

## INQUIRY INTO CHILD PROTECTION

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date received:** 1 August 2016

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Partially  
Confidential

10th June, 2016

To The Committee for the inquiry into Child Protection Services,

Thank you for taking time to research what I feel is a very "messed up" system and has been for many decades if not centuries. I just hope that the recommendations that come from this are firstly, better than previous recommendations and secondly (provided they are what is needed), that they are actually taken into action.

Hi my name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I was a ward of the state of New South Wales from \_\_\_\_\_ but involved with child protective services from what I am aware of from \_\_\_\_\_. During my time as a ward I experienced many failings from the department, a department that was supposed to protect me. Not only did they put mine and my brothers lives at risk and put us in harm's way by sending us back into our mothers care, but they then put us in homes with carers that went on to abused us as well. Despite ignoring recommendations and pleads from our then carer begging to keep us and obviously this being what was "in our best interest", they still moved us onto carers that should never have been carers, carers they called experienced because they had successfully adopted their then foster child, a girl the mother had treated the same way she did me, prior to us coming to live with their family. I was denied sexual assault counselling for nearly 6 years if not more not to mention a proper chance to charge my perpetrators closer to the time of the assault. I was unfairly moved from over 15 placements and that's being modest and placed in homes that provided next to no proper education and therefore I had to struggle to catch up later on. There was also the difficulty I had getting any support to help set myself up after I left care, with very limited resources or guidance when it came to future studies and possible resources for me to study, considering I had finished my HSC.

In more recent times I have also been lucky enough to hear and have many personal stories from many people having issues with this department sent to me, after I started posting photos of my actual case file, written by the department of community services, online. This page is called \_\_\_\_\_ and here I have posted photos of my case file written by DOCS themselves, exposing many flaws through my case file. Flaws that are still happening in today's system.

In 1984 when I was around 5 years of age my parents separated and my mother manipulated custody from my father only to find not long after that we were

hindering her social life and freedom to drink whenever she liked, not to mention that because of her resentment toward us for the way her life had turned out she had become very intolerant toward us and often lashed out in a more than likely alcohol fuelled rage, often in a violent way. I can recall many of these occasions and in particular one of these I have spoken to many about, the time she had me by the neck, off my feet, against and up a wall. This was later confirmed to me when I read my case file in recent times. It tells of my mother's contact with child services, begging them to take us children because she was afraid of what she might do if they didn't take us. She tells them in one interview that she has strangled me in the past and was afraid she might not stop next time. Despite this information and reporting how much she was crying and how unstable they thought she was, they still placed us back into her care because they couldn't find any other placement for us at the time despite contacting many agencies as reported in my case file. This to me was negligent itself and was and still is a huge flaw within the system. I'm not too sure what's really going on but it would seem to me after starting my community page that a lot of the time the children that should be removed are left and the children that have little reason if not any reason to be removed are "stolen" until that parent can either outsmart their "rouge" caseworkers or pay an extreme amount for a clever solicitor to do the same if not catch them out? I have many a story, two of whom I am very close to personally where the children were removed/stolen from good homes for god knows what reason, only to be returned when the parents proved them wrong. Yet I know on many occasions I have met children in homes with parents who really shouldn't be parents because at no time do they prioritise their children over their habit and are barely able to even look after them they are that intoxicated, not to mention 90% of them are in domestic violent relationships, yet child services don't seem to find anything wrong?? So there isn't any consistency with child removals from child protection and this wouldn't do the "reputation" of child protection, child protection are apparently so desperate to change??

During the few years I had in my mother's care, I was sexually assaulted on many occasions due to her negligence and spoke out about this abuse when I was put into care not too many years later. However although they document about these claims of abuse they still took over five years to get me any type of counselling for it and by then I had already told anyone that seemed to want to listen in what seemed to be my way of getting some sort of therapy? This is yet another time their apparent "care" was negligent and incompetent and makes a child like me wonder why they could later call my mother an "incompetent" carer considering they were just as bad in my eyes.

Placed in many homes because their "contracts" with non government organisations were up and not going to be renewed, more than likely because

they didn't hold up parts of their agreements, trying to palm off their jobs to the social workers of these non government organisations only to have it backfire on them when they won't renew the contract to look after us unless they pay a lot more money for it. Again this is despite the carers we had at the time begging to keep caring for us as we were very settled with them and had made great bonds with them, so much so my brothers and I are on the tombstone engraving of our foster mother then because we remained in contact throughout the years having many visits and even having them at our wedding etc. Instead they moved us onto what they considered to be "experienced" carers who had recently adopted their long term foster daughter. The mother in this family should never have been a foster carer and abused me and my brothers (more so myself) in many ways but the abuse that stands out the most in my head from this home was the psychological abuse that mother put me through. I have many stories I would be willing to share if necessary? In my case file I can read that the caseworkers are desperate to remove me from this home toward the end with hints the placement was failing. It makes me wonder how much they really knew was going on in that home considering they had nowhere else to place us and they were working hard at pressuring my mother and her new partner into regaining full custody and care for my brothers knowing that would leave me on my own in care and my brothers back in a home with a very unstable woman they believed was an alcoholic prostitute not so long before and I now know definitely was, through words from my step father at the time and my mother's partner at the time.

Then there were the placements in residential homes that just had next to no schooling for us kids living there. The system put me in a home where my schooling was even more so disadvantaged due to the lack of education they offered us in this home. The attached school was lucky to even have a teacher in every classroom. Moving or being moved from place to place meant changing schools most of the time and that meant falling behind again. The department offer no extra support for children in need of it due to the lack of stability they have to offer us as children. **SOME OF US ACTUALLY WANT TO BE MORE THAN JUST CYCLE REPEATING, SOCIAL WELFARE SUCKING NO HOPERS!!!**

Trying to get support after care so that extra studies might have been an easier and more appealing offer to me was a joke and proved to be more difficult and timely than should have been, especially considering I had tried to do the right thing growing up in care and had done everything I could to not be a statistic like most my fellow wards in care, it just didn't seem fair to me that I had to push so hard for anything and that it was just another realisation that I had no one and that no one truly cared for me in my life.

I would be happy to sit and talk to anyone regarding this submission and my life growing up in the system if it would help make the changes needed to get this system right for the innocent children stuck in it today and our future children having to be subjected to this now messy and corrupt system. I have asked through a petition online with a letter addressed to Premier Mike Baird and Minister Brad Hazzard for an independent complaints body for anyone to make proper complaints about the system without it going straight back to the people the complaint is about in the first place only to be investigated by those very people with bias and for the people who made the complaint that need their side heard fairly, only backlash and reprisals for trying to do the right thing for a child in their care etc. I have asked for this because there is no place at the present moment where people have confidence in or that have a reputation of being competent and fair without having bias toward the government or non government agencies involved. This includes the office of childrens guardian and the ombudsmen for these areas.

I am also happy to show my case file if this will also help in anyway? I have what I think is a lot of it because I received it before they changed the freedom of information laws around 10 years ago so the only thing blacked out are some third party names and a lot of systematic flaws left for all to read.

Sorry there isn't a lot of information in this submission but I lost the original document I was going to submit on the computer and had to start again on the last day with no time left. Id be happy to bring my case file for you to see for yourself?

Please feel free to look at my community page  
and if you scroll to the beginning posted in April of last year, then you will read some of what I have mentioned here.

Thank you for your time and I hope to hear from you.