

Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee
POBox 6100 Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

2nd June 2010

Dear Committee Secretary,

I urge the government of the day to introduce a compensation (redress) scheme.

I am one of the many countless thousands who suffer today from the sexual/physical and emotional abuse whilst in the care as a “stolen” ward of the State.

I suffered neglect, loss of family and lack of security and still you this date bear pain and suffering even as an adult. When I was left to fend for myself after I was too old to be in “care”, I contracted depression, was exploited by deviates and have suffered ever since. We do not have a redress scheme in this State of Victoria. The government in Victoria wants to scare me off or make it next to impossible by making me go through the courts, fobbing me off with a few basic services instead of paying for what I really need.

I have tried to go down the legal path. It’s pathetic. The effort in trying to find a lawyer who wants to take you on is overbearing. The countless delays let alone the exorbitant costs leaving me with little financial compensation gain at the end. Then there is the renewing of old wounds: having to put myself through the trauma again. Not to mention the lack of support throughout the process.

I am telling the truth when I speak about the abuse I suffered whilst in care and I would like to see the authorities follow up in pursuing the abusers.

I need to be compensated for the abuse, the neglect, the poor education/ experimental healthcare, and third world dental care. Not to mention the emotional and psychological damage I suffered as a “stolen” child. By adopting a redress scheme is a way of getting the government to accept responsibility and “back” up their fine words of apology with real money.

I am part of the Australian people and I think all be treated equally, each State that is, and it should not depend on what State I grew up in. I need the Australian government to show leadership and make all States contribute to a national scheme.

I also think the churches and charities that ran these institutions should also be required to contribute to a national scheme. They were part of the problem and should be part of the solution.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Schroder