

My name is Brian Cherrie aged 57 and I am a forgotten Australian and we will remain to be forgotten until something is done for us. It was nice that the Federal Government gave us an apology, at least it is an acknowledgement of our pain, but the matter of redress has been left to the state governments and that is just a total disaster. No one wants to pay for the misery and destruction that we endured and it is so wrong, as recently as last Sunday May 16 2010 there was an article in the Melbourne Herald Sun newspaper SEX PRIEST BETRAYAL VATICANS 50 YEAR COVER UP. the vatican has been ordering the cover up of sexual abuse in Australia and throughout the world for almost 50 years according to a confidential document obtained from a secret archive. The Irish government had had enough and gave the Catholic church until the end of June 2009 to declare all the churches cash and assets in the whole of Ireland because of child rapes by priests in Ireland. (I refuse to refer to child rape as sexual assault, it is a sad day when child rape is that common that we have to minimise the term to sexual assault). No one wants to pay for what happened, so many destructive stories that it is hard to fathom. The religious orders of all churches had a big part to play in this and they will do all they can to duckweave every which way they can to get out of putting their hands in their pockets to make amends. These churches made millions of dollars from our misery and they built up huge assets and it is time for the Federal Government to play hard ball with them. And if they don't come to the party they should be made to do by introducing a special tax on everything that they do until they change their ways, because all they do is hide behind the not for profit organisation status which just helps them build up their wealth. I was repeatedly raped as a child in the Salvation Army home in Box Hill in Victoria, the Salvos were very quick to pay me out \$45,000.00, they know that we would never amount to anything in our lives and that most of us wouldn't have two stones to rub together so after living a life of drug abuse, alcohol and anything we can get a hold of to suppress our childhood memories. Out of that payment was \$10,000.00 for legal fees and that left me with enough to buy a car. The land that the Salvation Army home at Box Hill is on is on residential land and it is approximately one square kilometre, worth millions of dollars. Before I got my lousy payout I had to sign a piece of paper to swear I had not had any counselling or related services paid by Medicare because I would have had to pay that back, how disgusting, repeal this injustice immediately. I was one of the lucky ones, I hadn't had any counselling although the psychiatrist had recommended that I need long term counselling. I was a state ward and Premier Brumby stated to the media, we will treat these cases expeditiously, sympathetically and sensitively and we will deal with these cases on a case by case basis and we have set aside funds to deal with these cases. That was years ago and I am still waiting, two days after making this statement he appeared before the media again to explain why the government lawyers were demanding exact dates that you were abused as a child. I wrote to Brumby about this and his head of department wrote back saying that there is no funds set aside for this. Claims cannot proceed unless there are witnesses (go figure) or people with similar claims. Your claims are minimised if we as children couldn't remember the names of our abusers, we were innocent young children and we should have been looked after properly we weren't loved we weren't nourished we were not fed properly and we were used as slave labour, used as guinea pigs for drug research etc etc.

We were stolen from our parents, whole families torn apart and every government in the whole of Australia should give us redress for what we endured. The senate report chronicles the dark history of the forgotten Australians.

my life in care. I was at the Alexandra Childrens Orphanage in Western Australia when I was one year and eleven months old, shortly after that I was adopted out. Senate report page 108 4.59 The removal of the baby and offering for adoption was often undertaken by duress or in some instances deception. Alternative options were not explained. It was given that you had to give up your child for adoption to stay in the home Alexandra Home Highgate. The Matron made it quite clear, that my baby was not my baby-there was no way I was going keep "IT" if I wanted to stay in the home. I had no where else to go. The W.A. redress scheme will not pay anyone who was adopted out. My mother had managed to keep me and bond with me for almost two years and she was virtually forced to abandon me because no one would help her. The department has told me that they have no records for that home (how convenient) and refused to even pay for my original birth certificate. I have documents to prove what I have just said. Also my birth mother suffered from mental illness all her life largely to the fact that she was forced to adopt me out, this I have been told by my half sisters. I never met my mother, but I managed to go to W.A. twice at my own expense to meet my two sisters and a brother and go to her burial site. I was also given a photo of her and a picture of me when I was in the home which was printed in the West Australian newspaper. All this when I was 51 years old, I never met my father and I don't have a picture of him, all I know is that his name is . I was adopted to a family, although I have read in a report somewhere that I was virtually dumped on their doorsteps, a family that was adopting any children. They moved to Victoria when I was approximately six years old .

At the age of ten years old I was taken to the childrens court in Melbourne for being uncontrollable and made a ward of the state. I was placed in Parkville and then the Gordon Boys Home in Highett Victoria. I was there for about two years and my mind is completely blank from my experience there. I don't know if it is through trauma but all I can remember is that I wanted to run away. I committed a crime at twelve years of age and then I was returned to Torana. I was then placed in the Salvation Army Home in Box Hill where I was repeatedly raped by one person in the home and I remember being sexually fondled by another person. Then when I was handed back to my adopted parents when I turned fourteen. After a short time I was begging them to place me in a hostel in which they did. The years that I spent in childrens homes was a disgrace, we were deprived of love, affection, decent clothing and nourishing food. We were used for slave labour. These places had no checks and balances. At the age of seventeen and in the hostel and still a ward I was subpoenaed by my mother to give evidence against my adoptive father so she could get a divorce, she had to prove adultery or wait seven years of separation. My father moved to N.S.W. after that. What happened in these homes is a national disgrace and you need to ask yourself (1) why don't you make the churches and charities to pay a fair amount of compensation. (2) if they refuse, introduce a special tax to force them. (3) make all states pay a fair amount of redress for neglect and abuse to all Forgotten Australians. (4) stop the governments in various states, forcing us into expensive litigation, then demanding exact dates, witnesses and names of abusers. (5) repeal medicare payback immediately. (6) stop the governments from treating our cases on a case by case basis this is designed to divide us and weaken our cases

(7) we have waited long enough, make them deal with our cases expediently and fairly. We are dropping off like flies. (8) give us a GOLD CARD (we have suffered years of abuse) (8) give us priority housing in all states. (I am in public housing for 8 years, this is the longest that I have been in one place for the whole of my life. (9) make it an

easier process nationally to make a claim. (10) there have been all types of redress schemes in various states, some have expired without people even knowing about them, make them re open them up. (12) the lousy states, who have refused to have a redress scheme, should be made to have a social conscience and do the right thing. Labour was voted in because they are supposed to have a social conscience. (13) please note, that a lot of Forgotten Australians are aging and have lived with their childhood abuse and neglect all their lives. A lot of them cannot read or write and a lot of them do not have access or know how to use a computer. It is almost impossible for this group of people to make a submission. (14) make the W.A. government find the funds to pay for my birth certificate. (15) make the W.A. government except claims for forced adoptions. (16) when we fill out government papers and it says " are you aboriginal or a Torres Strait Islander" it should also read "Are you a Forgotten Australian." Thank you for any help that you can give us.

I have just seen the psychiatric nurse at inner south health and she has told me that she wants me to have counselling for my abuse, but as I have said in this submission, I am reluctant too. My lawyer told me the other day that she is currently negotiating with the state government for redress and my psychiatrist has written in a report that I suffer post traumatic stress disorder along with other problems and that I need long term counselling, but as I have said previously that I am scared that I will have to pay back thousands of dollars to medicare. Multiply this by the thousands of forgotten Australians that have made claims and this is disgusting, how many other people are there that are like me either refusing to have counselling or are not aware that they will have to pay it back

The police are reluctant to properly investigate historical abuse cases. I have personally been to the police on two occasions and testified at a parliament/police hearing into child rape. There seems to be no fairness into the Victorian government payment systems, where on one hand, they will gladly pay out large sums of money to a paedophile (\$93,000 compo) bashed up in prison or if someone is illegally deported, but they won't pay out for abuse of state wards. They have awarded a contract for seven million dollars for services to us, over the next three years, but it was awarded to Berry St, who is currently the largest out of care service provider in Victoria. There have been two recent scathing ombudsmans reports in Victoria, that say the state of out of care services in Victoria is out of control. Why then would they award a multi million dollar contract to them, when surely Berry St would already have their hands full. At the interim service before Open Place was started, we could have \$1500 per year for life skills, but since the new service has started this has been minimised to one application per twelve months. Our services have been diminished when you consider that we have not had anything off the government all of our lives.