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I have recently completed my honours year of a Social Science Degree at the University of Western Sydney. My thesis involved interviewing ten former inmates of the Parramatta Girls Training School about their experiences before, during, and after their incarceration. I wanted to give voice and visibility to the girls and create awareness of, and interest in, a largely ignored field. I too am a former inmate of Parramatta and still carry some 'baggage' from those dark days.

I wish to submit my thesis to the Senate Inquiry in the hope that it may provide an arena whereby the 'Parramatta (and Hay) Girls' voices may be heard by others, and the deafening silence surrounding their experiences will be broken, leading to ongoing research and the identification and provision of services and resources that are largely denied to them.

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