



12/11/03

To WHOM IT MAY CONCERN (SENATE ENQUIRY)

DEAR SIR/MADAME

I WAS MADE A STATE WARD AT THE AGE OF ELEVEN AND WAS PLACED IN TURAMA BOYS HOME MELBOURNE (VICTORIA) WHERE I WAS ABUSED PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY ON A REGULAR BASIS, & I REMAINED AT TURAMA FOR APPROXIMATELY SIX MONTHS BEFORE BEING TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER INSTITUTION, NAMELY BANSWATER BOYS HOME (WHICH IS ALSO IN VICTORIA).

WHILE AT TURAMA I SUFFERED REGULAR BASHINGS FROM OTHER OLDER BOYS FOR NO OTHER REASON THAN, THEY DIDN'T LIKE ME. WE ARE REASONABLY WELL, EXCEPT FOR WHEN BEING PUT ON PUNISHMENT FOR TRIVIAL THINGS... AT ONE STAGE ONE OF THE STAFF MEMBERS CAME INTO MY ROOM LATE AT NIGHT TO TRY TO ENDOLE ME BUT I FELT HIS PRESENCE AND IT LEFT ME FEELING VERY UNCOMFORTABLE. AS HE APPROACHED CLOSER I LET OUT A SCREAM AND TOLD HIM TO LEAVE ME ALONE. SINCE THEN I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN WORRY OF PEOPLE COMING INTO MY ROOMS LATE AT NIGHT AND ~~FOUND~~ <sup>FOUND</sup> IT DIFFICULT TO TRUST PEOPLE AFTER THAT... ABUSE AT 'TURAMA' WAS A COMMON OCCURANCE.

ONCE TRANSFERRED TO BANSWATER WHICH WAS RUN BY THE SALVATION ARMY - THE ABUSE CONTINUED

ISOLATED (PUT IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT) BECAUSE ONE OF THE STAFF MEMBERS JUST DIDN'T LIKE ME, I WAS SINGLED OUT FROM THE OTHER BOYS THERE ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS, NOT BECAUSE I DONE ANYTHING WRONG - BUT BECAUSE THIS STAFF MEMBER HAD IT IN FOR ME. THIS ABUSE WENT ON DURING THE SIX MONTHS I WAS AN INMATE AT BRANKWATER, IT WAS CAMEL THE WAY, (NOT ONLY MYSELF) BUT OTHERS ALSO WERE TREATED AND ABUSED CONSTANTLY. BULLYING WAS ANOTHER FORM OF ABUSE I SUFFERED WHILE AT BRANKWATER.

THOUGH I ONLY SPEND 12 MONTHS IN INSTITUTIONS AS A STATE WARD, THE PHYSIOLOGICAL AND PSYCHICAL ABUSE THAT I SUFFERED HAD A TRAUMATIC EFFECT ON MY LIFE FROM THEN ON --- IT HAS LEFT ME IN A CONSTANT STATE OF FEAR OF BEING ABUSED AND REJECTED... (FOLLOWING) WHICH IS EVIDENT IN ~~THE~~ MY ENSUING YEARS AS AN ADULT HAVING SUFFERED THREE MARRIAGE BREAKDOWNS AND FOR THE MOST PART LIVING AN AIM LESS AND INSECURE LIFE STYLE....

HOPING THAT BY BRINGING MY EXPERIENCE TO YOUR NOTICE, THAT SOME JUSTICE MAY PREVAIL AND MAKE ~~THE~~ FUTURE CHILDRENS LIVES OF A BETTER QUALITY, IN THAT THEY MAY NOT HAVE TO SUFFER THE SAME. --- I WAS IN THESE INSTITUTIONS IN 1964 AND 1965....

Yours Sincerely  
JOHN. C. HENNE.