

## Wings For Survivors

---

Senator Claire Moore  
Chair of the Community Affairs References Committee  
C/-The Secretary  
Senate Community Affairs Committee  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra  
ACT 2600

23rd February, 2009

Dear Senator Moore,

Re: Inquiry into the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Lost Innocence and Forgotten Australians Reports.

Thank you for your work on the original report and for recognising how important it is for all of these recommendations to be implemented as soon as possible for the health and welfare of all Forgotten Australians. After speaking to institutional care leavers from NSW they have acknowledged that the Governments response to the Inquiries recommendations has been disappointing. Many care leavers from Victoria have spoken to NSW care leavers and have been informed that two representatives from CLAN were invited to attend the apology, while it seems that no one else was made aware that an official apology would take place in NSW. In Victoria State we are seeking an official inquiry into the past practices inside these state run institutions.

Our group of online Forgotten Australians have organized two petitions for all Forgotten Australians. One is asking for a Federal Government apology for the torture, sexual, physical and emotional abuse and neglect that occurred in Australian institutions charged with the care of children over a long period of time. Forgotten Australians also need ongoing support and redress by all past providers of this care. Our online Forgotten Australians are also seeking redress for all states including Victoria, NSW the Northern Territory and South Australia.

We wish to thank you for the instigation of this current inquiry and note your sincere concern for Forgotten Australians and the serious issues that they are at present trying to deal with without enough support in place. Would you be prepared to receive these both petition. We are also calling for improved responses in the areas of a National Federal apology, redress for all States,

## Wings For Survivors

---

funeral expenses, affordable housing, basic life skills training. Education at all levels, better care for the elderly, dental and medical gold card, retreats and workshops for healing and nurturing harmony, free counselling. A very important issue for all Forgotten Australians is the research of children's unmarked graves and the placement of a plaque so that they are remembered.

This is imperative as we are now finding graveyards near our institutions where mass graves have not been kept up to date with the names of the dead who have been buried together. When we have funds we can find the caretakers of these important sites and allow them to research their records so that cross referencing can take place with the death certification that would have existed at the time. Cross referencing would be a way of attending to the connection we need to our unfortunate brothers and sisters who did not finish their sad journey to adulthood. This would be a major healing avenue that the nation needs to attend to as soon as possible.

We would like to deliver the petitions prior to the release of the current inquiry and we would like to personally deliver this important petition into your hands.. We can envisage this delivery event opening up positive communication and contributing positively to further discussion on how responses could be improved in the future. This would establish an open communication between empowered Forgotten Australians and understanding political leaders. This would also highlight the positive efforts to advance responses for the coming future with other empowered Forgotten Australians. We represent an online group who are passionate to have a voice in many areas that concern all Forgotten Australians.

Thank you again for your time and sincere concern for our Forgotten Australians on the road to recovery.

Regards

Mary Brownlee nee Corry

Member on Wings For Survivors  
[www.wingsforsurvivors.com.au](http://www.wingsforsurvivors.com.au)