

Statement Addendum

Client Name: Dean Jackson
Date of Birth: 19/08/1984
Care Setting: oakbank care
Dates: 1995-1997
Persons Involved:

Full Statement

When I arrived at Oakbank, the violence I faced from the staff was significantly worse than what I had endured at Scalloway Park. I was punched, kicked, and slapped daily. They would always assign one male staff member to deal with me when he was on duty, and he was a large man. At times, there would be 10 to 12 staff members holding me down while I was being restrained. I was whipped with a cane, usually across my buttocks and the backs of my legs. When they felt they could not control me, they would use a hose to blast me with freezing cold water. I recall times when the staff would take me to the kitchen after the cook had finished, promising me ice lollies. However, they would then claim there were none or that the fridge was locked, which only served to provoke me. After this, they would taunt me with the ice lollies and then lock me in a cupboard. I was confined to a cupboard numerous times during my stay here. I sustained several injuries while I was here, but no one believed me when I tried to explain what had happened. They always accused me of banging my head against the wall. It felt like they were protecting one another and looking out for themselves. Bedwetting was an issue that continued from Scalloway Park, and once again, I faced humiliation, degradation, and even physical punishment for it. There were times when I would be abruptly awakened and taken from my bed at night for room searches, sometimes for something as insignificant as a missing fork from the kitchen. There were nights when I couldn't sleep for three or four days straight, due to a combination of my medication, my neurodiversity, and the loudness of other neurodivergent children at night. Some children with autism were severely affected and really shouldn't have been there; I felt the same way about myself. I experienced starvation on numerous occasions here, often daily. This was typically due to behavioural issues, and I would simply be left to go hungry. I attempted to escape from here many times, and when I did, I sought drugs to numb the pain of everything happening to me. Upon my return, I would be twisted up and locked in my room. There was a significant amount of bullying at Oakbank, and the staff would often encourage it. Oakbank was much larger than Scalloway and had both boys and girls. I was always denied home visits with my family. I would watch other children go home to their families or foster parents on weekends while I remained there. Being in care for so long meant I missed out on precious childhood moments with my sister, moments that I can never reclaim. There is no doubt that my time in care has negatively impacted every part of my life. It changed my worldview and harmed my mental health. As a neurodivergent individual, the environment I

was placed in never felt safe, which hindered my ability to learn. As an adult, I have struggled to maintain a job due to a lack of education and skills. For many years, I lived in a state of high alert instead of receiving the support I needed, which has had a cascading effect on my life. Although I have never been incarcerated, my experiences in care have left me feeling institutionalized. I now realize that I became accustomed to that kind of environment; I got used to the shouting, bullying, and violence. I currently experience issues with my ankles and wrists from injuries sustained during that time, and there are moments when I walk down the street and my knees give out.