

## **Arthur Thornton**

Monday 24th August I went to bed but could not sleep because I had just read in the latest Future Pathways news report that Corporal Punishment was not to be included in the new redress scheme which was being forwarded to Parliament as it was not illegal for Corporal Punishment to be administered, well I would like to put forward to the SCAI that whoever drew this clause up was probably not aware of the law that came into force in 1959 to protect children of indeed abusive Corporal Punishment that I in fact suffered as being borne out in my witness statement to the SCAI.

The law courts sought to stop what they considered, Abusive and sexual Corporal Punishments being carried out under the GUISE of Corporal Punishments by abusers in power, in fact, it is telling the abusers that this ABUSE has got to stop. It was classed as ABUSE and therefore every case of Corporal Punishment coming before the Inquiry should be dealt with on its merits, ie., was the Corporal Punishment administered normal, or was the Corporal Punishment carried out on the child Abusive or Sexual in nature.

I would respectfully ask the SCAI to make a distinction between Normal and Abusive, that it should not accept the fact that the Law Courts were slow in providing an act of Law in 1959 banning children having to remove their clothing and being publicly humiliated and suffering excess use of the cane, the actual fact of bringing this law into force is actually an admittance that this WAS ABUSE and it had to stop,

Law or no Law, I emphasize that in my case prior to 1959 that this was ABUSE and should not be discarded or approved as legal, it was disgusting, excessive and sexually humiliating to say the least all over a one brown penny sample scent bottle left on a counter in Woolworths for the public to test the aroma, which I had stolen.

My Gym teacher was not amused when I turned up for gym a couple of days later when one of my classmates turned round to him and said "Sir, look at Thornton's legs" whereupon he asked me to drop my gym shorts, ( We not allowed to wear underpants in those days for the gym ), in fact, he was angry that the Matron of Barnardo's homes where I lived had administered 18 strokes of the cane to my naked backside and legs publicly after he/the school had dealt with this incident by giving us 18 of the belt each ( 5 of us ).

I ponder to think that the gym teacher, after him witnessing this ABUSE perhaps he reported it to the Education Authorities at that time in 1958 and in so doing was amongst many others instrumental in a small way in bringing about this new Law in 1959 banning more than 6 strokes of the cane which should only be administered in exceptional circumstances should a child be beyond a scolding as a first resort, and the banning of children's clothing being removed prior to punishment, and that it should not be carried out in public view. This insight I got from my gym teacher was in fact the first that Society did care, please when making your redress to Parliament.

Yours Sincerely  
Arthur Thornton.