MY NAME IS AMELIA KAY SMITH (AMELIA KAY McGOWAN IS MY BIRTH NAME BORN 26th NOVEMBER 1941) IN STATE CARE I WAS ONLY KNOWN AS KAY McGOWAN

I AM SUBMITTING A CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION FOR THE ABUSE I RECEIVED WHILE I WAS A WARD OF THE STATE .

I WAS IN STATE CARE FROM THE AGE OF 6 UNTLL I WAS RELEASED AT THE AGE OF 18 , (10 YEARS IN THE MELBOURNE ORPHANAGE AND 2 YEARS IN WINLATON)

DURING MY TIME IN STATE CARE I WAS ABUSED PHYSICALLY , MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY MOLESTED AND IN SOME CASES I WAS TORTURED BOTH PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY .

I WAS SEPERATED FROM MY 2 BROTHERS AND 5 SISTERS AND WAS NOT ALLOWED TO TALK OR PLAY WITH THEM .

I WAS PUT OUT TO WORK AS A DOMESTIC HELPER AS CHILD LABOUR.

THE PHYSICAL BEATINGS I RECEIVED ARE NOT RECORDED BUT MY WRONGDOINGS AS A CHILD ARE .

AS A STATE WARD THE BEATINGS WOULD CONSIST OF A RAZOR STRAP THEN LOCKED INTO A CELLAR FOR DAYS AT A TIME .

I DISLIKED PORRIDGE AND WHEN I VOMITTED IT UP THEY WOULD DRAG ME TO A GULLY TRAP AND SIT ON ME WHILE THEY SPOONED IT DOWN MY THROAT UNTILL I SWALLOWED IT ALL .

AT NIGHT IT WAS THE WORST , I WOULD CURL UP INTO A FETAL POSITION AND LAY THERE SCARED AND LONELY AND TERRIFIED OF WHEN THEY WOULD COME AND FONDEL ME IN MY BED ,
I JUST LAY THER FRIGHTENED AND AND TOO SCARED TOO MOVE .

I USED TO LAY THERE IN ANOTHER WORLD AND WOULD WAKE UP IN THE MORNING AND HAD WET THE BED SO I WAS MADE TO WEAR THE WET BEDSHEETS ON MY HEAD AND WAS PARADED IN
FRONT OF THE OTHERS ON THE WAY TO THE BATHROOM WHERE I WAS BEATEN WITH A SANDSHOE AND MADE TO GET INTO A FREEZING COLD BATH AND THEY HELD MY HEAD UNDER WATER .

IF I WET MY PANTS (WHEN GETTING THE STRAP) THEY MADE ME WEAR THEM ON MY HEAD AND LOCKED ME UP IN A PANTRY?CUPBOARD .

ONE OF MY JOBS IN THE ORPHANAGE WAS TO POLISH THE LANDINGS ON THE MAIN STAIRCASE AT THE ENTRANCE DAILY , ON MY HANDS AND KNEES WITH A HOUSEBRICK WRAPPED IN CLOTH ,
IF IT WAS NOT POLISHING ENOUGHT THEY WOULD SLAM MY HEAD INTO THE WALL OR FLOOR AND MADE TO DO IT ALL AGAIN .

WE SOMETIMES WERE TAKEN TO THE MOVIES AS A TREAT BUT WHEN WE ALL GOT THERE I WAS MADE TO SIT IN THE AISLE WITH MY BACK TO THE SCREEN .

I ENDURED ALL THIS ABUSE WHILE IN STATE CARE AND WHEN I WAS SENT TO A FAMILY I DID NOT KNOW FOR A HOLIDAY I WAS ABUSED BY THE FATHER OF THAT FAMILY , HE USED TO WAIT UNTIL
I FINISHED MY BATH AND HE SAID HE HAD TO DRY ME ON THE BED LAYING DOWN WHERE HE MOLESTED ME , AND HE WAS FOND OF BEATING ME WITH A CANE .

THE TIMES MY FATHER CAME TO SEE US I WAS NOT ALLOWED TO SEE HIM , I COULD NOT TELL HIM WHAT WAS HAPPENING TO ME , HE TRIED TO PAY FOR US BUT BROKE HIS RIBS AND GOT SICK ,
AND HE COULD NOT WORK AND WHEN HE GOT BETTER HE CAME TO SEE US BUT I WAS LOCKED UP AND I COULD SEE HIM WALKING AROUND LOOKING FOR ME AND I WAS TOLD NOT TO CALL OUT OR I WOULD GET THE RAZOR STRAP.
AND THAT WAS THE LAST TIME I EVER SAW MY FATHER AGAIN .

IN JULY OF 1957 (AT THE AGE OF 16) I WAS ADMITTED IN TO WINLATON , I RAN AWAY AND I FELL PREGNANT , I HAD MY BABY AT THE ROYAL WOMENS IN CARLTON AND SENT TO A UNMARRIED MOTHERS HOME
IN BRUNSWICK , WHILE HERE SOME OF THE GIRLS AND MYSELF WOULD RUN OFF TO THE MOVIES AND I WAS SENT BACK TO WINLATON WITHOUT MY BABY UNTIL I WAS 18 YEARS OLD .

I WAS RELEASED FROM WINLATON WHEN I TURNED 18 YEARS OLD (NO MONEY FROM MY WORKS AS A DOMESTIC HELPER , NO MONEY WHICH WAS BANKED EACH WEEK WHILE IN THE ORPHANAGE , NO

WHERE TO GO AND STAY , NO HELP WHAT SO EVER) AND WENT STRAIGHT TO SEE MY BABY GIRL BUT WHEN I ARRIVED HAD TO SEE HER UNDER SUPERVISION AND WAS TOLD TO COME BACK ON
VISITING DAY . WHEN I RETURNED ON THE VISITING DAY I WAS TOLD MY BABY WAS NOT THERE ANYMORE AND THEY DID NOT KNOW WHERE SHE WENT TO . I DID NOT SEE MY GIRL UNTIL 30 YEARS LATER .

MY BABY WAS STOLEN FROM ME , I DID NOT SIGN ANY PAPERS TO LET HER BE ADOPTED OR OTHERWISE , SHE WAS STOLEN FROM ME

ALL MY LIFE I HAVE LIVED WITH THE PAIN AND LOSS OF MY FAMILY , THE ABUSE I RECEIVED IN STATE CARE , I HAVE FOUND IT HARD TO LOVE OR TRUST ANYONE .

THE GOVERMENT OF AUSTRALIA HAS APPOLOGISED AND SOME STATES HAVE HAD REDRESS/COMPENSATION BUT NOT ME , I HAVE NOT BEEN TREATED EQUALLY AND SO I SUBMIT MY CLAIM .

AMELIA KAY SMITH 08/06/2010