



22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2004

The Secretary  
Senate Community Affairs References Committee  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Sir,

In recent months I have met with an old friend. She and her husband have been living in Queensland for some time. They met former residents of children's homes and were told of beatings, starvation and of sexual molestation of babies as young as 4 months. It was not uncommon for babies to be found in the morning with their bowels 'hanging out'. Older children were told by the nuns 'you know what to do, push them back in'. I cannot imagine what horror has been imprinted upon these children's psyche. Some call themselves 'the carpet children' – as in swept under... I hope that your committee is part of the validation of their stories and restoration of their dignity.

Yours sincerely

Miss Sheila Cox