

To the Senate and Legal Constitutional Committee
P.O. Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra
ACT. 2600

My letter hopes to point out to this committee what we, as children whilst in state care were not given: -

- Love
- Understanding
- Education
- Quality of life
- Basic Nutrition
- Goals
- Guidance

However what I can point out to the committee what we did get constantly and in huge doses: -

- Beatings
- Tormented
- Raped
- Sodomised
- Solitary confinement
- Made to have cold showers
- Holding heavy implements with arms outstretched
- Stripped naked in front of everyone and shamed
- Food forced down your throat
- Head held under water for what seemed like eternity
- Attempts to throw you over a banister 2 floors up
- Forced to go to church Beatings if you didn't

The above was not spasmodic it was every day some child was getting tormented or bashed or raped why because they could. I was placed in the institution at a very early age no more than three months old and was there until I was about 13 and half years old it could have been longer had I not been cunning enough to convince those who were letting me stay with them over the Christmas holidays to get me a job.

The classic here was, it wasn't until later on I find out he was a paedophile, and now I am between a rock and a hard place do I tell the welfare or shut up. Well later on I do tell the welfare and to my detriment they place me in a hostel this was not working out as those who were there were much older than I so I was in a position where I had to rescind what I had said to the welfare so I could go back to the paedophile.

We were always, as adolescents between a rock and a hard place. Why? We were never shown life skills, all we knew was we had to be cunning to be able to survive in the real world.

Never given any values, never knowing how to start a conversation, this is still with many of us today, making friends with others, trusting others, feeling comfortable in your own skin, never knowing how to care for ourselves, never knowing for a long time there was such a thing as the dole and Medicare, some of us are still too proud to get our Medicare card or even go on the dole, and where are many of these children now adults today, they are either in prisons, mental institutions or homeless all because the various Governments and also the Federal governments let them down.

We were all deprived of a chance to be someone and it was the states and Federal Governments responsibility to see that we were given opportunities to advance; instead we came to be now known as the **Forgotten Australians**.

The Federal Government does have a duty of care to all those who were placed in institutions, it should be putting things in place to ensure the various organisations who were responsible for our demise be held accountable for what was done to so many as children.

If they use the Irish answer in its entirety then you may see a difference there is a potential these Forgotten Australians becoming productive in society but until compensation and a Royal Commission is carried out the healing of so many will never happen.

It should be in the Federal Governments power to have laws that stand in our way either be amended or abolished so we as citizens of this country can get the justice that we are owed; I point out the most important one is the Statute of Limitations

Read the figures on the demise of the Stolen Generation and equate them to the non-indigenous children where many were also stolen from their parents, suicides, homelessness, prisons, mental institutions, drug addiction, alcoholics you will find the figures are very similar.

Everyone has a Right to a Quality of Life

Why do the Governments and those organisations that are responsible for our demise stand in our way?

Compensation is a must for all those who were at the mercy of this country, we were not cared for we were abused and then Forgotten.

Now we are tagged the **Forgotten Australians**.

Regards

A FORGOTTEN AUSTRALIAN