

Margaret Rose Hart

9TH JUNE 2010

SUBMISSION

To

COMMITTEE SECRETARY
SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE
PO Box 6100, PARLIAMENT HOUSE
CANBERRA ACT 2600

I would like to briefly explain my position as neglected childhood experiences I had when I was put into care at the Melbourne Orphanage in Melbourne Victoria when myself and elder brother and sister were there.

My name was Margaret Rose Westerman 16/7/1938
My Brother was Robert Charles Westerman
My Sister was Valerie Ann Westerman

Admitted 17/2/1944 and there till 1955

Being so young I did not know any different as being their so long it was a way of life. Separated from family and being treated in such a brutal way with the carers not having any knowledge of how to treat us, beltings with a strap, made to eat food for the day if you wouldn't eat it at a meal and forever cleaning the premises and no down time to learn and go to outings, except to church and sun day school. Known at the local state school as the orphanage kids, was all a blur. I have hidden this for years. My sister is still missing, made to fend for ourselves on leaving and not knowing where are family now living. I have found my brother now, and know my father died in Perth when he was sixty. There was no follow up or any help given.

Did not follow through the redress as Victoria has a bad reputation of fobbing off people and not helping at all.

I had a hard time with relationships as never had a home life and had 3 marriages and 2 children, but keep in touch with my children as they live close by.

This is the first time I have ever put it down on paper and didn't want to say wo is me, but feel quite strongly about the time there and the mistreatment of so many lives that was never addressed by the government or the churches, of their turning a blind eye to this terrible system. I was so ashamed of my past, that I never talked about it so it was like a fester inside of me, as I blamed myself. I am happy to talk about it now, as its quite liberating.

Thankyou for listening to me

Sincerely

Margaret Hart (formerly Margaret Westerman)