

HIA REF: 3

Witness Name: HIA 3

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF HIA 3

I, HIA 3, will say as follows:-

Personal Details

1. I was born on [REDACTED]. I lived in [REDACTED] with my mother, father, two brothers and two sisters. I am the second youngest.
2. I attended [REDACTED] School. [REDACTED] My father was a geography teacher in [REDACTED]. In the summer of 1987 I had a summer job gathering stones in [REDACTED]. Two other boys called LS37 [REDACTED] and LS38 [REDACTED] worked there that summer. They bullied and abused me. LS38 [REDACTED] was the worst as he was the instigator. They threw stones at me and pushed me around. On one occasion they also sexually abused me. The stones they threw at me hit me on the head and I thought I was taking a brain haemorrhage. I was also thinking negative thoughts and I had a nervous breakdown. As a result I was admitted to Lissue Hospital by my GP Dr J.F.Gillespie from [REDACTED] Surgery. I was thirteen years old. I think I was there to attend relaxation classes and to learn how to control my thoughts and manage my feelings. I believe I was admitted to Lissue as St Luke's Hospital in Armagh did not take children. My father's uncle was in St Luke's for most of his life.

Lissue House (02/11/1987 to 19/02/1988)

3. A few of the nurses behaved in a way which was unprofessional. I was mentally and physically abused in Lissue. The staff grabbed and pushed me to get me to do what they wanted. They grabbed my shoulders and the back of my neck. They were physically rough with us. One of the nurses in particular was a bully. He was either called **LS3** or **LS4**. He was in his thirties, thin, cocky and had blonde hair. He punched and shook me any time he saw me. He made fun of us and our problems and said things to me like "is your head still on your shoulders?". He always made sure no other member of staff was watching. I saw him pushing and making fun of another resident called **LS41**. **LS41** was from [REDACTED]. He walked around shouting out of the blue. I think he might have had Tourette's syndrome. The staff, particularly **LS39** **LS40** mimicked him. They tortured him and made little of his problem. I witnessed staff being physically abusive to him and on one occasion banging him against a wall. It really annoyed me and it made me feel more depressed. Whilst there was no sexual abuse the staff made suggestive sexual comments to me.
4. Another nurse called **LS34** was friends with **LS39** and they were always together. She was nice but at times she was sharp in how she spoke to me. There was a Canadian woman and a girl called **LS42** who were the nurses on duty at night. They were both nice. I can't remember the names of any other members of staff in Lissue.
5. In November 1987 the INLA **LS43**, who also came from [REDACTED], was captured. It was shown on the news. **LS39** made fun of me saying 'that boy is not far away from you, he will be after you next'. The other nurses laughed. They tried to scare me. I was vulnerable.
6. I was in Lissue to get better not to be scared. This taunting went on and left me distressed. The people looking after me were not the professional people they were supposed to be.

7. We went to school in a portacabin. The teacher was a man who I think was called **LS 44**. He would have been in his late twenties and I felt he was very effeminate. He would ask us suggestive questions.
8. **LS 44** was a bully. If you didn't learn or answer any questions he would threaten to make you stay behind after class or put you in detention or prevent you from getting home at the weekend.
9. Every so often my family and I had to attend family group therapy. It was held in a big glass house at the back of the main building. I remember on one occasion my brother **LS 44** walked out in the middle of a session because they were asking many degrading questions about our personal lives. They asked my family personal questions and asked me about my sexuality. I felt the questions were too deep and were humiliating. The sessions left me and my family feeling very uncomfortable. My parents never queried this because they thought that it was part of my therapy and they trusted that Lissue were doing the right thing for me.
10. There was a consultant psychiatrist in Lissue. I think he may have been called **LS39**. He was an evil man. One day I asked **LS34** if I could see him and she said 'no he's not in a good mood today'. I felt that he didn't make himself available depending on his temperament and that was wrong. He was supposed to be there to help me when I needed him. I don't think he was very professional. When I did see him he was not very pleasant or helpful. He would ask me degrading questions which belittled me and affected my self-esteem.
11. My mother and father were allowed to come and visit me during the week. I used to get home every Friday and my parents took me back the following Sunday. I always cried when I was being taken back on the Sunday. I didn't want to go back. My parents would not listen to what it was like in Lissue. My father was a very straight-laced school teacher who refused to believe anything bad of professional people. One Sunday night when I was refusing to go back to

Lissue my father lost his temper with me to such an extent that his cousin and his wife had to take me back to Lissue.

12. Every time I saw my mother and father I asked them to take me home. I told them what it was like in Lissue but they wouldn't believe me. They told me to catch myself on and that I was in a good place. My parents put their trust in these professionals in Lissue to help me get better and I feel that that trust was abused.
13. They didn't understand what it was like. It was like a concentration camp. We had to go to bed at a certain time. I think I was in a room on my own when I first went and then I moved into a dorm with about five other boys. Sometimes I couldn't sleep at night with so much going on in my head and I would have got up in the middle of the night and walked around. The staff shouted at me and grabbed me by the shoulders to put me back to bed. I felt there was little understanding or care shown to me.
14. My form teacher at [REDACTED] school was called LS45 [REDACTED] and she came to visit me once.
15. I was given medication in Lissue after dinner but I don't know what it was.
16. Eventually I stopped thinking that I was having a brain haemorrhage. I became stronger mentally and after 3 months I was released from Lissue.


Life after care

17. My life was ruined by Lissue. I wouldn't talk to anybody about it. My father and mother wouldn't understand what was eating away at me inside. Any time I tried to speak to my mother and father about the abuse in Lissue they told me to brush it under the carpet and get on with my life so I have never reported the abuse to anyone before now.

18. When I left Lissie I returned home and went back to school at [REDACTED] I saw LS38 and LS37 at school. There was some emotional and a little physical bullying in the corridors at school but it was not as bad as before. As my father was a teacher at the school I felt that there was a lot of pressure and expectation on me to do well but the three months that I had spent in Lissie had had such a profound effect on me that I was not able to perform at school. I left school in Fourth Year and have no G.C.S.E.s.
19. My family relationships have been affected and I do not have a good relationship with my father or my siblings. I could not hold down jobs or mix with other people. I have had a couple of relationships but they didn't work out.
20. I tried to block out the bullying and mental torture that I suffered by turning to alcohol. I have spent time in St Luke's Hospital addiction unit. I became an alcoholic at sixteen and the alcohol led to depression and I am still taking anti-depressants. I stopped drinking over 5 years ago but I can never forget the abuse I suffered and still get panic attacks. I have had counselling all my life because I am not happy with my life. I make an appointment as and when I need it and I regularly phone Lifeline. All my problems stem from my time in Lissie.
21. I saw a psychiatrist in relation to my alcoholism called [REDACTED]. After telling him about the abuse by LS38 and LS37 I worked up the courage to tell the police in April 2015. The two men were questioned by the police and the matter was referred to the PPS. The PPS decision in respect of any prosecution is pending.

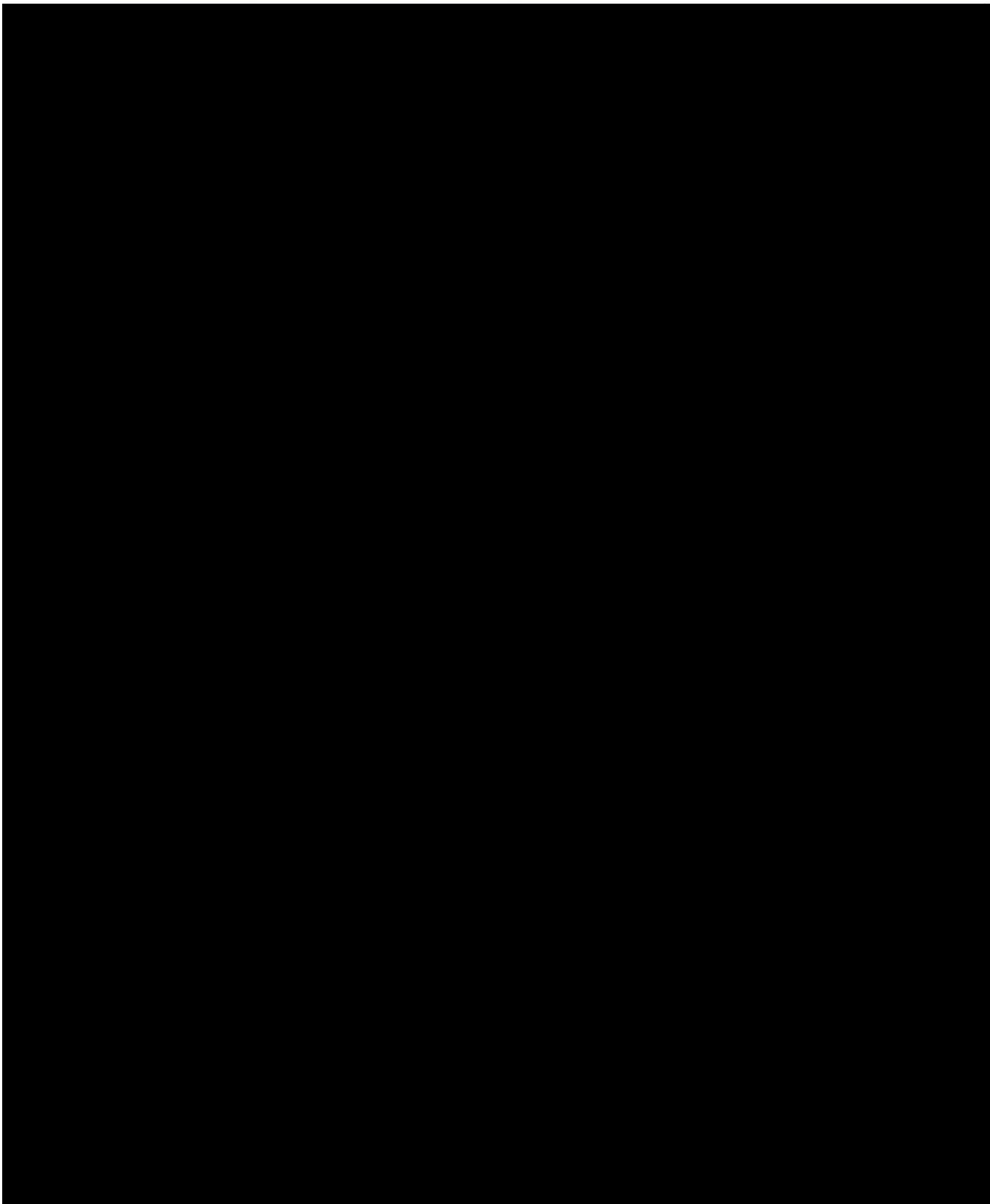
Statement of Truth

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

HIA 3
Signed 

Dated 6/2/16

HIA 3



3/11/87. Morning + Afternoon

Went to school this morning after attending group meeting. Telephone call received from LS1 [redacted] stating that HIA 3 [redacted] was having a headache + had become tearful. At breakline was observed to be having an anxiety/panic attack. Relaxation

HIA 3

IN-PATIENT NURSING NOTES

HIA 3

Name

Date

Doctor

carried out, deep breathing + talking through his worries, fears + innermost thoughts. Stated he felt he was going mad. Reassured ++. Given drink of milk - said throat felt very dry. Out of school for remainder of morning. Chatter more freely after school. Participated in group relaxation, which he enjoyed. Later group had a debate. Was able to address the chairperson although under some stress. Able to control his voice + coped well. Praised ++, looking a little more cheerful at tea-time.

LS34

3-11-87 Depressed + crying + wringing hands c/o headache fear of brain haemorrhage, Jill took a small group including Brian for relaxation, alright until he phoned home, only speaking a few seconds then put phone down, crying, when I asked why he said parents were visiting to night would be here shortly, he felt very homesick and wanted to go home. I took them to an office we discussed his fears and how he could cope with same, said at school he got anxious, did not cry, would tell teacher he felt sick would be sent to matron or to dad (teacher in school) anxiousness would go away + he could return to class. said if he could talk to someone when he felt down, he felt better; up for a game of pool with a few peers and

LS124

LS7

HIA 3

3.12.87.

HIA 3 unable to share a joke with his peers & staff, he likes to sit & have a laugh at other peers but doesn't like the joke to be on him. Tonight staff teasing him and he was unable to take it, ran out of the room and began to cry, when spoken to kindly he settled quickly. Parents & rest of family attended for F.T.

LS87

HIA119

7
 8. 11. 87 HIA 3 watching TV with obvious
 enjoyment but did become restless watching
 outdoor parents. mother asked to speak to
 staff, she said HIA 3 said, that the staff
 had written that he was angry. mother
 was informed of what had actually been
 written in report. She said that HIA 3
 would often have been angry at home
 when he didn't get his own way &
 his "complaints" had affected the household
 and that HIA 3 seemed relieved that
 HIA 3 was in hospital. She was happy
 about him being here and had confidence
 that staff would help him HIA 3
 not talking freely to them

HIA 3

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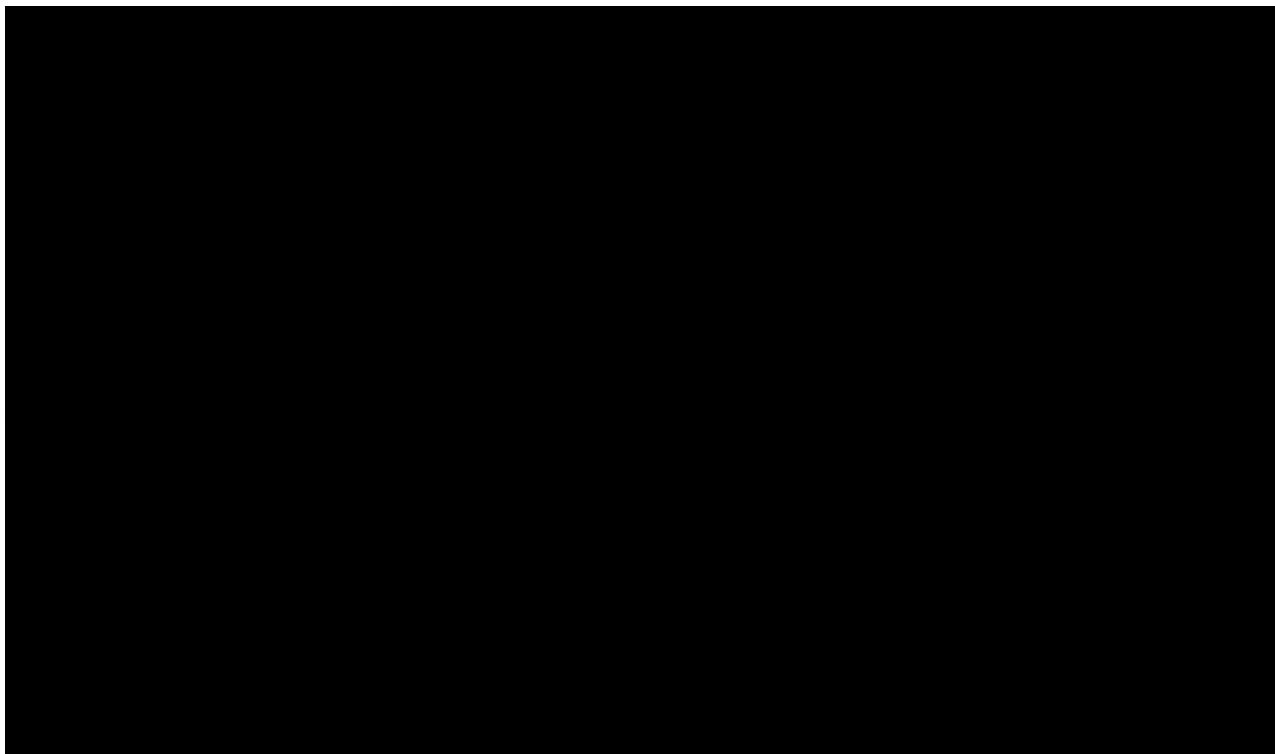
Date

Doctor

and she wondered if anything specific had happened) not unduly upset when visitors left. Listened to Radio cassette and joined in group again. At bed-time said he'd enjoyed this visit but had made him feel very homesick. Asked for light to be left on a little and door open. Asleep by 11.30pm. Restless at times.

HIA 3

LS78



8-11-87 talked to child this pm. Stated in August last, LS38
 [redacted] 14 yrs old & HIA 3 were
 [redacted]
 gathering stones & throwing them onto a

trailer, were receding fields, gathering stones
 before land level (one stone thrown on trailer
 by LS38 accidentally hit HIA 3 on the head
 resulting very sore head, felt dizzy & faint.
 This caused fear of brain haemorrhage. Did not
 tell parents because Dad is quite temperamental
 would have went to boys house. Child does not
 want dad to know of this incident.

b/p slight headache this morn but feels happier
 in unit although still feels homesick but can now
 accept separation LS7

HIA 3

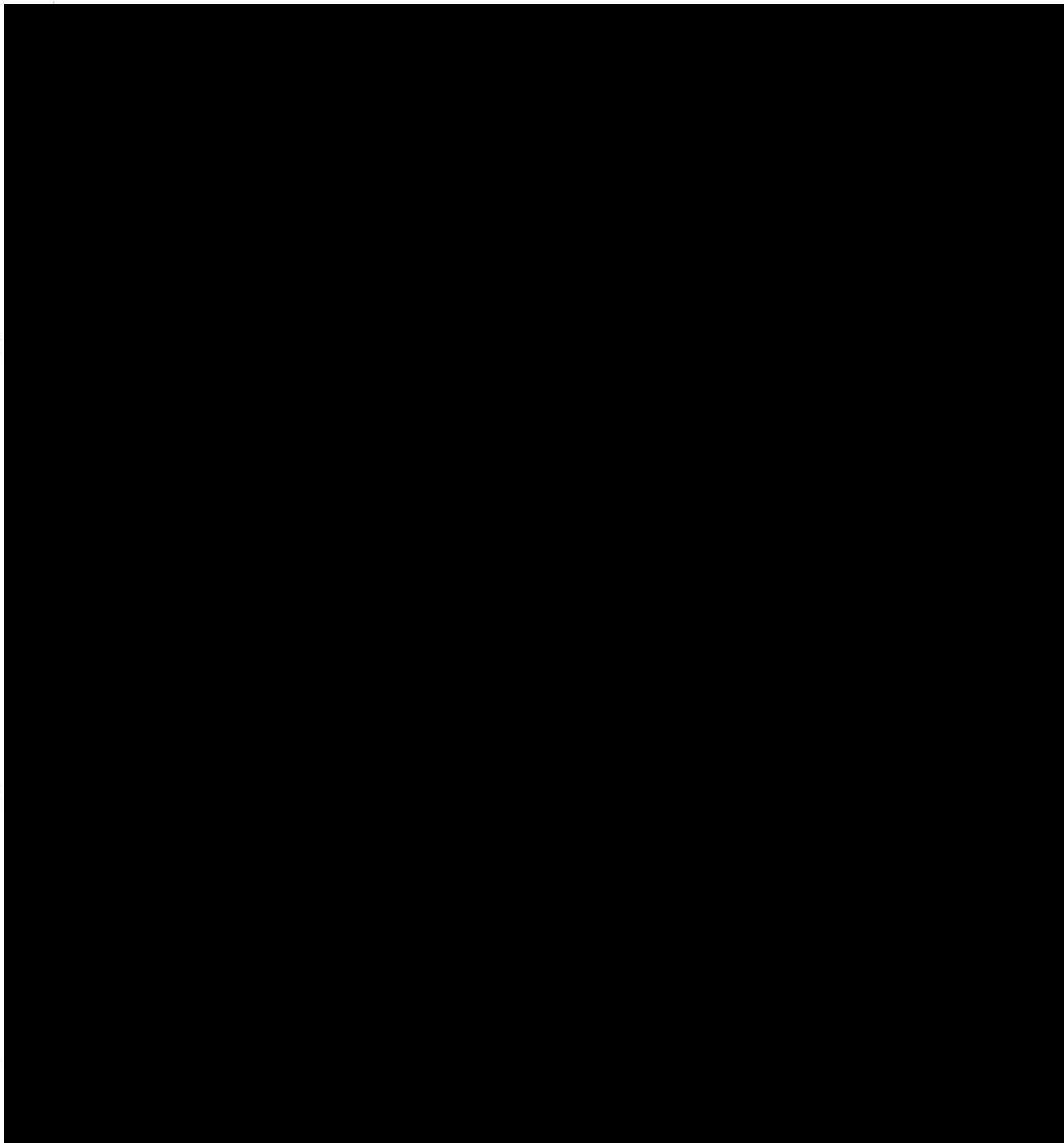
IN-PATIENT NURSING NOTES

HIA 3

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Doctor



1/3.12.87

*Played table games this evening, interaction with peers poor cannot take
(~~control~~) criticism easily. At bedtime settled into bed as normal
but not asleep. Observed by staff from corridor but HIA 3 was not*

AP 940

HIA 3

aware of this. After other peers were asleep, HIA 3 got out of bed and quietly crept out of room just as he was about to wake another peer he was spoken to by staff. When asked what he was doing he replied "nothing". He then went back into room but before getting into bed he put his hands on his head and started to complain of being afraid and not knowing what come over him. It was quite obvious that HIA 3 had been caught on and was attempting to redeem himself. Spoken to firmly by staff, went back to bed settled with no problems.

LS79

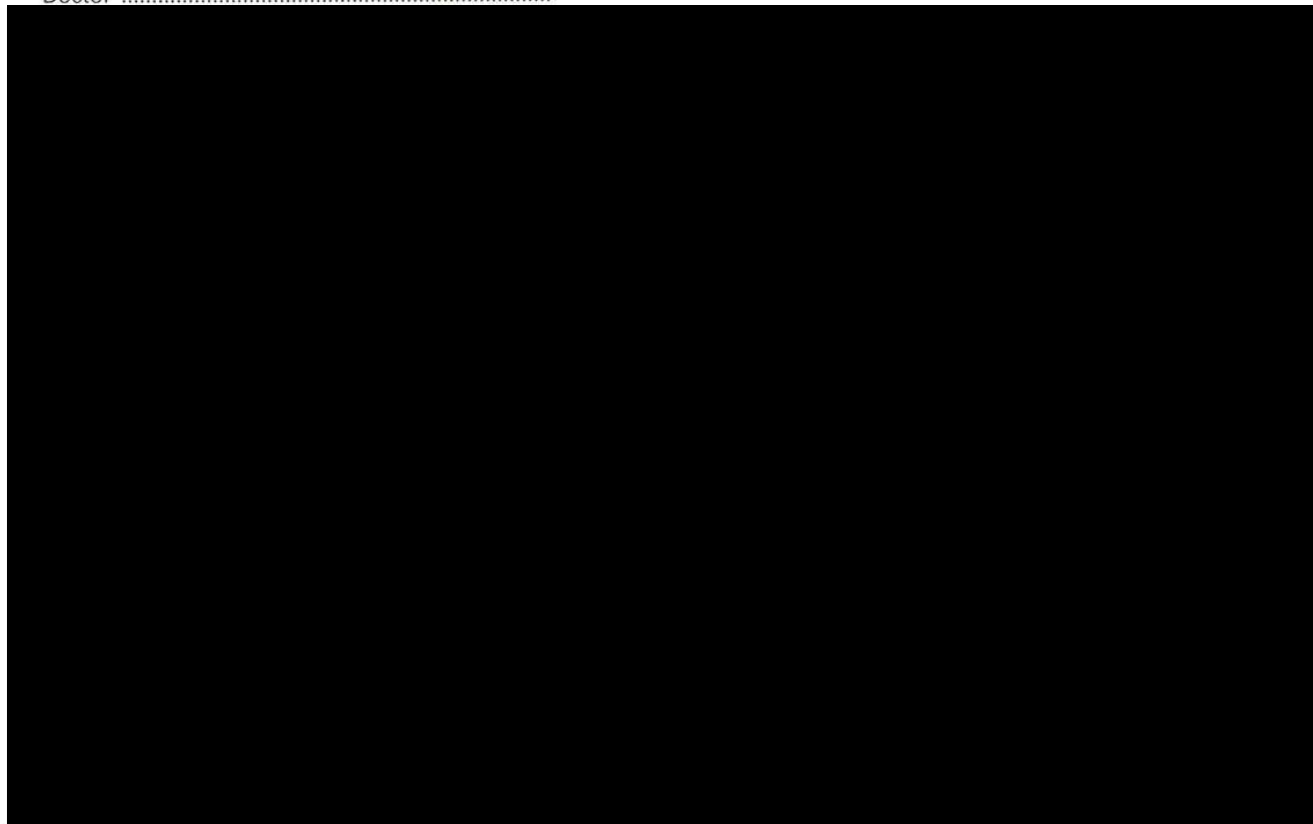
HIA 3

IN-PATIENT NURSING NOTES

Name ... HIA 3

Date

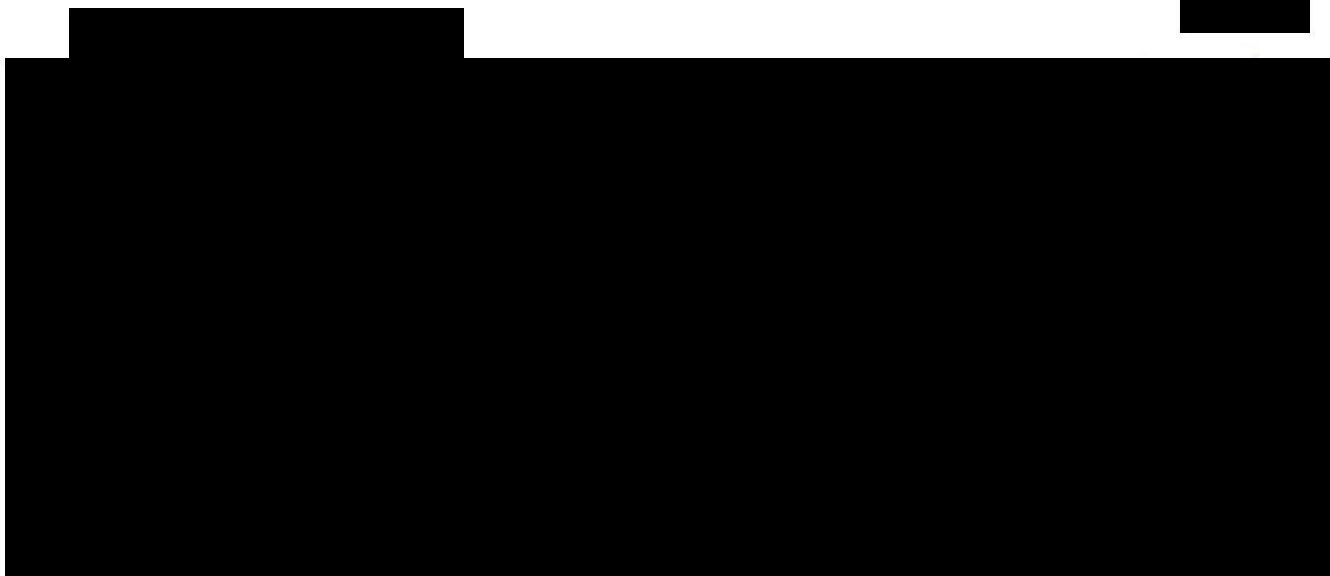
Doctor



$\frac{20}{21}$ 12-87

Sat watching television with peers appeared in good form. little
interacting with peers this evening. After going to bed HIA 3 got up and
told staff he felt funny all over but could not say what was wrong.
Send back to bed and was soon asleep. Slept well all night

LS79



IN-PATIENT NURSING NOTES

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3/4.1.88 HIA 3 did not mix with peers tonight
 Doesn't have much in common with them. Read a
 book while the others watched T.V. Mood pleasant
 on approach. At bedtime settled well. At 11.15 pm
 clo having a bad dream. Dreamt about ghosts. Felt
 frightened. Talked to staff for a while then felt more
 relaxed. Says that recently he has been dreaming
 about only having a few minutes to live and when
 he wakes up he still thinks about it. Has dreamt
 this a few times. / After chatting he was content
 to settle with lights dimmed. Settled back to sleep
 from 12 mn and slept well remainder of night.

LS125