

24 January 2005

Senator Andrew Murray
C/- Senate Committee Affairs References
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2066

RE: SENATE ENQUIRY – INSTITUTIONALISED CHILD ABUSE

Dear Mr. Murray,

I wrote this letter to our State Attorney General as I felt hog-tied by the policies and laws that are in place at this time that show no regard for the victims that these very policies and laws helped create.

After I had done all the work of preparing this letter and doing courtesy copies I realized that I had neglected the most important person of all to send a copy of this letter too.

I trust that you will accept my letter as my submission to the Senate Enquiry and also as a letter, that will I hope serve to prompt the relevant bodies, organizations to a more compassionate attitude.

I cannot put my trust in GOD – so I have to put my trust in who? I feel like I am clutching at straws but that is pretty much all there is.

Sincerely Yours

12 Dec 2004 - 12 January 2005

Mr Rob Welford
Attorney Generals Dept.
GPO Box 149
BRISBANE QLD. 4001

ATTN: MR ROB WELFORD

RE: QUESTIONS RELATING TO POLICIES RE: INSTITUTIONALISED CHILD
ABUSE

Dear Mr. Welford,

My question to you and the governments of Queensland and Australia is –

Q1. How can wrong-doing prevail behind the cloak of religion and public service? These agencies are responsible for the people it accepts into its service and employment.

Q2. Why have guidelines and time limits set down with regard to compensation claims, if there is no penalty for these organizations for non-compliance i.e., insurance companies (We the plaintiffs are certainly restricted by time constraints).

My notification should have been responded to within six months – by August 17 2004. A response (denying any liability of course) was received at end of October. Now we wait again for response to conference. The arrogance that this company demonstrates is indicative of many public and private agencies that have unlimited funds to access.

Q3. Why place a 'Statute of Limitations' on health issues known to take half a lifetime to surface to point of "having to deal with what is happening" or go over the edge. The government of the day made these laws and policies with full knowledge and with malicious intent to gag those that were in a situation outside of their control and had no understanding of their rights.

Q4. Why spend money on buildings and bridges when there are so many victims of government policies e.g., why aren't and weren't the children given voice – there were no advocates for them that I know of then. The ones that exist now, if private have to struggle to stay afloat, the public service departments get little consideration either, yet government is happy to use 'family values' as a platform for elections.

Q5. What is the government scared of? The exposure of its own culpability, farming out children to so-called charitable bodies, to be used and abused by these organizations to the profit of their coffers. The easiest way to deal with issue of

children, problem solved – everyone is satisfied except the children (victims) of such blatant and depraved indifference. AND THEY CANNOT/ COULD NOT DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT.

The impact (on the recipients) of the decisions and choices made by these `powers that be` is not only lifelong but generational.

My son had to grow up watching me behave in a self-destructive way, (somehow I still managed to nurture a very stable, loving and productive son, who has grown into a man who makes me proud of us both).

It could have turned out very differently and for many parents dealing with similar issues it often does have a negative impact on their own children's development. Emotionally, physiologically and socially life is an obstacle course. Our mental health has been tampered with whilst still children – probably at one of the most vulnerable periods of development – puberty or younger.

As the consequences of the policies/choices/acceptances of the day are generational, the resolution should therefore also be accepted as a long-term (generational as in the change of government) responsibility.

My intelligence (though uneducated as the opportunity was stolen from me) has been the buoy that has kept me afloat. My tenacity is what has kept me connected to something on this earthly plane.

I am a citizen of this state and country. You are the elected government, there to serve and protect the people of Queensland and Australia.

The only ones I see being served and protected here are the government of then and now and the religious and other institutions affiliated with them.

By default the population is being served in an even more subversive way.

“Give them the games”, wasn't that Nero's philosophy/policy to distract the populace from the unpleasantness of their leadership and financial ruin. Nearly \$500 million in 6 years approximately for what was Lang Park. There is \$23 million on a foot-bridge (blown way out of budget), \$15 million (so far) to correct the design errors of Victoria Bridge bus-station, all within the last 10 years. Leneen Forde also conducted her enquiry into child abuse in fostering and institutions at approximately same time.

All this as opposed to \$1 million `in trust` for the thousands of victims then and still today, living with the consequences of the abuse of institutionalization and fostering, all of which is based on government policy and religious dogma (disguising greed and power mongering).

I worked on average five to six (5-6) days per week - seven to eight (7-8) hours per day in a COMMERCIAL LAUNDRY which made money for the profit of the church and the Good Shepherd Convent. Our pay was 25 cents per week minus 1 cent deduction per point, dependent on points allocated by the nun that took care of the "house" you belonged too. This was later increased (after perhaps 15 months) to 50 cents based on same points system. I was robbed of my potential, the education, with the exception of typing, (for which I scored in top 2% in Australia 'high distinction' in a National Typing test) was denied me. This started at 13 yrs 10 months and ceased when I absconded at 16 yrs 1 month in 1970. I understood that it was compulsory for children to stay in education system until 15 years – as a state responsibility then the state should have also ensured my continuing education.

When my release was discussed at any time I was told that I would be placed in 'domestic service' room and meals only and very small allowance. This was a service taken up by people like politicians, religious clergy, and well-connected business people – the kind of people that can further the avariciousness of the church, and keep money in their own pockets at same time. A 'members only' club you might say. This archaic attitude still existed in 1970.

On top of child labour and loss of education I was also victimized by other girls within the institution. There was no protection, no observation or admission that brutality within the community existed, therefore there was no-one to trust or expect help from. There was no 'Duty of Care'

I was gang raped by six (6) girls and I knew it was going to happen. I was dragged from my bed into the bathroom something over my head and a hand on my mouth, the lay person who slept in the dormitory was out for her night off. They held me down in the bathroom that faced the outside world away from the nun's sleeping quarters, pulled down my pants, spread my legs, held my arms and head, stuffed my mouth and shoved a mop or broom handle up my vagina.

I do not remember how long it lasted, what I do remember is crawling on my hands and knees to the showers and being told to keep my mouth shut or my arms would end up in the steam-iron press 'by accident'.

I lost many things that night – one of the few precious gifts I had was my singing voice – I lost that too. Within a few months of that event, I do not know how many, I absconded and so began my life on the streets, drugs, sex, self-destruction., suicide attempts. I was 16 years old. But that was not the end of the institutions and I found myself in police station at New Farm as a reported runaway. I tried to slash my wrist the police sergeant was very kind – slapped my face nearly took it off my shoulders and then took a dirty kitchen sponge (I even remember the colour blue) and wiped the blood off my arm. I was then taken to "Karala" in Ipswich – this institution was situated within the grounds of a Mental Institution. Fortunately I was not there long. My step-mother came to my rescue. My step-mother is who I should have been left with after my father was lost at sea, never found. But no the state had to stick its nose

in and it ruined any chance I may have had for a better life. Without consulting me about anything – my human rights denied.

The government sites 'statue of limitations' as a reason why my case and many others cannot be pursued legally. I ask this question – when this law devised (given all the resources at the governments disposal) it would not be unreasonable to assume that government was made aware of the subsequent 'mental health' issues that arise from abuse in childhood. Government would therefore have known that at such a young age none of the victims had the self-esteem, strength, believe, trust, faith or knowledge, that they had been criminally treated either as child labour within institution or sexually by individuals of Public Service or other employees/ guardians contracted to these services.

Nearly all mental health issues arising from abuse as children is suppressed (although exhibited inappropriately on social level), and some victims if they are lucky, may have the chance to come to terms with their pain. The light is not completely extinguished in all of us. For ourselves, but perhaps even more importantly for those who have completely lost who they are I have to stand up and fight you with everything I possibly can.

All political parties and their members, religious organizations and churches and there members and clergy, law enforcement, courts and their members and employees, Department of Health Queensland and those departments responsible for children and their welfare and their employees – all of you have some culpability in this heinous affair – some more than others.

I have a saying for myself –“the hotter the fire, the better the steel”. So far I have survived many flames. This one may be too big, too hot but I need to hold on to my hard won self-respect and I need you to hear what I have to say.

The rest will be decided by the depth of the governments' humanity and conscience. It will be interesting to see the priority the health and well-being of this states citizens is given – **I hope that the decision makers realize healthy citizens make for a healthy and productive economy.** The opportunity exists to put 'damaged goods' back into productive status.

The church scratches its head wondering why it is dying – losing followers. If they hadn't of abused all the children and the parents who entrusted their children to their care it might still have some believers.

The church preaches to us that confession and humble repentance is good for the soul and with it comes absolution, cleansing and the opportunity to do right without the stain of previous sin. Well the church should practice what it preaches.

Martin Luther split from the church because of the evil done under the cloak of religion. I could site examples of relentless taxation on poor tenants regardless of

seasonal setbacks, or produce endless cases of the churches involvement in adulterous, carnal and sexual promiscuity, or out and out war-mongering, or more recently the plea made by the pope for all countries to contribute generously to the tsunami victims. Not one word was mentioned about the richest State in the World making any fiscal contribution to the plight of so many. Could this be because they are not of the Catholic faith? The hierarchies of the church though make sure their personal comforts are not comprised and leaves the hard work up to the few truly spiritual souls on this planet. These do not wear collars or veils generally.

The church has also taken on the haven of the "Insurance companies" these companies have a damaged reputation at the best of times. The analogy for me is the priest having it off with the biggest whore in town. The catholic church is the richest institution on this planet and it still takes on the persona of SCROOGE instead of MOTHER TERESA.

Well the Ghost of Your Future is here too haunt you (the church) now, and death (that I can see) is the only outcome. HALLELUJAH!!!!

But there is salvation my friends – Indulgences – just pay the money and all is forgiven. That was a good money maker for the church, pardons for the sinner just hand over the money and all is forgiven. The catholic church should consider some of its own fear-based theology and apply it to themselves. Such as **POVERTY, CHASITY, HUMILITY ETC.**

Now that I have expressed my opinion and perceptions of this unfortunate element of our states and country's history this is what I ask you to do.

I want the government and all those affiliated with these crimes – churches, charitable organizations, any party in any way tainted by this association to be accountable.

I ASK FOR AND DEMAND AS A CITIZEN OF THIS STATE AND COUNTRY THAT A MORE COMPASSIONATE POSITION BE ADOPTED BY ALL CONCERNED.

Yours sincerely,