



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

Dear Sir/Madam

Please find enclosed a written statement by me of the treatment I received while in the care of the Salvation Army.

These events took place while I was in the Salvation Army Home for Boys at Indooroopilly, a suburb of Brisbane.
Date of admission to this institution was 12th December 1960.

The other institution was the Salvation Army Training Farm for Boys at Riverview near Ipswich, the treatment I received here was far worse than at Indooroopilly.

Admission to Riverview was 14th June 1962, hoping this statement is of help to your enquiry and I declare that the information in this statement is true and correct.

Yours truly,

Wallace Douglas McLeod
Wallace Douglas McLeod
DOB 28th January 1948.

Punishments Used In Boys Homes.

Salvation Army Home For Boys Indoooreopolly (now Alkira)

Boys were punished for sitting next to girls at little lunch and lunch at school; these punishments would range from going to bed without TV, the strap or the cane.

In this home there were three or four prefects, similar to that used in schools these boys (Managers Favorites) would report you to the manager when they got back to the home after school if they had seen any boys sitting next to girls in the lunch breaks.

Boys were given a large tin which used to contain Sunshine powdered milk, this tin would be full of dried peas and were made to tip these out count them and put them back in the tin.

If the number given to the manager were not acceptable to him further punishments would follow i.e. the cane strap or sent to bed without TV.

The manager being Captain Victor Bennett, this officer would occasionally punch boys with a closed fist.

Salvation Army Training Farm For Boys Riverview

The dairy officer Envoy Norman Mann, later to become Captain Norman Mann, would hit you with a stock whip if he caught you talking during milking.

Another form of punishment used by this officer was, he had a leather strap, which appeared to be from the stirrup of a saddle.

The strap would be approximately quarter of an inch thick one to one and quarter inches wide and about twelve to eighteen inches long, this would also be used to hit and flog boys with.

Our nickname for this was the "HORSE HARNESS". While I was never hit with the stock whip, I was hit many times with the horse harness.

One form of punishment used by all officers was to sit boys under a wall mounted TV set. Here you would be made sit with arms folded and legs together look straight ahead mainly at the boys watching TV.

If the boys were watching a comedy on TV the boy or the boys sitting under the TV laughed at what was said on TV they would get extra nights under the TV, I can recall getting an extra week under the TV for laughing at a comment made on a TV show.

In June 1966 I was to be admitted to the Ipswich Hospital for an operation, I came down with an illness on the day I was to be admitted.

With a temperature of 108 degrees Fahrenheit the hospital sent me back to the home with a letter saying I was to sick to work and was told to go to bed, after arriving back at the home with a letter from Dr. Chan of Ipswich hospital.

After giving this letter to the acting manager who at the time was Envoy Mann he then said to me I would resume normal duties at 4 a.m. which meant going to the night paddock, which was approximately one mile from the home to bring the cows home for milking.

Even with a letter from the hospital saying I was too sick to work I was told I would work as usual.

Another form of punishment used by the manager this officer being Captain Reginald Cowling later to become Major Reginald Cowling also with Envoy Mann would announce there would be a parade in the recreation room.

All boys would be made sit around the room, then the boys or the boys in trouble would be called into the center of the room, they would be made drop their trousers and underpants then bend over, they would be flogged with a cane or the horse harness.

While being flogged in the bent over position, if you left that position you would receive further strikes of the cane or the horse harness.

These parades were also carried out in the presence of other officers; these were mainly the officers on duty, which would be two or three officers I was in this situation several times.

Every Sunday and Wednesday evening church services were held, if a parade preceded the service the officer leading the service would make reference to the boy or boys who were in trouble in their sermon, this was very humiliating as it had happened to me on numerous occasions.

Also the manager Captain Cowling decided he wanted me to stay in the home obviously for the rest of my life I guess, and had arranged with the Queensland State Children's Department

to put me on an invalid pension, most of my pension would go towards the upkeep of the home.

A psychiatrist was arranged by the State Children's Department to come to the home and see me; I would be taken into a room at the front of the home.

When asked by the psychiatrist to put certain things together i.e. like putting square pegs in square holes, when this was done the psycho, as we would call him would say that does not belong there, it should be in the round hole.

The psycho at this point would write an adverse report for the state children's department.

After this a medical was arranged in Brisbane, I passed the medical and was deemed too fit for the pension.

Special note! There were already five boys in the home put on the pension in this home.

I am unable put exact dates on the incidents mentioned; the dates I was admitted to these institutions are listed below.

Date of admission to Salvation Army home for boys
Indooroopilly Monday 12th December 1960.

Transferred to Salvation Army Training Farm for boys
Riverview 14th June 1962.

Left Salvation Army Training Farm for Boys 18th August 1966.
Was discharged from state control 18th August 1966.

I sign this statement knowing these incidents are true and correct

Wallace D. McLeod.

This 24th day of April 2002

In July 1972 I suffered a series of epileptic fits and a nervous breakdown as a result being hospitalized in ward 15 Royal Brisbane Hospital for approximately two weeks.

After discharge from ward 15 I suffered several bouts of depression and my doctor recommended that I undergo six months of day treatment at Lawson House also of Royal Brisbane Hospital I was put on Valium and Dilantin, taking these medications for several years.

I now attribute the above illnesses to the treatment during the six years of care with the Salvation Army.

Signed by me this 24th day of April 2002.

Wallace D. McLeod.

Special note: Staff at both homes discouraged boys from having anything to do with the opposite sex, boys were brainwashed that talking about girls was filthy and were punished if they were heard by an officer.

While I was in the home at Riverview the girls from the Salvation Army Girls home at Toowong came to Riverview for a sports day.

The boys would be encouraged to play different forms of sports with the girls, however during the breaks such as lunch, morning and afternoon tea the boys would be made go to their dining room, while the girls would be made to go into the recreation room.

I have no problems with being allowed to talk to girls in the presence of officers. I now believe this is why I seem to have trouble starting a relationship with the opposite sex.

Even today when a woman shows interest in me I freeze in fear of being punished for having anything to do with her. I am so uncomfortable with women that on one occasion one woman virtually accused me of being gay.

I find it very difficult to tell women of my past experiences of these brain washings by these people who were supposed to be my carers.