

Apology - Forced Adoption Practices

On behalf of the Northern Health board, executive and staff, I express my sincere apology for the historical practices of our predecessor, Preston and Northcote Community Hospital (PANCH), that separated mothers from their babies, and children from their families.

It is with a great sadness that we look back and acknowledge our participation in a system that did not uphold or advocate for the rights of mothers. We deeply regret the past practices that gave mothers no option but to relinquish their babies for adoption while in our care, and acknowledge the pain, trauma and ongoing sense of loss as a direct result of these actions.

We also acknowledge the profound effects of these policies on fathers, adoptees, adoptive families, and other family members and extend to them our sincerest regret.

Whilst we cannot change the actions of the past, we can learn from them. Northern Health will continue to review our historical practices and engage openly with those affected, to acknowledge their sense of pain and loss, and provide support to facilitate healing.



Debra Bourne
Chief Executive
Northern Health