

MEMORANDUM

TO: The SECRETARY: SEN.COMM.AFFAIRS.REF.COMMITTEE

FROM: John Lloyd (referred by BROKEN RITES VICTORIA)

DATE: 21 August 03

RE: Institutionalized sexual assault

1/ This info is the more objective because I never have sought nor will seek nor need compensation or counselling.

As a youth from a dysfunctional upbringing by an Aunt (rest her soul) whose occasional prostitution offended me, I ran away; committed minor thefts, and was sent to the State's Royal Park Boys Home; then to Morning Star Boys Home run by Franciscan Fathers - Frs Columbus (admin): Felix (superior): Alphonsus: good and worthy priests all.

With the exception of Fr Gabriel who, after lock-ups at night saw boys individually in private and urged them to masturbate. His rationale (as he said) was to shame us out of this sinful habit. I balked, deeply humiliated, before fumbling through this act flaccidly. This perverse therapy (possibly well-intended) was the only lapse by our Catholic keepers known to us boys; and we got to know and talk about everything.!

2/ Sexual acts among healthy pubescent boys were frequent at Morning Star. In my case they ranged from anal rape - being held down in a dorm by four boys - to consensual anal intercourse when I became attracted to certain boys and needed their love & affection, however fleeting. On one occasion when an in-group tried to gang-rape me publicly in a Common Room, I resisted by smashing two panes of window-glass with a fist to attract help. Fr Felix privately accepted this wilful damage and excused punishment.

To my shame and impotent anger, [REDACTED] was serially abused, tormented, humiliated & spat upon by older boys - scapegoated. Given a day-release home visit, I posted a protest to the head of (then) Childrens' Welfare Department: a State official who referred it back to Fr. Columbus. This letter was read aloud by Fr. Gabriel during a class in Religious Instruction, as a warning to us all about raising complaints with any Authorities outside the Boys Home. Despite all, I kept company with [REDACTED] until, in company with others, we went on a rampage of covert destruction by (1) burning down a hay silo; (2) vandalizing the common Shower Room (removing fittings); and (3) rifling through the gym-lockers of a visiting football team to steal wallets and wrist.watches etc.

3/ Royal Park Boys Home (Turana) run by State officers saw no acts of physical or sexual abuse. We boys were well fed, schooled & recreated with daily gym & weekly movies by admirable staff whose ethics were exemplary

3/.. Conditions at Turana were so good that I cannot recall one instance of corporal punishment. And strong rumours among the boys had them in fear of being sent to Bayswater Boys Home where (it was said) punishments & conditions were severe. Bayswater, run by the Salvo's, had a reputation as notorious as Grafton - a prison in NSW where escapees were held, and routinely bashed by prison officers on arrival, and treated brutally for infractions. I confirmed the harshness at Bayswater during conversations with former inmates.

Two incidents during my term at Turana are clearly recalled, being exceptional. First, boys slept two to a room. When my room.mate once made an attempt to molest me, I summoned the officer on night duty. He warned the offender that night, and transferred me to another room the next - ironically in company with a compulsive masturbatory exhibitionist, though no other sexual activity occurred between me and other boy.

Once weekly we were issued a complete change of clothing.; & during this exchange [REDACTED] was anally raped behind a door. If he cried out (in pain) his regular assailant would punch him once, and threaten him with a physical beating. I did nothing to help [REDACTED] because I feared the raper (older and muscular) as much as the other boys - & he ingratiated himself with staff who favoured him with our supervision and keeping order in the Common Room.

4/ Though homosexual (from birth, I suppose) I felt ashamed of this condition that was kept hidden from discovery. Fearing exposure & ridicule inhibited pairing up sexually with any boy at Turana. Self-restraint gradually waned at MorningStar to a point where I stopped warding off advances altogether - then began to embrace them; yet always fugitively. By the time I graduated to prison terms for non.sexual offences, I engaged willingly in promiscuous acts with mature inmates.

Was I psycho.emotionally disturbed from years spent in Boys Homes? No & Yes. NO: because sexual activity is and will ever be an irresistible feature of life in such places: and those able to cope with it avoid trauma. And YES: because such experience/s might have contributed to a violent crime (untypical of my very nature) for which I served 14 years of Governor's Pleasure: a crime passionel triggered by possessive jealousy.

5/ Released in 1973, I went on to found a (compensatory?) Xtian mission (1981) that continues to this day. Should the SCARC seek further detail in writing, or else my appearance to give testimony here in Victoria - I am and remain

Yours respectfully

J. Lloyd.

Prior: MGMA (est 1981)

