
From: Graham Bridgland
Sent: Sunday, 1 February 2015 3:36 PM
To: redress
Subject: Graham Stanley Bridgland

Thank you for allowing me as an individual make a submission in regard to Child Abuse I suffered in State Institutions and within The Catholic Church.

Let me say at the outset, These papers are not intended for most victims to answer or understand.

The money reported is way above their minds and could lead to even more damage.

Many of the victims who were so abused they never completed schooling to any great level. Many still live their lives on the street and receive Social Security payments.

SA Government.

In South Australia, we had a Premier who lauded that all victims would receive \$50,000. This in Turn was quickly changed to appear as UP TO \$50,000.

When in Fact the average was way below \$5,000 and so few of us received the maximum of \$25,000.

Not only that, but the Government did not use its money, but relied on the Victims of Crime Levy, paid by all in SA as an addition to their fines etc. issued by SA Police.

It took many months to receive any payment, then it was further reduced by them to include any debts owed to the SA Government.

All the while the Premier and then AG gloated how great they were in making any payments, as if they were paying it out of their own pockets.

I would not trust this Government in any method, unless I had them in a Vice ratcheted up tight and only then under duress. They ruined the already damaged individuals self-esteem and made them feel raped all over again.

I protested every day in the City and in Front of the Premiers Office and they tried not to see me, so I made appoint of speaking with them at every opportunity forcing them to acknowledge my prence, even getting into TV filmed interviewed by them.

The Catholic Church.

I wasted 3 years trying to have a hearing with them, I again paraded in front of the Catholic Cathedral in my walker with posters telling my story. I was working, they had me arrested and removed from the street. I returned and continued to protest in the same spot.

After a Television interview and My message being on the program I was contacted by their Lawyers and they tried to intimidate me, I laughed and put up more posters.

Finally I was able to negotiate a meeting with the Mother Superior of the Order. But, first I had to agree to conditions and then after meeting with a mediator appointed and paid by them.

Sometime later I was offered \$20,000, I refused and continued my protest, they spent thousands trying to investigate me but failed they could never find anything wrong in my statements, They the offered \$30,000 and then Finally \$35,000.

They , the Catholic Church Insurance did not want to set an example and refused to pay more than the SA Govt.

I believe it was my determination only that they paid the \$35,000 and demanded that it be confidential settlement.

This was not only unfair and no others could use my settlement as part of their claim.

Now, after spending many hours reading the report by Finity, I believe many others will be blindsided into thinking they are to receive a fortune, that is money to which they only dream about.

But, the implication that they cannot handle that money is also an insult. If you win the lottery, do they ask if you want monthly payments, no, just the same as did you want to be raped?.

They should be allowed to spend the compensation any way they would want to.

Let me assure you that it is not the money, it is more about being able to say I was wright and they were wrong, at last I was believed.

AS I am now 67, I still feel my life could have been better, I could have gone to University, my children would not have had a father who wanted to know every movement, for fear they would fall into the same trouble.

I cannot fathom why the Salesian Order is not being investigated and prosecuted. Facts show their members were involved in all forms of Child Abuse. They will not discuss my claim even though they have been found guilty of sending the Priests and others overseas when advised that they were under investigation. I have tried for nearly 20 years to have my claim heard and finalised, but even today, never a letter or word except when I trap them by telephone and then mysteriously the phone just goes quiet. The number of Salesians in Jail in Australia speaks for itself.

I would gladly be available to the Commission with my story of these Salesians, I look forward to being involved, I just need an invitation.

Regards

Graham S Bridgland.