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### **To the Senate Inquiry on Government Compensation Payments**

The Forgotten Australians Victorian Action Group [FAVAG] would like to draw your attention to pertinent matters that we are happy for you to share with the Federal Government of Australia.

The term 'Forgotten Australians' came about through the senate enquiry of 2004 Forgotten Australians Report, although the terminology is not a term of endearment to the so many that were cast aside and forgotten about, however we do feel it does determine exactly who we are, "Forgotten" and some still to this day.

The words "abuse" has by definition by media different perspectives, and we raise examples so that maybe the Senate Committee can once and for all put to bed, there are no variants in abuse.

Which is worse a child is raped  
A child bashed to unconsciousness  
A Child placed in confinement for days on end  
A child placed in a mental institution because it would not allow them to abuse.  
The failure to protect and nurture a child

The word rape conjures up some extraordinary headlines whereas a child bashed barely gets a mention or maybe page 45 of the daily newspaper. The South Australians Mulligan Report for example only covered those who were sexually assaulted and those who lost their lives whilst in care. Hence we have now in south Australia only those who were sexually assaulted can put their cases forward under the Victims of crimes act there are many who were abused physically mentally and emotionally the Government of South Australia has decided to leave out of its equation.

Although the South Australian report is long and tedious it has failed those victims who had been physically and mentally abused constantly throughout their childhood years.

Victoria and NSW have yet to address the issue of redress or compensation, however it has put paltry sums out for the Forgotten Australians to go towards services. Just recently NSW earmarked 9,000,000 dollars to go towards the Forgotten Australians only for that sum to be pilfered away by DOCS who have come with an extraordinary find of 58,000 cartons of files that supposedly are those of Forgotten Australians.

So now they have taken 7.8 million to use it to sift through the many boxes of files they had lost. Leaving once again the Forgotten Australians on a shortfall. In NSW it is believed there were over 200,000 children who were supposed to be under the protection of the state and the government expects 1.2 million dollars to service those 200,000.

So much harm was done to so many children whilst under the care of the state and hasten to add was sanctioned by the Commonwealth Government, the act of funding the various state governments is clear the Commonwealth was in dereliction of its direction in caring for it's most precious resources the children of this country.

The previous Government had washed its hands of us and used the words we were not in government at the time so how can they blame us.

The only way to maybe give a clear scenario of duty of care or ownership when Australia in the 1956 Olympics won so many medal we all stood up and owned them and still do that today, when many of our soldiers were lost on the battlefields in various theatres of war we still march down the main streets of various cities and sing their praises this Government wasn't there then yet it is proud to put it hands up and speak well of those who fought and died some even say it is part of our legacy.

Then if that is so then why are we not part of the legacy we were in a war zone from our very early childhood days.

This Government and past Governments must learn the Bad also comes with the good and it must learn it has to except the Bad also.

We are the Children who were never given opportunities we ask this Senate Committee to please put pressure on this Government and let us have the opportunities now in the latter part of our years.

Gold CARD  
Compensation  
Glasses  
Dental  
Health

In the Chair for FAVAG

Garry Harrison

19/06/2010