

ALLIANCE FOR THE FORGOTTEN AUSTRALIANS

VOICE *Newsletter*

Communicating with AFA's supporters, members and allies is critical. The VOICE Newsletter provides news and updates about our work with and on behalf of Forgotten Australians across the country.

forgottenaustralians.com.au

A story about another remarkable Forgotten Australian



Fifty years after being adopted, David Henderson received an apology from one member of the family who treated him so badly. His story is one of abuse, recovery and incredible resilience.

WHAT WERE THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF YOUR CHILDHOOD?

I was born in 1960 at the Queen Alexandra in Hobart. I was adopted from birth, six hours after being born, into a Catholic family. They already had three of their own, had another two and adopted four of us.

At ten years of age I had to polish all the shoes, hand wash all my own clothes, iron all my own clothes and do everything for the whole family. Ten people in the family – I did the lot. They treated me like shit. I'd come home from school and be stuck in the bedroom till my stepfather got home. Then I'd be bashed. I'd be thrown across the room like a dart. I was nine.

DID THE PEOPLE WHO ADOPTED YOU EVER SHOW YOU COMPASSION?

Not once. They put me into a boys home, West Winds at Woodbridge, and never came back. Never seen them since. The day they took me to the home, I got up and saw a suitcase packed in the kitchen and wondered what it was for. My stepdad said, "You won't be going to school today," and then said nothing. I spent Christmas by myself. I spent my birthday by myself.

WHAT WAS THE ATMOSPHERE LIKE AT WEST WINDS?

There were 20 boys living there – ten on each side of the dormitory. I was sexually abused while I was there by one of the workers. Right through it was just absolutely horrific. You just couldn't believe what went down. We were kids doing a full day's work. I was 15.

WHAT WAS THE MATRON LIKE?

They were horrible people. She and her husband used to run the place. They had an orchard and every weekend we had to go down there and work. There were big paddocks out front and we had to throw bales of hay up on to trucks. We certainly weren't getting paid.

WHEN YOU WERE OLD ENOUGH, THEY PUT YOU INTO A RECEIVING HOUSE.

I was in the boys home for over 12 months, then the Kanangra receiving home in Mount Stuart for six months. Then the place shut down [in 1975], so I had nowhere to go. The government basically forgot about me. I had no clothes, no money, nothing. They're expecting me to end up in jail. I ended up sleeping in a cave in an old quarry.



Kanangra receiving home, Mount Stuart

WHERE WAS THE CAVE?

West Hobart. Now it's a satellite station. No one else was up there. Sometimes you go for a week with no food. I used to jump people's back fences and take veggies out of their gardens and eat them raw. I used to have traps set where my cave was.

AND WHERE DID YOU FIND THINGS LIKE BEDDING?

People gave me blankets and things I didn't have. I didn't have a mattress, but I had blankets. You just survive the best way you possibly can. I only had one change of clothes.

HOW DID YOU GET YOURSELF OUT OF THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES, SLEEPING IN THE CAVE?

I woke up one morning and thought I can't do this anymore. I went and got help. Friends helped me get somewhere to live. If it wasn't for my true blue friends, I don't know where I'd be today.



Giblin Street Quarry site, West Hobart (image supplied with permission by Pete Diggins).

WHERE DID YOU MEET THESE FRIENDS?

Every day I used to walk down to the bus terminal to have a wash. People got to know me as the boy who was sleeping on the streets. I'd sit there and people would talk to me. I'd sit on the fence all day, then the late afternoon would come and I've gotta go through another cold night.

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

It led to me getting a roof over my head and making myself feel like I was somebody. I went out and found some work. I've always been hands on, making folders, clipboards, that sort of stuff. I used to do called ultrasonic high frequency welding. I used to wield plastics together.

I DARE SAY YOU DIDN'T TRY TO TRACK DOWN THE FAMILY WHO ADOPTED YOU.

I've been talking to my stepbrother, Peter. My daughter was communicating with him for about eight months. He came to her house and started crying. He couldn't stop apologising. He's exactly the same age as me. We used to get on reasonably well.

HOW LONG AGO WAS IT WHEN HE TRACKED YOU DOWN?

I just went and met him today. It took fifty years to talk.

SO YOU ACTUALLY MET HIM? WHAT WAS THAT LIKE?

It was a bit scary. He told me he has nothing to do with the family anymore himself and he's a natural child. He said, look, Dave, I can't apologise enough for what happened to you. I said, it's not up to you to apologise – it was the old man and the eldest brother who bashed me.

IT TOOK FIFTY YEARS BUT AT LEAST THERE WAS AN APOLOGY FROM ONE MEMBER OF THE FAMILY.

That's right. You've got no idea how bad he feels. But what happened to me has already happened. I've survived and done bloody well. I said to him today, "You all expected me to end up in jail." I've never been to jail, never had a criminal record. I've made something out of my life.

YOU TURNED YOUR BACK ON A HORRIBLE UPBRINGING – IT COULD HAVE ENDED DIFFERENTLY.

I could have easily ended up in jail. I could have done burglaries and all sort of shit trying to survive but I didn't. I went without. I wouldn't eat for a week and when I caught a rabbit or a seagull or a plover I thought that was luxury.

HAVE THOSE EARLY EXPERIENCES LED TO SOME ONGOING HEALTH PROBLEMS?

I had to have a neck reconstruction; I've got all these screws and plates. The eldest stepbrother used to bash me every morning – he actually broke my shoulder blade and I've only had it reconstructed over the last four or five years. I had many broken bones; if you saw my fingers you can tell that they're all broken. I was slapped over the hand with canes and other things.

IT'S NOT A SILVER LINING BUT YOUR STEPBROTHER CONTACTING YOU IS A POSITIVE THING.

He said to me, "I always think of you on your birthday and you're always in my thoughts." And I said, out of the whole family, you're the only one whose birthday I know. All those years ago we used to get on well – if it wasn't for him, I don't know where I would have been.

Aged Care Trauma Awareness and Education Project



In terrific news from Relationships Australia SA, Elm Place has been successful in applying for a tender to develop training for aged care providers and workers to better recognise and respond to the unique needs of Forgotten Australians and Care Leavers.

The tender, awarded by the Department of Social Services in July 2025, is a national initiative.

The hands on, consultative approach Elm Place will undertake involves co-designing training to ensure it reflects real-world experiences and needs. This will occur by way of consultations with people with lived expertise, aged care providers, frontline workers and peak bodies across the country.

To this end, Elm Place will be holding focus groups with Forgotten Australians in early 2026. As soon as the exact dates are confirmed, they will be advertised.

What we can reveal is that Chloe Lin from Elm Place will conduct two online consultations with AFA Board members and Forgotten Australians on November 25 and 28.

For any enquiries about this initiative, please email: agedcareawareness@rasa.org.au



All the news from the AFA Darwin Forum

AFA was warmly welcomed by the NT AFA Board member, Heather May, and the NT team from Relationships Australia. The team thanked AFA for coming to Darwin, and seeking to strengthen the relationship between AFA and Forgotten Australians from the NT.



WEDNESDAY 3 SEPTEMBER

We began with updates from each state and several themes were identified.

These included issues related to accessing records and redaction of records, as well as difficulties obtaining identity documents, which have contributed to extended waiting periods.

All states spoke about how they are using the additional DSS funds granted at the end of June 2025, to focus on reducing their waiting lists. Alongside this, all states spoke about concerns with funding uncertainty with the DSS grant ceasing in June 2026.

The forum then welcomed Anne Livingston, chair of the National Aged & Community Care Roundtable for Forgotten Australians. We spoke (online) about our mutual advocacy priorities in relation to the aged care needs for Forgotten Australians. The Roundtable will hold its next forum in Melbourne in April 2026, and the Alliance will be looking at ways to support it.

AFA is acutely aware of the fear, anger and despair felt by Forgotten Australians at the prospect of being re-institutionalised into the aged care system.

We have documented our approach in raising concerns with government. AFA wants sensitive, appropriate and accessible aged care services for

Forgotten Australians, who fear experiencing abuse and neglect again as survivors of institutional care.

Specifically, AFA wants the Australian government to invest in:

- Specialised aged care community settings for Forgotten Australians;
- Enhanced aged care services in Forgotten Australians homes;
- Specialised funding for care finders to help them navigate the aged care system;
- A skilled and knowledgeable aged care workforce that understands their needs; and
- Education to safeguard Forgotten Australians from elder abuse and to increase awareness of how aged care services can benefit them as they age.
- An update on our progress with implementing these priorities was reported, including works underway with Wintringham on the education project, that will result in the development and delivery of specialised training around Forgotten Australians to their aged care workforce.

AFA has been considering wording for an official acknowledgment of Forgotten Australians, as we consider it should be provided alongside the Acknowledgment of Country. It was agreed that the following acknowledgment will be used in AFA communications:

The Alliance for Forgotten Australians (AFA) acknowledges all people of lived experience of institutional child abuse. AFA acknowledges all that came before and led to where we are now. May we be seen, heard and our stories remembered, so that children today and in the future do not suffer as we have.

We then heard from Relationships Australia SA, recently awarded a tender to deliver national training for the aged care sector and a national awareness campaign in relation to the needs of Forgotten Australians. They are in the consultation phase and will be looking to engage with Forgotten Australians to help inform design of the training.

Specifically, they will be working with the aged care sector to increase their knowledge and understanding of Forgotten Australians, including impact of childhood trauma, fear of being re-institutionalised and reactions and triggers.

THURSDAY 4 SEPTEMBER

The Forum received updates and feedback on a number of communication projects, such as the new website, newsletter and the work underway to revise the AFA booklet ("purple book").

In addition, 40 Life Stories have been delivered to the State Library of Victoria to establish the Life Stories Library Collection. We expect the collection will be established in early 2026 and AFA plans to hold a formal launch by way of acknowledgement.



Morning tea with NT Forgotten Australians

The Forum attended a morning tea hosted by Relationships Australia NT, which enabled AFA members to connect with Forgotten Australians and hear about what is important to them.

We heard about issues such as homelessness and challenges for remote communities with managing health care, e.g. access to dialysis in remote communities is non-existent leading people needing to visit Darwin to have their needs met. AFA welcomes these opportunities to connect with Forgotten Australians.

FORUM CONTINUED

What approach to take with government in relation to the proposed cessation of funding in June 2026 was then tabled. AFA is seeking funding certainty that enables the Alliance and the Find and Connect service providers to adequately plan and meet the needs of Forgotten Australians. At this stage we understand a funding decision will be advised in December.

DENTAL CARE

The Forum then discussed better dental care for Forgotten Australians, and our approach to gaining the attention of politicians in Canberra. A summary of our advocacy concerns has been translated into a brochure, and this will assist in providing concise information and clarity on what the Alliance is seeking. Specifically, we want the government to:

- Assume responsibility for dental care for vulnerable Australians, including Forgotten Australians;
- Develop targeted dental treatment for vulnerable Australians;
- Work with the states and territories to shorten waitlist times; and
- Examine proposals to include dental care in Medicare for vulnerable Australians.

We will meet with a Greens senator to discuss their policy to include dental care as part of Medicare, and will meet with other members of Parliament in the months to come. We will also be calling on all Forgotten Australians to lend their voices to a campaign to support a Senior Dental Benefit Scheme, which will include supporting the dental needs of Forgotten Australians.

REMEMBRANCE WEEK

The Alliance is looking at opportunities to develop a distinct Remembrance Week for Forgotten Australians and is exploring holding an event to coincide with the International Care Experienced Day of Remembrance in April 2026. As plans progress, more details will be shared.

HOUSING NEEDS

Housing remains a critical issue for Forgotten Australians. We discussed the dire consequences of homelessness and the critical shortage of affordable housing:

- Further work is required to better understand the extent of the issue
- Access to data must improve, likewise understanding the key relationships/networks required to better formulate an advocacy position
- Housing needs of Forgotten Australians must be prioritised alongside other special needs groups; this will be raised with members of Parliament in our October meetings.

LIFETIME SERVICES REQUIRED



The forum spoke about the holistic and lifetime services required for some Forgotten Australians, that goes far beyond help with records and redress.

It was also raised that consideration needs to be given to the intergenerational trauma needs of family members of Forgotten Australians.

This important dialogue will continue at future forums, to help AFA define its advocacy position on getting better access to health and mental health services or Forgotten Australians.



Impressive gathering for annual Remembrance Day in Brisbane

Micah Projects (Lotus Place) on September 10 held its annual Remembrance Day ceremony at the Gallery of Modern Art in South Bank. Timed to coincide with Queensland's Child Protection Week, in excess of 150 people attended a keynote address and sit-down lunch.



Remembrance Day gatherings are vital to acknowledging the experiences of adult survivors of childhood abuse in institutional settings, including out-of-home care. The invitation said profoundly and poignantly: Come together to remember, so we might say "never again!"

And come together they did, to mix, remember, renew acquaintances and listen to a notable speaker – Judge Coral Shaw from New Zealand.

With a background in education and the law, Coral served as chair of New Zealand's *Royal Commission of Inquiry into Historical Abuse in State Care and in the Care and Faith-based Institutions*. As a district court judge in Auckland, she introduced a fast track system for family violence cases which included advocates for family abuse victims. Later, Coral served as a judge at the New Zealand Employment Court and at the UN Dispute Tribunal.



Darcy Orr (Lotus Place), Jessie (Forgotten Australian) and Judge Coral Shaw.



Royal Commissioner Bob Atkinson with Diane Carpenter (AFA Board)

Update on TAS memorial – long overdue good news



Tolosa Park, Glenorchy – Forgotten Australians memorial – concept seating and signage

“I’ve fought my guts out to get this. Tasmania is nearly leading Australia as far as I’m concerned with our monuments and we are doing really well over here at the moment.”

These are the words of David Henderson, AFA board member, who is dedicated to the cause of proper and meaningful commemoration in his home state of Tasmania. Finally, his efforts as part of the Find and Connect reference group, along with the actions of Glenorchy City Council and Relationships Australia Tasmania, have borne fruit.

As flagged in the previous newsletter, Tolosa Park in Glenorchy is the site of the new memorial and work is progressing apace, with landscaping, planting and facilities underway.

“We had a meeting with the council planners of the park,” says David. “The plants will be Australian wattles and Australian bush plants, and there’ll be a barbecue and a plaque.

“Stage two is happening, which is the final stage to finish it off, with the benches and lining up the monument. It’s in a converted section of the park, which used to be a dam.”

The outcome is years in the making, as the current memorial at the Botanical Gardens in Hobart was never recognised as a meaningful place of remembrance. Advocating to government officials from reference group members remained ongoing until Glenorchy threw its weight behind the new memorial.

“The government in power ... just didn’t want to recognise us as Forgotten Australians,” says David.

“It has taken so long to be recognised and there’s still a long way to go. I’ve had Relationships Australia backing me up with the harder stuff. They have been organising the meetings with the council.”

David has demonstrated great resilience in driving this issue and finally a fitting memorial is becoming reality.

Proposed wording for the memorial at Tolosa Park

This reflection space has been created to recognise the Forgotten Australians, care leavers and child migrants, the children and young people who suffered abuse and neglect in institutional and out-of-home care in Tasmania.

Forgotten Australians are survivors of the approximately 500,000 children who were placed in institutional or out-of-home care across Australia during the 20th century.

The wattle, a symbol of resilience and renewal, represents the enduring spirit of Forgotten Australians and care leavers. It stands here as a living tribute — a symbol of remembrance, strength, and reflection.

Beside this quiet pond, the memorial offers a place of stillness — inviting all who visit to pause, reflect, and honour the lives and stories of Forgotten Australians.

To all of the Forgotten Australians - we see you, we stand with you, we will not forget you.

Open Place to launch ‘to be seen’ report in November

From Victoria comes compelling news from Richard Dove, the coordinator of Community Education at Open Place in Melbourne. Richard’s role is to raise awareness of the history and needs of Forgotten Australians across the state, focusing on achieving better outcomes.



City of Melbourne Art and Heritage Collection

“Up until now, most Victorians still don’t know the term ‘Forgotten Australian’,” says Richard.

“Or the history of those who grew up in Australia’s child institutions and the effects that are still present today.

“But they need to know. We must believe it is possible that all Victorians will know.”

During the year, Richard travelled across metro and regional parts of the state, reaching out to social support groups and consulting Forgotten Australians attached to those groups.

He had one essential question to ask: what does the world need to know about Forgotten Australians?

With the help of many, and their heartfelt responses, Richard has compiled “to be seen” – *Community Education Report and Priorities*, which will be launched at Open Place on 12 November 2025.

The report focuses on six priorities that will drive the focus of Open Place’s Community Education. Priority number one?

“That all Victorians come to know who the Forgotten Australians are,” says Richard. “It is the number one thing Forgotten Australians asked for, which is why the report is titled, ‘to be seen.’”

Copies of the report will be printed and distributed and it will also be made available on the Open Place website.



Find & Connect – a support service that makes a difference

Find & Connect is for people who spent time in an orphanage or children's home in Australia between 1920 and 1990. We are independent of any past providers. Each service offers a variety of programs, so please check your nearest centre for its service offerings.

- Access personalised support and counselling / connect with other services
- Help to obtain records, trace history and understand why you were placed into care
- Reconnect with family, where possible
- Counselling, therapeutic services and parenting and life skills workshops
- Drop-in centre, social activities, events, newsletter
- Access to health and employment services and housing and education support

ACT

15 Napier Close, Deakin, ACT 2600

Web: racr.org.au/services/find-connect/

Call: (02) 6122 7100

NT

DARWIN:

5 Shepherd Street, Darwin, 0800

Email: rantreception@ra-nt.org.au

Call: (08) 8923 4999

ALICE SPRINGS

Address: 4/11 Railway Terrace, Alice Springs, 0870

Email: receptionas@ra-nt.org.au

Web: nt.relationships.org.au/services/find-and-connect-support-services/
Call: (08) 8950 4100

QLD – LOTUS PLACE

46 Cleveland Street, Stones Corner QLD 4101

Email: lotus@micahprojects.org.au

Web: lotusplace.org.au

Call: (07) 3347 8500

VIC – OPEN PLACE

1/8 Bromham Place, Richmond, VIC 3121

Email: info@openplace.org.au

Web: www.openplace.org.au

Call: 1800 779 379

NSW – WATTLE PLACE (see over page)

67 High Street, Harris Park, NSW 2150

Email: wattleplace@ransw.org.au

Web: wattleplace.org.au/

Call: 1800 663 844

TAS

HOBART:

20 Clare Street, New Town, TAS 7008

LAUNCESTON:

6 Paterson Street, Launceston, TAS 7250
[or] PO Box 968, Launceston TAS 7250

Email: enquiries@reeltas.com.au

Web: tas.relationships.org.au/services/

Call: 1300 364 277

SA – ELM PLACE

151 South Terrace, Adelaide SA 5000

Web: elmplace.org.au/

Call: (08) 8419 2042

WA – LANTERNS HOUSE

165 Great Eastern Hwy, Belmont, WA 6104

Email: lanterns@relationshipswa.org.au

Web: relationshipswa.org.au/services

Call: (08) 6164 0240

Wattle Place – a place of understanding, support and hope

Wattle Place opened in August 2010. Part of Relationships Australia NSW, it is situated in Harris Park in western Sydney and provides services to people all over the state.

Wattle Place exists because of the hard work and persistence of people who fought tirelessly to get recognition and justice for the wrongs that had been done to them. It strives to be a safe space where survivors feel a sense of belonging and hope. We manage four specialist programs:

FORGOTTEN AUSTRALIANS SUPPORT SERVICE

This program is for people who were in NSW out-of-home care (foster homes, children's homes, orphanages, etc.) and are now aged 26 or over. Through this service we offer:

- Counselling, in person or over the phone
- Casework, information and referrals to other services
- Brokerage (financial contribution towards the costs of services that support wellbeing)
- Assistance and support to access institutional and personal records and family tracing
- One-off assistance with first time family reunion with family members
- Group workshops, social activities and special events, drop-in facilities and newsletter

FIND AND CONNECT SUPPORT SERVICE

For people who were in children's homes, orphanages or other "child welfare" institutions or foster homes anywhere in Australia before 1990. We offer drop-in facilities, counselling, casework, assistance and support to access records and family tracing and a newsletter.

NATIONAL REDRESS SUPPORT SERVICE

For people who experienced child sexual abuse in an institutional setting and are applying, or are thinking of applying, to the National Redress Scheme.

FORCED ADOPTIONS SUPPORT SERVICE

For parents whose child was taken through forced adoption, people removed through forced adoption, or close family members of one of the above.

 **Contact details**
Phone: 1800 663 844 (from within NSW) or (02) 8837 7000.
Email: wpcaseworker@ransw.org.au.
Web: wattleplace.org.au



Growing up at Abbotsford Convent – a glimpse into a darker past

Established in the mid-19th century, the Sisters of the Good Shepherd Convent at Abbotsford, Victoria, housed a number of institutions.

The iconic architecture and sweeping grounds attract hosts of visitors today, but for those forcibly housed there, the convent represented something altogether different.

Maree Holt had a 'care and protection' order placed on her at infancy and she was transferred from a babies home to the convent just before her third birthday. "My dad lived in Brunswick and mum was in the Mont Park [psychiatric] hospital all the time," says Maree.

She was released from the convent at the age of 15 years and ten months.

"If you're born into institutional care," says Maree, "it's like you're being born into your family life. You know no different. I've never been able to recognise myself as an individual because everything was done as a group. You needed permission for everything."

St Euphrasia, built in 1879, served as a primary school. It was the only building on the Abbotsford site with a door opening onto the street, as local children also attended the school.

"We had our own school – St Joseph's – and the outsiders, the kids from normal homes, when to St Euphrasia's," says Maree. "Then in the 1960s they amalgamated the two schools. I get sad because they haven't got a plaque to say that all these kids went through St Euphrasia's school."

Maree recalls a harsh regime.

"The nuns were pretty hard," she says. "It seemed like all we did was clean and go to church. They clapped three times and the whole yard stopped. To me that was normal."



"Collingwood and Fitzroy were very poor areas back then. A lot of the outsider kids didn't have shoes. Some of the nuns were so horrible to them.."

"On a Monday morning, those kids had to pay two shillings – we convent kids didn't – and a nun would do roll call. If they didn't have their two shillings, the nuns would dress them down something shocking. You'd be sitting in class thinking, you poor kid."

By the early 1970s governments across Australia were mandating changes to institutional care. Organisations such as Good Shepherd were given five years to transition. By 1974, the sisters ceased providing residential care.

"Once the doors were closed, that was it," says Maree. "But I stayed in touch with two of the nuns, who supported me over the years. Not financially, but just to listen."

16th anniversary of the Federal Apology to Forgotten Australians & Former Child Migrants

A number of the Find and Connect Services are holding events to mark the anniversary.

ELM PLACE

151B South Terrace Adelaide
Monday 17 November 10:30am - 2:30pm

We will commemorate the anniversary of the National Apology to Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants during this event.

All Elm Place clients are welcome to attend and lunch is provided. Please let us know of any dietary requirements when you RSVP.

RSVP to Elm Place by calling (08) 8419 2042 or emailing: elmplace@rasa.org.au



WATTLE PLACE

Wattle Place will hold its annual "Apology Lunch" on the Central Coast in October, between the NSW Apology and National Apology. Wattle Place conducts the lunch annually, alternating between Sydney and a regional NSW area. This year it is regional.

For those in and around Sydney, a morning tea will be held in Parramatta on 17 November.

For details, please call 1800 663 844.

LOTUS PLACE

There'll be a morning tea put on by the staff at Lotus Place at their Stones Corner office in Brisbane. This year there will also be a bus trip organised to visit the two memorials dedicated to Forgotten Australians.

For more information, please call (07) 3347 8500 or Email: lotus@micahprojects.org.au

Lotus Place joins Maurice Blackburn to discuss *Bird v DP*

In August Lotus Place convened a forum in Brisbane, hosted by Maurice Blackburn, to explore the implications of the *High Court Bird v DP* decision. Approximately 50 people attended.

Heather Kerley, a senior associate in Maurice Blackburn's Darwin and Maroochydore offices, was a keynote speaker. Heather helps survivors of abuse seek compensation from at-fault institutions and perpetrators.

Shannon Fentiman MP, Queensland's Shadow Treasurer and Shadow Minister for Women, joined Heather to address those assembled. Shannon is committed to social justice and throughout her career has worked to improve the lives of working people.



What is the *Bird v DP* case?

It related to allegations of sexual assault in the early 1970s of a child ("DP") by a Catholic priest aligned with the Diocese of Ballarat. In 2020, DP sued the diocese, claiming it was vicariously liable for the priest's actions.

That is, the diocese should be responsible because of the close connection between the priest and the diocese, despite the diocese itself not necessarily having done something wrong.

The Victorian Court of Appeal found the diocese vicariously liable despite the priest not being an employee. The diocese appealed the case to the High Court, which overturned the decision.

The question before the High Court was whether a Catholic Church diocese could be held vicariously liable for abuse committed by a priest, despite the priest not being formally employed by the diocese.

The High Court found that under current laws, vicarious liability is applicable only to employment relationships; it held that the Ballarat Diocese could not be held legally vicariously responsible for the misconduct of its former priest.

The High Court was not looking at the merits of whether the Catholic Church should be held liable for the actions of priests. The decision was about what is possible under current laws, with the High Court making clear states could act to amend their own vicarious liability laws.

How to get involved with AFA's advocacy efforts

AFA invites you to join our ongoing advocacy for justice, dignity and healing for Forgotten Australians. There are several ways to get involved and contribute to making a difference.

CONNECT LOCALLY

Reach out to your state or territory's Find and Connect Service. These organisations provide support and resources tailored to Forgotten Australians. Contact details and further information can be found on the AFA website.

PARTICIPATE IN EVENTS AND FORUMS

AFA regularly hosts events and forums designed to educate, share experiences and offer community support. Upcoming events are announced in advance – check the website for the latest updates.

JOIN ADVOCACY CAMPAIGNS

AFA spearheads advocacy initiatives during the year. By lending your voice to these campaigns, you can help raise awareness and promote systemic change

NATIONAL AGED & COMMUNITY CARE ROUNDTABLE FOR FORGOTTEN AUSTRALIANS

Another key opportunity is involvement with this group, which unites Forgotten Australians and other Care Leavers with professionals and organisations from across the country. The aim is to improve the accessibility, appropriateness and quality of aged and community care services.

If you are interested in joining the Roundtable or any other initiative, please use this link for more information. Staying informed and engaged is crucial.



forgottenaustralians.org.au





ALLIANCE FOR THE
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VOICE *Newsletter*

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Alliance for Forgotten Australians
Email: admin@forgottenaustralians.org.au
Website: forgottenaustralians.org.au

Still unfinished business, still fighting for justice.



Australian Government
Department of Social Services