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Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse
Submission; Issues Paper 7.

To whom it may concern,

Please accept the following submission relative to Issues Paper 7; Redress Schemes.

The Queensland Government redress scheme, which came about as a result of the Forde Enquiry into Institutional abuse was of little value to me personally. While I was born and placed into Institutional care in Queensland where I was abused, I have lived in NSW for the past 30 years. As a result of not knowing about the Redress scheme until after its closure date, I was unable to lodge any claim. The newspaper adds, or information printed on the reverse of shopper dockets was not available to me. For these reasons, I would suggest information in respect to such redress schemes are more widely (Nationally) advertised. I also believe a cut off date should be extended where extenuating circumstances can be shown.

Advantages & Disadvantages of Redress schemes?. There are advantages to a National Redress scheme. It seems unjust that some can receive a form of compensation in one State, but be denied the same in a different State, in spite of circumstances reflecting each other. Physical and Sexual abuse of children had none of the boundaries encompassed in seeking redress and/or compensation.

One huge disadvantage is in limiting redress to sexual abuse only. Absolute cruelty, psychological, intellectual, and social abuse, like forcing a child to eat the regurgitated food, standing for hours in confined spaces, having urinated bedding/clothing rubbed in faces, being locked in confined/inappropriate spaces, being constantly brainwashed with the information one is no good, constantly being told "you're stupid and will never amount to anything", repeatedly being told you're not wanted by parents, being socially humiliated in public, and limiting the ability for even the most minor self expression are also life changing acts of direct and indirect violence and mistreatment that can and has had life changing impacts upon many a young child; these matters should be addressed alongside Child Sexual abuse.

Therefore, disadvantages I see could be in having to compartmentalize the geneses and types of abuse whether it be in an Orphanage, Family group home, Foster Care, Detention centres, or other forms of Out of Home Care or if abuse occurred in and about Educational/ Boarding school, Hospital and/or Health facilities, Sporting and/or Social community Groups.

While all abuse is abhorrent, much abuse which has occurred in situations where the victim is totally reliant upon, or under absolute control of the abuser, cut off from the general population with no ability to escape. It seems to me this is a vulnerability factor requiring particular attention in respect to ciphering Redress.

Important features of Redress? If Redress was to be managed nationally through a Federal organization, it would save victims from having to confront Religious groups, where they would prefer not to have that contact. Confronting someone in a uniform or particular type of attire or at a particular church/State venue

could be a trigger point for many. Further, what I find personally confronting is to know that I need to stand before a panel of up to six or more people to 'tell my story', in order to be considered for Redress from the Anglican Church. Personally, I would believe it would be easier if it was perhaps a smaller panel or even a single person, or even through a statement of facts, rather than a 'presentation' type address. I know if I do get that far in making a claim against the Anglican organization, I will be pre-occupied wondering if any of those listening to me are themselves perpetrators, or if my story will be discussed, laughed about in the tea room afterwards.

Redress may take the form of financial compensation, however, if the amounts were to come into Line with Victims compensation, it would require an investigation of current figures to ensure adequacy and be uniform across all States and Territory's. After all, how could you easily nominate a precise amount in light of the varied instances of Abuse and as many varied impacts upon the Forgotten Australians life, unless being tailored to fit each individual circumstance.

Redress however is more than financial compensation. Redress should encompass an apology acknowledging and naming the crime committed against a victim and naming the impacts it has caused. The standard words used by organizations describing "the hurt " fall incredibly short of the mark, so much so they become insulting.

Redress could also take other forms of support. Aged care for many survivors is a growing concern. I know for myself it is. As I get older, i fear more and more becoming vulnerable all over again.

About 10 years ago, as a mature aged Social Work student, on Placement, I met a mature aged (80Yrs) woman in a care Facility. She had difficulties settling in. After speaking to her, I found she was a Forgotten Australian, a survivor of the Burnside Orphanage. Her fears, and inability to settle related directly to her returning psychologically to the head space of the vulnerable child, scared to go to sleep at night or to bathe, fearful of who would enter her room and molest her. I reported this information excitedly back to my supervisor, however rather than being praised, i was reprimanded for 'over-stepping' my boundaries and was dismissed shortly afterward. This woman's story was quite profound, and struck accord with me. I have difficulty staying in a hospital dormitory type situation and more often than not- remove drips ect and sign myself out against medical opinion. NO-ONE understands why, except other Forgotten Australians.

For me, I know I WILL suicide if i am able, should i have to go back to an 'Institutional Care' situation as a vulnerable older person with absolutely no control over my own life-again and where again, I am at the mercy of unethical staff to mistreat as they pleased.

For these reasons, Redress could/should incorporate a fund for sensitive/appropriate care and support placements in Aged Care facilities and staff to manage the age related re-emergence of past trauma of Forgotten Australians, as well as financial compensation and a directed/individual apology. However, Redress should not be limited to these factors alone.

Who should pay for Redress? The organizations, those who are responsible for the damage done to victims, should pay the Redress in its various forms– even if and when it bankrupts them. It's time the truth was put out to the public, that they have been charitably supporting organizations who have covered up and concealed horrendous crimes committed against little children by members of their group. As for the catholic church and the use of Ellis defence- well how can it be that any organization can be superior to the law of the Land. Australia is NOT the Vatican.

Who should over see Redress schemes? Organizations should NOT manage the Redress in-house. My preference would be for a mix of ethical above reproach leaders of Social organizations with a close affinity to vulnerable children, now adults with social and psychological issues, with enough strength of power to be able to stand up to organizations who place themselves above all the common law of the land, as in Tony Vinson.

I am sorry I haven't been able to address each point more thoroughly, and if granted the extension i will add to this submission.

regards, 