

# Early recollections of injustice

BY BELINDA CRANSTON

***The St Vincent de Paul Society is strong on tackling issues of social injustice. For this edition of The Record, we asked several Australians to share a moment from their childhood or young adulthood that really brought home the reality that life was not always fair.***

Some told of moments when they became uncomfortably aware of others being treated shabbily.

Others told of a time when they were the victims of injustice.

Vinnies volunteer Keith, for example, was wrongfully jailed at Goulburn correctional centre in the 1970s.

Storyteller and amputee Priscilla Sutton recalled an incident involving a swimming pool and an officious physical education teacher at her school. Academic Dr Susan Carland also endured humiliation due to a lack of awareness from a school teacher. Thirty years later, she says people in positions of power should be respectful of vulnerability in children in particular.

Meanwhile Graham Long, Pastor of Sydney's The Wayside Chapel, was mistakenly beaten by a teacher when he was barely old enough to be at school.

Deputy Labor leader Tanya Plibersek was saddened by an incident involving a shopkeeper in the Northern Territory choosing to serve her 12-year-old self ahead of an Aboriginal man who had been waiting longer.

'It just shamed me so deeply to be in a situation where a man much older than me was overlooked because of his race,' she said.



And Vinnies' Western Australian State President Bob Burns recalled Aboriginal people needing a 'Certificate of Exemption' during the 1960s, to grant them the same rights as white people.

'They were certainly discriminated against, unless they had one of those Certificates,' he said.

To listen to recordings of prominent and everyday Australians discussing early recollections of injustice, go to <https://youtu.be/5tUtevLnU8> ♦



*Deputy Labor leader Tanya Plibersek, Wayside Chapel Pastor Graham Long, St Vincent de Paul Society Western Australia state president Bob Burns and academic Dr Susan Carland, feature in a recording whereby prominent and everyday Australians tell an early recollection of injustice.*

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