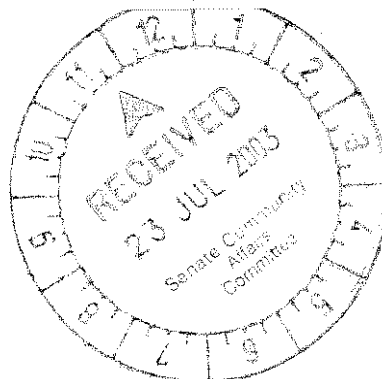


15 July 2003

The Secretary  
Senate Community Affairs  
References Committee  
Suite S159  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600



To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter as a submission to the senate enquiry into Parramatta Girls Home and to also support every woman that became its victim. I hope that some sort of justice will be found.

I did not know what cruelty was like until I went into Parramatta Girls Home. I still do not understand exactly why I was sent to the home. I was no more than 16 years of age, an innocent child with a whole life ahead of me. Nevertheless regardless of what the reason no child should have endured the neglect, the cruelty, the brutality, malice and immorality that were shown by many of the staff to many of the girls in the home. These so called carers of the state were entrusted with a duty of care towards the children but instead many of these so-called carers were abusers.

From the day I entered the home I did not realize that my life would never be the same again, that my childhood would be taken away from me. My life changed dramatically as the years to follow were influenced by the experiences I had suffered both mentally and physically at the home. Each day I spent there I would wake frightened not only for my well-being but for many of the other girls that were treated with no regard. Innocent or not there were no rights or wrongs there was no justice you were powerless and had no choice but to take whatever punishment was given to you. My own experiences include emotional and physical assault. You did your best to stay out of trouble but still this would not even assure your safety and well-being.

I could go on in detail about all the inexcusable and unforgivable things that happened to me whilst in the care of the state government, things that have scarred me for life. All my adult life I have shut them out kept them inside fear of being judged and once more persecuted. And because of this I have carried the weight of the world on my shoulders I have lived in fear suffering from anxiety, depression and obsessive compulsive disorder I have spend much of my adult life in and out of hospital.

My daughter now 38 has also suffered as a result, however she has grown into a strong and independent women who I am very proud off. She is a warm and understanding person who has three beautiful children and for them I live today.

Yours sincerely

Jane Veronica Francica