

Statement to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse

Personal Details

John Richard Pugh

[Redacted]

This statement is an account of my experience [Redacted]

I attended [Redacted] as a border and was systematically abused by [Redacted]

[REDACTED] This was the trigger that suddenly made me realise what had really happened. It is very hard to describe how I felt but the sudden clash of thoughts as a result of consciously realising what [REDACTED] had really done had a profound effect on me. I have since suffered from bouts of depression and have attended therapy sessions with a psychologist. I have been on medication for the depression and even utilised a spiritual healer in attempts to find peace of mind and to try and stop the endless thoughts of the events that occurred.

The years prior to 2008 [REDACTED] were ones of differing emotions. I suffered from a lack of self-esteem and confidence, depression and self-loathing but, I had no idea why. It wasn't until after I had realised what [REDACTED] had done that I understood my state of mind at that time. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The years following my realisation of events were ones of reconciliation. As mentioned I sought various therapies from conventional to alternative. I was told I have Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and have been, at times, on medication to treat my depression. I have spent many nights awake with thoughts of the events turning over and over trying to piece them together. I compare my thoughts to being like a fishing line that is tangled up into a big bird's nest, you sit there pulling and poking, getting frustrated when it won't untangle but, then, a big loop of line would fall out and suddenly you can put those memories into context. But, however hard I try there are still areas that remain tangled. They are like black holes in my memory. I know something happened there but can't, as yet, remember.

I wrote to [REDACTED] the then Headmaster of [REDACTED] the school when I attended. I documented in the letter the events of what had happened and my experiences. I received a letter in response which really didn't show much concern about my wellbeing. The letter mentioned that the school provided a counselling service if it was deemed that I required it and I was offered an initial evaluation consultation with a psychologist based there in

