

Commonwealth of Australia
Senate Inquiry

10th June, 2010

I am writing in regard to the review of Government compensation payment in relation to the "Forgotton Australians"

I was charged as a "Neglected Child" on 26/4/68 and committed to Seaforth Home, Somerton Park, South Australia until a foster home could be found. Previous to this I was in other unlicensed voluntary homes and also spent at least 6 months at Wanslea Emergency Home for Children from 5/6/66 – 24/12/66. I was 18 months old at the time.

At the time of my placement at Seaforth Home I was made a Ward of the State by the Government and placed with the majority of other children who were intellectually and physically handicapped.

I recall being left in my cot after I soiled the area as we were not allowed to be out of the cot as it was after hours. I was left to sleep there overnight. I also was disadvantaged by not seeing my natural father for up to 3 months at a time, this was devastating for me even at such a young age I knew who he was and wished to spend time with him. This was discouraged by the Department of Social Welfare. I have several written letters from the Department of Social Welfare to support this.

It has been suggested that I was placed in over 17 different foster homes, up until the age of 5 years of age. I do not recall all of these places but remember many. I am currently trying to obtain my file to further investigate this area.

I feel this has had substantial effect on my life and still does to this day. I have always found it hard to trust people and have found an urgency to flee when things began to get difficult, this I guess would explain my three marriages to date. I have four children of my own now and this has taken its toll on their lives as well. I have also suffered clinical depression.

I refer to "Forgotton Australians, A Report on Australians who

experienced institutional or out of home care as children” August, 2004,
Recommendation 6 and apply for this submission.