

DIANNE HUGHES.

I AM GOING TO WRITE IN MY OWN WORDS HOW I FEEL REGARDING THE REVIEW OF GOVERNMENT COMPENSATION PAYMENTS. PLEASE EXCUSE MY SPELLING AND PUNCTUATION. I am 59yrs old, live in a unit with my small dog, its dept of housing. I have 3 children, 2 girls, one son. My eldest daughter lives in Canada, she's married with one child 3yrs old. My other daughter lives here in Sydney, she has one child, she's 5yrs old. My son lives in Sydney, he's not married. My daughter who lives in Sydney is 35yrs old, she has a townhouse with HUME HOUSING, ITS A HOUSING CO-OP, she is divorced and is on parent payment. She has no-one other than myself to help her, she hasn't gone out socially since she was pregnant, she doesn't smoke, nor drinks, has never been in trouble with the police, worked all her life. Until 6yrs ago. The area where she lives has a few other townhouses run by other housing co-ops, my daughter born and raised here pays for water, which she doesn't have a problem doing, BUT tenants either side of her who are from other countries DON'T PAY FOR WATER, my daughter struggles from pay to pay, going without a lot of things for herself to make sure her child has all she needs. I take over what I can to help ease the burden of trying to survive, I am on disability pension so I am limited on how much I can help her. The sadness I feel, the guilt, the anger, the frustration, the helplessness I feel regarding my daughter's situation alone that I am not able to help her more is one big reason the government needs to review compensation. I was not given an education, I was made a state ward at 7yrs old, I was trained to clean, wash, cook, scrub, every job I've had was a poor paying one. I spent many yrs in state homes, with no love, not even a kind word, I was scrubbing cement courtyards with tooth brushes at 11yrs old, which I've stated in my submission and given in evidence at the senate inquiry. I've struggled all my life and I mean all my life from birth to now, just to get through each day, I suffer with depression, anxiety attacks, I've got a chronic back problem, I've got arthritis in knees, hands, shoulder, which I am sure is a result due to scrubbing cement courtyards as a child. I was locked in isolation at 11yrs old for 24hr periods, as a result of that treatment I can't have doors closed, I suffer with phobias regarding doors closed. I've got problems being told what to do, due to having been told WHEN I COULD GO TO THE TOILET, WHEN TO SHOWER, WHEN TO EAT, IN ACTUAL FACT RIGHT DOWN TO WHEN I COULD CHANGE MY MENSTRUAL NAPKIN, this was my opportunity the dept of welfare gave me, they took me from my mother and my 4 brothers and 3 sisters as my father was in jail and my mum couldn't pay the rent, so the welfare paid foster people to take some of my siblings, some went to institutions, we all got separated split up, each and every child from my family has issues due to their time in care, that's when our issues started, some sexually abused while in care. Abused mentally, emotionally, our childhoods taken stolen, from us, never celebrated birthdays, still to this day I say my birthday is just another day. My children have suffered from my time in care, as much as I tried not to be the person I was while my children were growing it just came out in me, everything had to be done right, on time, I was just like the people who raised me in many ways, I just didn't realize it. I am nearly 60 I've got a lot of health problems, I need physio but am only allowed 5 per yr. I need more than 5. I stretch my 5 out so when the pain is really bad I go, I need good shoes due to knee problems but I buy my shoes on many occasions in St Vinnies, I'd like to get a recliner chair for my back but I can't afford it, my car is in need of desperate repair, plus I am thinking I just can't keep it going. BUT WITH MY HEALTH PROBLEMS ITS A LOT EASIER TO GET AROUND, I've said I won't go into a nursing home, I won't go out of this world in a home, my last yrs will not be being told when to eat ect. The opportunity I was given in life by WELFARE has left unrepairable scars, I've told my children I won't go into a home to die, I will take my own life if I have to. No amount of money is going to erase my scars, my wounds, I am very tired of this whole situation regarding all of us forgotten children, its depressing to have to go over it continually. For me

compensation would mean i could take care of my health problems better,i could have better shoes,i would be able to help my daughter ,these things i need are exactly needs not wants,so many people have told me if you had have had the opportunities in life you could have had a really good job ,as iam quite bright.my file i got a few yrs ago is stamped by the dept ,THAT IAM UNPLACABLE AS I DIDNT SMILE AND I WET THE BED ,I WAS A DULL CHILD was what was written,i was 7yrs old just been taken from my family,so i was sent to instutions to be trained to scrub.ive been told by CLAN that MR RUDD may be considering a card for us ,about time ,on all centerlink forms or dept of housing it hasARE YOU KOORIE ARE YOU TORRIS STRAIGHT ISLANDER ,WHY,IVE BEEN ASKING FOR YRS WHY ,ITS ONE RULE FOR ALL ISNT IT?LETS HAVE ARE YOU ,EX STATEWARD ,THANKS FOR YOUR TIME ,ive written this email from my heart my time left in this world is limited any compensation you decide to give us i can only hope its soon so as i get to have and give my daughter so much needed help.yours sincerly DIANNE HUGHES .