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solicitors & advocates



Portsmouth Solicitor speaks out following Australian Government's apology for child abuse

The Australian Government's child migrant apology is welcome and significant says specialist historic abuse lawyer Alan Collins of Verisona, Solicitors and Advocates.

"I have met many people who are now in their fifties, sixties, and seventies who suffered abuse as children" said Alan, "they have lived with the memories and consequences all of their lives, and often in silence".

Alan who has represented abuse victims both in Australia and the UK explained:

"It is striking that the recent media coverage has highlighted that very human need on the part of victims to be heard and recognised. Many tell me that they felt at the time they were forgotten and treated as second class victims. Maybe the perpetrators of the abuse in their cruel and warped way thought they could justify their actions because they saw the children as somehow inferior? It is very difficult, if not impossible, to understand the mindset of these people. Those with overall responsibility either ignored, were complacent, or just indifferent to the plight of these children. In some cases there was complicity. As the Australian premier Kevin Rudd said there are lessons to be learnt and only by facing up to the past is there a chance for this to happen".

Many victims need recognition, and someone in authority to say "sorry". Kevin Rudd's apology on behalf of Australia is, therefore, surely welcome. It should also be seen as an example that other governments should follow.

Verisona Solicitors and Advocates is a new law company incorporated in October 2008 following the merger of two south coast solicitors, Dyer Burdett and Gray Purdue. Both had been operating in excess of thirty years, and were well established in their specialist fields.

Verisona, the trading style of the new company, is derived from the Latin words 'Veritas' meaning 'truth' and 'sona' meaning 'speak' or 'sound'.

Verisona's key areas of business include: Employment, Family Law, Commercial Law, Residential Conveyancing, Commercial Property, Mediation Services, Marine Law, Wills, Estates and Probate and Personal Injury and the business operates from offices in the newly refurbished Lakeside building in North Harbour, Portsmouth, and also at offices in Havant and Waterlooville.

For further press information please contact Jenni Bowden-Smith on 023 9249 2472.

Lakeside Office

1000 Lakeside North Harbour PO6 3EN
Tel: 023 9238 0112
Fax: 023 9231 2080
DX: 50002 Havant

Waterlooville Office

202 London Road Waterlooville PO7 7AN
Tel: 023 9226 5251
Fax: 023 9224 1597
DX: 50002 Havant

Havant Office

64 West Street Havant PO9 1PA
Tel: 023 9249 2472
Fax: 023 9249 2462
DX: 50002 Havant

Email: mail@verisona.com

www.verisona.com