

Submission by Gordon John Waters

I with my brothers were put into the Murray Dwyer Orphanage at Mayfield NSW (near Newcastle) in 1960 to 1966 run by the Daughters of Charity. My parents had broken up, and Dad couldn't cope with us with his new family and Mum couldn't support us and moved away.

An orphanage should have been a place of love and compassion, because all the children there were lost and love starved children **BUT** this place was largely a place lacking in love, understanding and compassion but ruled by force, strictness, no compassion and emotional, physical, intellectual and sexual abuse by nuns and some priests. I was made a ward of the state, where was the state when I was getting abused by these "angels"

I was continually physically punished for the smallest of misdemeanour, emotionally robbed of any self esteem, or self worth. I was beaten with the rough end of a feather duster, straps, I was pushed downstairs and broke my arm, I was ignored by the police when they bought me back from running away, even though I had thrash welts on my body.

I was sexually abused by a nun at the tender age of 11, with threats of torture if I told anyone. I was robbed of my innocence and anything proper and good, I have always felt dirty, suspicious of anyone's kindness to this day (I am 57) and suffer the pain of my abuse to this very day. I have no respect for authorities or the church, I will never go into a church to pray or pray anywhere, to me there is no God, where was he when I was a kid who needed him.

I am from NSW, I live now in QLD, and up till now there has been no Redress for people like me, I did go through a solicitor in NSW and he took half of my compensation for fees, and mediation happened, which was gut wrenching and they said they are "deeply sorry for what might have happened" Load of bullshit. I had to bring up all that had happened to me, which was gut wrenching just to be told "sorry for what might have happened".

My family have been affected badly by what happened to me, I need to have control, I need to be right in everything I say and do, I don't care about other people's feelings. **WHO CARED ABOUT MINE!!**

A redress by the NSW government is important to me because I want to be properly acknowledged for what **DID** happen to me, I want someone to say sorry properly, I want those people brought to justice for what they did to me and all my little friends in the orphanage. I am sure most of them would be dead or in jail, as a younger man I rebelled and joining a bikie gang to experience freedom that I never had. The churches should be accountable for the pain and suffering that young people suffered and still continue to suffer now, but the government should be insisting on this. We all suffer health problems and they will only get worse, the emotional and psychological/psychiatric damage is immense, and people like me and my families expect to be able to have all the assistance to live a decent life from now on, knowing that people and governments are sorry for what went on and want to show it. All states should look after these people led by the government in a national

scheme with the huge input of all the churches that harboured these evil people who did the most heinous of things to young vulnerable children.

Thankyou