

To The Senate Inquiry

My name is **Anthony Forrest**  
SA State Ward Number **476834**

I am writing this Submission for you to understand where  
Forgotten Australians are going well, and is not going well in  
South Australia.

A lot of issues need attention!!

I am known across Australia as "**SCONEY**",  
These are the things I will be discussing, on behalf of my fellow  
Brothers and Sisters FA's and Myself.

Please excuse my spelling I'm not the best.

- 1. The State Government of South Australia. (SGSA)  
Children in state Care Commission of Inquiry**
- 2. Ted Mullighan Inquiry and Report. (TMI)**
- 3. Apology.**
- 4. Forgotten Australians of South Australia. (FASA)**
- 5. Post Care Services. (PCS)**
- 6. Consumer Reference Group. (CRG)**
- 7. Healing Centre Lobby Group. (HCLG)**
- 8. Memorial Working Party (MG)**
- 9. Support Group. (SG)**
- 10. Care Leavers Australia Network (clan)**
- 11. Alliance for Forgotten Australians. (AFA)**
- 12. Relationships Australia. (RA)**
- 13. Financial support.**
- 14. Health.**
- 15. Education.**
- 16. Dental.**

17. Housing and the Homeless.
18. Web Sites.
19. Pedophile Task Force. (PTF)
20. Mishandling off Cases.
21. ICAC.
22. 100 deaths.
23. Support through The Upper House.
24. Letters to Ministers.
25. Forgotten Australian protecting their name and heritage.
26. Forgotten Australian Pty Ltd.
27. Forgotten Australian Inc.
28. Destruction of Family life.

## **1. THE STATE GOVERNMENT of South Australia.**

First of all I would like to say to the dismay of the South Australian Government they did not start any Inquiry here, They were forced by Ki Meekins, Hon Andrew Evans, Rob Kerin and their public outcry, to do something for the Forgotten Australians, Not Our Premier Mr. Mike Rann who takes great glory in saying he did this, it offends me saying his government did this, when in fact they didn't, They the Government didn't want to know about it, But were forced to act against their will.

The State Government to me seems, like they opened Pandora's Box and seen what's in it and want to hide all the history discovered.

In the beginning of this I saw Government department working with each other but now over the years I see them against each other and closing doors, this only makes the truth harder to come out for FA's. The Premier of South Australia, Mike Rann has not has not done much but media stunts. He has destroyed many lives with the time this has all taken to come to an end with Redress and the outcome for all concerned.

## **2. TED MULLIGHAN INQUIRY AND REPORT.**

How I became involved with the Inquiry there I was doing statements with the police and at end of that period I was asked by them. Did I know of the inquiry going on? I replied no. I looked into it and made a time to meet Ted Mullighan.

The inquiry was way overdue, he was a great bloke doing his job, The ordeal of going through it was the worst thing in my life I had to do. It was so hard to remember all but I was expected to, I was not given enough time to really remember all the things I should have but I got some out. I think the inquiry after gloating it spent \$12 million on it did not get out to all the people it did. In fact daily I have people in the streets, on the phone and on the web asking why they were not told about it.

On one of the CRG meetings, I asked this point as a lot of FAs asked me; why was it not advertised more? The reply given was "you can see how over loaded we are here; if it was advertised it would have shut the system down with overload. We all would have been on stress leave. We as you can see they do not and cannot handle that amount of people, however it was Advertised, only with post stamp size articles in papers over the country, that I would say 80% of the people who should have gone' missed out, Now they are very upset, no one saw it.

Teds report when he printed it the findings. He made a telephone size book, I could not read it, my head was a mess and under lots of pills from the doctor, I asked friends to read it for me but they could only read a few pages and that was enough for them also. So I demanded to PCS they make a disc not only for me but for the blind, old and disabled. It got made months later and with the sound quality at the apology volume of course (none).

Also when he published, it had damaged many good care workers out there, I will never become a care worker because of the fact in 20 years something may be said about a home you worked in about other people and someone writes a book with no names, It pointed the finger at all of them, there was good workers and carers, now the Government wonders why the foster carers are down and carers are hard to find. A tremendous amount of damage has been done to the kids coming who may have been fosterd.

So with all this in mind, many could be hundreds missed out on seeing Ted Mullighan.

He did a great job, he bought the truth out things were happening but sadly missed so many people that needed to go, They sadly now are left to outsourced police departments. These things have destroyed many people's family lives with the upset off it all. The longer this state Government takes to sort this out the more or all of Teds Mullighan's good work will go down the drain.

These words were even spoken in the Upper legislative Council, they see the injustice done here and listen to the FAs where the state Government do nothing, but media stunts.

### **3. APOLOGY**

The Apology was one of the worst speeches I have ever been to, First of all The Premier Mr. Mike Rann Spoke, then the sound disappeared, just after Jay Weatherill finished. It left over 100 people guessing the words, not even the sign reader for the deaf could not do his job, he just stood there most off it. We were given Apology from church Ministers as well. It was still as if a mountain had lifted out the room when it was said, but now all that went, say at the time it was great but poor quality sounding but now we think it was crap after the way the Government have done this all stalling over implemertaion of the recommendations. Its over twelve month since the findings were handed down and FA's are going crazy.

### **4. THE FORGOTTEN AUSTRALIANS Of South Australia.**

FAs in South Australian are very disappointed they did not get the chance to be heard. The senate did not come here not even in link up in the net to the FAs. A lot of people I know don't write so they will miss out, this is not acceptable. We demand a chance to be heard. We also are disappointed in our Governments lack of action to finish the redress here.

We are people needing many things including Mental, Drug Rehabilitation, Housing, Health issues and Education, Oh and most Importantly a new start in life and to be listened to for the first time.

Not to be abused anymore by the system.

We need a place that give

## **5. POST CARE SERVICES**

PCS is a referral service only, They have quoted they do not do counselling but only refer on to appropriate services, They are only a few staff, and they cannot cope with the number of FAs coming in, the FOI's are back logged past deadlines by law to clients as they call us. On many occasions they don't answer their answering service. They are made out to be up on the roof but only are on the floor, the staff there admits they are under staffed, Squeezed in to another department, Adoptions, no offices for staff and only two meeting rooms you have to book interview room to get it. It is only recently they expanded it to the two offices. For a long time there was only one interview room. That was fun trying to get in. The staff is nice but the hot dogs in the bun sort of speak, they know what needs doing for us but can't because their hands are tied by legalities and funding.

Ill also like to add their stats sheet as good as they look are far wrong

No one I know says they are happy with available services there.

Not even their staff, with the so called latest news from Jenifer Rankins calling PCS The One Stop Shop, so far from it, even the staff don't think much of what they have been portrayed as.

## **6. CONSUMER REFERANCE GROUP.**

The CRG was set up by Post Care Services through the Ted Mullighan Inquiry it's held once a month, normally the first Tuesday. It goes for an hour or more, if we can stop them from throwing us out the door at the end of time. There we try to put our views across and it gets taken in like a hot air balloon after it has left the building by other departments. We don't have much time to say what's going on because most of the meeting is filled with stuff from the minutes and their agenda not ours we go through theirs first. It just leaves no time for us. We have asked in the upper house Anne Brassington for help, she asked in November for the government to listen to us and she also said we the HCLG we are decent people asking for reasonable stuff. You should listen, they said, I have Hansards for reference, I still believe they don't listen much and have really strung a lot of damaged and hurting FAs a long just to look good in the Media and Public eyes. We are puppets from the eyes off other group members as well as me.

Please note the staff at PCS push the info on but from there nothing at all coming back as in progress. I'll say it again they are good people but they are the hot dog between the bun. I think they know what's right, they just can't do it.

## **7. HEALING CENTRE LOBBY GROUP**

This is a story a lot of wards will like, when I came into the groups We started the HCLG, well I didn't but the team did just before I joined, PCS set it up in request from the team of FA'S at the CRG.

It was like we jump their side of the fence and get never before info and take it on our side the fence and use it for our cause, mostly against them. On the set up of this group the CRG stated they have nothing to do with what goes on in the HCLG but will set a meeting time every month, Our group has done wonders in the last 6 months we have been in Parliament that many times now I have lost Count, We as a team of only FA's without the PCS help have got the ball rolling. I will give more details below in Forgotten Australian Pty Ltd, Forgotten Australian Inc section.



## **8. MEMORIAL WORKING PARTY.**

I was in this group for a while, I disbanded because people were coming and going in and out of this group. The idea of having a Memorial out of the city is not my idea of a meaningful figure at all.

My idea of a Memorial is in every main mall in the country, have were the plant blocks are and a cut out angle in it with a girl and a boy cuddled up in its corner looking for warmth, beside it we could have a donation device for funds for the FA's, that's a Memorial and something people would look at, the little kids from the homes cuddle in corner unhappy. I'll supply a picture of my sketch, Don't laugh...

## **9. SUPPORT GROUP.**

The Support Group in SA for FA's has just finished its first group and going into its second. The first group was not much healing but more setting up norms and stuff, not much to it at moment but I do enjoy sitting with good Wards having a coffee and chat.

## **10. CLAN.**

Clan I am not a member of any group that's set up for care leavers who should never charged for information that belongs to FAs.

I also believe there is a big difference between Care leaver and Forgotten Australian a big difference. FAs are FAs

An FA that lives on the streets should always have free access to info regarding FA's, if they are a member or not. I have mentioned this to PCS as they pay funding for CLAN I've ask them to explain. Still waiting.

## **11. Alliance for Forgotten Australians**

The AFA was they not set up to help all FA's across Australia, no borders barred. We here I will tell a real story, I do a lot of work on the PC over the time for FA's I receive plenty of letters from people all over country, at one stage I was getting so many complaints, About Queensland services in particular one place, it described the bad services to Wards, Selective groups, and not being able to get a room meeting to complain as a group. I'm in SA I have not one but plenty of emails stating the same thing from

different people, So I emailed our AFA state member and asked him to read two scanned file sent to me, He said what he did was pass them on to the second in charge on welfare, still no reply, but also sent them off to the AFA in Canberra. I was told the reply he got was, it is in another states so therefore none of your states business. What the AFA in the ACT don't think SA is going through redress and planning for better services here so Queensland had the Forde inquiry they are the perfect people to learn from. I have been studying what's been going on everywhere; we need to get this right for our states so these shocking things do not happen here. Here in SA also, we do not feel anything coming from the AFA that helps us, that we are not already looking at or onto.

## **12. RELATIONSHIPS AUSTRALIA.**

RA was set up for Wards was it ? I ask you all to look at their Web site, does it say it's designed for FAs? Can you find the Word FAs or Wards or care leavers on its main web page? Does it attract FAs?

I don't understand how the Government keeps passing it off as all the Services FA's need. It's not and so far from what FAs call a One Stop Shop. Teds Mullighan's recommendation says non church or Government Affiliated, well they get funding that's what

we FAs call in the pocket. This place services the community on many issues so I'm not knocking what they do but no RA you are not designed for FA's best Interest.

### **13. Financial support**

Don't think I have been given anything in the way of financial support, only with reading and writing test, an Educational psychology assessment. Also my Medicare exemption on my Psychologist counseling bills.

I have heard of PCs being bought to FA's but I am still waiting.....

The only financial support I believe we will see is when Redress comes out or when we finish taking the Government to court.

### **14. Health.**

The health of FA's is not a good picture we have had hard lives and our bodies need attention as soon as possible, we are worn thin and frail, we need services designed with us in mind and Doctor's who know us.

Another fact I have from many, I mean many FAs is they have Hepatitis A.B.C., we need services for these people as well as other disease's.

SA has no such place just for FAs.

We need the Gold card and Healing Centre to help service needs.

## **15. Education.**

As a ward and child I missed all my schooling due to other influences. I have been told last year I have the skills of a year 7 student, I figure that's when it all went downhill for me, I with many other FAs past the age of 30 have no help in the Education department, We are not considered not important any more, We have been Forgotten.

## **16. Dental.**

What can I say did FA's see dentist when they were in care. Most FA's I know have terrible teeth, the department is to blame, no services are set up for FA's here in SA. Post care say we are entitled to dental care but no one including me have been helped with this matter.

## **17. Housing and the Homeless.**

Housing issues are a big problem here in Adelaide, it's no good going to PCS as there just are no houses available.

I have been on the waiting list for public Housing for 24 years.

Maybe if they gave me a home of my own back then my life would have been much better, another problem with housing is the homeless many FA's do not have ID's. To get housing they don't

even look like they can pay for the next pie let alone pay rent. Big issues need to be taken into account here, PCS can help with Advocating for these matters more.

## **18. Web Sites and the Internet.**

The Government have a new thing to worry about, The Web has opened the doors up with FAs, We are now networked on so many sites, info like the news I just got on a Saturday morning saying our Government is doing a secret Tele-link ? Not one member has been asked to come in from our group , as off this time. With so many ward sites, scam Companys and money minded Advocate Groups flourishing. Most sites you have membership to join or fees, One site charges \$1000 for groups to join. Some charge only \$10. Most you need to sign in.

Some web sites have closed doors to FAs who stand up when they see something very wrong.

The internet Forums can be a total head ache, In fact I call them one of the 7 deadly sins. I say it's the 8<sup>th</sup>.

Over the past few years it has given so much help to those who never knew the computer (reading and writing). It has given us a voice to tell the world what's going on., It's the new start for many to find info, that normally never goes out the front door., I believe there still should be a restrictions on, some of these sites,

Sites making money from us, is just not on, Any site for wards, Monies made, should all go back to the FA's.

## **19. PEDOPHILE TASK FORCE.**

The PTF have done what they can, they have taken statements and left us for months not knowing what's going on. This destroys people lives, in fact over many times it has made me quite sick, we need to know what's happening all the time, also with setting up of the PTF from the TMI

It's funding ends in 2010, I have many cases there and have been told by many police officers they will not have enough time to complete all cases and with many case on TV their load grows by the day with other people coming in. This is not acceptable. We as a lobby group have been asking parliament for extensions of time for these people to complete their jobs properly. We have their words but not the current Governments, Mikes.

If I may I would like to speak about the damage done to FA's with the changing of police officers, FA's have been through three different squads of police there, some understand us and some don't, also you understand there are horses for courses but reliving the past over and over again to a different police has taken affect on a lot of FA's. Just the fact of going over and over, this must stop.

## **20. Mishandling off Case's**

Here in SA we have an Attorney General (AG) who has been found out manipulating cases, One, The Easling case was on Today Tonight, it showed how this AG Manipulated the case and the FA's Victims lost badly. Injustice. The department both Police and welfare had their dirty hands in this, This need's an Independent Commission Against Corruption to investigate future and other dealing he may have had his hands on with FA's.

## **21. Independent Commission Against Corruption.**

Our state has so many dirty secrets, even X Police are speaking up on corruption here, Today Tonight has been bringing them to account, The Corruption here has never been looked into, and it should be that's for sure.

State Wards will never be able to get the truth out with people in the back ground under minding the truth.

## **22. 100 DEATHS**

With the high number of Deaths in Ted Mulligan's Book, one would think someone would be looking into it, we have not heard a thing to do with it, at all.

We are concerned that the inquiry with so many people missing out on telling their stories, The whole story of the Forgotten



Australians is not there. Also I understand the Federal Government has opted out on this subject to do with FA's. I have been told recently that the state and Federal governments both funded institution here in SA, This makes the count even higher with the Aboriginal and Torrens Strait Islanders.

The number would be much higher; The Federal Government has a responsibility to act on these matters to and hopefully a lot better than our state government.

If the Federal and State Government do not correct the injustices in all states we will take it to the International World Court for Justice. Our lost Brothers and Sister will be REMEMBERD.

## **23. Support through the Upper House.**

Only two upper house minister are helping us here, Their names are Anne Bressington and Robert Brokenshire,. They have put bills in the upper house for us, These two people I personally Thank, It's great to know that other parts of the Government know the truth and are willing to stand with us and the dark chapter in our terrible states history.

## **24. Letters to Ministers**

We have plenty of denial letters of responsibilities from many politicians; We the FA's feel here we have been strung along to long.

We have over 200 documents we would love to show you all. Some are just jargon and others saying speak to this person only to have the door shut in our face.

Some have been good but many the opposite. More negative than positive.

## **25. Forgotten Australian Protecting our Name and Heritage.**

It's up to the FA's to keep our records and history, our government have shown nothing but proper gander, our history photo's were all taken in good shots, Nothing in our state history shows what the truth was, it hides so many things. All pictures look great and the truth was it was not. We need to have a building to hold our heritage safely and correctly.

Also with all the Advocates groups who claim to be for us and not, they should be stopped, from any funding, There are many out there who get money from state Government, then charge for info when FA's want some., We need a place we can see all and get all information, and not a place in an side street in the city, A place where we can see and show our children our real past.

## **26. Forgotten Australian Pty Ltd.**

On the 6 Feb 2009 Ki Meekins and I started a state business Called FORGOTTEN AUSTRALIANS PTY LTD, we only did this to protect our name, it was done not in haste but in hope we will stop other non FA's from getting their hands on it. After doing so we found out it only protected the State of South Australia from future abuse so we registered on the 2<sup>nd</sup> march 2009 an Australian wide Business called the same. Protection for us is a must, No one did this, no one thought of what could happen if a Non FA Business minded person got their hands on it. We would have been exploited. The FA's License is not intended to be there for long I'll explain next.

## **27. Forgotten Australian Inc**

This is our plan we get an incorporated license start a new beginning for FA's in every state. These will be our goals,

To promote the emotional, physical and psychological well-being of Forgotten Australians, and work towards the establishment of specific services to address their needs.

To establish trust, the objective being to benefit and support the welfare of Forgotten Australians.

In furtherance of any of the objective of the Forgotten Australians Inc., to make grants to and give assistance to such persons, trust, group, associations, society, institutions or other organizations and authorities and to establish such scholarships as the Forgotten Australians Inc may from time to time determine.

To ensure the preservation of history and civil liberties, as far as possible, of those FA's who suffered abuse whilst in Australian Institutional Care or out of home care. We have more ideas but on application we only have to put four things to keep it simple.

The application will be put in this Monday, it took us a great deal of effort to do the Constitution, ie getting people involved, We now have some very top class people waiting for the day it all starts, they say they will give us 150%, excellent and willing to change jobs. We also have people interstate very interested in our plan and want to come aboard. Victoria and Queensland have given the thumbs up and involved with it also. We need to make the association Australia wide and hopefully have a one stop shop in

all cities with RSL like places as well. Own and Run by FA's We need something for us, we will not be Forgotten.

## **28. Destruction of Family life.**

Over the past few years I have been very sick. The stress of all this is taking its toll on me and my family. During the inquiry they watched my weight disappear, they thought I was going to give up all life, I was close I tell you, as the time has passed, I work 20 hours a day for the FA's. My Family wants to do things with me. I tell them this is very important and needs doing if I don't who will. So it must be finished. For the sake of myself and all FA family lives.

Many Wards since the start have broken up. Due to many reasons. My family love me and need me. I need to find a place that caters for us FA's, We have not found this place, it does not exist, so we will make one happen with the help of FA's across Australia.

## **Final Words**

As you can read above lots of things are going wrong in South Australia and interstate, I'll leave my phone number and email if you wish to get back to me.

Thank you for time.

Sconey

PS please find the attached sketch of what a Memorial  
And a short story of how past damage affects people. I left lots of  
things out but I think it put a picture of what was happening in  
Homes and why we ran away, to find our lives mixed up in the  
below story.

It was one of those days when I didn't want to talk to people. I just  
wanted to be left alone. It was a grey cold day in the city of  
churches. I walked down Hindley Street. The place has changed.  
It has been many years since I said I would never come here  
again. All my old squats are gone. New shops are everywhere; all  
the old hang outs are long gone, just their shells remain with  
different faces. But the memories are so strong. It feels like the  
street is still a part off my blood. The doorways I used to sleep in,  
the smells and aromas set off flashbacks and instincts in my  
brain. I felt like a homing pigeon coming home. I had a lot of good  
times living here as a kid and many bad times. I was a ward of the  
State, on the run most of the time and in those days I was not the  
only kid hanging out there. Many kids were there. All surviving in  
one street, living any way they could. We were there through  
family and systems abuse.

We all had our tricks to getting money to survive. Begging was  
one of them. A pie

or pasty was under a dollar then. Some nights the street had kids  
on every corner begging for food, cigarettes, drugs or money.

Many kids sold their souls there as well. The street was a meat market for the predators and pimps.

The things we did to survive! We were so young. We did not know how we were being abused by those who so cunningly took advantage of our situation. We could not even fathom how it would leave scars so deep in us; that the nightmares and memories would last a life time. This street had all of the seven deadly sins in it. It took many lives in many ways

Strolling past the big M on corner of Hindley and Bank Streets, I turned towards the railway station and an old friend walked past. This blew me away. He was still walking the street after thirty plus years and going through bins. He was hanging out in town many years before my time in the street. This just saddened me even more. I walked up to him and called his name. I was one of only a few that this person ever spoke to. No one ever knew his name except me. He turned and looked shocked that someone recognized him. He realized who I was after a good long stare at me. The feelings were racing through my mind. I quickly opened my wallet and said to him, "My friend, the system is still failing you. You can have what ever is in my wallet". I had two fifty dollar notes. He took both of them. Immediately after that my eyes hit the ground. I was in tears and I couldn't even look him in the face as I did not want him to see my tears running down my face. I mumbled, "Take care of yourself, my friend", and turned towards the railway station.

The day rapidly went from grey to very dark after that. I walked over the River

Torrens bridge on King William Road and looked at the toilet block in Jolley's Lane. Many kids hung around there in the old days, trying find places to sleep late at night. This was a dangerous place to sleep. You were often woken by men playing with themselves, enticing you with money to come with them to their houses and with cold frozen backs most of us went with them.

Well, with all those old memories I really needed something, I gave away a long time ago - alcohol. So I quickly found the nearest pub with an auto teller machine and started drinking heavily. I found the need to gamble and sat at a poker machine and a started playing. However, losing was more like it.

Sitting besides me were three old fellows yakking away. I have big ears and don't mind old fellow stories, so I listened to what they were saying. The subject was the Mullighan Inquiry and the wards of the State. They were also talking about things that happened to them in the past. Their stories were not too bad. They had homes and families in their day, whereas we did not. Some of their comments were along the lines of " They expect us tax payers to pay for those rotten criminal kids; I would have snotted my kids if they were like that; They're still alive today so they must have been treated all right; The joke of it!" This subject went for another ten minutes with them knocking us wards. The last comment was, "I reckon they are all liars!"

After this I was boiling. I had to say something to these silly old fools and I had to keep my cool in my intoxicated state. Still I stood up proudly and said, "I am one of the Forgotten Australians you are talking about. You think because of what happened to you, we do not deserve compensation. Well let me tell you



something fellows? Your generation denied what was happening to us; you closed your eyes and let it happen and you say you are not to blame as well. You are idiots and you should be ashamed. Until you have walked in our shoes and walked down our paths, you know little about us and our lives. You are here in the pub spending your government pension, with obviously not a worry in the world, knocking the disadvantaged and underprivileged” I went on to tell them, “It was in papers many times back then and in your face, when you could have done something about it. But what did most of the public do? They closed their eyes and looked the other way or abused us. Yes old fellows, you are to blame too, along with the Government”.

That shut them up!

