

- 19.13. A more just and convincing approach would allow a judicial inquiry to examine the merits of compensation. That would avoid two serious charges. First that the government was marking its own homework and acting as both judge and jury. Secondly, that it lacked the courage to confront its own failures or those of vested interests which wished to avoid scrutiny or accountability.
- 19.14. The question of redress, in the face of such harrowing testimonies of those of us who survived such abusive terrible, childhoods at the mercy of the Christian Brothers orphanages in Australia, was a forced response following court action by Slater & Gordon in the early 1990's. We will refer to this group as the Catholic Brothers. John Hennessey publicly used the term "*the Un-Christian Brothers*" – a term we fully endorse.
- 19.15. There has been no consistency and little sense of justice across Australia in terms of redress.
- 19.16. The Catholic Brothers, in the face of recent criticisms by the Royal Commission in Australia (Case Study 11), were invited by the Commission to try to redeem themselves and review their pathetic levels of redress. Again, little has been learnt. Child Migrants had to meet with the apologists who, once more, became their own actuaries and at times, we understand, bartered the amounts of compensation.
- 19.17. The process of redress is one which we hope this Inquiry will seriously address. Redress requires several key ethical values which underpin what should be a transparent process, which removes the power dynamic from the abuser. Child abusers live on in our heads – surely that is enough for anyone to bear. The long-term impact and consequences for the survivors is a painful, life-long legacy.
- 19.18. The process of engaging in any redress scheme is in itself highly stressful for survivors of abuse and there is a high risk if re-triggering childhood trauma. Key ethical values underpinning a robust redress process include:
- independence of control by past perpetrators or their successors and guarantees of confidentiality and safety from public exposure
  - professional, independent and properly funded support services to prepare statements of historic abuse and provide counselling and support before and after application or hearing processes
  - referrals to police where perpetrators of historic abuse are identified
  - transparent process in assessing claims for redress