

W. Elton Humphrey,
Community Affairs,
Reference Committee,



6/12/04

Dear Sir,

I sent a submission to Enquiry "Child Migrants" 2001. I was hoping that could be added to current Enquiry "Forgotten Australians".

I've taken legal action since then and would like the Committee to know some of the problems which arise for survivors when seeking social justice.

The legal team representing Religious Order notified H.I.C. of my compensation well before I had received same. There arose many arguments between both teams. However, H.I.C. demanded all the money over 20 year period ('84-'04) regardless of what was paid towards claim for relevant treatment. It was a substantial amount and in no way was it fair.

Eventually, they agreed I should pay only for my medical as shown in legal claim. We had always paid to Hospital Benefits Scheme privately many years therefore we were NOT claiming unreasonably from H.I.C. I believe the Government SHOULD address these laws whereby VICTIMS have to repay medical.

If we hadn't been abused & in need of medical/hospital care there wouldn't be a reason for treatment. Mr. Tony Abbott as Minister for Health should reassess the issue of survivors' compensation - it's NOT fair nor does it help us towards recovery.

A Royal Commission would be seen as the only way to deal with the injustices in our system.

Ireland has set up a Tribunal and the Govt. of that country together with institutions have made compensation available without the hassles that we in Australian situation face.

I would like my protest against the unfairness of our Govt. recorded and plea that Social Justice with compassion and acknowledgement that we were harmed due to lack of proper welfare whilst in care be addressed and dealt with.

Although our abuse & harm was perpetrated on us many decades ago the effects are life-long and DO impact on our families today.

I thank all members of the Committee for giving of their time and most of all for the genuine belief that we NEED JUSTICE without condition.

I remain,
Margaret Gilson