

From:
To: [Community Affairs Committee \(SEN\)](#)
Subject: Abuse Redress Scheme
Date: Friday, 26 January 2018 4:48:00 PM

Committee Members, Abuse Redress Scheme

Dear Members of the Abuse Redress Scheme,

May I humbly suggest that the Committee take account of and consider the following points, in particular in reference to The Ballarat Children's Home:

1. Many Records from the 1950's onwards are almost non-existent
2. Records from the 1950's, where available, often do not reflect names and birth dates correctly, sometimes due to poorly educated staff.
3. Record keeping in the past was so poor, that it has been difficult to identify the people and organisations in charge of some of the Homes.
4. Most Staff Members from the Homes are deceased, again this has caused loss of information.
5. **Survivors** who cannot locate information should not be discarded from the process of redress simply because records were either poorly kept or lost.
6. Searches for information by professional bodies, such as **The Salvation Army**, and **Anglicare**, are often unsuccessful because of lack of pertinent records.
7. The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, although enormously careful and respectful in itself, caused some individuals to re-live their experiences, which, unintentionally, created great mental anguish.
8. Redress for **all** victims of sexual abuse is the least that can be proffered. While it will never ease or extinguish their suffering, they will have received **tangible** acknowledgement from the community that these atrocities took place.
9. Redress for **all** victims will help to heal wounds and be an acknowledgement of their suffering.

To be granted recognition means an acknowledgement of the wrongs perpetrated. Much of a victim's suffering is caused through loss of **hope** and recognition of the crimes perpetrated against them will ease the pain.

I respectfully thank you for your time in this matter.

David Brabender

Past Resident of The Ballarat Orphanage

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