



HELEN BURNS
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To Whom It May Concern

Re :GREGORY ROBERT JONES


I have been providing counselling for Greg ,over the last few months. Greg is a Forgotten Australian, having spent a major part of his childhood in out of home care. Greg's childhood experiences were marked by brutality, severe physical punishment being the norm, deprivation of the necessities of life and emotional abuse. Self esteem was crushed and there was no opportunity to develop a sense of identity and worth.

It is not surprising that , as a young man, Greg made unwise choices and exhibited behaviours which brought him into conflict with the police. Greg had learned not to trust anybody, particularly himself and found it difficult to form relationships. Even now Greg does feel uncomfortable with people, other than Forgotten Australians. He did form a relationship, which resulted in a son, but he became estranged from his partner and his son. He is now seeking to find his son and make contact with him. He has recently reunited with his mother and sister.

As he matured Greg developed a sense of identity through work. Unfortunately, Greg's physical condition has now deteriorated to the extent that he really can no longer undertake the physical work ,which he has done for many years. Coupled with the emotional consequences of a childhood characterized by physical brutality and emotional denigration and deprivation, this is a cause of depression and anxiety for Greg.

He needs support to provide the necessities of life as he can no longer undertake the physical work , which he has relied on for sustenance , both material and emotional, for most of his adult life. As a Forgotten Australian, this is his due.

Financial support, via a Disability Allowance would be an appropriate way to address his difficulties. He cannot cope physically with the tasks of work, nor can he manage emotionally. He developed an identity through work and , as in childhood, his identity is being taken away, revisiting the pain of childhood, with subsequent feelings of depression and anxiety.



Helen Burns

Psychologist

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