

I am the 2nd eldest of a family of 5 children. Our loving mother did her best but was downtrodden, beaten & abused by our "father" along with all of us kids. Our father was a very accomplished wall & floor tiler, earning good money & blowing it all on drinking & gambling. We were poverty stricken. We had no electricity, gas, food or decent clothing. I was very close to my older brother Barry who is 21 mths my snr. & Jenny 3 yrs younger than I. Barry kept running away from home to escape the physical & emotional abuse & was sent to a boys home because he was "neglected & in moral danger" I fretted so badly for him & was sent to Stewart House to cheer me up. Not a happy experience! After a couple of stints in detention Barry came home then, dear old dad became ill & was in Concord hospital for quite awhile. We were all farmed out to Red Cross homes because we had no income (we were used to that!) Mum & our baby brother, Robert went to Narrabeen (& loved it) Barry went to Cronulla & ran away! Say no more! Jenny & I went to Bowral. They were supposed to be helping us but, it was a nightmare! On our first night, Jenny & I were so nervous, we climbed into the same bed together. When the matron came in & saw us, she was outraged & dragged us out of bed & threw us in the broom cupboard, locked it & left us there all night. Every night, as soon as we were in bed, Matron walked in with a huge jar of Vicks. She shoved a huge dollop up everyone's nose & another on our tongues "to keep away the sniffles" Needless to say, it was unbearable & as soon as she left the dormitory, we wiped it off on the sheets. It was a very unhappy time there & we were supposedly there to be helped! This thank God, is all I know of being in institutions, unlike Barry & Jenny who were sent away with the consent of our "father" because they were uncontrollable (in reality, too spirited & less mouths to feed) Barry has been in too many homes to mention & Jenny was at Thornleigh, Parramatta & then, (My love & best wishes to all of you girls) Hay!!!! Nobody deserved being sent to that hellhole. Of all the beautiful ladies who survived it, congratulations, well done, You must have amazing strength!! Unfortunately my poor little sister came out of the system & went from one abusive relationship to another and eventually committed suicide 29 yrs ago this month at the age of 27. I need answers, files dates & an apology from a system that tore our family apart & is still having a rippling affect down to our own children