

Dear Senators,

I am writing this in regard to the Redress Scheme in QLD. While it was well and good to pay everybody in round 1 the \$7,000 and then not many got much more in round 2 that they could of got to the amount of up to \$33,000 which would of bought it up to the \$40,000 that some hoped that they would get, but didn't. I am writing about the few that were not included in this or who did not get compensation for being kept in Adult Institutions, as children, mainly mental hospitals. I am one of these, and believe me when I tell you there are not many of us left as you would imagine. You are probably aware that in QLD on the 24/3/10 that we finally got our apology from the QLD Government for those who were wrongfully placed in Adult Mental Institutions and this was a long time coming and very hard fought for. We finally were not being ignored anymore and were finally recognised that this did happen to us when we were State Wards and the Gov. of the day, our parent, did this to us. When we had the Forde Inquiry we were not allowed to speak of this as it was not in the terms of reference and the Senate Inquiry did brush over this and actually put it in the Senate Report on Forgotten Australians and I think this was a help in getting our apology as the Senate recognised that this did happen. When we filled out the applications for the Redress Scheme, which was quite traumatic by the way, this part of our childhood was not included as it was not in the terms of reference so therefore we have most definitely not been compensated for the most horrific part of our childhoods. We would very much like to be compensated for this as being in an Adult Institution was most definitely a lot worse than the Church or Gov. homes that we have all been in also. It is unimaginable the things that we went through and the type of things we saw and suffered are what horror movies are made of. I, among others, was locked in with the CRIMINALLY INSANE and not only did you have to be wary of the patients to survive you also had to be wary of the staff. We have disfigurements such as cigarette burns on our bodies, scars on our bodies and mentally also, some had forced abortions and others had shock treatment and also rape and other sexually deviate things were common. Solitary confinement was common and being kept drugged up on now illegal drugs was a daily occurrence. One of the drugs used on us was pretty potent as it melted plastic and had to be kept in a glass. Please remember when you are reading this that we are talking about children here and if the public had known I am sure there would of been an outcry because if we had been put in an adult prison there would of been as there was back in 1967 when a whistle blower went to the media about Karalla House, a Gov. home in QLD, and then it got closed down. So what would of happened if the public had known then.

Compensation for here would have to be quite reasonable as the ones sent to these places were usually the ones who stuck up for themselves against nuns and staff and nurses and doctors and we are probably the ones who would of done the most with their lives as some of us are quite intelligent. I wanted to be an accountant and own my own business but this was taken from me so therefore I do not own my own home or have travelled or have a nice car or any of the trappings that come with that occupation. I do peoples tax returns for free as I enjoy it.

I am sure I do not have to go into a lot of the horror of this as I am sure others have also told you of terrible things in these places and have probably done a lot better job.

What I do want you to do when you are reading our submissions is imagine if these things were happening to a child member of your family and how you would feel about that and how outraged you would be and remember this also when you are deciding our fate again at the hands of politicians.

We are asking for a fair go and a good bit of fair compensation that we need and deserve. Thank you.  
Gwen Robinson