

To whom it may concern

This is my submission into the Victorian Inquiry into Handling of Child Abuse by Religious and Other Non-government Organisations.

I was a 14 year old boy when I was made a "Ward of the State" and placed in Royal Park before being placed in to the Salvation Army's Bayswater Boys Home. I was released from Bayswater boy's home when I was 17years of age.

Whilst in care at both facilities, I was abused mentally, sexually and physically by the staff. I was not privy to the names of the staff as I was only ordered to refer to them as BOSS. We were given food that was not even fit to be given to animals, meat covered with maggots, porridge with wezzels, mouldy bread and rotten vegetables. Floggings and beating on a daily basis, scared on my body bear the horrific memories. At night I would hear screams and crying, hoping that my door would not be opened, that that night I would not be sexually abused. Although, I was no exception, I was sexually abused many times.

Today I sleep with an axe and knife under my bed. My family has suffered by side effect behaviour from the abuse.

I believe that the government let me down, that the government had a duty of care to ensure my safety. That the government should have made more visits to the home. I believe that the government should pay financial redress.

Alfred Stirling



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