

27th October 2011.



Dear Senators Rachel Siewert, Claire Moore,
Carol Brown, Bridget McKenzie.

I have taken the liberty of answering the
question on Commonwealth and State monies
that were forwarded to the Christian Homes.

The money the young women were entitled to
(according to Shirley Jones) is the only government
money that I am personally aware of. Of course, there
would be other government money that would be
forwarded to Church headquarters in Sydney, for other
reasons - grants for upkeep, refurbishment of Churches
under Heritage classification, and one-off grants for
special projects, Home Mission community outreach, etc..

The connection between the Hospitals and the Homes,
and the Hospital's role as 'facilitators' is clear,
according to Shirley Jones' comments to me.

Yours truly

Janice Kashin

To: Community Affairs Reference Committee

3 pages

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(Sorry but my typist is on holidays. Hence, longhand.)

26th October 2011. Adelaide.

Dear Senators Rachel Siewert, Claire Moore,
Carol Brown, Bridget McKenzie

Question: What Federal Government money was paid to the Administrators of Christian Church Homes?

The key to obtaining Federal Government money was in the Admission Forms that had to be completed before a girl was admitted. They were most comprehensive.

Questions about schooling, employment history, family, family health and history, next of kin, parents work, siblings, qualifications, etc. (I can provide you with a copy of mine if you request.)

If the girl already had a work history, then this period in her life constituted "unemployment because of ill health". This benefit could be activated after the first hospital visit to the Ante-natal clinic. I don't know what happened if the girl was seeing a private doctor, and not going to the Hermsley Hospital. I suppose there was no benefit for the girls who were still at school.

No girls ever signed any documentation to apply for this benefit. There must have been some 'Memorandum of Understanding' that enabled the Nation (a Justice of the Peace) to apply for money that should have gone to the girls, and keep it within the Home's finances. I have only Shirley Jones word for the above. (She is now deceased.)

The second benefit was another government benefit that could be activated six weeks before a girl gave birth. Kind of like a "rest up before confinement" benefit.

Shirley Jones said in her capacity as Matron she applied for this money 'on the girls' behalf'. The girls were aware of this benefit. It was a joke among them that they would never see that money. So even though they were 'charged for their keep' (I have a record of my charges per week), there was the girls own entitlement from the government that was kept within the coffers of the Home.

I understand Shirley Jones also applied for the 'Baby Bonus' (Commonwealth Money) on behalf of the girls. I assumed that she would pass the money on to the 'new' parents of our babies. I was not privy to where that money went. She registered the births.

At no time did I fill in any forms or sign any requests for benefits or entitlements. At no time did I receive any benefits or entitlements (personally). As I said before, there must have been a Memorandum of Understanding that acknowledged Shirley Jones as "Carer". As I was twenty-one years of age, I didn't need a carer, so any money applied for on my behalf was unlawfully taken.

Yours truly,

Janice Keshin