

The Secretary

Senate Community Affairs Ref Committee

Dear Sir,

Any recollections I have of the 7 yrs I spent in an Institution in the "care" of Sisters of the Good Shepherd always leave me feeling sad and useless even though my life has been full in that I have children & Grandchildren.

I feel that I failed to protect my Sister who was just 11 months younger than I when we were placed in the Convent separated from our two Brothers who went to Christian Brothers & our Baby Sister who was with our Mother. Our Father was in the Army.

We knew hunger, cold & verbal abuse (I think we escaped physical abuse because my Mother had contacts etc. My Sister was molested by Priests who were on R & R & lived in a house near the Convent.

Just weeks before my eldest Brother suffered a heart attack & died. He told me of the awful experiences of the Hands of some Brothers at St Melbourn Orphanage. My younger Brother has written in his memoirs his sufferings.

The scars remain amongst friendships that have endured amongst us survivors.

Sincerely