

SUBMISSION TO SENATE COMMITTEE

Brian Alfred Woods

Thursday, 3 June 2010

1: I was in the Kent Town Salvation Army Boys Home from 1946 to 1953 aged 6 to 13

I was put in there by my single mother at the time I was known as Brian Alfred Lehman.

Over that time I was beaten by _____ who was a very cruel man. I and others were forced to do all the work at the home. Scrub and polish floors clean dorms.

After school made to peel pots of potatoes for all the boys in the home. It was very hard I used to runaway to Mildura by bus to my home. I used to climb up a tree and would not come down till it was dark and then get a beating. I was a slave doing there work never received a decent education, called a homie at Norwood School beaten there by a teacher _____ There is proof I went to that school and that Major Healey & a Major Stevenson were my guardians. I am very resentful of the Salvation Army.

We were made to line up for showers in the nude we cleaned our teeth with salt. We had a very small locker which was all I owned in their which was only some clothes no toys or books. I was physically and emotionally abused.

I gave evidence at the senate Inquiry in Adelaide in Nov 2003 My evidence is on record.

I was sent home to my family in Mildura with a letter and I never went back. I was 13 years old.

I never till this day do not trust a lot of people and I was never a loving parent as I did not know how. I also find it hard to mix with people.

2: I was compensated by the Salvation Army in 2004 for the amount of \$31,000 which I never felt was enough, After the Inquiry in Adelaide I was advised by one of your Senators to get in touch with Salvation Army which I did. They paid for myself and wife to go to their Lawyers in Melbourne on the 5th Dec 2003.

By the 20th Dec I was rushed to the RAH by air ambulance with a blood clot and had emergency surgery to save my life. After all that had been going on in Nov and Dec of that year I decided to take the money offered.

3: My friend _____ was also compensated by the Salvation Army for her treatment in Tasmania. She received around \$35,000

Have been to the apology in SA but they are only compensating for sexual abuse which I feel is wrong. Someone can touch you once on your private parts and you get compensated yet my face was pushed into rotten pumpkins and I am not allegiable

5: My settlement was out of court and I was well treated by my Lawyers

6: As you can read by my email the Salvation Army has acknowledged I was in their home.

Redress is important to all care leavers for all the abuse they suffered as children and the lack of love and hugs that are so important to a child's health and happiness.

Redress is important to me because I never received a good education and I am quite clever people tell me all the time, for someone that was brought up in a home I am very clever. My wife always says I could have been an engineer or likewise. I have no superannuation and am on the Aged Pension, I have very little savings. I think all care leavers should receive a gold card as part of their compensation.

I cannot spell good which is a major embarrassment to me, my wife Helen always write my correspondence.

I need to be compensated for the physical and emotional abuse, poor education, poor health have arterial fibulation suffered a blood clot.

I feel the Australian government should take over compensation claims so everyone is treated equal . Why did no government department come to the Salvation Army homes and check up on the welfare of all theses children or any other orphanages and homes before the 1970s

I suffered a mental breakdown in the year 2000 my wife Helen went overseas to Bangkok with a girlfriend. She has to cut her holiday short I was in the Kapunda Hospital, when she arrived their I was in the corner in a foetal position saying don,t hit me I didn,t mean to bad. When the aircraft doors closed in Adelaide it was like I was being left alone again.

7: AS Australians we should all be treated as equals not as individuals by all sates. and make them contribute to a national scheme. You said sorry but never offered compensation. When you read in the papers people receiving compensation for different things and receiving large amounts of money.

Even children being abused by Priests at least they got to go home we had no way of stopping it in the homes 24 hours a day except when we went to school.

8: Churches and charities should also contribute to a national scheme, them and the government never did their job properly.

Thank you for receiving my Submission

Regards

Brian Alfred Woods