



The Secretary
Senate Community Affairs Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Secretary

I am wanting to write to you about the shocking abuse that I suffered while placed in institutions from the age of four years, I am still going through the trauma of what happened to me all those years ago, The Sexual Physical Emotional abuse Neglect the Child Labour Exploitation, being stripped naked then lashed so hard I ended up bleeding profusely from the wounds on my back and backside, Then being made to walk a path until those wound of mine had healed. I suffered many shocking issues while in institutions, including the poor standard of food that was not fit for human consumption, Forced to eat meat that had maggots in it all the time, porridge riddled with weevils, Most of what we got fed was not fit for pigs to eat, Inadequate hygiene was very common, Excessive drill of punishment unduly harsh, Inmates being physically assaulted all the time because of the sadistic treatment that went on, Leaving those like myself suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. For that shocking abuse we suffered while in Australian Institutions there was no help given to us, we were given no counselling, Just thrown out onto the streets, where so many still are today.

As stated in Senator Murrays transcript 18 march 2008, About those of us children who were made wards of the state after being charged in the courts with being uncontrollable, neglected or in moral danger. Notice what I said: 'charged in the courts". Children were being charged as being neglected. It is just unimaginable today. It was not because they had done anything wrong, but because they had been born into poverty, been born to a single mother who was often a teenager, been born into a home plagued by domestic violence or born to a parent who was not able to cope and the like. Some were indeed orphaned.

Then there were those like myself taken from out of institutions, put to work on farms, being told we'd be paid for that work. We receive nothing at all?, That work we were forced to do was hard the hours we put in were long, For most of us on those farms suffered shocking abuse, Being wards of the state those farmers knew they could get away with their brutality towards us. We should never of been on those farms in the first place, Instead we should of been at school getting a education. If I had of received a education I wouldn't be in the position I'm in today.

It was the same for most of us who suffered institutional life, never given a education, It was for this reason I was forced into doing unskilled work on unsafe worksites, where I suffered a shocking accident, forcing me out of work onto a invalid pension, also having to miss out on my long service and superannuation because of it!. I'm now having to take morphine and endone to help stop the pain that I am going through. What happened to me, has been the cause of my children having to miss out on the education that was needed for them to obtain a decent job, There has also been a lot of stress put on the families of those of us who were in institutions, as they to have had to miss out on the necessary of life, having to go through the pain and suffering all because of what had happened to us, It's just not fair on them at all?..

It is not only what happened to me in those shocking places like Westbrook, that was no better than a concentration camp!, It's what happened to my brother at the age of fifteen years!, along with couple of other boys all the same age, having them put into Boggo Road Jail among harden criminals!, What was done to us as children was human rights abuse!, " What they did to these boys was even worst!. Putting my brother in jail at that age had

affected him a lot, Still it never stopped him fighting for his country by going to Veitnam!, The sad part about it all?, it was not long after his coming home Graham was killed when his car crashed into a tree, at the young age of 28 years. Like so many of us he also had to suffer the shocking abuse that went on in those homes of shame. I blame this for his death!, as for the many others like Graham who went to their graves, never receveing an apology for the atrocities they suffered.

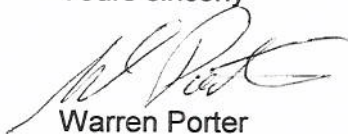
I feel sorrow and hurt for all of those who have been let down by a system that showed no mercy or pity towards us, I blame that system for the many who took suicide to end the pain of what happened to them, For the thousands who are suffering from mental health issues, those of us who are in much need of medical and dental treatment, caused from never receiveing this sort of treatment while in those institutions. What must be remembered that it was not our fault for us being in institutions, but while in them we were supose to of been care for?, Not abused in the way inwhich we were.

The reason for this letter is not only about the abuse we all suffered, It's about what is needed for those of us who suffered these shocking atrocitys, who missed out on having a education, been given no medical or dental treatment as children. What we do need is a access card?, A card that will give us the help to better medical and dental treatment, that can be used for travelling, allowing us to visit family and friends living interstate, something that will help give back to us the injoyment of living, those things that we had missed out on though out our childhood.

The Government and Church Organizations must never forget the damage they caused to us as children while in their care. What happened to us as children in institutions was a human tragedy, Every responsible human rights church organizations state and federal governments should of condemmed the brutal treatment that was happened to us!, The shocking treatment to innocent traumatised children which should of outraged the conscience of mankind, The goverment should be criticised for allowing this brutality on children to continue without doing anything to stop it, As it was up to them to make sure that whoever was in charge of those institutions were doing the right thing by us?, Only they never!, Because of that, many Australian children have had to suffer. Most Australians would feel ashamed if they had of known what went on within those homes of shame, to where disregard and contemp for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts against us. I would like for the goverment to do the right thing!, Give us an apology the same as that given to the Indigenous people for the pain and suffering they also went through while in institutions.

I hope that by writing this letter to you, it will give you ~~with~~ some understanding to the pain and suffering that we are still going through. So in writing this, we will be able to recieve the help that is needed to take away some of that hardship I have wrote about. I look fowrward to your reply.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Warren Porter', written in a cursive style.

Warren Porter

12 November 2008



The Secretary
Senate Community Affairs Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Secretary

I wrote to you 20 October 2008 on and about the abuse I suffered along with so many others while placed in Australian institutions, To that I'm still waiting for a reply.

After recieveing a letter from the office of the Hon Jenny Macklin the 13 November 2008, About the senate conducting an inquiry into the suffering of the Forgotten Australians, That submissions for this inquiry must be in by 21 November 2008, I though it best to write again concerning my son Shane, Who has worked since leaving school right up until a few weeks ago, when he was put out of work because of the firm he had been working for closed down, leaving him jobless. Now instead of finding him work they want him to sit for five hours a day in some class room for fifty dollars a week writing down stuff he already knows about, What a let down for a young man of thirty six who has always been able to find his own employment and has worked since leaving school.

As you can see by what I wrote in my last letter to you, that my children have had to miss out on a education because of what happened to me in those institutions, Then to make matter worst was my accident on a unsafe worksite!. If only I had of been able to keep sending my children to high school to finish their H.S.C it would of given them a better chance in finding a decent job. But no!, any chance of me being able to do that for my children was taken from me, Like what it has done to so many other's who had grown up in institutions.

What I would to see, is help be given for these young people who have had to miss out on gaining for themselves decent employment because of what happened to us. What they do need is a specal grant allowing them to train for whatever job they would like to get themselves into, I know that my son would like to work in Age Care, but this is a ten weeks course and the cost of doing that is a little beyond his means, With me being on a disability pension has made it hard in helping him out, still i'll do my best to do so. I think it only fair for those like my son wanting to get back into the workforce be given the help that is needed in doing so, At least this way something is being done for our familys, Not like what happened to us FORGOTTEN AUSTRALIANS, After years of suffering from shocking institutional abuse, were just thrown out onto the streets after turning eighteen without a education and no help at all.

I look forward to your reply

Yours sincerely

Warren Porter