge the strength and resilience of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander colleagues, community members and clients. May we move forward together in a spirit of solidarity for a more just Australia

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