



# Care Leavers Australia Network

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## **Care Leavers Australia Network (CLAN) Australia**

**Submission to the United Nations Committee on  
the Rights of the Child  
60<sup>th</sup> Session**

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Care Leavers Australia Network (CLAN) is a support, advocacy, research and training organisation for people who grew up in Australia's orphanages, Children's Homes, foster care and other institutions. CLAN is about justice, peace and healing. Many of our members are middle aged or older and still carry the burden of unresolved issues from their past – the loss of their parents, siblings, and extended family, loss of identity, the shame and stigma, and feeling like an outsider in society. Many left the 'care' system with little preparation for adulthood or parenthood, many with the scars of physical, sexual and emotional abuse. CLAN's objective is to raise community awareness of our issues, and to campaign for the Governments of Australia, churches and charities to take responsibility for their part in this history and to provide redress. Being raised without your family has lifelong implications that require lifelong support services. CLAN can provide information, understanding and emotional support.

## 1. Executive Summary

1.1 Throughout the twentieth century it is estimated that at least 500 000 Australian children were placed in State, Church, and Charity run Orphanages, Children's Homes, Institutions and foster care (Community Affairs References Committee, 2004). Whilst in the 'care' of these various organisations children were abused physically, sexually, and psychologically. Children were often undernourished and denied proper medical attention or were used as test subjects for medical experimentation. Children were forced to carry out unpaid labour to contribute to the running of the institution and in other instances for the profit of the state, church or charity. Forced labour came at the expense of an adequate education and denied the children leisure or recreation time. Children were also denied the opportunity to form relationships or attachments to any family who may have been present at the time.

1.2 Australian children were taken from their family and placed in the child welfare system for a number of reasons. Once they were in the child welfare system they were denied the chance to know their families and the opportunity to maintain relationships. The following are some of the reasons why children were placed into care:

- **Poverty**
- **Death of a parent/s**
- **Effects of war**
- **Lack of support for families**
- **Parental mental health**
- **Alcoholism**
- **Domestic Violence**
- **Children were charged with neglect and various other offences such as being exposed to moral danger and having no fixed abode**
- **Single parent families**

1.3 The Australian State was complicit in the incarceration of children in these institutions in three ways:

1. Firstly, for the many children who were made state wards, the courts would send them to various State, Church and Charity run institutions or foster care to be cared for.
2. Secondly, once parents lost custody of their children, the Federal Government ceased child endowment and instead paid this to the various organisations who ran the institutions for the upkeep of the child.
3. Thirdly, the Australian Government failed in its duty of care to its most vulnerable citizens. The Australian Government did not perform proper inspections and did not regulate the Orphanages, Children's Homes and Institutions so as to safeguard against the physical, sexual, and psychological abuse of children. These Australian Children were denied their basic human rights by the organisations who were entrusted to look after them. Both the Commonwealth and State Governments failed in their responsibility to establish both protective measures to safeguard against abuse and exploitation whilst in

the hands of state welfare, as well as a lack of social programmes to help support children and their families which could have prevented them from being placed in 'care' in the first place.

1.4 Since Australia ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CROC) in December 1990, the Australian Government has failed in its duty under Article 39. It was not until 2004 that a Senate Committee took submissions and released a report concerning the experiences of children in the Child Welfare System, fourteen years after the ratification of CROC. Nevertheless, most Care Leavers were unaware of the Senate Inquiry as there was only one media story (The Homies, ABC Four Corners Program) which briefly discussed the Senate Inquiry. Perhaps this is why only 700 Australians put in a submission to this Inquiry. The Senate made the following recommendation “ ***That the Commonwealth Government establish and manage a national reparations fund for victims of institutional abuse in institutions and out-of-home care settings...*** ”. This recommendation went on to say that it be funded by contributions from the Commonwealth and State Governments as well as Churches, charities and any other past providers proportionately. CLAN agrees with this recommendation and believes that all states, churches, and charities were equally involved in the harming of children and therefore they need to acknowledge and contribute financially to a reparations redress fund. The Australian Senate has the power to investigate issues and to make recommendations to the government, it has no standing or authority to enforce the recommendations that it has made. Due to this, victims' physical and psychological recovery has been largely ignored.

Furthermore due to the Federal Government's lack of leadership and coordination, the burden to deal with Care Leavers claims concerning Redress and Reparations has been shifted to the State Governments with the Federal Government denying responsibility. This decision has resulted in discrimination, inequality and gross injustice for Care Leavers across the country, serving only to re-traumatise and prevent the reintegration of child victims into Australian society.

1.5 Australian Care Leavers continue to suffer from the neglect, abuse and misuse as children in State, Church, and Charity run Orphanages, Children's Homes, Institutions, and Foster Care. They lack proper access to records with all files being censored (thinly veiled under third parties right to privacy) and in some cases records have been completely destroyed denying Care Leavers full and uninterrupted access to their own personal information. As previously mentioned there is gross injustice when it comes to redress or compensation with only three state governments offering redress and only one of those provides for ongoing claims. Due to their treatment as children, many Care Leavers suffer from a plethora of physical and psychological health concerns and lack the means and capacity to address these issues. Furthermore their poverty is exacerbated by their lack of education.

Care Leavers have also not received compensation for the work they were forced to perform, and there is no provision for an early aged pension for those who started work as children. The State's failure to address the needs of care Leavers only prolongs the abuse and degrading treatment that Care Leavers received as children. Australia needs to take responsibility for the crimes that were committed against its most vulnerable citizens and

implement a national reparations scheme to assist in the repair of people's shattered lives. Until then, true healing cannot occur for Care Leavers as they will not be able to overcome their trauma and they will continue to suffer shame and stigma. It is for these reasons that we submit Australia's failure to act in regard to Care Leaver issues is in violation of Article 39.

- 1.6 In submitting this paper Care Leavers Australia Network (CLAN) understand that most of the abuse and exploitation which occurred to Care Leavers, happened before Australia ratified CROC. Nevertheless the fact is that these abuses, exploitation and violation of children's rights did occur and Australia is yet to deal with these violations. As such, the Australian Government is preventing both the psychological and physical recovery of these child victims and is denying this group of Australian's the chance to have the same opportunities as other members of Australian society. We hope that the Committee may also examine the alleged violations of the Convention regarding Care Leavers even though some of the violations occurred before Australia ratified CROC, as the effects of these violations are continuing after ratification.
- 1.7 Thus, this paper submits that Australia is currently in violation of its obligations under Article 39 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. This paper also submits that Australia has in its past treatment of Care Leavers not complied with Article 9, Article 19, Article 20, Article 28, Article 31, Article 32, and Article 34 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- 1.8 The claims and alleged violations will be further discussed below and will be demonstrated with statistics, other evidence and testimony from Care Leavers.

## **2. Separation from parents, placement into care and lack of contact thereafter. (Article 9 and Article 20)**

- 2.1. The state separated children from their parents for many reasons and placed them into child welfare system. Firstly, we acknowledge that some Care Leavers were removed from abusive situations and it was necessary to place these children in care. However, not all children who ended up in 'care' were from abusive families. On many occasions parents who were poor had their children removed because it was deemed that the child was neglected (and the child was charged as such). Unfortunately those children who had been neglected were further neglected, abused, and exploited by those who ran the Homes, Orphanages, and Institutions. Many children recall being poor at home with their parents but say at least they were happy.

For example, in submission **302 to the Senate Committee (2004)** a Care Leavers recalls being taken away from his mother and charged with being neglected. He goes on to say **"our mother had already had a mental breakdown and this was well known within the community. Our mother nonetheless kept working to earn enough money to keep feeding us..."** This is a poignant example of how certain parents were discriminated against instead of being assisted to care for her own children. Furthermore, it must be

remembered that throughout the twentieth century there were numerous wars that Australia took part in which left many children with only one parent to care for them, and Australia also suffered through the Great Depression which was a difficult time for most. Yet the government did not try and focus any extra help towards these members of society, instead their children were removed or taken away and monetary assistance was given to the Homes/Orphanages. It is interesting to note that in a CLAN survey of 577 Care Leavers, poverty was the reason most often cited for children ending up in 'care' (2011, *Struggling to Keep it Together*). Another common avenue that led to children being placed into care, was children truanting school or running away from abusive situations. Children were never asked why they were truanting to elicit the reasons behind their behaviour. Authorities relied heavily on parents, police, and schools for evidence rather than believing the child's version of events. Furthermore, if the authorities deemed children to be associating with those they thought were inappropriate, children were brought before a children's court and charged. In these cases children were charged with things like being 'in moral danger' or as 'uncontrollable' and were then placed in an institution. In many of these cases children were acting like normal teenagers and it did not reflect on their care at home. Some children as young as two years were also detained by police, referred to as a prisoner, and were locked up in police custody. Please see Appendix 1. Lastly, some parents who were struggling to care for their children, placed them in an institution as a 'voluntary admission' and paid certain fees for the upkeep of their children. Many of these parents felt this was their only option as this enabled them to maintain their parental rights. When parents failed to pay the maintenance fees, the child was then made a state ward with parents losing the right to get their children back. Unfortunately many children from single parent families were placed in care because the parents needed to work to support themselves and couldn't do that and look after their children. Also those single parents who did try to do both often found the welfare taking their children away and charged as being 'neglected'.

- 2.2 Once children were placed in state 'care' or privately run 'care' they were subject to horribly degrading, abusive, and exploitative practices that will be discussed below. In order to maintain this treatment of the children in their care it would have been necessary to prevent children from having too much contact with family and other relatives. This certainly seemed to be the case with children only allowed visitors once a month and these could then be withdrawn for any infractions of the rules. Sometimes children's mail was screened or interfered with, and at times children were not given their mail. In the survey *Struggling to Keep it Together* (2011, CLAN) more than 50% of children were never visited by their mother, father, grandparents, or aunts or uncles. Institution workers told children that they were unwanted, that their own family didn't want them and therefore no one else would either. Children grew up thinking they were abandoned by their family, only to find out years later when they got their records/files from their time in 'care' that their mail had been intercepted and their parents were discouraged from visiting. **In submission 179 to the Senate Committee** a Care Leaver recalls how she was taken away from her mother because she was an 'unmarried

mother' who didn't have the means to look after her, nevertheless her mother would visit her when she was put in foster care. This Care Leaver would cry when her mother left and as a result her foster parents **"told the Welfare Department that these visits would have to stop as they were upsetting me. The Welfare Department should have known of the bond I had with my mother, that I was fretting for her, and wanted her to stay with me."** Another Care Leaver speaks of the depression, anxiety and loneliness he suffered as a result of the separation trauma and feelings of not belonging. This Care Leaver was told as a child that his parents and siblings died in a car accident and it wasn't until 30 years later when they tried to contact him that he found out they were alive. Furthermore upon receiving his state ward files he found that they had tried to write to him numerous times but he never received their letters (**submission 142, Senate Committee**). Brothers and sisters were also separated from each other even if they were in the same Home, for example Mavis White recalls her time in Burnside Orphanage, New South Wales **"I used to get into trouble because I wouldn't stay away from the boys' section, wanting to see my brother"**. Mavis was then punished for this by dressing her in boys' clothes and Mavis stated that she **"felt so humiliated I didn't do it again"** (Penglase, 2005). There was no acknowledgement of the importance of parental relationships to human development and mental health. The lack of contact with families was not in the best interests of the child and prevented them from developing attachments to vital role models in their lives. Moreover it prevented one of the basic rights of children, knowing their parents/family and receiving love and affection which they never received in the Homes.

### **3. Background Evidence of physical, sexual, and psychological abuse and punishment in Australian Orphanages, Children's Homes, Institutions and Foster Care. (Article 19 and 34 CROC)**

#### *3.1 Physical Abuse*

- 3.1.1 Evidence confirms that children were subjected to terribly degrading, inhumane, and criminal abuse. Physically, children would be beaten, kicked, whipped, caned and punched repeatedly for infractions. These punishments outweighed their wrongdoing and are punishments which are considered too severe for even adults to bear. In **submission 141 to the Senate Committee** a Care leaver describes the abuse in Westbrook reformatory in Queensland **"Most of the warders used sadistic methods to control and punish us, but the worst of them all was the superintendent Mr Ray Golledge. This man seemed to take great pleasure in humiliating us publicly, flogging us with his heavy leather belt while we lay naked at his feet. You could receive anything up to 60 lashes and you always ended up bleeding profusely. Sometimes boys lost consciousness. They were the lucky ones."** Whilst in 'care' children suffered through degrading and cruel punishments such as being made to eat their own vomit after they had been sick, being locked in cupboards and not being allowed to speak for

long periods on end. These are in addition to the brutal corporal punishment which took place often for the slightest things such as wetting the bed as a small child.

3.1.2 Children were often undernourished and forced to eat spoilt and rotten food, with many Care Leavers describing being made to eat foods that had maggots and weevils in them. As mentioned above when children were physically sick from eating this food, they were often made to eat their own vomit as punishment. Furthermore children were deprived of medical attention which has led to countless long term injuries or illnesses and what can only be thought of as an unknown number of deaths. In the Mullighan Inquiry in South Australia, 2008, they found that 391 children died while in South Australian state care. Medical conditions or malnutrition contributed to 260 of these deaths, while a further eleven children committed suicide, and 85 children died from an accident. Please see appendix 2 for a table documenting these deaths. There are some Homes at which gravesites have been found that are filled with children who died in 'care' for example Parkerville Children's Home (2010, Hills Gazette, *The State of Parkervilles Babies Graves*). Please see appendix 3 for a copy of this newspaper article.

3.1.3 *Psychological Punishment.* As a child, the development of attachment to key figures is vital and this is something that each and every child who entered the 'care' system was deprived of. Children were never given love, care, encouragement or made to feel valued as individuals. Instead they were completely de-individualised and in many Homes were known as numbers, others were renamed if someone there already had the same name. Children were expected to be silent a large proportion of the time especially during meals and they were not encouraged to become close to anyone. Families who tried to make contact often found their efforts to no avail as those who ran the Homes would intercept mail or in some cases prevent visitors. Any uniqueness of a child was discouraged and conformity was placed above all as described by a Care Leaver in **submission 202 to the Senate Committee "Any assertion of will or free spirit was punished"**. Children were given little if no recreation, and education was often interfered with by their duties and work in the Home.

3.1.4 *Sexual Abuse.* Sexual abuse was prevalent in the Child Welfare System and was perpetrated by a number of different people. Sexual abuse was often committed by those in charge and was another way of establishing power and dominance over the children as well as a way of degrading them whilst at the same time fulfilling their own needs. Sexual abuse occurred widely throughout State, Church and Charity run Orphanages, Children's Homes, Institutions and Foster Care. As quoted by Penglase (2005) Ivor Knight said of the Christian Brothers who ran the Western Australian Home he was in **"Their commitment to save souls was bastardised into a system whereby they 'stole our souls'; whereby they made us into mere ciphers, to be seized and used whenever the need for sexual gratification was upon them. We meant no more to them than the moments pleasure"**. Furthermore due to the barbaric and degrading treatment of children by those in power, there are some cases of children sexually and

physically abusing other children. Please see Care Leaver testimonies for a description of sexual abuse on a Care Leaver by older boys who were also in the Home.

- 3.1.5 *State sanctioned rape.* Many girls who were in 'care' report having invasive vaginal examinations to ascertain whether they were sexually active, or had venereal disease or other sexually transmitted infections. A New South Wales Child Welfare Department field officer gave a detailed account of this routine procedure. Care Leavers who were charged with being exposed to moral danger were subjected to a vaginal examination and if they objected they **"got a whiff, an anaesthetic, and was put under"**. This examination was then used as evidence:

*"When the matter came back before the court, the court would hear evidence and the medical report would state "virgo intacta" or "non virgo intacta". And very often the doctor would draw little marks alongside, like one, two, or three. You wouldn't pick that up if you see these in the archives, you wouldn't know what they meant but what they meant was that was how many fingers you could insert into the vagina. Now the theory was that if you had three fingers you would be highly promiscuous. Quite often the report would say things like 'appearances suggest frequent penetration' – that's a common phrase you would find on hundreds of reports."*

Girls who suffered this indignity and invasion of their bodies had a name for these doctors "Dr Finger". Girls as young as 18 months were subjected to vaginal examinations. Please see appendix 4. Furthermore it appears that there are instances in which girls were tested for various sexually transmitted infections, but were not treated for them if the results were positive. In a radio interview on the ABC Law Report, lawyer Angela Sdrinis spoke of twin sisters who were diagnosed with gonorrhoea at the age of four months. It is in their records that they were never treated for the gonorrhoea and as a result became infertile (Damien Carrick, ABC Radio National, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2009). Please see Appendix 5.

- 3.2 *Medical Experimentation on Care Leavers.* Many Care Leavers recall being used as test subjects for medical experiments. According to the Community Affairs References Committee (2004) in 1928 at St Vincent's Orphanage Nudgee, 600 children were experimented on with a diphtheria vaccination. There have been various reports that similar experimentation took place in New South Wales at the Church of England Boys Home Carlingford with fluoride, long before it was generally used in the wider community. In Victoria children in Orphanages and Babies' Homes were also used for experiments. In 1997 the Age newspaper printed a series of articles referring to this experimentation and noted that the trial vaccines failed to pass safety tests in their use with animals. This article refers to an experiment which was still running in 1970 and involved 350 infants between the ages of three months and 36 months of age who were injected with full adult doses of a trial influenza vaccine to test for toxic reactions (Hughes and Ryle, 1997). Please see Appendix 6.

In Queensland at the Wilson Youth Hospital which opened in 1961, their standard treatment of Care Leavers was to dose them with tranquilisers and antipsychotic drugs, some of which were not fully tested (Penglase,2005). Reverend Dethlefs who was chaplain at the Wilson Youth Hospital 1973 – 1976 stated **“I must admit that I found it difficult to believe that our so called civilised society could treat vulnerable young people in such a harrowing way. The only parallel situation which I had heard of was the psychiatric treatment of political prisoners in Siberia by the government of the former Soviet Union. On many occasions I was all but reduced to tears by the stories I heard from young people in Wilson.”**

Medical experimentation was widespread across Children’s Homes and Orphanages in Australia, even though Australia was party to the Nuremberg code, a ten point code of practice detailing the ethical, philosophical, and medical responsibilities involving medical experimentation on human subjects. CLAN are appalled at the frivolous nature in which children were so easily surrendered for medical experimentation. CLAN would like to know who gave consent for these trials to be conducted on vulnerable children in ‘care’? Who was looking out for these children’s best interests? There have never been any follow ups conducted on these children’s health and many Care Leavers do not even know if they were one of these children who were used for experimentation as many of these vaccine trials and immunisations were not recorded in Care Leavers files/records.

#### **4. Background Evidence of forced labour, prevention of adequate and appropriate schooling and education, and prevention of recreation/leisure time. (Article 28, Article 31, and Article 32)**

4.1 *Forced Labour.* Children were forced to work extremely long days either for the profit of the State or organisation or to maintain and upkeep the Orphanage/Home/Institution. For example boys who were sent to Bindoon in Western Australia were forced to build and construct the actual Home as described by Welsh (1990) “Work on the new technical school began immediately and we soon found out who was to supply the labour! We worked full-time. No time for school!”

4.2 Other boys and girls were sent to ‘Training Farms’, institutions which focused on punishing children through tireless labour on farms which made the Home self sufficient and even created some produce to sell for a profit. Many girls were sent to Homes which operated laundries for profit. Both the Salvation Army and Catholic Homes/Orphanages operated commercial laundries, in fact the Catholic Good Shepherd Sisters operated laundries in every state of Australia. Other jobs included making rosary beads as well as making meat tags for the abattoirs. Some children were fostered out to families purposefully as domestic help or farm hands. Other children were forced to work within the Home/Institution scrubbing on hands and knees to clean floors, stairs, windows etc. Older children were also required in a number of situations to look after the younger children. The labour was never proportionate to the age and physical capabilities of the child and always came at the expense of physical

problems and long term effects as well as their education. Additionally, since children spent most of their days working, they rarely had any time to enjoy themselves. They were not given leisure time on a regular basis as their routines were strictly regimented. Furthermore as many of these institutions focused on punishment, leisure time and recreation was non-existent.

4.3 *Lack of education.* The majority of children who were placed in care were deprived of adequate schooling. Due to the long days of working and the rigorous labour associated with this many children did not have a chance to go to school. Many children who did go to school found learning difficult as they had trouble concentrating on their school work due to fear, exhaustion, hunger and trauma among other reasons. Furthermore, as many children were moved from Home to Home or foster placement to foster placement, they were never given a stable education which resulted in disruption and a lack of learning. According to the survey *Struggling to Keep it Together* (2011) a combined 52% of Care Leavers had achieved less than a Year 10 education. Even if children were allowed to go to school their environment outside of school did not foster learning which often resulted in learning difficulties. Furthermore there are many Care Leavers who have spoken about the other children at school picking on them because they were 'Home children' and even the teachers treating them differently. It is no surprise that Care Leavers lacked an education when all of these factors are considered.

## 5. **Government complicity, lack of protective measures, social programmes, and investigation to prevent the abuse and exploitation of children whilst in the care of the state (Article 19)**

5.1.1 Firstly, the state owned and operated all State facilities whether they were Orphanages, Children's Homes or other Institutions. Furthermore the majority of foster care of state wards was also controlled by the State and the Department of Child Welfare (respective to each state). Thus the States were directly involved in the running of State institutions.

5.1.2 With regard to church and charity run Orphanages, Children's Homes, and Institutions, the States were in charge of licensing and inspecting the running of these Homes. For the abuse and exploitation to be as pervasive as it was, obviously the inspections were not carried out thoroughly, may not have been carried out at all, or conditions were blatantly ignored amounting to acquiescence by government officials. According to Penglase (2005) in New South Wales inspections were meant to be unannounced and unpredictable. However, from all the Care Leaver testimony CLAN has seen, wherever inspections were spoken of they were always prepared for the visits. For example David Mead in **submission 211 to the Senate Committee** describes inspections taking place at the foster home he was in, in Kempsey **"The officer would notify Mr Saul he was coming and I was scrubbed up and threatened not to say anything about my treatment or I would get a hiding when he left"**. There were no safeguards in place to prevent abuse and exploitation occurring, nor were there any processes put in place which

allowed confidential reporting from children or workers about the conditions of the Home etc. There are a number of reports from Care Leavers who say they remember the inspections (which the Home/institution etc were well prepared for as they were aware of when it was going to take place) but they do not remember the inspectors ever talking to the children or asking them any questions about the conditions or their treatment.

- 5.1.3 Lastly, the Commonwealth Government also played a role in the abuse of Care Leavers by failing in their duty of care. By providing child endowment to the Homes for the upkeep of the children (Penglase, 2005) and not ensuring their wellbeing the Commonwealth Government is just as complicit in the abuse as State Governments. Furthermore the Commonwealth never established any social programmes which helped those in poverty to look after their children. Instead it was these members of Australian society who were targeted by State welfare and had their children removed. If they had greater welfare assistance (like that provided to the Homes) instead of condemnation it may have prevented such large numbers of children being placed in care and at the mercy of child abusers, paedophiles, sadists, and exploiters.

## **6. Lack of appropriate measures to promote physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration of care leavers. (Article 39)**

- 6.1 CLAN submits that the continuing effects of abuse on Care Leavers and the lack of appropriate measures taken by the government to promote recovery amounts to a violation under Article 39 of CROC.
- 6.2 Once children left Orphanages, Children's Homes, institutions and foster care as young adults they were provided with no after care services. They were left to fend for themselves and the state, churches and charities abdicated their responsibility. Children went from living in a regimented institution, to having to be responsible for every facet of their lives. There was no gradual introduction into the community and no one to fall back on to for support, as one CLAN member was told **"If you get into trouble ring the welfare"**. Successive Australian Governments have shown little concern or interest for this large cohort of Australian citizens.
- 6.3 The Australian Government has failed to ensure redress for **all** Care Leavers for the appalling treatment of children in State, Church, and Charity run Orphanages, Children's Homes, Institutions and Foster Care. Due to the Federal Government's lack of initiative, as it currently stands only three states of Australia have opened a redress scheme; Queensland, Tasmania, and Western Australia. Whilst the fact that Care Leavers are being discriminated against based on where they were brought up (and some were brought up in more than one state) amounts to a gross injustice, the schemes themselves also promote inequality and injustice amongst Care Leavers. Both the Queensland and Tasmanian schemes distinguish

between private placements, government placements and foster care, resulting in only certain Care Leavers being able to access redress. Furthermore both the Queensland and Western Australian schemes were open for a limited time which meant that only a small percentage of Care Leavers were able to apply for redress because they did not know that there was a redress scheme until after it had closed. Unfortunately the redress schemes lacked publicity and other avenues of reaching Care Leavers were not explored. Care Leaver issues were not considered when publicising the redress schemes as many Care Leavers avoid watching or reading anything to do with child abuse issues as this serves as a trigger for them. This has meant that many Care Leavers missed out on applying for the Queensland and Western Australian redress schemes. Moreover many Care Leavers have literacy problems which further hamper their ability to comprehend advertising as well as create difficulties with the practicality of applying for redress. In order to create a fairer and more equitable Scheme, all redress schemes should be made open ended so as to not discriminate against any Care Leaver. In New South Wales, South Australia, and Victoria there is no redress scheme developed to compensate Care Leavers for the pain and suffering that they endured whilst in care. Furthermore it must be remembered that due to the general low levels of education, lack of family support and networks, as well as the physical and psychological effects of the gruelling and demanding routines and treatment whilst in care, many Care Leavers cannot afford the proper medical or psychological treatment that they require. Whilst children were not provided with the proper care in their younger years, the government can make amends and provide a level of healing through redress to all Care Leavers. Care Leavers need to be cared for in their old age as they were not cared for in their childhood. The inadequacies of the redress schemes which have been established coupled with the injustice that redress is decided geographically despite similar treatment across the country amounts to continuing violations of Article 39 of CROC. Please see below for an in-depth explanation of current redress options in various states.

- 6.2.1. In 2005 The Tasmanian Government opened a redress scheme for Tasmanian State Wards. The redress scheme was closed in 2007 but then reopened again in 2008 and is now an open-ended scheme. Whilst the Tasmanian government have acknowledged the inequity of having a closing date on a redress scheme the injustice of only allowing state wards to claim redress further perpetuates the abuse.
- 6.2.2 Similarly, the Queensland Government established a redress scheme after the Forde Inquiry of 1998-1999. The Queensland redress scheme closed in 2008 and only covered those who were in institutions named in the Forde Inquiry and explicitly did not cover those who were in foster care. Once again by distinguishing between the types of 'care' that children were placed in even though they suffered the same treatment, Care Leavers are prohibited from overcoming the trauma they suffered as children. Furthermore by placing a closing date on applications it discriminates against those who may not have the resources, means, or awareness to keep up to date with information.

- 6.2.3 In 2008 Western Australia opened a Redress scheme for all those who were in 'care' in the state and did not discriminate between forms of care or placement. Nevertheless like the Queensland Government, Western Australia closed their redress scheme in 2009 leaving a lot of Care Leavers angry and upset that they missed out. CLAN's oldest member at the time, 93 year old Flo Hickson, was denied redress as she was unaware of the redress scheme and her application was too late. CLAN have lobbied on her behalf to have her late application accepted, but still this is to no avail. The fact that the Governments place a closing date on a redress scheme only reflects their lack of commitment to Care Leaver justice.
- 6.2.4 South Australia do not have a redress scheme but an ex gratia payment was introduced for those who had been sexually abused whilst in 'care' in South Australia. Whilst this was a welcome improvement from no compensation whatsoever, the fact that it limits abuse to sexual abuse, only serves to belittle the experiences of trauma of anyone else who was abused whilst in South Australian 'Care'. As CROC describes the rights of the child it is not limited to preventing sexual abuse, but also preventing physical and psychological abuse also.
- 6.2.5 New South Wales and Victoria have not carried out their own state based inquiry and have not yet introduced a redress scheme and have no provisions for an ex-gratia payment for Care Leavers. This complete lack of acknowledgment by way of Redress only demonstrates the injustice and inequality that plagues Care Leavers and the barriers that they face every day. Care Leavers will never overcome their trauma when the Government is refusing to help, and they are being discriminated against based on where they grew up.
- 6.2.6 Whilst the Federal Government apologised to Care Leavers on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2009 and acknowledged that "a great wrong has been done to so many of our children" (Rudd, 2009) they still fail to acknowledge their role in the abuse of Care Leavers. Please see Appendix 7. This demonstrates a lack of respect and is only contributing to the continuation of the abuse of Care Leavers. The Federal Government has not shown leadership when it comes to investigating the abuses which occurred in the child welfare system nor has it coordinated a redress scheme whereby all states, churches and charities contribute funds to provide compensation for Care Leavers. CLAN has raised concerns about Care Leavers human rights being violated with the Australian Human Rights Commissioner Catherine Branson. Ms Branson has written to the Federal Government enquiring as to why they have not shown leadership on this issue, please find a copy of Ms Branson's correspondence attached in Appendix 8. Furthermore there are important initiatives which could be developed to investigate and provide justice for those who were abused whilst in the child welfare system. Currently there are no Historical Abuse Units and the state based processes that are currently in place are inadequate and do not deal well with the historical nature of the crimes as well as the interstate issues that are frequently faced. Australia's complacency in dealing with this aspect of Care Leaver issues is in violation of Article 39 of CROC.

6.4 The issue of personal records and files of Care Leavers is also a source of continued degrading treatment which promotes the pain and suffering of Care Leavers. Many records have been destroyed and there is no centralised record agency. This means that the government holds State records, churches hold church run institutions records, and charities hold charity run institutions records. This results in a great deal of difficulty when trying to obtain records. As an example of how little work has gone into the organisation of files a recent report from the Victorian Ombudsman (2012) described finding 80 kilometres of uncategorised records. Furthermore all records and files have information censored from them under third party privacy regulations. While the Federal Government have committed 26.1 million dollars to a Find and Connect service to Care Leavers to access their personal records of their time in care, the funding for this service will not assist Care Leavers to reunite with their fractured families. It must be remembered that many Care Leavers grow up not knowing their family or extended family, and sometimes not knowing their real name or date of birth. Many elderly Care Leavers have still not met their families or seen photographs of them. Whilst the Federal Government must be commended for this initiative it seems contradictory to their statement that Care Leavers are a state based responsibility. If the Federal Government can commit tax-payers' dollars for a Find and Connect Service why can't they fund a Commonwealth Redress Scheme with proviso for states, churches and charities to contribute?

6.5 Care Leavers have still not been paid for the work they did as children. Many children worked tirelessly to maintain the Homes they were in, others worked in laundries on farms and in some cases they even built and constructed their own Orphanage/Institution. This work often came at the expense of an education which then limited their opportunities once they left the child welfare system. No contributions were ever made on Care Leavers behalf for the work they did into pensions or accounts and due to the brutal nature of the labour at such a young age many Care Leavers now suffer the physical effects of child labour. Care Leavers bodies are now broken down due to the harsh manual labour of children doing adults work. This has forced many Care leavers onto a disability pension which is an ordeal to apply and be approved for, and is also less than an aged pension.

6.6 Many Care Leavers are elderly and the refusal of the Government to offer fair and equitable redress and compensation and to deal with the issues at hand such as records and health care leaves many Care Leavers feeling as if the Government is waiting for them to die so it will no longer be an issue. Care Leavers feel invisible and many have stated that they feel like refugees in their own country. Please see Appendix 9 for an overview on state redress schemes.

## **7. Testimonies from Care Leavers**

7.1 *Eating vomit* "W.R. Black Home Graceville. The matron was cruel woman, I had my vomit shovelled back into my mouth not only was I swallowing it I was also swallowing my blood as the matron scraped my gums with the spoon making sure I ate the lot, many more things

happened in that place but I am trying to cut things short. " Submission 120 to the Senate Committee.

**7.2.1 *Wetting the bed.*** "I was a bed-wetter (one of a few). We had to go to the matron's room and tell her. She would pull us back to our bed by our hair, rub our nose in the wet sheet, flog us, make us stand to have our meals. After dinner we had to stand facing the wall with our arms straight above our head. When our arms drooped she would hit them with a ruler or a cane...we also had our mattress taken away for several nights. We had to sleep on the bare wire base (summer and winter) with only a pillow and a blanket. She would get us up to the toilet and keep hitting us saying "do it, do it"." (W.R. Black Home for Girls, QLD, Submission 101 to the Senate Committee)

**7.2.2 *Wetting the bed.*** "As I was a bed-wetter I used to be belted daily. They used to throw me under a cold shower then belt me really hard with a large strap while i was wet. This was extremely painful – especially in winter – and left big red marks on my body. They also used to rub my face in the wet sheets and then my brother had to wash them". (Parkerville Childrens' Home, Western Australia, Submission 181 to the Senate Committee)

**7.2.3 *Wetting the bed.*** I was a bed wetter so I would have to stand in a corner in my wet nightie and my wet sheet draped over my head until the nun-dismissed me. (Abbotsford Convent, Submission 202 to the Senate Committee)

**7.3.1 *Lack of medical attention.*** "There was a time when us boys had to go out on a truck to pick up second hand bricks which we had to load on the truck and unload when we got back. All this work was done with bare hands and sandals and I remember being hit by a brick (I still carry the scars) no medical treatment was given- I still had to carry on with the other boys until the job was done." (Clontarf, Western Australia, Submission 251 to the Senate Committee)

**7.3.2 *Lack of medical attention.*** "With a temperature of 108 degree Fahrenheit the hospital sent me back to the home with a letter saying I was too sick to work and was told to go to bed after arriving back at the home with a letter from Dr Chan of Ipswich hospital. After giving this letter to the acting manager who at the time was Envoy Mann he then said to me I would resume normal duties at 4am which meant going to the night paddock which was approximately 1 mile from the home to bring the cows home for milking. Even with a letter from the hospital saying I was too sick to work I was told I would work as usual". (Salvation Army Training Home for Boys, Riverview, QLD, Submission 90 to the Senate Committee)

**7.4 *No leisure or recreation.*** "There was a playroom with toys and a dolls house. The toys we took to the home were put in that room. We didn't get to play there, it was just for show. We hardly knew what play was. It was all work and no play."

**7.5 Sexual Abuse.** "During my time at Riverview, I acquired the name of one of "Gilliam's little bum boys". While on night duties, Captain Arthur Gilliam used to come to my bedside and begin rubbing his hand up my leg, offering me Milo, biscuits, or lollies, before taking me to his room and locking the door, where he would fondle my penis, perform oral sex on me,

and sodomise me. I remember this happening on numerous occasions". (Submission 75 to the Senate Committee)

**7.5.2 Sexual Abuse.** *'From Victim to Offender: How Child Sexual Abuse Victims became offenders By Freda Briggs, 1995'*

The following is an excerpt from the chapter 'Children in the 'care and protection' of the state'

*I always had the same boy to 'look after' me. His name was 'Wayne. To me, he seemed like an adult although he was probably only twelve or thirteen years old. What I can say with absolute certainty is that he washed me in exactly the same way on seven days of the week throughout the whole of my stay at Royalston Boys' Home. First, he undressed me, then himself and we went into the shower together. He then soaped all of my body, spending an unwarranted amount of time handling my genitals. When my penis became stiff, he used this as the signal to push his finger inside my anus. This always hurt and I hated it. He then rubbed his own body. All over mine. When he finished rinsing me, he knelt down, gave and then demanded oral sex.*

**7.5.3 Sexual Abuse.** "Being given bowel washes by L.O. Bailey, pushing a tube up ones rear end was very uncomfortable, it also verged on sexual abuse. While he was giving the bowel wash he would be fondling ones vagina and playing with himself. L.O Bailey also enjoyed the result". (Hopewood Home, New South Wales, Submission 93 to the Senate Committee)

**7.5.4 Sexual Abuse.** *'From Victim to Offender: How Child Sexual Abuse Victims became offenders By Freda Briggs, 1995'*

The following is an excerpt from the chapter 'Children in the 'care and protection' of the state'

*These six men raped me every week thereafter. Eventually, they became bored with it and wanted different kinds of 'fun'. The house-father introduced them to his son, Robert and he too was shared around. Their desire for more revolting practices increased.*

*They inserted foreign objects into us. They started out with table tennis balls and, week by week, graduated to larger and larger items such as carrots, cucumbers and even hard boiled eggs. The more difficult the task, the more excited they became.*

**7.5.5 Sexual Abuse.** "I slept in a dormitory with thirty or more other girls. We were locked in of a night with a guard outside our door. There were night watchmen who would give cigarettes to girls for sexual favours. The place we were placed in for protection was the most dangerous for any young girl with young male security officers taking advantage of these girls". (Bidura, New South Wales, Submission 271 to the Senate Committee)

**7.5.6 Sexual Abuse.** "I can't get some of the terrible things he did to me out of my head, they loom in the shadows of my life and haunt me. This man took my virginity, my innocence, my development, my potential". (Submission 412 to the Senate Committee)

- 7.6.1 Psychological Abuse.** “We were threatened in the Sydney home that if we didn’t behave the boys’ penises would be cut off and the girls private parts sown up. Then we would be put, or rather locked, under the house a small dark place without a window, with rats, and spiders”. (Dr Dill Mackey’s Childrens’ Home, Submission 87 to the Senate Committee)
- 7.6.2 Psychological Abuse.** “(Lynwood Hall) also had an isolation room which apparently the Child Welfare Department were aware of. The room consisted of a mattress on the floor, a metal potty, a window that was boarded up from the outside and a small opening in the bottom of the door where meals were passed through three times a day, the light switch was on the outside of the room. I spent many 24 hour periods locked up in isolation at the age of twelve to sit and stare at a wall.”
- 7.6.3 Psychological Abuse.** “(The Superintendent) would lock her under the staircase in a narrow dark room, and leave her there for ages, all day and even over-night. She was left there until she was either prepared to apologise or own up to something she didn’t do or say what he wanted her to say”. (Dalmar, New South Wales, Submission 203 to the Senate Committee)
- 7.7.1 De-individualised.** “You had no name you were numbers mine was 52. You answered to the number 52 only”. (Jeanette May, Personal Story published on the CLAN website)
- 7.7.2 De-individualised.** “I can still remember standing there with my Father, Gracie (stepmother) and Matron Gennon. ‘We already have a Shirley here. What are we going to call her?’ Gennon asked. ‘What about Lurline then?’ answered Gracie, and that was that! (WR Black Home for Girls, Queensland, Submission 409 to the Senate Committee)
- 7.8.1 Physical Abuse.** The following excerpt is in relation to a Brother Doyle at Clontarf, Western Australian Catholic Home. “His cruelty extended even to the lads who lost legs in the Clontarf bus accident of December 1955, of which he was the driver. On one occasion he was seen belting a poor soul in a wheelchair with a stick near the main building. The lad was trying to protect himself from the blows being rained down on him with his arms while pleading for mercy. He couldn’t escape this vicious cowardly assault. The other poor cripples from the same bus accident sometimes incurred the same cruelty”. (Submission 25 to the Senate Committee)
- 7.8.2 Physical Abuse.** “We were then belted on a regular basis by the warders...They were savage beatings. Boots and all. Time and time again. They would get you when you were laying in your bed. Come in, grab you, get you on the floor and kick and beat you till you were badly hurt. It was a nightmare. I often wished I were dead. This happened so often it was frightening thinking about when would be the next time”. (Salvation Army Boys Home, Bayswater, Victoria, Submission 148 to the Senate Committee)
- 7.8.3 Physical Abuse.** “I had my hands held behind my back, hair held and my head bashed into a lot of sinks in the shower block and lost quite a few teeth”. (Parramatta, New South Wales, Submission 280 to the Senate Committee)
- 7.8.4 Physical Abuse.** “She did not give me a reason for what was about to happen, I was forced to pull up my dress exposing my bare back from my shoulders to my waist. She then struck me

anywhere between 10 and 15 times across my waist, very forcefully with the strap. The strap itself was square, thin and very long, much like a horse whip. Because of its length they used to double it, so in effect you were getting a double dose. The force of the blows caused my back to go black in colour". (Nazareth House, QLD, Submission 237 to the Senate Committee)

**7.9.1 *Forced labour.*** "While I was at Abbotsford I was subjected to child labour. This took the form of domestic cleaning and because of my so-called retardation I was put to work making mattresses for most of the time. I would have to tease the horsehair then stuff it into the mattresses". (Submission 202 to the Senate Committee)

**7.9.2 *Forced labour and lack of education.*** "Westbrook was a state run reformatory for boys between the ages of 10 – 18 years old. The warders who ran the place were sadistic and brutal. We were treated as slave labour under the harshest conditions, working from dawn till dusk each and every day in the fields, quarry, farm, the kitchens, bathrooms, laundries. I was deprived of proper schooling when they refused to let me sit for my scholarship exam and sent me to work full time on the farm when I was still 13 years old". (Submission 141 to the Senate Committee)

**7.9.3 *Forced Labour.*** "I was sent to Hobart to the Magdalene (Good Shepherd) Laundry. This was an awful place and very strange to me...I was only 8 but had to work every day in the laundry from breakfast until 5pm with a break for lunch. It was a huge laundry and we used to do the laundry for all the hotels, schools, and hospitals in Hobart...From the ages of 8 to 12 while at the Magdalene Laundry I never had any schooling." (Submission 182 to the Senate Committee)

**7.9.4 *Forced Labour.*** I was taken out of school for good at the age of 13 to work in the laundry and the nursery and from then on my days were hell...The laundry was hard work having to use this big mangles and presses. A lot of us have osteo-arthritis today because of this work. (St Joseph's Subiaco Submission 172 to the Senate Committee)

**7.9.5 *Forced Labour.*** The Home resembled a workhouse, we were made to work every day and all day in dreadful conditions. The Home laundered sheets for the local hospital. From early morning to late evening we laundered or ironed dirty soiled hospital sheets. Some of the Home girls were intellectually disabled. (Salvation Army Home Hobart, Submission 388 to the Senate Committee)

**7.10.1 *Working in Orphanages.*** We worked seven days a week arising at 5.45am except on Sunday 6.30am and were expected to start our jobs by 6.15am lights out at 7.30pm. The entire week was rostered, and every moment of the day accounted for... Rostered jobs over the years ranged from working in the kitchen, laundry, washing wet bed sheets, scrubbing and polishing floors (at 8 years I was using industrial polisher), washing windows, lighting the furnace for hot water, dusting, serving breakfast or dinner, making school lunches (humiliatingly wrapped in newspaper), bathing children, polishing shoes, collecting pig slops, scraping and washing dishes, polishing silver, cleaning bathrooms, filling coke buckets, getting children ready for school, working in the babies home, setting tables, working in the staff pantry, taking children to school, working in the isolation ward, the list go on and is

seemingly endless. I felt like I was serving time in prison. (Dalmar Children's Home, Submission 136 to the Senate Committee)

**7.10.2** *Working in Orphanages.* Once trained, the older inmates were cheap supplementary labour. The girls were used for child minding, sewing, washing, cooking and cleaning for the younger children and the staff. The boys worked the farm and vegetable garden, cut wood, swept the outdoors, raked the gravel and washed the staff cars – the traditional gendered tasks. (Ballarat Orphanage, Submission 18 to the Senate Committee)

**7.10.3** *Working in Orphanages.* On top of that you could be put in charge of the little ones, such as making sure they were washed put to bed etc, if they did anything wrong you, as well as the children were punished. (Nazareth House, Camberwell, Submission 169 to the Senate Committee)

**7.10.4** *Working in Orphanages.* "We hated Saturdays because we did more work – scrubbing out bathrooms and toilets, then matron's private bathroom, then the downstairs toilet. They'd have inspections. There was a big dining room floor that had to be polished, and a lot of brass – bells, gongs, knobs – and big windows to be cleaned." (Marigold Kendall from Coinoo Church of England Home as quoted by Penglase, 2005, *Orphans of the Living*)

**7.11** *Unpaid labour.* "Whilst working on these farm jobs I received no pocket money, even though I regularly signed the pocket money card, I was under the impression that I was signing for wages that were being paid in to the bank for me. On 4 occasions I had returned from work I never received any pocket money or wages. (Submission 217 to the Senate Committee)

**7.12.1** *Shame and Stigma.* When I left the home I felt the stigma of being raised as a state ward, I felt lost and isolated. I didn't admit to being a state ward for many years and would avoid questions relating to my family and make up a story to appear 'normal'. (Submission 33 to the Senate Committee)

**7.12.2** *Shame and Stigma.* There is a sense for me that I have no 'legitimacy', and where beginning life in an institution, where you are fed, watered and bathed, is the overwhelming legacy of that experience, that is what is so hard to live with. That sort of 'bedrock' is just not enough to develop that crucial sense of self we all need to carry ourselves through life with any success. (Submission 418 to the Senate Committee)

**7.12.3** *Shame and Stigma.* There is also a hell of a lot of fear in the workplace that comes from childhood, when we were punished if we were not perfect. The stigma attached to being a former resident has a significant impact on securing employment. For example, you try to better yourself, so you go along and apply for a job. They give you a form to fill in. Bang! There it is. It jumps out at you and belts you between the ears. It asks "What is your educational standard?" You just walk away. You do not even bother applying. There never were any resources to aid job hunting. That has had a very big effect on all of our people, for which this state stands accused. (Committee Hansard 12.3.04, pg.10)

**7.13.1** *Ongoing Effects.* "I was asked how this affected me, like many of us older wards of the state, we now find ourselves in a position, where many have adult literacy problems where many

of us cannot spell or add up, and some cannot read. In my relationships I struggle with trust and choosing non abusive partners, and i still have a feeling of low self esteem, and have struggles with depression. I have had to fight to get counselling". (Submission 8 to the Senate Committee)

**7.13.2** *Ongoing Effects.* "For years, as late as the 1980's Christmas was a time of misery for me. Christmas Eve was the last time that I was sodomised by Captain Gilliam and this time of year always sent the memories flooding back. For many years after this abuse I felt dirty and memories of the abuse and the feeling's of being dirty would resurface whenever I went to the toilet. I have found the process of compiling this statement extremely traumatic and upsetting. Dealing with events and memories that I have tried to avoid for approximately 45 years has been very emotional and has resulted in me becoming physically ill. For some time I have been taking a range of medication to help me cope with my life experiences, I currently take Valium 3 times each day, as well as daily doses of Luvox and sleeping tablets. I am no longer suicidal after finding solace and comfort as a born again Christian. However I have previously been very suicidal and attempted suicide in 1992 by taking a whole packet of Rhohipnol". (Submission 75 to the Senate Committee)

**7.13.3** *Ongoing Effects.* No person can come out of these experiences unscathed and many of the former 'girls' from the home have had horrible lives. I saw more than one as Street Walkers and was told about attempts at suicide and destructive relationships. Others have learned to rely on alcohol and more recently other drugs. None have had 'normal' relationships where they realised their potential both emotionally and intellectually. (Submission 311 to the Senate Committee)

**7.13.4** *Ongoing Effects.* I feel it altered my aspect on life, I know it made me more anxious, submissive and nervous and I let people intimidate me. I feel as if my spirit had been broken, and it has taken many, many, years to get my life into some sort of order. (Submission 236 to the Senate Committee)

**7.13.5** *Ongoing Effects.* I don't know how to show my family, especially my own children how I feel about them. I can't put my arms around them and tell them I love them...and most of my married life I can't stand being touched. (Submission 107 to the Senate Committee)

**7.13.6** *Ongoing Effects.* How do you know how to be a parent if you have never been parented? How do you know love, if you have never been loved? How do you know how a normal family functions if you have never been in one? These handicaps have been far more pervasive and devastating to my life than the experience of being sexually abused. (Submission 214 to the Senate Committee)

## **Recommendations:**

CLAN requests that the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child implement these recommendations for Australian Care Leavers:

- The Australian Government to introduce a national reparations scheme contributed to by all states, churches and charities that ran orphanages, children's Homes, foster care and other institutions.
- CLAN recommends that the Australian Government should institute prompt, independent, and thorough investigations into all allegations of torture, and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment that were allegedly committed in Australia's orphanages, children's Homes, foster care and other institutions; and, in appropriate cases, prosecute and punish the perpetrators with penalties commensurate with the gravity of the offences committed, and ensure that all victims obtain redress and have an enforceable right to compensation including the means for as full rehabilitation as possible.
- All Australian State Governments to establish open-ended redress schemes ensuring all Care Leavers are aware of the compensation scheme and can apply at any time
- The Australian Government to fund a service to help reunite families.
- Priority access to Government welfare services.
- Acknowledgement by the United Nations that Australian children in care had their human rights violated.
- Care Leavers to be provided access to their entire records or files without censorship.
- Historical Abuse Units in all police departments founded in all states and territories of Australia to allow for the reporting of crimes committed against them in Australia's orphanages, children's Homes and other institutions.
- Official apology from all the religious congregations and the charities that ran Australian orphanages and children's Homes.
- Adult Care Leavers to receive reparations for the unpaid work that they were forced to do as children on farms, in orphanages and in laundries.
- Justice and Redress for all Australian Care Leavers.

**IF YOU REQUIRE ANY FURTHER DOCUMENTATION IN EVIDENCE OF OUR  
SUBMISSION PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT CLAN**

**Appendix 1: TWO YEAR OLD PRISONER**

VICTORIA POLICE [17]

INVENTORY of the PROPERTY taken from PRISONER

* Gaol Number of Prisoner.	Date of Arrest.	Lock-up where Searched.	Offence.	Where Committed.	Convicted.		Sentence.
					Place. †	Date.	
	11-1-51.	Morben	neglected child				

  

Cash and Property Found with Prisoner.			Condition and Probable Value.	Date of Disposal.	How Disposed of.
£	s.	d.	‡		
	Nil		None		Received Property and Money Correct 72073

51

\* To be filled up in the Gaol.  
 † To be filled up after Trial.  
 ‡ Each article to occupy one line.

P. 213/8.46.-5493.

Signature of Prisoner *unable to write*  
 Signature of Arresting Constable *NHays i/c 1603*  
 Signature of Officer in charge of Watchhouse *NHays i/c 1603*

**Appendix 2: DEATHS IN CARE FROM THE MULLIGHAN INQUIRY**

Cause of death	Number of children who died while in State care
Natural causes: infectious disease	128
Natural causes: medical condition	108
Accident	85
Malnutrition	24
Undetermined	20 <sup>14</sup>
Allegations of criminal conduct	15 <sup>15</sup>
Suicide	11
Substance abuse including petrol	2
TOTAL	393

**Table 3 Causes of death of children in State care**

### **Appendix 3: THE STATE OF PARKERVILLES BABIES HOMES**

Source: Hills Gazette

Date: 19<sup>th</sup> January 2010

THE poor state of babies' graves belonging to Parkerville Children and Youth Care has upset Armadale resident Bob McGuire.

Mr McGuire was a former resident at the home – previously known as Parkerville Children's Home – and said he was shocked at the current condition of the gravesite. "The cemetery is neglected and needs to be beautified – vegetation is growing over the graves and leaves clutter the area," he said. "There are always beer bottles and litter clogging the area.

"We want to make it a beautiful place that people can visit and reflect." There are 30 bodies buried at the cemetery, about 3km into bushland from the group's administration building.

"It's beyond my imagination why they took the bodies so far out from the home," Mr McGuire said. Parkerville Children and Youth Care chief executive Basil Hanna said he understood Mr McGuire's view but insisted the cemetery was in decent shape.

"The only problem we encounter is the site's open exposure – some people ride their bikes between the graves," Mr Hanna said.

Mr Hanna said they wanted to make the graveyard a reflection zone. "We'd have to draw up plans and get permission from the Shire of Mundaring," he said. "We also need to get a rough estimation of the cost – we anticipate it will be in the region of \$50,000." Mr Hanna said the group was seeking interested patrons to invest in the cause.

Appendix 4: STATE SANCTIONED RAPE- DOCUMENTS SHOWING VAGINAL EXAMINATIONS

000093

CHILD WELFARE DEPARTMENT

Metropolitan Girls' Shelter,  
Avon Street, 19/6 59  
GLEBE, .....19....

reads one finger.

I certify that I have this day examined.....

age.....yrs. N.S.I. L.M.P. 2/52 090

She states.....

.....

\* Does physical examination support her statement? *one finger*

No

Any signs of venereal disease?.....

No

Any signs of Pregnancy?.....

GENERAL HEALTH:.....

MORAL SENSE: *Low* INTELLIGENCE: *Low*

RECOMMENDATION:

*Dunn*

21/10

OTHER MESSAGE SHEET.  
B 19339/1-1  
20 AUG 1959

000115

CALON BUILDING  
HUNTER ST.  
PARRAMATTA.

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that I have this day  
medically examined \_\_\_\_\_, set. 15,  
and find that she is of strong physique, is  
rather obese, is fairly bright mentally and has  
a moral sense.

She is virgo intacta and there is no  
evidence of pregnancy or venereal disease.

*H. S. MacArthur Brown*  
*H. S. MacArthur*

August 18, 1959.

*[Signature]*

*17*  
*1*  
*9*  
*Noted*

CHILD WELFARE DEPARTMENT

Metropolitan Girls' Shelter,

Avon Street,

GLEBE.....15.6.49.....

I certify that I have this day examined.....

age.....<sup>15</sup>.....years.

She states.....S.I. once only, 2 days ago - no  
penetration.....

Does physical examination support her statement?.....I consider  
S.I. has occurred + prior to 2 days ago.....

Any signs of venereal disease?.....no.....

Any signs of Pregnancy?.....no.....

GENERAL HEALTH.....normal.....

MORAL SENSE:.....only fair.....INTELLIGENCE.....poor.....

RECOMMENDATION

*[Handwritten signature]*

## **Appendix 6: BABIES USED IN EXPERIMENTS**

Author: Gerard Ryle and Gary Hughes

Source: The Age

Date: June 1997

INSIGHT - Medical research in Melbourne orphanages revealed

\* Trial vaccine failed to pass animal safety test

\* Fears for infants over severe toxic reactions

Children in orphanages and babies' homes in Victoria were used in post-World War II medical experiments and research that continued until 1970.

The experiments included trials of new vaccines that did not work or failed to pass safety tests in animals.

Babies less than 12 months old were injected with large doses of an experimental vaccine against herpes. Other experiments included giving children a test vaccine against whooping cough which was never put into production.

An Insight investigation by *The Age* has discovered hundreds of children in orphanages and babies' homes, including wards of state, were used in the experiments and studies over 25 years.

They were used to test vaccines and antigens for toxic effects before the new products were used on children in the wider community. In a number of the tests babies developed adverse reactions, including vomiting and abscesses.

Those carrying out the experiments included researchers from the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories and the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research.

*The Age* has identified four of the church-run or independent institutions where experiments and tests took place. Others remain unidentified.

In the largest experiment, which was still running in 1970, 350 infants between the ages of three months and 36 months in unnamed institutions were injected with full adult doses of trial influenza vaccines to test for toxic reactions.

Researchers from the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories admitted at the time that they approached the test with "some trepidation" because influenza vaccines had "long been known to produce more severe toxic reactions in children than in adults".

*The Age* has learnt that two previous tests of influenza vaccines on children produced severe toxic reactions. It is believed that the results of the tests were never published.

Production of a whooping cough vaccine used by the CSL on groups in babies' homes was halted after it failed to pass a safety test in animals.

It is unclear in the experiments and studies uncovered by *The Age* who gave consent for the use of the infants.

CSL's company secretary, Mr Peter Tuohy, said in a statement to *The Age*: "CSL Limited, an independent public company . . . could not comment on clinical trial protocols of the era when the then laboratories were an arm of the Commonwealth Department of Health."

The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research confirmed it had conducted tests with a killed herpes simplex vaccine on 16 children at the St Joseph's Foundling Hospital, which was also known as the Broadmeadows Babies' Home. The experimental vaccine failed to protect the children against the virus.

"These studies were carried out with the cooperation of the sisters in charge of the orphanage," the institute's spokesman, Dr David Vaux, said. "If similar studies were to be carried out today, the experimental protocols would have to be approved by a human ethics committee and informed consent would have to be obtained by the individuals involved or their guardians."

Dr Vaux said he could only assume that consent to use the babies came from the Roman Catholic order that ran the orphanage, the Sisters of St Joseph. Sister Colleen O'Dwyer, the order's province leader, said she was "unaware of any form of medical experimentation" having taken place.

## **Appendix 7: TRANSCRIPT OF APOLOGY SPEECH BY FORMER PRIME MINISTER KEVIN RUDD**

Today, the Government of Australia will move the following motion of apology in the Parliament of Australia.

We come together today to deal with an ugly chapter in our nation's history.

And we come together today to offer our nation's apology.

To say to you, the Forgotten Australians, and those who were sent to our shores as children without your consent, that we are sorry.

Sorry - that as children you were taken from your families and placed in institutions where so often you were abused.

Sorry - for the physical suffering, the emotional starvation and the cold absence of love, of tenderness, of care.

Sorry - for the tragedy, the absolute tragedy, of childhoods lost,- childhoods spent instead in austere and authoritarian places, where names were replaced by numbers, spontaneous play by regimented routine, the joy of learning by the repetitive drudgery of menial work.

Sorry - for all these injustices to you, as children, who were placed in our care.

As a nation, we must now reflect on those who did not receive proper care.

We look back with shame that many of you were left cold, hungry and alone and with nowhere to hide and nobody to whom to turn.

We look back with shame that so many of you were left cold, hungry and alone and with nowhere to hide and with nobody, absolutely nobody, to whom to turn.

We look back with shame that many these little ones who were entrusted to institutions and foster homes instead, were abused physically, humiliated cruelly, violated sexually.

And we look back with shame at how those with power were allowed to abuse those who had none.

And how then, as if this was not injury enough, you were left ill-prepared for life outside - left to fend for yourselves; often unable to read or write; to struggle alone with no friends and no family.

For these failures to offer proper care to the powerless, the voiceless and the most vulnerable, we say sorry.

We reflect too today on the families who were ripped apart simply because they had fallen on hard times.

Hard times brought about by illness, by death and by poverty.

Some simply left destitute when fathers damaged by war could no longer cope.

Again, we say sorry for the extended families you never knew.

We acknowledge the particular pain of children shipped to Australia as child migrants - robbed of your families, robbed of your homeland, regarded not as innocent children but regarded instead as a source of child labour.

To those of you who were told you were orphans, brought here without your parents' knowledge or consent, we acknowledge the lies you were told, the lies told to your mothers and fathers, and the pain these lies have caused for a lifetime.

To those of you separated on the dockside from your brothers and sisters; taken alone and unprotected to the most remote parts of a foreign land - we acknowledge today that the laws of our nation failed you.

And for this we are deeply sorry.

We think also today of all the families of these Forgotten Australians and former child migrants who are still grieving, families who were never reunited, families who were never reconciled, families who were lost to one another forever.

We reflect too on the burden that is still carried by our own children, your own children, your grandchildren, your husbands, your wives, your partners and your friends - and we thank them for the faith, the love and the depth of commitment that has helped see you through the valley of tears that was not of your own making.

And we reflect with you as well, in sad remembrance, on those who simply could not cope and who took their own lives in absolute despair.

We recognise the pain you have suffered.

Pain is so very, very personal.

Pain is so profoundly disabling.

So, let us together, as a nation, allow this apology to begin to heal this pain.

Healing the pain felt by so many of the half a million of our fellow Australians who were children in care - children in our care.

And let us also resolve this day that this national apology becomes a turning point in our nation's story.

A turning point for shattered lives.

A turning point for governments at all levels and of every political hue and colour to do all in our power to never let this happen again.

For the protection of children is the sacred duty of us all.

This is the motion that later this day this Government will commend to the Parliament of Australia.

Care leavers from around Australia and abroad;

Representatives of the Care Leavers of Australia Network;

the Child Migrants Trust;

the Alliance for Forgotten Australians;

the Leader of the Opposition;

my ministerial and parliamentary colleagues;

representatives of the state governments of Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria;

Her Excellency the High Commissioner for the United Kingdom;

His Excellency the Ambassador of Ireland;

His Excellency High Commissioner for Malta;

ladies and gentlemen;

friends, one and all;

Our purpose today in this Great Hall of this great Australian Parliament is to begin to put right a very great wrong.

To acknowledge the great wrong that has been done to so many of our children.

And as a nation, to apologise for this great wrong.

And, as a nation, to resolve that such systematic abuse should never happen again.

The truth is this is an ugly story.

And its ugliness must be told without fear or favour if we are to confront fully the demons of our past.

And in so doing, animate, once again, the better angels of our human nature.

I believe we do a disservice to those who have been the victims of abuse if in any way we seek to gloss things over.

Because the truth is great evil has been done.

And therefore hard things must be said about how this was all possible in this country of the fair go.

Unless we are now transparent about what has been done in our nation's name, our apology can never be complete.

Because let us be clear - these children, both from home and abroad, were placed in care under the auspices of the state, validated by the laws of the land.

It is estimated that more than 500,000 children were placed in care under various arrangements over the course of the last century.

This is no small number.

Let us imagine that more than half of the city of Adelaide was drawn from children who had been placed in institutional or foster care.

This is no small number.

In recent weeks, it has been my privilege to meet some of these children, most of them now middle-aged.

And some perhaps a little older again.

And I take the intervention from the floor - some younger than that again.

Here is something of their stories as told to me.

Last week I sat down with Garry for a cup of tea at his home here in Canberra.

Garry told me he had five brothers and sisters.

His father was an ex-serviceman who, in Gary's words, drank himself to death.

When Garry was four or five, he remembers being taken to the steps of the local police station with his brothers and sisters and told to wait until his mum returned, who had promised ice creams for all.

She never returned.

As Garry recalls, "I never got my ice-cream".

A fortnight later, he was committed as a ward of the state.

He told me his twin brothers had been fostered to a good family in Wollongong.

But he was taken to an institution and separated from his sisters, who were placed elsewhere.

All this, at the age of four or five.

Alone, absolutely alone, devastatingly alone in the world.

He told me that, at the age of six or seven, he tried to hang himself from the swings because he wanted to be with his brothers.

He was later placed in a rural home for older boys where he remained until the age of 13.

He remembers being picked up from the train station on a freezing night in a big red truck with a row of numbered seats. He was told to sit in seat number 3.

He was given, a number.

As Garry said, "my number was always three, it sticks in your head".

The culture of this home, as Garry described it, was one of institutional violence as boys were made to beat each other, to beat other boys to the ground, in front of their peers.

At 13, he was transferred to an institution where he remembers a kindly cook taking him under her wing.

But it was during this time Garry says, he suffered sexual abuse from other men.

Garry later got into drugs to help escape the psychological torture he suffered through years of what was so-called institutional care.

Garry has led a tough life.

But Garry is a survivor.

He proudly introduced me to his seven beautiful children - all doing well at school and the older ones already planning for their future.

And showed me with pride the carpenter's trade certificate he earned through study in 2005.

When asked by CLAN (a community organisation established to help survivors of institutional abuse, and known to so many of you here today) when asked by CLAN to write down his story Garry said, "what am I going to write down, you can't put tears on paper".

It has also been my privilege to sit down with twins Robyn and Judy last Monday when I was in Bathurst.

They told me too, that their mother left home when they too were barely five years old. They were then placed in a church home.

Judy remembers the day they were first taken to the home and her sister Robyn bolted from the gate and ran away.

They later found her and dragged her back.

Robyn and Judy remember that they kept waiting and waiting for just someone, someone to come and pick them up - but no-one, no-one ever came.

They recall being hit with belt buckles and bamboo.

They said the place they grew up in was utterly, utterly loveless.

They said it always made them feel like second-class citizens.

At the local school, they were described as "Home Girls".

They looked with envy as other children were picked up by their parents after school.

Robyn told me that, 40 years later, "it stays with you, I still dream about it".

But you know something? Both Robyn and Judy too are fighters.

While emotionally scarred by their experience, they too have beautiful children and partners who care for them. But the wounds run deep. They run very deep.

And then there was Gus.

I spoke to Gus on the phone, he is from Queensland.

Brought out to Australia from Ireland, again at the age of four or five, in the 1950s - as a child apparently born out of wedlock, having earlier spent time in a Catholic institution in Ireland.

Gus' story was truly horrific. His was a tale of physical and sexual abuse over more than a decade. In Gus' words, "that did me terrible mental damage".

He finally tracked down his mum, 10 years ago.

She had gone to the United States. But he then discovered she had passed away.

Gus had limited educational opportunities and has been in and out of gaol a number of times during his life.

Gus, reflecting back across the years, and in the great tradition of Australian understatement, said he had led a 'colourful life'.

Gus too, is a fighter and survivor.

Whether it is Garry or Gus or Robyn or Judy, there is an eerie similarity to so many of the stories. Stories of physical, emotional or sexual abuse.

Stories of the lack of love. Experiences which stay with them to this day.

Each told me that such was the trauma they experienced in institutional care that they suffered such things as bed-wetting for many, many years - while in care.

This, of course, is deeply personal. Deeply, deeply personal.

But each wanted me to share this part of their story too because it underlined the trauma they had gone through.

But trauma with an ugly double-twist because each time this happened, they were publicly humiliated and publicly punished by those supposedly responsible for their care.

In the conversations I was privileged to have with these great Australian survivors, for each of them this apology today was important.

And for countless thousands and tens of thousands besides, this apology is important.

Important because it does not seek to hide that which they experienced.

An apology that acknowledges the very personal pain that has been caused.

An apology which, it is hoped, will bring some healing balm to wounded souls.

And not just to the handful that I have been so honoured to meet.

But to all those whose cases are reflected in the Senate reports over many, many years. And to those also whose stories will remain forever untold.

There are tens of thousands, perhaps hundreds of thousands of these stories, each as important as the other, each with its own hurts, its own humiliations its own traumas - and each united by the experience of a childhood without love, of childhood alone.

For some, this has become a very public journey of healing. For others, it remains intensely private - not even to be discussed with closest family and friends even today.

And such privacy must of course, be respected.

Whatever your journey today, and whether you are here in Parliament House in Canberra with us or watching or listening across the country or across the world, my hope today is to reach out to you all on behalf of this nation, Australia, and to speak what has so often been unspoken.

And to offer you this profound apology.

To apologise for the pain that has been caused.

To apologise for the failure to offer proper care.

To apologise for those who have gone before us and ignored your cries for help.

Because children, it seems, were not to be believed.

Only those in authority, it seems, were the ones to be believed.

To apologise for denying you basic life opportunities; including so often a decent education.

To apologise also, for just how long it has taken for the Australian Government to say sorry - so many Senate reports, nearly a decade of deliberation, and a unanimous recommendation that the Commonwealth apologise.

And finally we do so today.

Today is also a day for all those who have refused to remain silent.

The champions of this day.

Those driven by sheer tenacity.

By an unswerving sense of justice.

Those who kept the flame of hope alight.

People like Margaret Humphreys, people like Harold Haig, people like Leonie Sheedy and Joanna Penglase, people like Bonnie Djuric, and People like Walter Tusyn who campaigned tirelessly for this day as Tasmanian representative of the Alliance for Forgotten Australians, only to pass away on the 30th of last month.

And people like former Senator Andrew Murray, because Andrew Murray's work has simply been extraordinary.

I rang Andrew recently and asked him about the importance of this apology.

His response was succinct when he wrote in reply:

"the Senate (and others) have carefully examined these matters and rightly and unanimously recommended an official Commonwealth apology. As a result, the states and the main churches, charities and agencies have apologised (although some are better apologies than others...),

Andrew Murray continued "it is time for the Commonwealth to complete the circle."

It is also important today to honour the advocacy groups who have stood by you through thick and thin - advocacy groups such as: Care Leavers of Australia Network (CLAN); groups like The Child Migrants Trust, advocacy groups such as the Alliance for Forgotten Australians - and many, many others.

But beyond these individuals and organisations stand an army of people who have quietly gone about their business over the last decade or more to take this story of sustained institutional and personal abuse from the margins of government deliberation to the very centre of Government consideration.

For all victims of abuse, today, you are all owed a profound debt of gratitude for having stood by them with such solidarity and strength.

So what then is to be done?

The Australian Government has assembled a comprehensive response to recommendations contained in the two Senate reports - "Lost Innocence" and "Forgotten Australians revisited".

This response will be tabled in the Parliament in the coming days.

The overwhelming message I have received and Minister Macklin has been receiving has been the need to be heard, the need to be acknowledged and the need for the nation to apologise.

It is important however, that this not be regarded as a single point in history. Our view is that it would be helpful for the nation, however painful, to properly record your experiences, where you deem that to be appropriate.

This can assist the nation to learn from your experiences.

As a result, the Australian Government is supporting projects with both the National Library and the National Museum which will provide future generations with a solemn reminder of the past.

To ensure not only that your experiences are heard, but also that they will never ever be forgotten.

And in doing so we must always remember the advice of the sages - that a nation that forgets its past is condemned to relive it.

Second, we also know that you are deeply concerned about practical support to help survivors and their families negotiate what can still so often be damaged lives.

For example, I know many of you are concerned about living in aged care facilities as you grow older and the need for access to proper aged care.

The Government will identify care leavers as a special-needs group for aged-care purposes, to ensure that providers are assisted to provide care that is appropriate and responsive, and provide a range of further counselling and support services.

Third, many Forgotten Australians and child migrants continue to need help in tracing their families. That is why we'll be providing a National Find and Connect Service that will provide Australia-wide coordinated family tracing and support services for care leavers to locate personal and family history files and the reunite with members of their families, where that is possible.

The service will provide a national database that will collate and index existing state identified records into a national searchable data base, accessible to state and other care leaver services and also directly to care leavers themselves.

Fourth, to make sure you are well represented, we have provided and continue to provide funding to advocacy groups such as the Child Migrant Trust, the Alliance for Forgotten Australians and Care Leavers of Australia Network, as these organisations continue to work hard to put your concerns front and centre.

Finally, governments must continue to commit to the systematic auditing, inspection and quality assurance of the child protection services they administer today.

Some 28,000 - 30,000 children are currently in the care of State and Territory Governments around Australia. Governments must put in place every protection possible to reduce the risk of mistreatment in the future.

And, as Andrew Murray reminded me recently, "if you hurt a child, a harmed adult will often result...aggregate those adults who were harmed in care and the social, the economic, the personal cost is huge".

In Andrew's words, we must do everything possible to break the cycle.

I recognise this is a difficult, complex and sensitive area of policy. But the nation must continue to lift its game in doing whatever practicably can be done to provide for the proper protection of little ones, of children.

Let us, therefore today in this Great Hall of this great Australian Parliament, seize this day and see this national apology to our Forgotten Australians and our Child Migrants as a turning point for the future.

For child migrants, for many of you, your mothers and fathers were alive and were made to relinquish their right to be your parents and to watch you grow into adulthood.

Some of you have said you would like to place the apology on the graves of your mothers and fathers back in England and on their graves here in this country as well. Today we dedicate this apology to them as well.

For the Australian-born care leavers, or 'Homies' or 'State Wards' or the 'Foster kids', the Senate named you the 'Forgotten Australians'.

Today, and from this day forward, it is my hope that you will be called the 'Remembered Australians'.

However, whatever I might say today, the truth is, I cannot give you back your childhood. I cannot rewind the clock on your suffering. Nor can I erase the past.

But what I can do with you is celebrate the spirit that has lived within you over the decades. A spirit that has stubbornly refused to be beaten.

A spirit that has turned you into the survivors that you are. The spirit that has enabled you to serve your country in times of war, even if you had been deserted by your country.

The spirit that enabled you to bring up families, despite the broken families from which you came.

The spirit that enabled you to work and to make your own contribution to this, our land Australia.

And the spirit that caused you to hold fast that one day you would be heard, one day you would be believed, one day you would be acknowledged.

And that, one day, Australia's sense of a fair-go would finally prevail. That our fair go would be extended to you, and that the nation would offer you the public apology that you deserve.

My message to you today is that that day has finally come.

Let me also say this.

You were in no way to blame for what happened to you because it was the nation who failed you.

The institutions the nation created for your care, failed you.

To all of you here today in this Great Hall. To all of you watching around the nation.

Today is your day. Today is your special day. Today is your achievement.

This morning, I spoke to a 98 year old lady in my electorate in Brisbane.

Her name is Vera. If Vera is watching, 'hi Vera'.

I'm sorry that Vera can't be with us in Canberra today.

She said that the pain that she suffered having spent five years in a Queensland orphanage was pain suffered a lifetime ago.

But her hope that today, as a 98-year-old lady is that finally this day could herald a closing of the book on the past.

Today is for people just like Vera.

And today let us now go forward together, go forward with confidence, go forward with confidence into the future - as equal, as valued and as precious members of this one great family that we call Australia.



President

The Hon Catherine Branson QC

### **A message from the Human Rights Commissioner**

The many letters that I have received from those who experienced physical, emotional and/or sexual abuse while in institutional care in the last century (the so-called 'Forgotten Australians') have moved me deeply.

The abuse of children at the hands of their carers is clearly a human rights violation.

Under the *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child*, children have a right to be protected from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse (article 19).

The Convention also calls on Australia to take all appropriate measures to promote the physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration of a child victim of: any form of neglect, exploitation, or abuse; torture or any other form of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; or armed conflicts' (article 39).

The Australian Government, as well as the governments of the States in which the institutions operated, have responsibilities towards those who suffered in these institutions. In many cases their treatment has had long term effects which impact on their ability to enjoy their human rights as adults. These include problems of physical and mental health, in family reintegration and in employment, leading frequently to financial difficulties.

It is only by recognising past violations, and providing mechanisms to address continuing effects, that some of the pain of the past may be lessened for those who suffered so much while in institutional care.

Catherine Branson

**President and Human Rights Commissioner**

**AUSTRALIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

**8 March 2012**

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Australian Human Rights Commission ABN 47 996 232 602	Level 3 175 Pitt Street Sydney NSW 2000	GPO Box 5218 Sydney NSW 2001	General enquiries Complaints <a href="#">info@ahrc.gov.au</a> 111 <a href="http://www.humanrights.gov.au">www.humanrights.gov.au</a>	1300 369 711 1300 656 419 1800 620 241
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**WA, QLD AND TAS HAVE REDRESS SCHEMES BUT THE OTHER STATES HAVE NO REDRESS SCHEMES FOR AUSTRALIAN CARE LEAVERS/F.A'S**



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