

Leslie TIBURN

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] A
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Miss CROZIER,

On Friday 15 Feb 13 I attended your inquiry in Geelong, I handed a copy of my submission to be handed in as a written submission (unfortunately I realized that 6 or more pages were missing)

I therefore inclose a full copy of my submission. It is part of my submission that the violence against me and a lot of other inmates was being used to Aid and Abet the Sexual Abuse by the Priests and Officers in All of the Boys Homes.

My phone Number is as above and I am now 68 I will gladly give evidence at your Inquiry to support my Submission.

I came late in the Afternoon as I had to work first I was in my work wear.

Thank you for your Attention in my matter.

[REDACTED] 16 Feb 13

CHILDREN'S HOMES

I, Leslie Thomas BURR, of [REDACTED], I am 60 and my D.O.B [REDACTED]-1944, [REDACTED] State that I suffered **Stress, Anxiety, Physical and Psychological Abuse**, while I was in **Children's Homes**, that were managed by, the **Victorian Government, Catholic and Salvation Army** religious orders.

The period of time that I was in these homes was 1956 to 1960 the homes that I was in were:

Royal Park Turana and Popler House
These homes were, managed by the **State Government**

St Augustines In Geelong run by a **Catholic Order**.

Bayswater Number 1. Held boys 6 to 14 years of age
Number 2. Held boys 14 to 18 years of age
These homes were, managed by the **Salvation Army** in
Olinda and The Basin

A 2004 release of a Senate Inquiry into Children's Homes confirmed there had been, Psychological and Physical Abuse. The Salvation Army has made pay-outs in relation to Bayswater.

In support of my claim, I produce the following Facts from my Memory:

1. I was 12 years of age when I went into the Homes in 1956. I received a 2 year sentence, first time ever before a Court. Because in those days school leaving and into the work force was at 14 years of age. The system was simple, if I had of been 10 then I would have got 4 years. If I had of been 13 then I would have got 1 year.
2. Turana was my first Home, it was a Remand and Classification center, you remained there until your court matters were over, then you got classified to see what Home you would be sent to from Turana.
3. All the Homes that I was in had open communal showers and toilets with no doors, so that the Screws and Brothers could watch the Children, which they did in all the Homes that I was in. You also had to change from your own clothes into the Homes clothes, we where always watched at these times.
4. There were also the situations that, if for whatever reason, you had to be searched. At times they would strip search you, and other times, they would just feel all over, to see if you had anything on you that you shouldn't have. It was these times when the Brother or Screw would feel your bum. This feeling your bum only happened a few times at St Augustines, not all the Brothers did this. It also happened at Turana and Popler House. Not all the Screws did it. I do not recall the bum feeling happening at Bayswater. I look back now and suspect that this was one method of selecting inmates for sexual abuse, if you were not chosen then it stopped. You just got the bashing instead.

5. I recall my first few showers in Turana with the Screws watching. I recall one Screw, telling me to turn around with my bum facing him, and he was commenting, (Look at his bum), I was tanned except for my bum at the time. He called other inmates to have a look and, he called another Screw to have a look as well.
6. I recall asking the other inmates, how to make a complaint, they said that it would not do any good, however to make a complaint you had to wait for the Head Screw to be on and complain to him.
7. I complained to the Head Screw, he called the screw into his office and made me repeat my complaint, that he was looking and showing my bum off. I remember stating that I was going to tell my Dad and the Judge when I went to court. I do not know what happened, however I did not see that Screw again while I was there.
8. I do not recall how long I was on remand before I went to Court in Geelong and got my two years.
9. At other times while I was in Turana I was bashed, that is punched and kicked, and I can recall being made to clean and polish the passageway as punishment. I did escape once, however I can not recall why, I was being punished. The Screws did not need much of an excuse back then, they punished and bashed us for any excuse at all.
10. The passageway had to have the polish taken off. I had to scrub old polish off with a toothbrush and a piece of rag about the size of a hanky.

11. If you were taking too long, a Screw would kick or hit you to hurry up. If you were not getting the old polish off good enough, you would be, kicked, or hit, to do it, properly. Some times a Screw would stand on your hand as he walked past. Once the old polish was off, you would then put the new polish on with the same size pieces of rag. Once the new polish was on, we would, polish the passageway. We had to ask for a new piece of rag, every time you used up the piece you had, we got a kick or a hit, if the rag was not used up properly. Visitors used to comment how shiny our passageways were. There were shift changes, it did not matter, all the Screws kicked and hit you, however some were worse than others. The Screws that came on half drunk were the worst, even when sober they were the bad ones.
12. Cleaning the passageway was a normal punishment, and would take a few days depending on how many inmates were doing punishment.
13. The half drunk Screws were at **Turana** and **Popler House**, I do not recall any drunk or half drunk Screws at **St Augustines** or **Bayswater**
14. The Female Screw cook came on and some of the drunk Screws were on as well. They all had been drinking, she had not cooked a meal for us, so she heated up some stew for us, the night Screws came on. During the night we were all banging up to go to the toilet. There were so many of us with the shits, the Screws would not open the cells until there was room, so some of us shit ourselves. We were shitting on the toilets and in the showers as well, once you started most of us had three shits or more. We all saw the Doctor the next day, and I with a lot of others had to drink a bottle of water and glucose.

15. They hushed it up that the cook and Screws had been drinking, and the stew was old and it had come over from one of the other kitchens as well.
16. One day there was a group of us called up, to go on two escorts that day, one to St Augustines and one to Bayswater. The Screw doing the escort put us into two groups, he saw that I was from Geelong so he put me on the St Augustines escort instead of the Bayswater escort. I was sent to St Augustines by mistake, I was supposed to go to Bayswater, I was not a Catholic, therefore, I should not have, been sent to St Augustines at all.

St Augustines

1. After the reception bum check. I had my bum feel search as well. I was not there long, I recall, I was sitting at the table. I had eaten whatever was with the Curried eggs, I had pushed the curried eggs to one side, a Brother came up behind me, and hit me hard on the head, He said "what's that?" I said, "curried egg Brother". He said, " what are you doing with it?" I said, "I don't like it", He hit me, on the head again. He said, "bring your plate and come with me". Brother took me to the kitchen and told the kitchen staff to fill it up with curried egg. He took me back to the table and stood over me until I ate the revolting lot of it. I finished he hit me again and told me that everything would be eaten, that was put in front of all inmates, you ate what was on the plate, there was no such thing as not liking something.

2. The Brothers were always around, we would be lined up for something, we always lined up for anything and everything. It was normal for a Brother to walk past the line and hit a couple of boys for making too much noise, or for whatever reason the brother wanted to hit you for. A Brother would call out somebody's name and say, "I will see you tonight, every boy new that, that meant the boy was going to get a belting that night.
3. The Brothers had a system with older or bigger boys. These selected boys would be in charge of groups of boys, they could report you for not doing what you were asked to do, so the Brother would bash you, or these boys could bash you themselves. If you had a go back at these boys, they would get a few of them together and they would bash you. As well as reporting you to the Brothers who would also bash you.
4. Upstairs or in the gymnasium was where you were bashed with the cane, or the horse harness strap. I escaped I think twice and, I got the harness treatment for escaping. On one of my escapes I was, taken by police up to Turana and I never went back to the St Augustines Home.
5. While at St Augustines I can remember the constant fear, because you never knew when your next bashing would be. The Brothers that watched in the showers. The bum feel search, and the Brothers that had favorite boys, these boys always looked the sissy types and never got bashed like the rest of us. It is easy to look back now and realize that a lot of the violence was used to assist with the Sexual abuse that we now know took place.

6. At Turana, I was sent to Bayswater, I remember that, I was pleased, to be getting out of Turana, I new I would never, be going back to St Augustines, I do not, recall anything being done, in relation to my being sent to the wrong Home. I was however told that, I would never go to a Catholic Home, because I was not Catholic, it was somehow my fault that I was sent to the wrong Home.

Bayswater Boys Home

1. There were four of us, we arrived at Bayswater the school age one, we were shown around the home and the school, which was across the road from the home. We were issued with clothes and shoes, however, we were only permitted to wear the shoes on a Sunday morning to Sunday school and special occasions. The rest of the time we were bare footed it did not take long for our feet to harden, we were soon able to do everything bare-footed, including playing sports.
2. I was not there long and the whole home went walking around the property, which was a farm. I, with two others hung back and bolted, we were, chased and court by the other boys and held for the Screws to catch up. The head Screw Captain, bashed me and the others, then he had me by the back of my hair, he ran me out in front of him as he punched me in the right kidney area, I collapsed he picked me up while running he punched me in the right kidney gain, I collapsed each time he punched me, this happened about four times. I have always had re-accruing pain in my right kidney area since that time.

3. There were approximately 100 boys at this home. With three large dormitories, if you made too much noise during the night the Screw that slept in-between the two main-dorms, would come in and give you some whacks with his cane.

4. The second of the main-dorms held the youngest and the bed-wetting boys. Each morning the Screw Matron would open this dorm, she would storm through the dorm whacking any boys in her way with her cane, looking for who had wet the bed. She would then stand at the door, as the boys carrying their wet sheets went past. Matron would whack into them, for wetting the bed, this happened every morning, I was in this dorm for a short time and the only thing they did besides bashing these boys. The Screw would wake them up during the night to go to the toilet. If Matron was not on, a Screw we called Colonel (who always had his cane with him). Colonel would do the same cane bashing routine, I got the cane while I was in this dorm and the marks from the cane would last most of the day. Bare in mind, these boys were 6 to about 10 years old. Every now and then, an older boy would be put into the wet dorm until he could go into an other dorm, it did not matter every boy in this dorm got the cane.

5. Colonel would come up and whack you with his cane at times around the home. He was in the shower room a lot as well, he would hit you with his cane for being too slow in the shower, or being too slow getting dressed or undressed, or not being in the line properly.

6. The third dorm was attached to one of the Screws cottages, this was 13 to 14 years old, it held approximately 20 boys.

7. If there was too much noise then the Screw would come in through a door that lead into the dorm from his cottage and bash who he thought made the noise. This Screw used to stutter. One night he came in because of the noise he bashed someone and made us all stand beside our beds for a time. He came back and caught one of the boys, mimicking his stuttering we all laughed. He went crazy he was going around bashing all of us, by punching and kicking, he went round and round the dorm bashing us, he got back to the boy that mimicked him. He was shouting and bashing him so much that his wife came in and stopped him, she took him into the house we could hear them both shouting then he came back in and apologized for bashing us. He explained that he was studying for a higher rank.

8. I was eating in the dinning room six to a table. I realized it had gone quite around me, the others, at the table were all looking at me. I started to look around, all of a sudden, I was punch onto the floor and kicked a few times by a Screw. I had been eating too loudly for his liking. He made me clean up the mess and ordered me to eat quietly. I was only enjoying their meal, it was a stew. Every now and again Matron would storm around the dining room whacking boys she did not think were displaying enough manners.

9. Once or twice a year, we would all go into the washroom. There would be large bowls half full of Kerosene, we all had to stick our heads in these bowls and wash our hair and heads with the Kerosene. Matron and the Colonel would be hitting with their canes making sure we washed in the Kerosene properly. I recall, I used to get soft-scab sores on my head about the size of a fifty-cent coin every time I had to do it.

- 10. Every now and then, the head Screw Captain would have all the boys in the gym, He would be lecturing us about changing our ways. He would signal some of us out and make us stand out the front, he would bash, by punching and kicking, the ones out the front while he was lecturing us. I recall it was as if he was building up to something, then all of a sudden he would bash into the ones that he had signaled-out. I was bashed at least 4 times off the Captain in this way. To this day I do not know what He was on about.
- 11. The school was three Rooms, with each room having more than one grade in it. [REDACTED], he used to blow his nose onto the floor, and the nearest boy would have to clean it up. [REDACTED] also liked to give a clip or two as he walked past you. When there was frost on the sports oval. [REDACTED] would order all the school out onto the oval so we could run around the inside of the oval until the inside of the oval was wet and green, with the outside white with frost. The youngest boys would be crying, while us older boys would have numb feet, we all new if you slowed down [REDACTED] would bash you. Psychological and physical abuse did not stop even at school
- 12. The whole home went on a camping and quire-singing tour of Salvation Army Halls. This happened in two separate groups on the back of a truck in winter. I got a cold just after my group left, we would camp in a hall each night, we went to Stawell, Halls Gap, and to Portland. I had been getting sicker each day. In Portland one of the Army wife's was a nurse, she noticed me sick at the back of a Hall, she took my temperature, they rushed me to the Portland Hospital, I had Pneumonia. It did not matter to anyone back then that I was on the back of a truck with no treatment for a cold that turned into Pneumonia I can still remember my temperature 104.2

13. I was released, however, I re-offended twice and I served two terms at Bayswater Number 2. For boys 14 to 18 years. I recall there was bad publicity in relation to Bayswater number 1. It was closed down

Bayswater Boys Home

1. There was Colonel [redacted] in charge of Both Homes, his nephew Captain [redacted] (may not be spelt correctly) Captain [redacted] was at number 2. With Major. Colonel and Major would give the main punishment, which was 1 to 6 whacks on the bum with a piece of Horse-harness approximately one meter long, these were called 1 to 6 of the Best.

2. On one of my terms at No 2. I and Four or Five other boys were signaled out while the rest were kept in line we were taken into the change room and each given One of the Best by Major. The mark from just one of the best would still be visible on your bum up to Four to Six months later. We had been making to much noise in the dining room. If for some reason you were at Popler House or in a Police station having a shower or being searched, the Policeman or Screw would say Bayswater from seeing the marks left by getting one or more of the Best. Bayswaters Best were known throughout the whole system

3. Major had two Healer dogs, he would sick them onto some boys for fun, the dogs would scatter us and bite us, Major would call them off, before they did any real damage, all the boys watching would have a good laugh

4. Captain [REDACTED] was in charge of the Football and Cricket teams, we would go to any matches on the back of the truck, Captain liked to stop the truck on the way home from a match and signal out boys that he thought did not play good enough, he would make the comment (that he new what he would do to somebody that let the team down) He would then drive us back to home and on the way His sucks would bash the boys that Captain had signaled out
5. We used to get day leave, however if someone escaped or did something bad enough the Screws would stop the day leaves for that weekend. Therefore the boys responsible would get bashed by the boys that had there leaves stopped
6. Colonel [REDACTED] favorite, was to have us lined up. He would go along the line until he, signaled someone out, he would get up real close to them. Right up into their face and he would say (do you want to have a go) with that he would stamp on their foot and punch them in the face with an uppercut. We all knew when he was in this mood, if anyone moved or tried to resist or protect them-selves they would get a few of the best.
7. I remember two boys had ridden the horses and they were late getting back, the Colonel lined us all up and took them into the change room. He gave one 10 of the best, then he gave the eldest one 14 of the best he was bleeding from the bum, we did not know what happened to the eldest one they were both taken away, we all knew that the Colonel had gone too far
8. The coldest place on the farm was in the front corner of the veranda, this spot was called the Block. For punishment we would be made to stand on the Block without moving or talking from one day up to a week or more

9. If you was court talking or moving about on the Block you would get longer time on the Block, bashed or a few of the Best. Today the Block punishment would be called Torture and Mental Cruelty

10. On one of my two terms, I escaped with another Geelong boy [REDACTED] we were caught in Geelong. We complained in Court, about the treatment at Bayswater, comments were made in Court that we should not be taken back to Bayswater. [REDACTED] and I were taken to Popler House for a period then we were both taken back to Bayswater

11. The publicity about our complaints in Court did not mater, the Major gave us both Six of the best. The Walt's on my bum were like corrugated roofing iron I could run my hand over the corrugations for about two months and count the six of them before they went down. The marks were on my bum for 10 to 12 months. Both [REDACTED] and I got a sentence for the escape. The Major gave both of us Six of the best for the escape, we both had to stand on the Block for a week or more for our escape. In Law it's called double jeopardy, however [REDACTED] and I were no longer in Court we were in Bayswater.

12. I escaped the second time I was at Number 2. With two others we were placed in Popler House and "D" Division in the boys yard, we had a pre-sentence report done on us from the County Court. The other two got sentenced and went back to the Homes. I was sentenced to Prison, His Honour wanted me to be released on parole, He sentenced me to 12 months with 14 days N.P.P

13. His Honour took into consideration the fact that we had spent time in both Popler House and Prison waiting for sentence we received small sentences because of this fact.

14. I did my 14 days in the boys-yard in "D" Division. On the day of my release, I was called-up to the Governor's office where I was handed-over to a Turana Screw. The Governor said," that I still had my boys home sentence, therefore I had to go with the Screw if I plaid-up I would be breaking my Parole." The Screw took me to Popler House, I was told the same if I plaid-up I would be breaking my Parole and I would be sent back to Prison to do the balance of my Parole

15. Mr [REDACTED] was the Head Screw at Popler House, an x-boxer who fought under the name Lucky-star. His trip was the same as the Colonel's only [REDACTED] would stand on your foot and punch you in the head, with a right and left punches

16. On one occasion I was called back into [REDACTED] office, I had just made him a coffee and toast. He pointed to the toast and said, "What's that?" I was leaning over his desk, looking at the toast. He pointed out that the toast did not have butter, out to all four sides, he punched me onto the floor, he threw the toast and coffee at me and ordered me to do it properly. After I cleaned up I made him coffee and toast buttered to all four sides.

17. On another occasion I recall being winded from being punch in the stomach by the Screw called [REDACTED]

18. With both the aforesaid assaults at Popler House one or both of them could have been when I was there with [REDACTED] after our escape. The bashing and torture are easy to remember, however at what period of time I was in these Homes is not that easy

19. I eventually got day leave from Popler House, and I never went back, I committed crimes because I believed I was an escapee, I was arrested. I was told a Parole officer had been looking for me, to let me know that I was not an escapee I had been illegally held at Popler House I should have been released on Parole. I was on remand in "D" Division, when I found out that I had been illegally held in Popler House. At this Late stage I would not be surprised to find out that I had actually completed the 12 month sentence before I escaped on day leave. The chance I had received, from the County Court was stuffed up by the Governor and the Boys Home Screws. That is how I finished my Children's Home sentences. Who can say what effect the Physical and Psychological Abuse had on me? Was it partly?, or fully?, responsible for my leading a life of crime?.

Leslie Thomas Burr



17-12-04