

INQUIRY INTO CHILDREN IN INSTITUTIONAL CARE
Submission to the Senate of the Australian Government



My name is Frederick James Walshe

I hereby declare the following:

I entered the Gill Memorial Home for Boys with my two brothers, Peter aged 4 and David aged 13, self-aged 6 on the 8th of March 1966. Our presence in the home was due to our mother mental illness; hence admitted into mental hospital at Kenmore, at Goulburn. My sister at this time entered St Saviours home for girls, run by the Church of England in Goulburn.

Importantly, our entry to the home, we were not classified by the courts as delinquents, or by the community as scoundrels, or any other such demeaning terms in which some SA officers treated us, as next to harden criminals.

As a family – we had no father figure, no social form of a supportive income. To which such social pressures added to the weight that my mother suffered over many years that lead to these events – our entry into a criminal education and an abusive environment.

I was in my innocence, entering these dimensions of the so called home from early childhood, to which I experienced and witnessed abuse from my early years to Sept 1974 when I left the place.

For the first two years in the boys home influence affected my behaviour/personality, as I learnt the discipline of the home, and the hypocrisy of Christian ethics and morality from the age of about 8 to 15. I became a leader personality at primary school into high school. To which my personality was seen as a threat to the authority figures, officers of the home. Especially targeted by a Major Jenkins on frequent occasions as a leader of other boys in which I was punished, as a instigator of trouble through a process of corporal punishment. My independence has served me well in my adult years, but in my younger years it was detrimental to my upbringing while in the home.

- I was caned for sleeping in church seen as a model for other boys to follow.
- Other times I was made to sweep the toilet with a toothbrush.
- Made to stand at the top of the playground for a period up to four hours on Sundays and this was repeated on many other occasions.
- These types of punishment for so called offences I remember well.
- I was made to go outside in all weather conditions at times with out shoes – bare feet on frozen ground in winter and scorching tarred playground in summer.

- I remember the loneliness many school holidays I stayed at the home by myself, while everyone else went elsewhere. I did not understand why I was singled out as to why I was not privileged to enjoy a real home life like everyone else.

A Captain Walker was a specific dominating character, which saw me as the biggest threat to his authority and proceeded to put me down. He took every opportunity to provoke me into a confrontation with him. I completely ignored him, which only aggravated him even more. This was ongoing while he was an officer of the home. For eight years I was in the home there were lots of confrontations between the officers and my self and I cannot remember them all as to the detail of incidents.

However, what I do remember in detail is how I left the home, the preceding events with in a period of three months, which led effectively to my expulsion from the home. As per the attached documents, dated to note, as to the records I acquired in regards to my general behaviour in them.

1. As per the entry note of September 1974 that states, "no complaints about Fred's progress.... no cause for concern."
2. Entry notes as per 21/11/74 is a complete fabrication – total lie.

My mother did not arrive at the Gill with the intent to take me home – total lie.

Major Riddell to whom I also had confrontations with in these later years, as to this instance, this entry signifies his intent, as he wanted me out of the home for his good as to be rid of me.

Because I had been making allegations against another officer – Captain Walker of sexual misconduct on other boys to which I was broadcasting this aloud to everyone I could.

The falseness of the entry 21/11/74 noted by it's contrast as to two months later on the 22/1/75, When Major Riddell states that mother received a telegram from Riddell to was her FIRST notice of I going home - Moss Vale.

This entry also highlights the so called misconduct which was absent two months earlier when my character was described in terms of "progress.... no cause for concern."

Obvious is a total contradiction between these entries over a short period of time. Please note the dates of entry into the record date of 10/9/74 in comparison to 21/11/74 which identifies a date of 11/09/74 just one day after the previous entry 10/09/74 which is a total contrast between these two entries which identifies a massive change in orchestrating my expulsion from the home on false information.

I was canned for this attempt to expose that Captain Walker, the day before I left the home, without pre knowledge of I been sent home to mum.

What annoys me the most is the two faced presentation of Salvation Army Officers who pride them selves as upstanding citizens in the community while in SA uniform, the other face of abuse hidden from the community.

Information has filtered down to me, as indications of a massive cover up of abuse over thirty years by the Salvation Army of knowing of high incidence of child abuse occurring in the Gill Memorial Homes for Boys – Goulburn, in which they managed and failed to take appropriate action to contain, or restrain the nature of this abuse.

In summary, the Gill is no home, it never was. The Salvation Army Officers acted as wardens, not devoted fathers to us all. There was a lot of mental abuse in the so call home that I had no experience of before I entered this place. Care is not a word that fills my memory of the place - at all. To a phase – I have noticed somewhere that is worth repeating:

‘You cannot have a system of justice, if there is no justice in the system.’



Frederick James Walshe

23/02/2004.

P.S

I enclose documents in support of this submission.