

James Priestley



To Whom It May Concern:

I came from a family of 8 boys & 2 girls living in a pretty happy relationship as a family, then to be taken away as the police said there was neglect by my parents, then made a ward of the state, along with my brother John we where sent to Turana receiving depot where we under went physical&emotional suffering being forced to do things that we weren't used to, Example forced into the boxing ring to fight older boys than ourselves, along with other incidents of beltings for no reason. After a short stay we were sent to the Salvation Army boy's home at Bayswater no.2. After being there a week we decided to run away to which we did, we got into Melbourne only to be caught by the transit police at flinders street station, then taken to Russell Street where we spent the night then to be picked up by two salvation army officers namely and who were very friendly with the police lady saying how sorry they were for us until they got us out the front placed us in their black van and stated to bash us, this continued on the way back to Bayswater. On arriving back at the home they gave us who said I will teach you barstads a lesson then he started bashing the living daylight out of us, my brother had a blood nose to which he later found out was broken, I had blood coming from my ear and mouth, the belting was so severe that Matron Fleming had to ask to stop. During our time over the years we were subject to frequent bashings, physical and emotional and then sexual rape by . Over the years after being released my life has never been the same , I am 68 years of age and these night mares still live with me.

I do not know of any redress system that is available to me, I there for urge the federal government to put pressure on Mr Brumby the Victorian Premier to seriously consider putting this in place for state wards that were abused in state care as the Victorian Government had a duty of care to make sure that boys and girls that were place in these institutions were taken care of not to go through the terrible ordeals that they went through. Mr Brumby I believe has been secretly paying out different cases. The most recently being compensation for the Braybon brothers who I see on Channel Seven News received tens of thousands of dollars for what they went through, please note that Rodney and Michael Braybon were in the same home (Bayswater) at the same time as my brother and myself, suffering the same treatment as we did. Why it is the Mr Brumby can pay these people compensation and not others.

I currently have Angela Sdrinis handling my case but has been a hard long road. We are all children of Australia and so we should be all treated equally and not depend on luck to what state we grew up in. We need the Australian government to show leadership and make all states contribute to a national scheme. The churches and charities should also be required to contribute to a national scheme as they were part of the problem and should be a part of the solution. More pressure on Mr Brumby for Victorian victims of poor care that was given to state wards.

Yours Sincerely James Priestley

2/6/10.