

My submission by Sandra Head nee Smith. I am the sister of Kay O'Hare and Beverley Young I was made a state ward in 1945.

I was in Korelli Dalwood and Bidura for a number of years. When you are so young you don't know what life is about, so the things that happen to you it must be right. (so you think). You go through life taking all the humiliation and degradation emotional, sexual and physical abuse that grown up hand out. Most of my nightmares begin with foster care. They did not want a child they just wanted someone to work as a housekeeper, scrubbing floors washing and ironing, all at the the young age of seven. I wet the bed so that day I would wear the wet nightwear around my head, if the floors were not to their liking my head was banged into the floor. Weekends I was pur out of the house to fend for myself, I would go pea picking to farms for something to eat, I would then be put back in the home (Bidura) because I was so bad.

My next foster home was worse I was sexually abused, and if I did not do what I was told I would be belted with a dog collar with steel studs on it, on my backside, I could not sit down for days.

My next home was with my aunt (by marriage) she was so cruel she would emotionally abuse you making you feel so bad about yourself, you want to die.

By the time I had learnt to separate myself from that little girl that was so unhappy and endured things that were so bad, I lived liked that for some years, till I met my brother at the age of 15 he was sixteen and a half. at last someone cared I was alive. My aunt would not let us talk, she would say we were doing dirty things together, so we ran away we both got jobs, but I was terrified of people and could not mix so I had to leave. Life was pretty good at last, but not for long, the police arrested us and locked me in the shelter at Glebe for four weeks, so the nightmares started I was sent back to my aunts.

I met my husband of 36 years (till his death 12 years ago) at the age of sixteen and a half, I was still a ward of the State they wanted to put me in a home and take the baby, I would not do that so I got married I was very happy at last. Every now and then that little girls pops up and that makes me sad. I am 64 and I am still learning how to face life as a whole person. I have four wonderful children all have grown into decent adults,

S. Head

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