

To the Senate Inquiry on Government Compensation Payments,

I have recently just come across this scheme called Redress, other people have told me how they got this payout for being locked up as a child in child prisons, I was wondering why the government hasn't tried harder to try and contact all people involved, like maybe looking up names on Centrelink for starters to try and contact them, tell them about this scheme, it shows that the government doesn't really care.

I was placed on Care and Control at the age of 12 and placed in custody at the Sir Leslie Wilson jail for kids, because I ran away from home once, after being molested by my football coach as well as coming from an abusive family I tried to run away from it all, there was no trying to resolve the matter, like maybe offering counselling, instead I was placed in custody, where this place was quiet abusive to the children who were in there, and I was one of them, twice I was sent to this place. When I got out on one occasion I was placed in a home for kids aged 15-17 years old, who had severe drug problems and other bad issues to deal with, I was only 12 at this time and should not have been there, but there was no-where else Children Services could put me, so they said, while I was there I was not able to leave the place at all, so while people were coming in and out I could not escape what was happening there, I was the subject of physical and sexual abuse there, I told my child care worker, but nothing was done, I was just moved from place to place, I was placed in several foster homes, of which I was the subject of physical and sexual abuse, and again nothing was done, going to several homes for kids of abuse, going in and out of different schools, I felt like a dog looking for some-where to be, also knowing what a short life I would live, always wishing to be dead, knowing at that age that no-one cared is a very sad feeling for any-one to feel, the Children Services did nothing to try and help me grow into a person of hope, I was now a child of the Government and my new parents were more abusive than my real family, there was nothing there in the way of inspiration. At the age of 16 my new child care worker asked to cook her dinner and my reward was, she would sign me off care, leaving me in a world that I knew nothing about, no future, the only thing I knew for sure was that no-one cared, we lived in a world where it was full of greed and hatred, life should not have been like this when you are bought up by the Government, they are supposed to know everything, but in reality they know nothing. Never in my life since the time I left Care have I lived in one place more than 12 months, I have never been able to find the stability, it has never been installed in me, the same with employment, I couldn't care less about work, life was too short, I always thought I would be dead tomorrow, this I see is the responsibility the Government never gave me, I see there needs to be a complete overhaul of the Children Services as they don't have a clue of what they are doing as a service.

When other people told me about this redress scheme, their situations were the same as mine, they are the ones who told me that this (compensation) would be available to me, the Government might try and advertise in a small box in the paper knowing that no-one will read this and then say we gave every-body a chance to go for compensation, I think this is absolutely disgusting, this scheme should be left open indefinitely as there will always be cases that will require compensation, as the welfare workers don't do their job, the Government needs to stand up and take responsibility for their actions, or lack of actions to these cases, how can this scheme be different in all the states of Australia when we are one country, children are the same in every state and should be treated

the same, equally, compensation puts a small smile to the face but doesn't take away the pain and suffering of a lifetime, the Government could never have enough money to pay the true value of this, hopefully I will hear back a response this time and not put in the closet like my case was for so long .

