

STRICTLY EMBARGOED UNTIL 7.00 PM WEDNESDAY 10th
DECEMBER 2008

Allen & Unwin is proud to announce the 2008 winner of the



THE IREMONGER AWARD

For Writing on Public Issues

STEPHEN GRAY

For his submission

A SORRY STATE OF AFFAIRS

MEDIA RELEASE

Are Australians really sorry? And what exactly are we apologising for?

In the wake of the Prime Minister's apology to the Stolen Generations, Stephen Gray asks the difficult questions in relation to the debate on Indigenous issues.

Gray's not afraid to examine the contentious issue of 'good intentions' and investigates the motivations of the law-makers who divided Aboriginal families.

Timely, significant, controversial; Gray's unpublished work, *A Sorry State of Affairs*, sheds new light on the evolving Indigenous debate and looks towards the future of Australian society.

The Iremonger Award will be presented at a function at the Allen & Unwin office on the evening of Wednesday 10th December 2008

JUDGES' COMMENTS ON A SORRY STATE OF AFFAIRS:

Judith Hoare, Deputy Editor, *Australian Financial Review*, commented: "The author knows how to tell a story, and the topic is particularly relevant following Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's apology to the Stolen Generations."

Mark Rubbo, Managing Director of Melbourne bookseller Readings, remarked that *A Sorry State of Affairs* is "well written and cleanly argued; the author shows an excellent command of the subject. It engages with an ongoing debate, looking at the issues from a different angle."

Stephen Gray is a writer and lawyer, who lived in Darwin for sixteen years and is currently based at Monash University. His novel, *The Artist is a Thief*, won the Australian/ Vogel award in 2000. He has published numerous articles on Indigenous legal issues.

THE IREMONGER AWARD

Allen & Unwin instituted the annual Iremonger Award for Writing on Public Issues in memory of the late John Iremonger, long time publisher with the company. The award is for works of political, social and cultural commentary with contemporary Australian relevance. On offer is prize money of \$10,000, guaranteed publication, royalties on sales, and editorial support to develop the proposal to finished manuscript.

For further information on the Iremonger Award please see: www.allenandunwin.com/iremongeraward

STEPHEN GRAY IS AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW

To organise an interview or for more information contact: Felicity McLean 0284250139/
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