

6th June 2010

Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600



To whom it may concern:

I write to make a submission to the Senate Inquiry on Government Compensation. My name is Alfred William Stirling living in Melbourne, Victoria.

I was a Ward of the State and was placed in the Bayswater Boys Home, Victoria. I was sexually, physically and emotionally abused by the very people that the government entrusted to care for me, Salvation Army Superiors. I was neglected; I lost contact with siblings and parents, and bared witness to others being abused. Each and every day, I see the scars of the abuse on my body. They may be old scars on my elderly body, yet the memory of the pain and brutality haunts me as if it was yesterday.

When I was released from care into my uncle's care, I had to shut the abuse out of my head. Every day is a battle. The abuse I suffered as a young boy haunts me, and the loss of trust I have with others, has reflected on my wife and children.

I am a Victorian and have no access to a redress scheme. The Victorian Government wants to scare us off or make it impossible by going through the courts. The government has fobbed us off with a few basic services instead of paying for what we really need.

A redress is important to me and other care leavers. It's about acknowledgement that we are telling the truth about the abuse in "Care", I want the authorities to follow up in pursuing the abusers. I need to be compensated for the abuse, the neglect, the poor education, lack of health care, lack of dental care and the emotional and psychological damage I have suffered as a child.

I and other carers are all Australians and we should all be treated equally and not depend on what State we grew up in. We need the Government to show leadership and make all States contribute to a National Scheme.

The Churches and charities should also be required to contribute to a National Scheme. They were part of the problem and should be part of the solution.

Regards

Alfred William Stirling