



SECRETARY,
SENATE COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
REFERENCE COMMITTEE,

DEAR SIR/MADAM.

LET ME FIRST APOLOGIES TO YOU FOR THE LATENESS OF THIS LETTER AND ALSO YOU MAY HAVE DIFFICULTY READING IT AS IT IS WRITTEN WITH MEMORIES + HEART ACHES MANY NOT PLEASANT, ALSO ON LEAVING SCHOOL AT 13 MY SPELLING + PUNCTUATION MAY NOT BE THE BEST, I WISH TO CONVAY TO YOU MY PAST + PRESENT FEELINGS OF MY CHILDHOOD SPENT IN CHILDREN'S HOME'S OR INSTITUTIONS AS A BABY OF LESS THAN 3 MONTHS OLD, MY ELDER BROTHER (THEN 2 Y.O.) WHERE ~~BY~~ ABANDONED BY OUR MOTHER HE FOR THE 2ND TIME AND ME THE 1ST TIME WE ARE BOTH OF THE BELIEF FROM STORY'S OUR GRANDMOTHER TOLD US, THAT A TRAM STOP IN RICHMOND VIC. WAS THE LAST CONTACT IN LATE JULY EARLY AUGUST 1944 WITH OUR MOTHER, HOWEVER IN LATER YEARS SHE (OUR GRANDMOTHER) CHANGED THIS TO THE STEPS OF ST. IGNATIUS R.C. CHURCH IN RICHMOND I HAVE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO CONFIRM OR DETERMINE THE ACTUAL PLACE HOWEVER IT WAS RICHMOND SOMEWHERE WHAT BECAME OF US BOTH IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS IS PURE CONJECTAR HOWEVER "SUNSHINE HOUSE/HOME" SECRETARY IN TIVOLI RD MAY HAVE BEEN ^{OR} RESIDENCE FOR SOME TIME

(2)

I HAVE OVER MANY YEARS BEEN SEARCHING MANY SOURCES AND HAVE LOCATED DOCUMENTS + MANY PIECES OF OTHER MATERIAL THAT RELATE TO OUR (MY BROTHER + I) PAST, RECEIPTS (ORIGINAL) THAT I FOUND SHOW BOTH OF US BEING PLACED UNDER "THE CHILDREN'S WELFARE DEPT ACT" 1928 PART II - INFANT LIFE PROTECTION ON THE 11TH APRIL 1946, HOWEVER OTHER MATERIAL THAT I LOCATED SHOW THAT AN EARLIER DATE OF THE 17TH JAN 1946 WE WERE SOMEWHERE ELSE, ON THE 29TH APRIL 1946 WE WERE THEN PLACED AS ~~BY~~ IN THE SALVATION ARMY CATERING AT 481 CANNING ST NTH CARLTON FOR A PERIOD OF TIME, THEN SEPERATED FROM MY BROTHER I WENT TO "KARDINVA HOUSE" GEELONG, HE WAS AT THE "CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY" PARKVILLE DURING THESE YEARS OF MY LIFE ALLOWING I WAS VERY YOUNG, MY MEMORIE BRINGS BACK THOUGHTS OF ME CRYING CRYING CRYING, NIGHT TIMES WERE LONG, LONELY + SCAREY WITH THE BIGGER BOYS AWAY TRYING TO MAKE LIFE FURTHER UNPLEASANT FOR US LITTLE KIDS, MANY AN HOUR + NIGHT DID I SPEND HIDING UNDER MY BED OR BEHIND THE COLD DAMP CAST IRON BATHS IN AN ADJOINING ROOM FROM THE DORMITORY, ON + FEW OCCASIONS I HAD THE HUMILIATION OF HAVING TO WALK AROUND WITH A PATTY TIED TO ME WITHOUT A NAPPY ON AS I HAD DIRTTIED THE ONE ISSUED FOR THE DAY, TOILET TRAINING WAS NOT A PRIORITY AND NOT TAUGHT, ONE WHILE PLAYING ON A TRICYCLE I BADLY SMASHED MY FACE ON A BRICK PILLAR, ONLY TO BE LEFT CRYING IN PAIN WITHOUT SUPPORT OR HELP FROM THE ATTENDANTS, JUST TOLD TO GROW UP

(3)

OR WE WILL LOCK YOU AWAY TILL YOU STOP CRYING,
THE WALLS OF THE HOME WERE THE BOUNDARIES OF OUR LIFE,
I NEVER SAW "OUTSIDE" UNTIL I WAS AROUND 6 Y.O.
EVEN THOUGH "ROYAL PARK"/PRINCESS PARK WAS ONLY
20 YARDS ACROSS THE ROAD AND THE MELB. ZOO
ABOUT 1/2 MILE AWAY, (EXCEPT WHEN OUR DAD CAME SOME WEEKENDS)
SURELY DAY TRIPS COULD HAVE BEEN ARRANGED TO
WALK THAT DISTANCE

AT THE AGE OF 16 I REQUIRED AN OPERATION IN
THE EYE-EAR-NOSE + THROAT HOSPITAL IN MELB
TO REFORM/RESHAPE AND DRILL MY NOSE + NASAL PASSAGE
A DIRECT RESULT FROM QUOTE
"PREVIOUS INJURY TO NOSE FROM AN EARLY STAGE IN LIFE"
UNQUOTE

IT IS APPARENT THAT ~~IT~~ NEVER WAS TREATED A ~~DI~~
CONCERN TO ANYONE IN THE CHILDRENS HOME,
I CARRY A BENT NOSE FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE
AS A RESULT OF THIS AND PROBABLY OTHER HOME
FIGHTS THAT WERE ALWAYS HAPPENING

I RECALL HAVING TO DEFEND MYSELF FROM BULLYING
AND CHILDHOOD FRANKS FROM THE BIGGER BOYS AND
AT MEAL TIME WE THE "LITTLE KIDS" SAT AT THE
END OF LONG TRESSLE STYLE TABLES FOR WHAT WAS
LEFT IN THE ENAMEL BOWL FOR WHAT STARTED AT
THE BIG KIDS END TO FINISH WITH US AND

IT WAS AT TIMES NOT MUCH
I USED TO SPIT ON MY BREAD TO STOP OTHER KIDS
FROM PINCHING IT FROM ME.

MEALS AS I RECALL WERE ROLLED OAT COOKED
OVERNIGHT + GRUBBISH BY THE NEXT MORNING FOR
BREAKFAST, LUNCHEON BREAD + PEANUT BUTTER OF SOME
OTHER HOME MADE SPREAD SANDWICHES

AND TEA SEEMED ALWAYS TO BE SAUSAGES.

I DO NOT RECALL IT BEING ANYTHING DIFFERENT EVEN CHRISTMAS DAY WAS JUST ANOTHER DAY EXCEPT LESS PEOPLE AROUND AS THE BIGGER KIDS WENT DOWN TO "VICTORIA COTTAGE" FRANKSTON FOR A FEW DAYS THE LITTLE KIDS DIDN'T TILL I WAS AROUND 6 TO 7.

ALL MY CLOTHES WERE HAND ME DOWNS FROM THE OTHER KIDS AND GIVEN OUT DAILY FROM A PILE ON THE TABLE, I NEVER KNEW A CHRISTMAS FOR MANY A YEAR AND TO THIS DAY CAN TRULY SAY IN ALL HONESTY THAT

"I HAVE NEVER HAD A NURSERY RHYME READ TO ME" OR "BEEN TUCKED IN BED + KISSED GOODNIGHT" ONLY A FEW YEARS AGO I WAS TOLD I MUST OF HAD A DEPRIVED CHILDHOOD CAUSE I DIDN'T KNOW WHO RUMPLE SILTKSKIN WAS. I NOW KNOW IT IS A FAIRY TALE OF SCOTS (I THINK)

DO I REGRET THIS PERIOD OF MY LIFE NO IT HAD TO BE BETTER THAN STAYING WITH A WOMAN THAT MUST OF HATED US.

HOWEVER I BELIEVE THAT CHILDREN IN CARE SHOULD AND NEED TO BE TREATED BETTER THAN WE WERE WAY BACK THEN IN THE 1940'S

WHEN I WAS 7 MY FATHER WHO HAD BEEN IN THE ARMY AT THE TIME WE WERE ABANDONED HAD KEPT IN CONTACT WITH US BOTH AND PAID FOR OUR CARE REMARRIED ~~IN~~ TOOK US OUT OF "CARE" TO ANOTHER LIFE

OUT OF THE FRYING PAN INTO THE FIRE
ANOTHER STORY IS THAT

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ON THE 16TH MAY 1963 I FOUND MY BLOOD MOTHER AND TRIED TO FIND OUT WHY? BUT SHE NEVER TOLD ME ALONG WITH OTHER THINGS SHE COULD OR SHOULD HAVE TOLD. ALL WE EVER WANTED WAS FOR HER TO SAY SORRY BUT SHE DIDN'T OR COULDN'T OR WOULDN'T SHE PASSED AWAY IN LATE SEPTEMBER 2003 AND LEFT ANOTHER PANDORA'S BOX FOR MY BROTHER AND I.

INFORMATION THE SMALL INDICATED THAT WE MAY HAVE HAD ANOTHER BROTHER, AGAIN MORE SEARCHING FILES + BUREAUCRACY TO A RESULT THAT YES WE BOTH HAD ANOTHER BROTHER BORN 1946 HE WAS PLACED UP FOR ADOPTION THE DAY HE WAS BORN (WE BELIEVE)

AT THE STAGE I AM WRITING THIS TO YOUR INQUIRY I HAVE NOT BEEN NOTIFIED BY THE ADOPTION INFORMATION SERVICE (A.I.S.) OF HIS FULL NEW NAME ONLY HIS CHRISTIAN NAME

"LAWRENCE" HE WAS BORN ARTHUR DESMOND COCK AGAIN MY SEARCHING AND THEIRS (AIS) FOUND THAT IN 1968 HE WAS IN THE ARMY AND IN 1968 ON THE 13TH MAY WAS K.I.A. IN VIETNAM. THRU MY OWN SEARCHING AND NOT THEIRS AIS I HAVE FOUND OUT HIS FULL NAME, PLACE WHERE KIA AND PLATOON HE WAS IN, AND EVEN A PHOTO OF HIM ON THE INTERNET.

YET THE AIS CANNOT THROUGH BUREAUCRACY TELL ME HIS NAME OR BURIAL DETAILS APART FROM HIS INTERNMENT AT SPRINGVALE UNTIL THEY CONTACT HIS OTHER ADOPTED BROTHER

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(WHO IS NOW DEAD) WIFE GIVES HER PERMISSION
AS SHE IS HIS NEXT OF KIN

HOW THE HELL IS THIS POSSIBLE?

BLOOD IS NOT THICKER THAN INK LINES ON DOCUMENTS

SURE HOPE SHE IS NOT DEAD AND WILL AGREE TO
MEET AND TALK TO AND WITH ME

AS AN MATURE 59 Y.O. IT WOULD BE MY MOST
TREASURED WISH AT THIS TIME TO GO TO HIS GRAVE
AND SPEND A LOT OF TIME TALKING TO HIM AS
WE NEVER MET IN HIS SHORT 22 YRS + 2 DAYS LIFE

ALL THE ABOVE AND OTHER DETAILS IN THIS LETTER
CAN BE CONFIRMED BY ORIGINAL LETTERS
RECEIPTS A PHOTOCOPY OF GOV. RECORDS
THAT I HOLD

ALTHOUGH I HAVE WRITTEN YOUR INQUIRY I WOULD
PREFER TO MEET WITH YOU DIRECT IN MELBOURNE
AND TALK FACE TO FACE FROM THE HEART TO YOU ALL
AND ANSWER OTHER QUESTIONS THAT I CANNOT IMAGINE
THAT YOU WOULD WANT TO KNOW, PLEASE LET ME KNOW
IF THIS IS POSSIBLE

A REPLY THAT YOU HAVE RECEIVED THIS LETTER
WOULD BE APPRECIATED

YOURS FAITHFULLY



DAVID J. COOK