

STATEMENT  
STATUTORY DECLARATION

I, **CARMEN VICTORIA MCMAHON**  
 OF, **REDACTED**  
 DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH: **REDA 58 - SYDNEY NSW**  
 TELEPHONE: **WORK: N.A. HOME: NIL**  
 OCCUPATION: **HOME DUTIES**  
 PLACE OF BUSINESS: **N.A.**  
 SUBJECT: **INDECENT DEALINGS - DONALD  
 HENDERSON**

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I, **CARMEN VICTORIA MCMAHON**, OF **REDACTED**  
**REDACTED**, DO SOLEMNLY AND SINCERELY DECLARE THAT:

I was born in Sydney NSW to my mother **REDACTED** and my  
 father **REDACTED** whom I have never met.

When I stayed at Retta Dixon I was known as Mary-Anne  
 WHITTAKER but on my birth certificate I am McMAHON.

In about 1978 or 1979 I changed my name to Carmen McMAHON  
 to try and forget about the past.

As far as I know I have 2 brothers who are **AJE** and  
**AJM**. **AJM** is now deceased.

I also have various half sisters that I only met in the  
 last 15 years.

When I was a baby I was taken away by Welfare or my mother  
 put me into Retta Dixon Home, I am not sure I have never  
 found out but I do know that I went into Retta Home when I  
 was a baby.

My Foster parents were Don and Barbara HENDERSON who live in number 2 cottage at Retta Dixon. AJE and AJM also lived with the HENDERSON'S in this cottage.

Some of the other children who live in that particular cottage were Raymond and Tony KELLS, Robert CAMPBELL, Peter and Patrick APPLEBY, John HENDERSON, nickname Curry, Rachel FRIDAY, Pam SMITH (deceased) Peter and Dennis SMITH and these are the main kids that I grew up with.

I was in Retta Dixon for about 17 years and left when I was 17 years old.

Our house parents the HENDERSON'S never showed affection towards each other and they never had kids of their own. I suppose that we grew up frightened of Don HENDERSON and Barbara would sometimes intervene on our behalf but not very often. Sometimes you could see that Barbara felt sorry for us.

Don would belt us nearly every day, and as an example if we didn't hold our knife and fork properly he would lean over the table and hit our hand with his knife or throw a tin cup at us.

We were forced to eat everything on our plate even the fat and if we didn't then he would belt us.

Another example is that I hated a sweet called Junket and in particular pink junket. On this occasions I vomited up after eating the junket and then Don HENDERSON made me eat up the vomit with the junket in it.

This happened nearly every day and I was that frightened that I used to wee my bed of a night-time until I was 12 years old. I now believe that this was due to me being so frightened of him.

I remember from when I was about 5 years old that Don HENDERSON would like to put us on his lap and bounce us up and down so that our feet would touch his penis which often be erect.

Don HENDERSON would also come into our rooms when Barbara HENDERSON went out to prayer meetings on Wednesday nights, St. John's on another night, bible studies on another night and church on Sunday nights.

When Barbara went out Don HENDERSON would come into our rooms but I know that he like boys more than girls. He would come into our room and he would say to me "Mary, come here" and I would have to get up and follow him into his and Barbara's room.

Then he would lie on the bed on his back and he would face the mirror on the dressing table at the end of the bed. He would always have his shorts on but his penis and balls would hang out. Sometimes his penis was erect and sometimes not.

Then we would have to lie face down facing away from him towards the mirror and then we had to put our feet on his penis and he would tickle our feet and make our toes wriggle against his penis and then he would become aroused.

This would have started from about 1963 when I was five (5) years old and continued until I was 13 years old. On average this would have happened on average twice a week from 1963 to 1968 when I was 10.

On thinking back he would only pick on timid kids like AJM and I at the time. The strong-minded kids like AJN he used to avoid as they would be more likely to tell.

I cannot remember one particular incident, they just roll into one another, there are too many times to pick one particular time.

Another type of thing that Don HENDERSON would do was that when we were in the pool, which was an aboveground pool in the back yard, he would bounce us up and down. The pool was not that big but Don HENDERSON would sit in the pool and then we would stand on his lap and bounce us up and down so that our feet touched his penis.

I think that I would have been about 10 years old when we got the pool.

If we went on a picnic to Berry or Howard Springs he would do the same thing to me and the other kids.

He would sit down and then bounce us up and down on his lap with our feet touching his penis and he would become aroused. His wife would come with us but she wouldn't come into the water.

When I was 12 years I remember that Don HENDERSON broke my nose.

It was a Sunday and he took about 5 of us kids to go visiting. One of the rules was that you were not allowed to slam the car door but I accidentally slammed it hard.

He just turned around and backhanded me on the left-hand side of my face and broke my nose.

My nose bled for three days and then Barbara eventually took me to the old Darwin Hospital because my nose would not stop bleeding.

I think that Barbara told the doctor that I broke my nose because if fell out of a tree.

I can't remember who was in the car with me at the time but it may have been [AJM], Pammy SMITH and I couldn't say who else.

When we went to his friend's place I wasn't allowed out of the car I had to sit in the car until he came out later.

I would often see Don HENDERSON taking boy's down to the chook yard and the boys that I remember him taking down to the chook yard were [AJT], [REDACTED], [AJE], [REDACTED], [AJD] and others that I can't remember. It wasn't only the kids from our cottage number 2, and the boys were from any cottage.

We also used to clean up the Speedway on a Monday after school and when we went there I would see Don HENDERSON take the boys one at a time into the toilets and they would be in there for a long time, sometimes a half hour to an hour.

In all the times that Don HENDERSON used to get me to do things to him in his room, I was the only person present.

When I left Retta Dixon I was 17 years old.

The first person that I told about this was my husband whom I am now divorced from.

His name is Geoffrey Mervyn BIRCH and he was a solicitor who lived in Melbourne. Geoffrey was 10 years older than me.

Geoff BIRCH has since remarried.

I have no more information to offer at this time but if I do remember more I will tell you./[llllllllllllllllll]

I WILL BE AVAILABLE TO GIVE EVIDENCE IN DARWIN WHEN REQUIRED AT ANY TIME DURING THE NEXT 3 MONTHS. I DO NOT EXPECT TO CHANGE MY PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR RESIDENCE DURING THAT TIME, NOR DO I EXPECT TO BE ABSENT FROM MY USUAL PLACE OF RESIDENCE EXCEPT ON WEEKENDS. I UNDERSTAND THAT THE CONTENTS OF THIS STATEMENT MAY BE DISCLOSED FOR DEFENCE PURPOSES.

AND I FURTHER DECLARE THAT I:

(a) HAVE ATTAINED THE AGE OF 18 YEARS;

AND

(b) I HAVE READ THIS STATEMENT BEFORE SIGNING IT;

AND I MAKE THIS SOLEMN DECLARATION BY VIRTUE OF THE OATHS ACT, CONSCIENTIOUSLY BELIEVING THE STATEMENTS CONTAINED IN THIS DECLARATION TO BE TRUE IN EVERY PARTICULAR. I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT A PERSON WILFULLY MAKING A FALSE STATEMENT IN A STATUTORY DECLARATION IS GUILTY OF AN OFFENCE AND IS LIABLE TO A PENALTY OF 2,000 DOLLARS OR IMPRISONMENT FOR TWELVE MONTHS OR BOTH.

DECLARED AT PETER MCAULAY CENTRE THIS Monday, 30 DAY OF June, 2014

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**CARMEN VICTORIA MCMAHON**

BEFORE ME

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ROGER NEWMAN  
COMMISSIONER FOR OATHS (NT)  
PETER MCAULAY CENTRE  
TELEPHONE: **REDACTED**