



Dear Sir/Ma-am,

My name is Miriam Cope and I am 67 years of age. At the age of 10 years I was sexually abused and have been effected by it for the past 57 years.

After receiving a letter from Fiona Dempster of the Family and Children's Policy Branch asking if I would like to make a Submission to the Senate Community Affairs References Committee inquiry into children in institutional care, I am enclosing my original letter plus Archbishops Aspinall and Bathsby, Scouting Chief Commissioner of Q.L.D., James W. Priest and other comments on how Sexual abuse of children must stop!

I am requesting that tuition on the effect of sexual abuse on a child's life be given to all those in training for jobs involving children. This must happen before they go out into this field.

These people must be able to make an informed choice before they are tempted to molest children! Screening is also necessary after-ward to pick up those who don't care.

As I explained in my letter, at the age of 4 years, children are becoming aware sexually, at 10 years (perhaps sooner) they think and act as children, but they are slowly maturing. If they are molested they suddenly become fully aware sexually, but their bodies do not! They become adults in children's bodies and can never go back to being a child no matter how hard they try, (I know because I have experienced it).

Don't bother counselling them, they know that someone caused it. It was not their fault, but they have grown up emotionally and can never change back to being a child again!

For some adult to do this to a child and walk away thinking that the child will forget is criminal. But then, the adult is ignorant to the facts of how their moment or moments of pleasure abusing a child will cause a life of hell for that child!

Please, tuition on the effect of sexual abuse on a child's life must occur before they go out into these fields with children. If it would only save one child it would be wonderful, but if it can save hundreds or even thousands it would be worth any amount of money it may take, and we will have many untraumatized people in Australia in the future.

Former P.R. Officer

Thank you... Sincerely