

Sad and disappointed

I am currently 79 years of age, living in Australia since 1969.

At the tender age of 2 my parents dumped me and my 4 siblings in the care of the Dutch Authorities. From that moment onwards until I was 20 years of age I was shuffled from foster homes to institutions. I was physically and mentally abused and survived only with the help of strong psychotic drugs. As a result I cannot remember any school I went to, and there were many, except my last school, "Het Zeevaartschool" in Den Helder.

The foster families treated me like a slave, cleaning the house, darning socks (even for their own kids), sewing buttons on cards to make extra money for the family, etcetera. I was removed from these places either because I was still bedwetting or they simply didn't want me anymore.

The institutions I went to, and there were many, were scattered around the Netherlands and were either Salvation Army Homes or Government Orphanages. I only remember a few, Het Beton Dorp in Amsterdam, Het Weeshuis in Amsterdam, and the terrible Eikenstein in Zeist.

The Dutch Government have advised me that after checking they found most institutions had destroyed their files on kids in their care during the period. I was incarcerated in them. Hence, it was not possible to verify what type of abuse I had suffered.

The compensation offered for 18 years of abuse in mostly Government run institutions or foster homes is a miserable Euro 5000!

What irks me the most is the following admission by the Dutch Government in the "De Winter" report. I quote: "...we did not intervene as long as the abuse was not too severe...", unquote. A disgusting admission of neglect and indifference for the wellbeing of children in their care!

I, and many like me no doubt, have suffered due to the Dutch Governments unprofessional approach and uncaring attitude. I had to take my young family, wife and two kids aged 1 and 3, to the other side of the world because I could only survive with the help of drugs. Fifty two years later I am still on drugs, whilst my family has suffered because of my mental trauma and mood swings.

I blame the Dutch Government for all I went through, and still going through, probably until the day I die. A Euro 5000 compensation is disgraceful and a "slap in the face" for all of us who had to suffer for so many years due to bureaucratic bungling and indifference.