

My name is James Bellwood (Jamie) I was apart of our first meeting today at Ashfield. Thank you all for what you are all doing for us longlost State wards, finally something is happening and please I would like to volunteer my services to CLAN. I did find it very difficult to speak today but I manage to scream out to you for a Royal Commission into the Department of Community services.

Also before I give you my details can I just say to David how wonderful it was to hear him speak today. I did find your speech extremely powerful David similar to myself my brother, and I do thank you.

I was a State Ward within the early 1960's until 1966 I was placed at a home in Glebe, where today I believe this place has been turned into a childrens court for young juveniles. Then I was place at Sutor Cottage No. 7 Bong Bong Rd Mitiagong NSW, for a number of years during my childhood. My yeungest brother was placed in permanent foster care, my sister and other brother was allowed to stay with my Uncles. Why I was placed in a Church of England boy's home for a number of years I do not know, only that there was no space, or no one wanted me around, "Yes" that question was asked.

My Father was classified as a mad man as he was a second world war vertran, with many illness from the War he was a wonderful father. My Mum was a placed in Gaol for a number of times for certain crimes in which she did commit. and she did live a life that was classified as living in the fast lane. Story goes on and on but what I would like to say is that and I should've said this today is that the people who were in charge of us in these institutions should be placed on criminal charges today for what they did to us boy's at Sutor Cottage and to oyer ex wards as well. Our childhoods were violated by these people, Criminal charges should be laid and a Royal Commission should be established into (DOCS) Child Welfare of this State and Federal, to give us all the answers we all want to hear. For we as children did suffer, our childhoods were taken away. For now it's our or my turn now, I would like to see these people placed within an Institution and see there lives stolen away from them. Yes I have been a very angry mixed up person, for now I have a real family, a wife to whom I have known for nearly 30yrs, I have three wonderful children, I have a Career with two University Degrees a home a good life finally. But the scares are still within me. I sat with CLAN within the church today with my best friend (my wife) and felt the pain of sorrow, just as it was within the Institution many years ago. I fould this very emotional but rewarding because finally you people are helping us ex wards. Finally the Healing begins thank you all so much for a wonderful day. I will certainly look forward to the next one. And yes we all need to group together and talk and heal one another first.

I thank you all for allowing me to be there today, and please don't hesitate in calling me for Volunteer work. Today I am a fully qualified Social Worker. I work alot with Drug Users and Homeless people, etc or Maybe we can set up a after hours telephone counselling service for ex- wards.

Jamie Bellwood