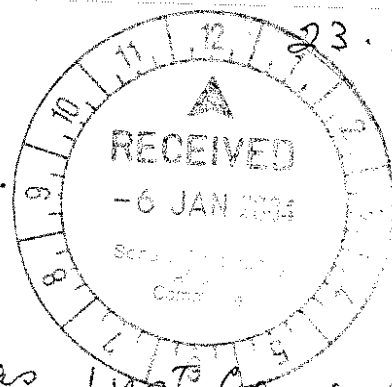


2  
The Secretary,  
Senate Community Affairs Ref. Com.



Dear Sir/Madam,

It has just come to my notice through Care Leavers of Australia (CLAA) that you have been conducting surveys and receiving submissions for the Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care.

I was one of these people and the understanding of the problems of so many and varied situation the trauma it has caused in later life is very demanding on ones mentality. When you are young, you are too busy getting on with life, as you get older you have more time to reflect on your life, and memories come flooding back, enough to make you reclusive.

In my case my father was my Mother's father which was the reason to be charged with Destitution (she was 18) between birth and 15 years old the people I lived with would have been charged with child abuse under today's law, The Welfare department would be charged with neglect.

I enclose a letter I sent to Senator Murray in 2001, who sent me a ~~copy~~ Book, Lost Innocents, righting the record, a report on child migration, This has nothing to do with the suffering children like myself went through.

I hope you can use this in your submission, there are many more questions and answers, but I am not a author.

Yours sincerely  
Geoffrey

Malpass  
Guthrie.

GEOFFREY ARTHUR CARRUTHERS

8/4/2001

SENATOR MURRY

Dear Sir,

Your article in the West Australian 6/4/02, highlighted something that for years has affected my life. I can't make friends easily, the trauma even keeps me from full contact with my real mother and family who I found through Jigsaw International [ I helped in the commencement of same] I was 35 years old.

A brief history. 15/11/44 I was born, on the 13/12/44 I was charged with destitution till the age of 18, placed on a farm, not allowed to be adopted or fostered, board and lodgings were paid by the then Child Welfare Department, i.e. School and Medical. Put into Mount Lawley Reception Centre any time medical or carers wanted holidays, in short from the age of schooling I was treated as slave labour. All money that was banked or earned later on other jobs where I was placed by the Department was placed in a account at the department under the name of McCall who was at the time Director and classed as friend of said child. there was a large amount of money involved, and on reaching the age of 21, I approached the department, but was told there was non left.

I have records from 1956 to prove my case, but because of the trauma I don't know where to start.

My main concern is the charge of destitution and the change of surnames forced on me by the Welfare Department.

I was born Geoffrey Arthur Malpass, placed with a family called Gilham, which I assumed was my legal name until 1960. In Bencubbin and Merredin where my schooling was done I am still known as Gilham. The department, after the death of Ray Gilham in 1959, forced me to change my name. I wanted either Malpass or Gilham, but wasn't allowed to, unknown to me my only legal name was Malpass, so there statement was to stand on my own two feet I had to change my name. At the time I could have had any name I wanted. It was changed to Carruthers in 1961.

You may be able to read a lot more into this or you may not, but believe me my life has been a mess, suicide has been considered, but I feel I have a case against the Welfare Department of the day for the lack of care and passion, but I don't know where to start. With the cost of lawyers e.t.c. Even at my age now I am very disgruntled and lonely, even though I have been married for 36 years, having two children [one adopted] and four grandchildren who can only relate to the name Carruthers who is not really me.

If you happen to read this through your department, I would appreciate any assistance you may be able to give me, so that I may be compensated for wrongdoings from the Welfare Department of the day

Yours Sincerely

Geoffrey Carruthers