

I, **Damien Marson** of **South Australia**
am writing this off my own back with out any
support or influence from any person/s or organisation/s.

**Senate Inquiry into the Implementation of the Recommendations of the
Lost Innocents and Forgotten Australians Reports.**
Senate Affairs Reference Committee

Submission:

4th of April 2009

I am a "Forgotten Australian" and speak for all "Forgotten Australian's, when I say that many children that were neglected or abused in state care, don't even know that there is an inquiry, some may not understand what is happening and I know of someone who has missed out on Redress in Queensland because he was too late!! This is shameful how can people miss out on Redress? how can they not get their apologies? I was in state care from age 9 to 17 and this messed up my whole life, there was no stability, no love, no education, no help, no care. I was sexual and physically abused which has totally messed up my life, I can't hold down a job, I can't stick to anything, I don't have much of an education as I was excused from school in year 7 because I was already messed up and the education department didn't think there was any hope for me.

I have this image in my head of Kevin Rudd or Mike Rann coming to me and saying something like "Damien, I am so sorry for the way you were treated in state care, I am deeply sorry that this has made your life very painful & hard and I & or/ we would like to truly help you anyway we possibly can!" I know this like just an image or dream but , but its an image with a powerful point. The point is our "Leaders" taking responsibility and being truly sorry, then desiring to do the best they can to help strait away. Giving us a "True Blue Apology" the ones that heal.

I know We need education and an education at our pace! We need a pension to help us financially while we can't work and while we get healing from our past which may take many years of many stressful times as we deal with the demons of our pasts. Access to a pension is far better than any payout, as a pension is a long payment plan which will help to keep a roof over our heads, pay bills, feed the family. We need free dental and medical as I believe most of us are psychologically, physically and dentally messed up as a result of the trauma, neglect and abuse we went through in state care. On going support. We need a real "True Blue Apology" and see a complete change in the way children in state care today are treated and that they have a real opportunity to get a fair crack at having a great life. We also need to see that any organisation that is representing "Forgotten Australian's" or appointed to help "Forgotten Australian's" are monitored closely to help protect funding and management of all services provided to help in the healing and recovery of "Forgotten Australian's". Also any time limits to receive support or any redress action, should be removed. No one should miss out on redress or help. Please Redress the System, change the way you do things and help fix the damage from the past please and with a heart and understanding of the damage that has been done.

Yours respectfully from the heart,

Damien Marson

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