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Subject: New Submission to Inquiry into the Handling of Child Abuse by Religious and Other Organisations

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into the Handling of Child Abuse by Religious and Other Organisations

Mr Thomas Ellis

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

#### **SUBMISSION CONTENT:**

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I hesitated on a submission because like many, the emotional exhaustion of going back time and again over these past few years strips me bare and replaces the protective shell built throughout my life with anger & an unwillingness to conformity: The moral headquarters of our society are seen as the churches ultimately. Whether there is a belief in any god or questions of should or should there not be a visible church has been bypassed by things like the automatic saying of the lords prayer at the beginning of parliament, and the taking for granted that we swear on the bible giving evidence. Yet' history has shown no cause for our belief systems to let auto pilot feel that confident in how the churches conduct themselves on our lives. I was a private entry into 5 church run children's homes from 2 years old till 16, placed there by an abusive mother. Each time I was put back into a home there was a little less of me in terms of emotional health than the last time. I was described on one homes writing of me as being closed off, a child unable to mix with other children, timid and mostly preferring solitary self-separation from the general population within the home. Progressively, due to ongoing abuse by my mother, and ongoing abuse in each of the homes, I was being disassembled of any capacity or willingness to conform inside or outside the fence. At thirteen after my 4th home I saw no reason to remain in school, I was not absorbing nor was I able to feel comfortable of my place in life, so I was sent to work on a farm. At 14 I was again sent to a home, this time a Salvation Army home where I was assaulted badly by the manager of that boys home. This was after I had lived all my childhood life being beaten constantly by a sick mother and sexually molested by [REDACTED] By the time I had got into that home I was already a mess. Where given my history & my somewhat obvious emotional damage did the churches not see reason to call in my rescue? The assault at this last home at 14 years old by the manager, given the damages that already were in place on my emotional health, stripped me for life of any faith in the churches or system. In 2005 I

started a case against the Salvation Army, it took till 2008 before I could get them to actually talk to me, and that was only after I threatened to expose publicly what I/we new of their past performances in these things. I have lost many tears on the fact that my memory tells me in detail of events of abuse from as far back as 5 years old by those working in church homes, yet names of those people are denied me so cases against them are denied me. As far as the Salvation Army are concerned, from the onset I was treated with contempt, disbelieved, shrugged off, talked to like I was some kind of idiot, and had the damage results of the event in question belittled on resolve. There remains to this day a corporate entity more concerned with hiding its true assets amongst legal paragraphs, than delivering moral concerns to those most in need. The public only see a charitable church. We have seen, -the Forgotten Australians by the thousands, - a disgusting hypocritical self-protecting entity far from its compassionate advertised product.

