



MARIE ARMYTAGE

31 of May, 2010

Committee Secretary,  
Senate Legal & Constitutional Committee  
P.O. Box 6100 Parliament House  
Canberra. ACT 2600

Dear Sir,

Submission to the  
Senate Enquiry on  
Govt. Compensation

Briefly, my submission is as follows:-

I was placed in "Burnside Presbyterian Orphan Homes" when I was 2 years old - where I stayed until I was 12 yrs. old.

I am now 82 years old but I clearly remember my unhappy and cruel upbringing in that institution, such as -

- isolation from the outside world
- regimentation
- hard labour, even in those early years

2

- emotional + psychological damage suffered as a child.
- made to feel like slaves - surely today this would be called "child exploitation".
- made to feel like criminals so that "hearings" were normal.
- severe physical and mental punishments
- loss of dignity and privacy.
- constant ridicule
- mental torture - constantly being told I was "worthless"
- never knowing my two sisters or my brother, even though we were in the same institution.
- no knowledge of family life
- loss of family.
- emotional pain and suffering which I still experience e.g. (writing this report) (very distressing)

I consider compensation to myself and all other Care Leavers is important and feel very strongly that the Churches (in my case - the "Presbyterian Church") should be pursued by the authorities

Secondly - we should all be treated equally and not depend on the State in which we grew up. The Australian Government should show leadership and make all States contribute to a national scheme.

Churches should also be called to account as they were a very large part of the problem.

Yours faithfully  
M. Armytage