

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

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you to record that during my childhood, I spent time in a church run institution (WEAKOLL ROCKHAMPTON).

My experience of this institutional life was terrible and I was subjected to extreme cruelty, deprivation and abuse. Also I was not provided with the appropriate care, protection and education that I should have been entitled to.

Signature: *M Whitfield*  
Name (print): THERESA M WHITFIELD NE GILLOW.

*Theresa M Whitfield*

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Other Cruelty Handed out to the boys & girls  
some while at Meekell regardless of age  
were

beating for most times for bull & no reason  
getting the beat, never receiving treatment  
<sup>ACKING</sup> ~~receiving~~ in creek, because once spots out to land  
letting our hair all off, so as to be laugh at  
with those the big boys in runny while men watched  
only swimming, instead, carrying sacks at creek.  
Lars made kneel for hours in sleeping quarters because  
what marks went up to stand.

my boys not allow sleeping in their beds house of  
it was made sleep wooden boards with a sack  
under a cover than regardless of weather, beside the kitchen  
course, many times ~~beat~~ <sup>beat</sup> with salt ~~board~~ <sup>board</sup> with  
sally beat, he said ~~boards~~ <sup>boards</sup> were ~~always~~ <sup>always</sup> hungry  
many times ~~erg~~ <sup>because</sup> so empty.

was drunk up under house with was very dark  
was always spick's running around, was use to drink  
ports up, with no one allowed to talk or help other  
in you would be punished also

head well you had to be very lucky to get  
thought if not we were not given any help ~~with~~  
us free labour for the House. <sup>with</sup>

but working at the nursery I sleep in 3 years  
so, checked black & blue because he called the men I was  
with a sally language, he was just new ~~of~~ <sup>of</sup> Kill out  
wasn't know the rules also baby's setting on Pats. for  
money hours, one child had Bowel trouble every so  
often his Bowel would come out the poor child would  
fall there frozen on the spot, we were not allowed to  
up the child even though we knew what to do

