

Submission to the joint Education Committee in relation to the review of the retention of records Act.2019.

Tom Cronin.

Date.8-11-2019

Tom Cronin , a Survivor, has been involved in helping Survivors for 20 years, a past member of the Board of Caranua who resigned in 2018 due to the mistreatment and disregard of Survivors. He currently is a member of the Consultation group set up by the Dept.of Education .

SUBMISSION

Survivors must have full control and access over their records, because they may need to access them for legal , personal, or a multitude of other reasons.

2 .I believe that the Bill is dangerous whereby a precedent could be set for future enquiries, redress, or other processes.

3.These precious records should be treated as a treasure and a gift we must learn from the past mistakes we made in our Society and help to lay safeguards that we will need to protect the Children of the State into the future. We should not be afraid to face the past ,if we lock away for Seventy Five years the very information that could be vital to our present and future generations ,because without it we cannot deal with the present and future in an informed manner.

4. I believe that most of the Survivors polled in a survey carried out by the Dept.of Education indicated that they ,the Survivors, were in favor of having them available now.

5. I believe that close Family members should have access to the records.

6. The Ryan report gave a promise that the records would remain confidential, However this promise was only made to placate the Survivors, and is not binding, the wishes of the Survivors is paramount in this issue.

7 .All of the Administrative Records on how the Institutions were run and evidence of general punishment ,beatings, unpaid working records, release details etc .should be also made available immediately .

8. All of the Records and testimonies of Survivors should be available ,with the consent of the Survivors to the general Public ,in Public Libraries, Schools, etc.The knowledge gleaned from these records by Students will be invaluable to our Society and should form part of the national history curriculum of the 19th.and 20th.Century in Ireland.

9. These historical documents which were given under a very great deal of pain by Survivors should not be locked away.

Locked away as Children and now our records locked away again. This bill is a disgrace. We would call on the Committee to use all of its influence to convince the Minister that this bill is a dangerous and a retrograde step and should be revoked immediately.

Tom Cronin