

29th July 2003

Ms Mary Adams nee Eather
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Arawakan Hill
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Queensland 4217



The Secretary
Senate Community Affairs Reference Committee
Suite S 1 59
Parliament House
Cambera ACT 2600

RE: INQUIRY INTO CHILDREN IN INSTITUTIONAL CARE

Dear Committee Members,

Firstly, I wish it to be made known to the committee members that many, like myself, were not aware that such an inquiry is being held; I was only informed of it two days ago through a colleague who had received a letter from 'Broken Rites' organization. I ask, "How does the Senate expect to conduct an inquiry without the participation of those affected"? There are a number of Service Provider organizations that receive government funding in support of victims who could have been notified so that people on their listing could have been informed in sufficient time. A successful inquiry cannot be held if the very people who have been affect are not aware of this!

The outcome of the 'Forde Inquiry' has been very disappointing to victims and the response too has been abysmal. The Historical Recommendations of that inquiry have been virtually ignored. Hopefully the Senate Inquiry will set the impetus for "*justice to prevail*".

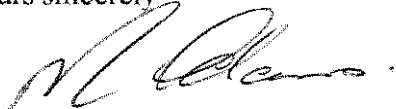
In past breaches of Statutory obligations the Forde Inquiry found, "*Breaches of the regulations in relation to food, clothing, education and corporal punishment were commonplace in institutions*" (P.279 of 'Commission of Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions).

Due to short notice in the closing date 31st July and work commitments, I wish to submit the overview report I prepared, as secretary of the Neerkol Action Support Group, on behalf of the Ex-Residents of Neerkol and the 24 endorsed persons whose addresses appear on this report (*"Equal Justice For All"* by Mary Eather & Paul Fottrell)_

I also wish it to be made known that my personal submission to the Forde Inquiry is permissible for the committee's access.

I too wish to personally appear before the inquiry when it is to be conducted.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'M Adams', followed by a period.

Ms Mary Adams AKA Eather