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1 July, 2014

To: The Royal Commission

From: Susan Bradborn Counsellor/Advocate  
On behalf of

[REDACTED]

Royal Commission Reference number [REDACTED]

Redress Reference number [REDACTED]

Re: Redress for Forgotten Australians

I'm writing in relation to the issue of redress for those who have survived institutional abuse at the hands of both the state and church.

The points I wish to make specifically relate to supporting the healing of Forgotten Australians and to ensure there is a minimising of any re-traumatisation as they seek fair and just compensation.

I believe there should be:

- Health cards to ensure Forgotten Australians have continuing and adequate medical assistance for life.
- Access to affordable housing, one of the key issues for Forgotten Australians is that the abuse was perpetrated while they were in state care residing in institutions. This highlights the vulnerability they might experience if housing is not guaranteed or they are forced again into institutional care.

- As forgotten Australians are an aging population, it is imperative there be provision made for sensitive aged care facilities that are trained specifically to respond to the potential vulnerabilities that might be present.
- Any process for the application of compensation is designed to ensure there is a minimising of any re-traumatisation. Being believed is fundamental to the healing journey and it would therefore be essential for the process to be simple and to enable stories to be valued and not cross examined.
- The state and church should share in any responsibility for compensation as they were both responsible for the care of the vulnerable lives they did not protect. Any assessment or financial distributions must be managed by a government or independent body and not controlled by the church, charities or advocacy groups.
- Fundamental to all else is the requirement that each individual receive an apology from the organisations responsible for not providing safe care.

Sincerely yours

Susan Bradborn

Counsellor/Advocate

CASA House