

To The Senate Legal And Constitution Committee,

I am one of the Forgotten Australians who was taken from my Mother and put into Government run institutions, where like most others were Physically / Sexually/ Emotionally / abused. These were by people you put in charge of children. I was taken to East Kew Girls home at the age of 5 and a half in the back of their veggie van that alone was horrific; I wasn't told where I was going. I was only there for a short time when an older girl used to grab me and take me into the toilets where she would abuse me, this went on till I was 8 years old, and yes I did tell \_\_\_\_\_ who gave me the biggest belting saying, that's what happens to girls that lie. I got beltings from the girl every day; I didn't need one from the officers as well. It wasn't till I met Leonie From Clan that I found out what the girl was doing to me was a form of sexual abuse. Now years later it has all came out about the abuse that went on in your homes and still we are not believed as like \_\_\_\_\_ you to think we are lying. Yes you gave us an Apology and I thank you for that, but we need redress .So many of us suffer emotional and health problems, you seem to forget we were made to work at a very young age scrubbing and polishing floors, sometimes with a tooth brush, so many of us have Osteoarthritis in the knees back shoulders, tummy problems from all the pills and medicine they gave us. Most of my problems are the emotional ones, if you showed any in the home even laughing you would get a big whack across the ears and they would say, I'll give you something to laugh about, same thing for crying. So we learnt to keep our emotions hidden. It wasn't till I went to see a Psychologist in 2005 that all these emotions came out, worst of all I became attached to my Therapist; I was this child again looking for a Mother figure, Sounds weird I know but I've heard many a F/A saying this, they feel like a child again Insecure lonely scared not trusting anyone, I could go on and on. I have had my pay out from the Salvation Army but it doesn't make up for what they put us through and even just getting your file, Medical records, the interview with their Lawyer it was all a terrible emotional thing. Today I suffer from depression and like many others have thought about taking the easy way out, it has affected my life so bad I believe I'm still nothing, I'm unlovable as that's what they drummed into our heads .I still believe that. I hate myself for it but that's the way it is. I have once more been abandoned and rejected. This is not what I was going to write; this all came out from my heart, Sorry.

Sincerely Heather Templeman