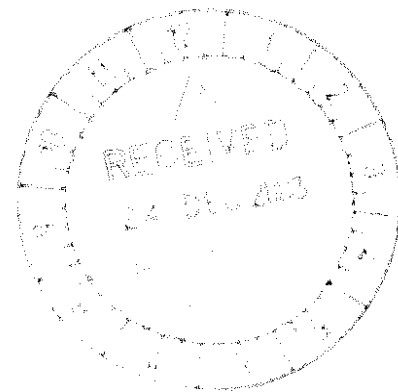


The Secretary  
Senate Community Affairs References Committee  
Suite S1 59  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600



15 December 2003

Dear Sir

I am writing to you to record that my son Campbell Hudson was schooled for eight years at the church run institution, Marylands School, Christchurch. A school run by the St John of God Order which is an Australian based order of the Catholic Church for retarded but educable boys from age 8 - 16.

Campbell attended from 1966 to 1974 and whilst I found his education to be of a good standard I was increasingly concerned at how withdrawn he became over these years. Also of concern was the dishevelled and grubby state both he and his clothes were at term holidays. Verruca's on his feet the whole time.

He was always very reluctant to return after the holidays and I would literally carry him into the plane and do up the seat belt and walk out leaving him screaming. We weren't allowed to take him back by car from Central Otago where we lived. In hindsight I see that rule as an attempt to keep us at arms length. Never in eight years did one Brother speak longer than two minutes with me and when we took him back after 5 years of him having left Marylands they just didn't want to know him or us which I felt was strange at the time!

In late January 1995 I mentioned to Campbell that a certain Br Bernard McGrath was in jail. "What for"? asked Campbell. I told him for sexual abuse "did he ever touch you", pause then he replied "I don't think so". Eight weeks later he hung himself dressed in "female clothing" which sexual abuse advisers assure me is indicative of having been abused.

Whether Campbell was abused or not is never going to be known but to think I unwittingly placed my precious vulnerable son into what I thought was a safe Catholic environment at considerable cost to us as a family only to find out years later that the institution of Marylands run by the Brothers of St John of God was morally bankrupt and psychologically dysfunctional is beyond my comprehension.

I find this business totally disgusting. The betrayal is paramount and all the non-offending Brothers **guilty** by association.

I fully endorse the Senate Inquiry Team in examining this issue of avoidance of detection.

Signature:

*A Hudson*

Name (print):

*ANNE ~~THEODORE~~ THERESE HUDSON*

Date:

*16/12/03*

Address (print):

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