

**SUBMISSION TO SENATE COMMUNITY AFFAIRS REFERENCES
COMMITTEE**

We started looking for information about my past many years ago and as you can see by the copy of the letter enclosed we always thought that the Catholics were responsible for me until I was 21. This letter put us on the wrong track as we laid all the blame on Catholic Welfare, whereas now it appears it was the Government.

When a welfare officer came to see me at Kempsey, where I was working on a dairy farm and where I was physically abused and made to work 7 days a week, I believed that the welfare officer was from the Catholic Welfare. Now I believe it was a Government Welfare officer. This officer would notify Mr Saul that he was coming and I was scrubbed up and threatened not to say anything about my treatment or I would get a hiding when he had left. *I hope this practice of notifying employers of visits has ceased.*

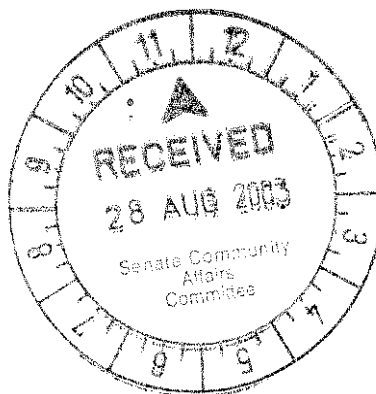
I found out only about 6 months ago that I and other boys from the U.K. at Murray Dwyer Orphanage in Newcastle were made wards of the State. As a ward of the State I find it very degrading to be told by the Government that we have to confront the institution where I was sexually abused (this is being investigated at present) to try and find out information about myself. *It feels that there should be a Government body who would act on our behalf.*

This is not just for myself, but for all the boys in the same situation who have to go to different institutions where terrible memories exist, to grovel for information.

Centacare Newcastle has found that 4 boys from Murray Dwyer have records on microfiche. They have helped me to look for records but as there are no records kept by the Orphanage we have now hit a brick wall. *It is known there are more records in Government archives but no-one has been allocated to sort them.* Consequently the remaining "boys" are unable to find records. *Unless this issue is addressed the boys will be going to their graves without finding out any information.*

D Mead

DAVID JOHN MEAD





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**Department of Immigration
and Ethnic Affairs**

Benjamin Offices
Chan St
Belconnen, A.C.T. 2617

Our Ref: 133/2/21
SETT/KB:JMS
Your Ref:

6 July 1982

Mr David Mead

Dear Mr Mead

I refer to your letter of 7 June 1982 in which you requested information relating to your migration to Australia as a child.

A search through this Department's records has revealed that you were one of 30 boys who sailed on RMS "Ormonde" from Tilbury on 21 August 1952, bound for the Murray Dwyer Boys Orphanage in Mayfield, near Newcastle.

It appears from our records that children for the orphanage were selected by the Australian Catholic Immigration Committee in London. This Department was not directly involved in selecting individual children for the program, but undertook the necessary liaison with the Committee and Child Welfare Authorities in Australia and Britain, and facilitated immigration aspects.

The Federal Catholic Immigration Committee also appears to have been involved in the program. The Committee is still active in Sydney and may be able to assist you further in your enquiries. The address is:

Suite 2, Floor 10
Polding House
276 Pitt Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

I hope that the above information will be of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

SUE INGRAM
for Secretary