

**SUBMISSION:
SENATE INQUIRY REFERENCE: COMPENSATION
(FORGOTTEN AUSTRALIANS)**

**APPLICANT:
DOB 13.01.1950
POSTAL ADDRESS:**

IN RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATION 6 – SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

HISTORY

Early in 1956 three (3) children were surrendered to the Sydney Family Courts and became Wards of the State of New South Wales.

(myself), (sister), and (brother). We were taken to Bidura, Glebe fed, deloused, dressed in 2 hand, hand-me downs, stripped of personal items and given a number. Stephen was taken to the baby's area and was rarely seen again.

I spent seven (7) years in government Institutions with varied and diverse, foster parents.

Eventually the three (3) siblings were split up and experienced a journey through time of horrific stories of their own, criss-crossing occasionally.

I endured the following places:

Institutes

Bidura (Glebe) several times;
King Edward, Newcastle – several years
Lynwood Hall – Guildford

Foster Homes

- A family at Parkes (no children)
- A family at Parkes (2 children)
- Shared Christmas holidays with Christian families (never to see them again)
- Mr & Mrs – NSW 15-18 months.

WORK

I was put to work; I was never paid or compensated. I was given a job of scraping carrots, washing them in cold water. I sat on a stool on a concrete floor and cold mornings seem to sink into your body. Buckets of carrots were required to feed children and staff. I worked with 2 other girls who did potatoes or pumpkin, some mornings I shelled peas or cut and de-threaded beans – I was 6 years old. Bidura 1956 -1957.

As I grew I was promoted to different jobs. I cleaned toilets, scrubbed and polished floors (on my knees) spit polished everyone's school shoes (sometimes with no polish) – King Edward 1958-1959.

At Lynwood Hall girls were placed in working gangs, one day laundry, one day kitchen duty, floors and so on. It was even common to pull weeds on the week-ends. I was verbally abused. If the job was not done right I was made to re do it again.

SEXUAL ABUSE

In 1961 I was fostered to a family in NSW. They had 2 small children. Their father who I was told to call Dad started to kiss me on the mouth. He progressed to pushing his tongue down my throat until I gagged. Then he insisted with force that I scratch his itchy spot along his penis and held my arm so I couldn't get away.

I became the artful dodger and would flee when I saw him. He would insist I sit on his lap. I learnt to beware of his presence. A couple of times he would enter the bathroom while I bathed. Then he came into my room late of a night and hung his genitals over my face. I tried to play dead, but I would tremble violently. I am now 60 and I take Propananol medication for uncontrollable tremors.

I was sexually abused by initiation in King Edward Home. The older girls would place leaves, twigs and stones in and up my vagina. I would have to fight girls to be accepted into groups. It was to prove you were tough.

FOOD

The food was inedible sometimes (stale bread and powdered milk cooked) porridge and brown sugar – but you had to pick out the weavels, tripe, sago and so on.

As a small child I broke down emotionally suffering from night mares, constantly crying, not eating and panic attacks. As a young mother (in my first marriage) I broke down again, with the same symptoms and a Campelltown Psychiatrist put me on Lithium for 12 months.

The Senate of Inquiry recognized the lack of duty of care, the neglect and the suffering.

The Prime Minister of Australian, Kevin Rudd and officials accepted the plight of victims and gave a public apology as a step forward for healing.

I want compensation or health card or old age care and support.

My family was lost, my freedom and identity was lost, my innocence lost and my spirit was broken.

In the light of this claim I list the Governments duty of care and responsive help to the following:

- Stolen Generation
- Those of Disability
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders
- Home Care and Support for the Aged
- Ex-service and War Veterans
- Support for unmarried, widowed and single parents.

I claim this is the first and only application to express grief for the ongoing suffering, trauma and ordeals I endured then and now.

I have never been offered by Government (State or Federal) any care, support, education, therapy, employment skills that would assist me to resume and adjust to normal every day life in society as a Care-Leaver.

Thanking you.