

Care Leavers of Australia Network..

Even though I have not belonged to C.L.A.N. very long, it has come to mean a lot to me – both in grateful and ‘not so grateful’ ways. I am very grateful because from the very first phone call [-several since plus a visit or two] I have been made to feel as if ‘someone’ understands. Yes, I was sent away with my sister but she seems to prefer not to talk about things. I can now respect that, though sometimes I feel as if that makes it all the more lonely. At C.L.A.N. there are people who obviously have suffered a lot more than me yet they accept everyone! There is a ‘belonging’. No need to explain things but you are free to if you want.

One of the things that I am ‘not so grateful’ for is the fact that they are literally fighting for their existence. I have found a ‘home’ where there is understanding and bonding and now it appears they may not even make it through the coming year. How can this happen? Is God having another joke at my expense? Does the Government not care how much they need to ‘spend’ [financially, time consuming and so forth] on people who lack skills, who suffer depression, who suffer various wide-ranging medical problems, who commit suicide And on and on....Can the government, and society, not see that the effects of being cast aside will not go away and will probably continue on to future descendents/generations?

Another problem which has raised its ugly head since I joined C.L.A.N. concerns my brother/s. Both of these boys were also placed in the care of the ‘Church of England’. One story of a member recalled that he was in the same institution for a period of 6 months. Unfortunately he also recalled that while in there he had suffered both physical and sexual abuse. The questions regarding my brother/s still linger. The younger of the two committed suicide by hanging himself while in a gaol cell when he was 32. He had been in the ‘original’ institution for 4 years.