



1st June 2010.

To The Senate Enquiry on Redress,

I wrote to you my story before and am happy we have come such a long way, thanks to you all. But we still have the question of redress.

I went into a class action in Victoria many years ago and we were told if the lawyers won for the Ballarat Orphanage we would get some redress also. As it turned out the lawyers won an out of court settlement and then dumped us. We had been given a special 7 year grace and it was nearly up, then Victoria changed the laws.

We felt they were in cahoots with the government as it was absolutely devastating to me. It left me with the feelings of being abused all over again, as we had signed a privacy contract we hadn't spoken about it in public for nearly 7 years. I have issues with trusting because of all

that happened to me in Winkaton Girls
Reformatory in the early 60's. and now I
cant trust lawyers so I havent been able
to put my name down on the class action
the lawyer in Bendung Victoria is running.
They take most of it anyway so the stress
of having to go to court and the waiting
seems too hard. I have a lot of medical
problems and blame my stay in the
Convent and Girls home for my condition.

We werent fully developed yet and
had to do heavy lifting and scrubbing
floors daily. The cold and damp in the
places plus the lack of nutritious
food at a crucial growing stage, I am
sure has caused my knee replacements,
severe arthritis, my spine is worn out
yet I have good bones, I am only 62.

I have deafness in both ears from
all the boshings and am worried how
I will cope in my old age.

The redress would help so much
in giving me a choice to maybe see
a private doctor instead of waiting
years on the hospital lists. I dont
know how I will ever be able to go

into aged care, as it'll feel like I'm locked up again. Abuse whether physical or sexual is still traumatic and you never get over it. The homes have totally ruined our lives and a moderate redress for all abused children who were wards of state and in Government Care deserve some. It would give me security in my old age as I struggle still to pay private rent with no money in the bank and living from week to week. Post Traumatic Stress is an awful thing to suffer from and apparently Sue had it most of my life. The depression and struggle of living on a pension is very hard. We have special needs and many medical problems and the redress would help in our quality of life in my old age.

Victoria refuses to give redress except through lawyers and courts and why should lawyers be getting rich on peoples misery. We've suffered enough its time now after the wonderful apology and recognition to compensate us for the abuse and neglect we suffered.

We are all Aussies and all different states are giving different amounts except Victoria and NSW who refuse to give anything. We should all be treated equally and everyone who was abused receive the same amount Australia wide. We are getting old now and hope this inquiry gets a speedy Federal resolution to a redress scheme before its too late to help most of us.

We also worked hard in laundries in the Convents so the Churches should be made to contribute to a redress scheme. They fed us on bread and jam and made money off us in their laundry. I ironed all day at age 12 and 13 on big heavy mangles doing hospital linen. I was bashed by a deputy head staff many many times, locked for weeks in solitary confinement, days on bread and water with no toilet facility, the corner of the room had to do like a dog. This woman abused many and should be made to pay for it, if she is still alive.

Thank you all for all your help in bringing all this out in the open.

Yours Sincerely Irene Kalves