

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Textile artists united by stories of survival and national apology

To mark today's historical national apology to victims and survivors of Institutional Child Sexual Abuse, the memorial **Quilt of Hope**, stitched with messages of resilience and survival, is now on display at MoAD (Museum of Australian Democracy).

Following a Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, Prime Minister Scott Morrison will deliver a national apology to the victims, acknowledging that more needs to be done to protect children.

MoAD recognises the importance of this quilt as a symbol of grassroots democratic activism in light of the royal commission and monumental apology to victims.

The **Quilt of Hope**, which was a project started by the Ballarat community group, Moving Towards Justice, acknowledges and memorialises those who survived institutionalised sexual abuse, and those who did not.

Crafted by victims, their families and supporters, the 88 patches of the quilt feature embroidered symbols and text that signify the stories of the men and women abused as children.

Through the creation of this quilt, victims were given an outlet to showcase the power of their voice and unite with a community of survivors.

The contributing textile artists followed the traditional remembrance style of First World War quilters, and used only red thread, zips, buttons, and calico to craft the quilt.

The quilt plays a significant role in enriching the understanding and appreciation of the fundamental value of democracy and human rights.

MoAD historian and curator, Libby Stewart, notes *"The museum represents the voices of everyone who stands up for their democratic rights. The **Quilt of Hope** is a key object to help us do that."*

*"The **Quilt of Hope** stands as testimony to the strength of those who spoke out, those who supported them and as an item of remembrance for those who lost their lives as a result of the abuse."* said Ms Stewart.

### About MoAD

The Museum of Australian Democracy celebrates Australia's history as a democratic nation and actively promotes the participation of its citizens in determining its future.

MoAD is a museum not just of objects but of ideas. In our iconic heritage building, we tell the story of Australia's journey to becoming one of the world's most vibrant democratic nations. It is a place where stories, conversations and narratives from myriad perspectives can be heard and discussed.

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### INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES:

- Libby Stewart, Senior Historian and Exhibition Curator

IMAGES: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/eyy7pbd3bi0xio5/AAA9ldPJwDx9yj9iyQjXT7ma?dl=0>