

5/1/10

The Secretary of Senate Community Affairs  
Reference Committee,

I was born 20-Aug 1961, at Singleton town as small town, in the Hunter Valley near Maitland. My Mother was a immigrant from Germany, Mum came over to Australia in the late 50s with her Mother and 3 sisters and one brother (Mum's brother drowned in the Paterson River near Maitland's bridge in 1961. Mum married my father in a shot gun wedding as Mum was pregnant with me, having a child out of wedlock and being new to this Country was very bad in them days. Anyway I was born 1961, 1962 my brother was born, Mum was again pregnant with another child in 1964 (my brother) in the mean time my father had committed bigamy with a woman from the same town, also the bigamist wife had a child to my father at Maitland hospital a week later my Mother also gave birth to a son 8 days after the bigamist wife had her child. My father was caught for Marrying 2 women at the same time, The local News paper had a ball in exposing what my father had done, The shame my Mother felt, I can only imagine. I have seen the News paper clips since. Then my father committed rape of a 14 years old child, ~~to~~ he had 4 other accomplices as I've seen the Police report at Maitland. So my Mother was left to look after 3 children under

5 years. A lady in East Maitland helped my mother for awhile until the Housing Dept of Newcastle complained about the many people in the same house, so then my mother went to Salvo's and St Vin's at Newcastle and Maitland, both Depts couldn't help much, so my mother being naive she was told to go to child welfare they might help. So my poor mother went to get help, the only help she received was the children taken from her in a cruel fashion and all 3 kids were made State wards of N.S.W. Maitland Court house 1965. My mother wrote <sup>to</sup> the Minister of Welfare many times begging them for visit rights or even a photo of us kids, I wait in 15 long cruel years no one gave a shit about us or my mother's broken heart, I have read letters from my mother to the Minister also many D.O. reports on my mother and her 2nd marriage & her other 2 kids. I have never met most family members from Mum's side and my father side of the family, mostly horrible meetings - My 2 brothers & I were taken into welfare care in July 1965. A black car pulled up at an address in east Maitland, there was an old woman in a long apron standing with my mother, a welfare officer took all of us and put us in the car, I remember being pulled away from Mum and this old lady, I was crying and screaming and holding onto the old lady's apron. Anyway we were taken to Court and charged with neglect and no one to look after, I later found out that the old lady's name

(3)

S.V.S.

Was Auntie Betty, I met my Mother  
in Aug 1977 after the Welfare Dept  
didn't know what to do with a  
pregnat 15 year old that had a  
troubled past. So the Dept thought  
they could dump me on my Mother  
after all those lost years. I also  
met Auntie Betty in 1978 at the same  
address in east Maitland, were we as  
small children were taken. It was  
over welcoming to meet Betty but I  
remembered the pain we all felt, I Cryed  
for days after meeting this old lady.  
My Horror started in July 1965  
at the age of 3½ years old. My Brother  
2½ years old & my youngest brother 6 months  
of age. We stayed in a home at  
broadmeadow near Newcastle over night  
after the Court decision of Neglected Children.  
Then we all went to Bidura in Uteb  
Point RD, Uteb in Sydney to be processed  
as in Medical examination (Checking for VD)  
at such a young age. We all then went  
to foster parents in Lithgow but after  
a few months the foster family didn't  
want me because I was rude and  
sexually active, I was only 4 years old  
by this time so I ask what happened  
to me to ~~be~~ become rude at a  
young age? Then back to Bidura  
to ~~be~~ be processed; by the D's again  
then off to many homes just to Abme  
them Bidura 7 times, Mittagony Linden -  
Cottage 2 times, Kellyville, Uteb girls -  
Shelter 3 times, Minda Remand Centre at  
Lidcombe N.S.W. Ormond school at  
Thorkeigh near Hornsby, another foster  
home and a few other places.

(4)

S.V.S

Mental Abuse and Physical, Sexual Abuse happened often within the homes, Staff, girls (older) We as little kids were scumbed with Nail and floor brushes until we bleed on a backs and bums! also in one home Soap was put in our vaginas To make sure we were clean inside & out. In one home older girls ~~would~~ would try to RAPE young girls with hair brushes if you say anything to Staff you would be a Gang Rape or beating. Girls that were raped by brushes would bleed and the Staff would think you had a period. I believe some members of Staff Nail what was going on. Some homes had Black cells to keep girls locked up in 24 to 48 hours for punishment you had to 14 years old to be put in the cells but often the younger girls were locked up for hours. Some staff would come into the dorms and pick girls out so they could sexually abuse them. Foster parents family members also sexually abused us for years, our cries for help was never heard or ignored to by visiting VIPS or D.O.S.

FACS, YACS and DCS State Governments and Churches should answer to people they took from families that didn't have a chance to even know their children after they were taken into wardship. The years spent in ward homes and delinquent homes has caused many dysfunction in trying to bring up your own children & also brought up 4 stepkids with many father's as a parent. Lack of Education didn't help in becoming an Adult. We didn't know how to love or communicate.

(5)

J.V.S.

So we as parents couldn't even help our children learn, we could only help with up to 5 grade. We have Adult Children now all with emotional problems unemployment because lack of Education due to the State system failing our children as us as parents not knowing how to help without being abused by our kids. My father of 17 years and I still don't discipline our kids strongly because we as children were, mental, physical and were sexually abused, many times as children and as Adults, we are survivors of the horror put upon us and we live with these nightmares often. Depts failed parents, children, all families, ex words still feel like failures in many things and as the years pass by the nightmare eases up but pain of memories still haunt us. The more the inquiries we have the more the public will be aware of what the hell we went through and why society today is so screwed up and why we have so many Ex words are in our jails Australia wide or just plain petty criminals because they weren't taught and letters in the state homes and family breakdowns, E.T.C. I really hope in my life time I can see how this inquiry could make a difference to the state words we still have today?

I will contact you when I see fit and that your Government takes 80% Blame for the past wrongdoing.  
J.V.S.