

# Senate inquiry into the implementation of the recommendation of the Forgotten Australians: *A Report on Australians institutionalised as children.*

Senate Affairs Reference Committee  
2<sup>nd</sup> Submission  
Garry Harrison 6<sup>th</sup> of May 2009

As a Forgotten Australian I write this submission, without the backing of any of the advocate groups. In first and second world wars many of our countrymen went off to war only to be killed in another country, and some to this day are still on the battlefields of yesterday. Many of these soldiers had left their children behind for obvious reasons and their wives or girlfriends were left to look after their children.

Many of these women were unable to cope and at times the government of the day was telling them also they couldn't cope so their children were taken from them and placed into institutions to be abused, some of these children were the sons and daughters of war veterans that never returned home. To this day the armed services, the RSL nor the previous and present governments have recognized that these are the daughters and sons of soldiers who gave their lives for this country, were abused and raped by the carers of the various organization and state funded institutions.

Many of our Forgotten Australians that were the sons and daughters of these brave soldiers went on to become soldiers and fought in the Vietnam war, only to be spat on when they returned, on all fronts the Forgotten Australian has been there even though he or she had been abused by the system they still went to war for this country and the Government still turns its back on them.

I am a founding member of the <http://www.forgottenaustralinas.com.au> and also the <http://www.forgottenaustralinas.com> for too long, the Forgotten Australian have had their grievances handled by various advocate groups only to be disappointed to find that the various advocate groups do not understand the brittleness of the Forgotten Australian.

In a speech by Ex senator the Honourable Andrew Murray he spoke of a trilogy and how he was able to distinguish the variants in the institutionalized children, he spoke of the indigenous children now known as the "*Stolen Generation*" the Child Migrants and the non indigenous children which he referred to as the '*Forgotten Australian*', it is common knowledge that the non indigenous group is the majority of the three, it has been noted by various scholars, the approximate number of non indigenous children institutionalised in this country is over 500,000

It is our desire to become incorporated and to have in place, people who are educated and fully understand the Forgotten Australian. Already we have seen the Forde Foundation fail the Forgotten Australian in Queensland. What we would like to bring about is a one stop shop for Forgotten Australians similar to the model the RSL have for its return soldiers, like the RSL they administer and look after the return soldiers all over the country side whether it is their health or their funeral, the RSL sees to it the return soldier is catered for as well his or her family.

We do see this as a bold and a very adventurous, however we see no reason why this cannot happen, there are many amongst us who envisage getting their lives together, although some of us are middle aged, it is our children and their children that need to be shown the correct path along the way to a rich and fulfilling lifestyle which we as growing adults were never allowed to have.

I am putting this forward to the senate in the hope that you may see the advantages of having a one stop shop for all Forgotten Australians run by people who are fully conversant on the expectations of a Forgotten Australian.

Too many have tried to understand Forgotten Australians, only to find they have got it all wrong.

I would like to conclude to say that our Prime Minister has already made a distinction between the *Stolen Generation* and the *Forgotten Australian*, the mere fact that he apologized to the Indigenous people is indeed an endorsement that we are a separate group to the *Child Migrants* and the *Stolen Generation*.

Kindest Regards

Garry Harrison

Forgotten Australians

*(Non Indigenous Australian)*