

# 1 Listening Comprehension – Answer Key

Text: Brendan Nelson, "Sorry Speech", February 13, 2008, part one

## B QUESTIONS AND TASKS

1. Dr Nelson offers an apology to those Aboriginal people who were forcibly removed from their families

☐ in the 20<sup>th</sup> century

2. According to him Aboriginal people have lived in Australia for some

☐ 50,000 years

3. The First Fleet carrying British convicts and settlers arrived in Australia

☐ in 1788

4. In the process of shaping the nation both indigenous and non-indigenous ancestors

☐ have made sacrifices which were different but equally important

5. Name two reasons why the white government introduced the policy of child removal.

They thought the Aboriginal race would not survive and should be assimilated.  
They were convinced that Aboriginal children were better raised in government or church-run institutions.

6. Where were these children taken?

They were taken to official institutions or placed with white families.

**7. Why were many decent Australians hurt by the accusations of theft?**

Many white families were motivated by kindness. They offered their help because they thought that Aboriginal children lived in squalor and deserved a better life.

**8. Dr Nelson gives two examples which illustrate how children were removed from their families. The first begins in a post office.**

**What happened to this child?**

**How old was he/she?**

Together with others he and his mother were put into a police car and driven out of town. After ten miles the mothers were thrown out of the car and the children were taken to a police prison where they had to stay for two days. This happened when the boy was ten years old.

**9. Some people argue that the removal of these children from squalor led to better lives. From his own childhood experience Dr. Nelson knows that, nevertheless, a "source of deep and scarring sorrows" remains. What does he think of?**

He is thinking of his own childhood. If you do not know your parents, you do not know who you really are. This remains a source of deep pain.

**10. At the end of the first part Dr. Nelson quotes Faye Lyman who was separated from her father when she was eight. She does not want people to say sorry but wants them to understand what they have done. What does she mean when she says "It hurts so much"?**

The children of the Stolen Generation were torn from their native culture/world and raised in a foreign one. As a result they do not know where they really belong and that is what hurts most.

*(Karl Sassenberg)*