

To The Secretary  
Senate Community Affairs Reference Committee  
P O Box 6100  
Parliament House ACT 2600

1 January 2009  
with **ADDITION 17 April 2009**

Dear Committee,

I refer to the '**Forgotten Australians Report**' **Is this the Federal Report?** If so I seem to be unaware of any recommendations of this report being implemented:

Recommendation to compensate, from the Queensland Leneen Forde Inquiry Report, into children's homes in Queensland, has been implemented. It is less than seems adequate. Level one is \$7000. But subsequently one must argue their case for the second level of up to about \$30,000. General feeling is that most applicants will only receive \$7000. Many lack education to put their case. But to be fair some assistance was offered to try to help state a case. But mainly because of my own slowness I still was not exactly clear about what was needed in respect to level two.

**ADDITION In April 16, 2009** I learned via Government, that only those who gave supporting evidence like medical would receive level two.

I am one of those who did this = but am concerned for others who may not have understood this necessity. A news article and contact with the Government stated this is needed.

I feel that even up to circa \$37, 000 is inadequate. It should be a least double that figure. Particularly when you remember that a Parliamentarian who only fell off his bike at Parliament House once - was compensated \$60,000. And Tasmania and another State gave about \$60, 000 to \$80,000 maximum. And of course not all cases qualify for the full amount.

Whereas those abused in children's homes were often criminally assaulted repeatedly over many years. Bashings, sexual assault, serious harmful verbal abuse, emotional and mental abuse occurred in the 'homes'.

In Brisbane, counselling, and other care is offered and generally seems helpful.

I have been pleased to attend a once a week free lunch and meeting with others at Lotus Place. (This is a one stop shop for those historically abused in "homes".)

Christmas parties and help from counselling. I received level one of the reparation.

*I feel the Federal Government ought to compensate & help.*

I would like to know outcome of your research.

Yours Faithfully,

Ms Muriel V. Dekker

