

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

MRT

Support person present: No

1. My name is MRT. My surname as a child was [REDACTED]. My parent's names were [REDACTED]. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1945. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going to Australia

2. My dad died when I was ten years old and that left my mother with six of us. Two of my sisters [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and my brother [REDACTED] were married and were living away from home. Our dad died in 1955. Mum and dad had been butler and housekeeper to [REDACTED] and his father. Dad had become quite sick whilst working up there so we came back to Edinburgh and dad got a job as a butler and mum became a chef for the American Embassy. It was after dad got this job that he passed away.
3. We lived downstairs and they were upstairs. Poor dad had a heart attack and died. He'd had a blood clot on his leg which moved to his heart. Mum was only 44 but she still had three of us living at home. [REDACTED] who was around seventeen or eighteen at the time, [REDACTED] who was fourteen and I was ten. My father was a Catholic and my mother was a Protestant. It was very difficult back then being from a mixed marriage. I didn't fully understand all the problems until I had discussions with my mother in the sixties.
4. Mum told me that my religion was Protestant which I didn't understand. This was because of being called [REDACTED]. I always thought that [REDACTED] was a Catholic surname.

Mum said that although she was married in a Catholic Church, she wanted all six of her children to say we were Protestants because she feared that we would be disadvantaged getting jobs if people thought we were Catholics. I initially didn't know what she was talking about but years later she was proved right.

5. Without dad around mum needed money so she took out a loan. She was trying hard to look after us all on her own. Mum managed to get us into a room and kitchen in [REDACTED] near Leith. It was a small place with a lobby and a toilet. She managed to keep that going but she was working in a jobs from early morning till midnight. She actually held down three jobs at the same time. She was classed as a chef although they did nickname her 'Cookie'. She worked at the Labour Club on Princes Street, for [REDACTED] and also for the American Embassy. Mum just battled on because she had the three of us at home to look after. The other three who were married were all fine but us three younger ones she just had to look after.
6. I was at Bruntsfield School in Edinburgh where I was good at sports. My friend [REDACTED] and I used to run at Meadowbank. [REDACTED] and I were always first and second. Unfortunately she was the one that was first. We were always together in the relay team.
7. Mum was just keeping things ticking over. She had been ostracised by dad's Catholic family because she got my dad cremated. Back at that time the Catholic Church position was that you couldn't get cremated if you were a Catholic. It must have been horrible for mum because she was on her own with three children and no support. I don't know how she got in touch with the Fairbridge Society but when she did, the deal was, 'Come out to Australia, the sun shines, it's warm, good education, you'll be looked after'. They were looking for widows, widowers and orphans. They were also taking underprivileged children from the UK and sending them overseas.
8. I was still at school in 1957 and mum had made an application for us to go to Australia. I think the idea was that [REDACTED] would stay on in the house in Edinburgh. One day I came home from school and found Sandy our wee dog in the lobby. The bedroom door was shut and the kitchenette door was shut. I thought this was strange and then I found my brother [REDACTED] with his [REDACTED], he had

committed suicide. That was the straw that broke the camel's back for mum. [REDACTED] had never wanted us to leave, he didn't want the separation.

9. [REDACTED] had a sickness, he had a lot of depression and of course that sort of thing was never acknowledged back then. [REDACTED] had been in and out of Rosslyn Hospital in Edinburgh. This would have been a place where people with psychiatric issues went back then. Many times he would get out. On occasion [REDACTED] would find his way back to [REDACTED] It wouldn't have been the first time that the police would have been at mum's door asking if [REDACTED] was there. That was usually early in the morning. When [REDACTED] died mum got him buried.
10. After my dad had died, mum had been talking about emigrating to Canada, New Zealand, South Africa or Australia. By the time she actually applied to Canada, New Zealand and South Africa. They said no, maybe because she was already 44 with three dependent children. Obviously they must have wondered how she would cope in a foreign country.
11. Somewhere along the line, someone had told mum about this Fairbridge Society and Australia and the fact that they were looking for widows. There were adverts on TV at the time as I remember. The adverts showed happy smiling people, farming, sunshine and kangeroos. So mum must have researched all that detail. My brother [REDACTED] had found out that we would potentially be going and that seems to be what took him over the edge. That's information that I found out later, I'd no idea at the time of his death.
12. Mum was really taken by all the Fairbridge Society propoganda about the education and the opportunities. Mum and I had now been accepted to go to Australia. The information that Fairbridge were telling people turned out to be lies from beginning to end.

Leaving Scotland

13. There were twelve children who got on the ship together to go to Australia. I didn't know any of them at the time. We were looked after by an Australian couple who acted as our caretakers or chaperones. In the first instance we had to go to Kent. I remember that mum put me on the train to go to Kent. Someone must have been looking after us on the train because mum never came down all the way to Kent with me. But I don't really remember the journey. I was sent down there on the train with the other children. We went to a kind of home for a short time and staff there then rigged us out with uniforms of brown and gold. I remember going up to London and they bought us some clothes but we never saw them again or got to wear them after we arrived in Australia.

14. We sailed on the SS Iberia of the P&O line from Tilbury in Essex [REDACTED] 1958 along with this married couple who were going to Sydney. My recollections of the journey on the ship are that it was great. As children we had a great time on the ship. There were other children there. Three of us got off at Fremantle and the others went on to Molong, Fairbridge Farm in Sydney.

15. We arrived in Fremantle, Western Australia at the end of [REDACTED] 1958. When we got to Fremantle there was myself and another girl who was also going to Fairbridge and she told me that her sister was already there. Mr ^{MIP} [REDACTED], the Principal of Fairbridge, met the ship at Fremantle and then we travelled by car from Fremantle down to Pinjarra. They took us directly to the cottage that we would be staying in. In my case that was Wolfe cottage. At Fairbridge, all these cottages were named after famous English people. Wolfe, Nelson, Florence Nightingale etc.

Life in care – Australia

Fairbridge Farm, Pinjarra

First day at institution

16. On arrival at Pinjarra Mr MIP took me to Wolfe Cottage and he introduced me to a lady called MRU. She said, "MRT, you will call me auntie". I told her that she wasn't my auntie and that I had all my aunts and uncles in Edinburgh. So from that moment on with her I was 'dead meat'. When I spoke to her she said, "Can't you speak English?" I was really puzzled because I knew I was speaking English. This became something she would say to me all the time. The role she was actually playing in my life was more something like would be called a housemother. I don't remember any other staff working with MRU but her daughter did live there.

17. I was shown to the dormitory and there were other little beds there. I had my suitcase and my clothes. They said something along the lines that I wouldn't need that. Next thing I found I was down to shorts, a t-shirt and bare feet. I never saw the suitcase ever again. I think the clothes I was given were hand-me-downs. I found out about 45 years later that all the suitcases were sent home to Britain and the migration process started again with other children. I got this information from the Child Migrant Trust. The new clothes that we got for travelling were never worn.

General

18. April in Pinjarra was quite warm, certainly a lot warmer than Scotland. I can never remember a time when I was ever in anything but shorts. I was never in trousers. It was a uniform and we all had to wear it. I was almost always in bare feet. My feet were always covered with cuts. They said that we all had to look nice when we went out representing the school. Occasionally I was allowed a wee cardigan but it was always shorts. It's hard to explain how I felt, I was away from my home, in this hot climate with all these different people and Mrs MRU repeatedly telling me to "Speak English".

19. Nothing had been explained to us prior to leaving Scotland or in Kent or even on the trip across about what to expect when we arrived in Australia. All that I knew was that I was coming out to Australia and that I would stay in a dormitory on a farm, outside Perth. I was also thinking that my mum would be out soon and we would move on.
20. I thought I was going to show up at Pinjarra and someone was going to look after me. Because that is how it was all sold in the Fairbridge Society literature. It was sold like it was a holiday camp. However if you watch the movie, Oranges and Sunshine, then that is almost 99% right in its depiction of life for migrant children.
21. I don't remember any other Scottish people being in there. I do think that all the children there were migrants from Britain though. I think that some of the cottage aunties were Australian or English.
22. Fairbridge was a village with loads of cottages and other associated buildings. It was similar in design to a Butlins Holiday Camp in the UK until you found out more about it. The place had loads of trenches to drain the water away because when it rained, it really rained. I think there were twelve to fifteen girls in each dormitory. The boys had their own cottages. I remember that there were brothers and sisters at the home. The age span in my cottage was five or six up to about sixteen. Boys and girls were kept apart all of the time, even on outings.
23. I had to adapt quickly to the routine at Fairbridge. MRU was the type of woman who suppressed you. Because she kept saying "Speak English" to me, I didn't know what to do or what was expected of me. So instead of being this extrovert little girl who had left Edinburgh and as I was around my mother, I just didn't talk much. I stayed quiet because I was too scared to speak.
24. I was wondering why I couldn't speak English, I didn't understand why she kept saying these things to me. I questioned myself because I knew that my mother had understood what I was saying. I was called all other sorts of names as well. 'Four eyes' and 'carrot top' because I had freckles and I wore those pink NHS Glasses. I

would be called these names in the cottage, at Primary School and it was at its worst when I went to Pinjarra High School.

Mealtimes

25. At breakfast you got porridge or cereal and maybe a bit of toast and jam if there was enough food. I had to go walking down in my bare feet with a billy-cart down to a General Store to pick up groceries. You had to pick up all the provisions that Mrs MRU had ordered and then you had to take them all back to the house. Once you had picked up the rations, you had to make them last.
26. I know that at tea time we sometimes used to get bread and dripping which is basically bread and animal fat. This would happen when the provisions ran out.

Washing and bathing / Hygiene

27. I think that the bathing area was just a shower or showers. I don't remember there being a bath. We were told when to have showers, it was quite regimented. You were told when to do everything.

Leisure time - Trips and holidays

28. Sometimes we did have trips out. For example the Royal Show was on in the September and I think we went to that. I think we were all done up with hats on but I remember that it was about 35 degrees and so hot. I played some sports because that was my outlet on the farm.
29. I did hockey and netball. I even did a bit of football, not Aussie Rules though. Football to me is soccer. I did everything to get me out of the cottage and to get a bit of breathing space. The sport was either taken by Father MIS the priest or the cottage mother. As I remember, the only time we mixed with other cottages was at sports. Mixing was forbidden. There were brothers and sisters who lived in cottages next to each other but they never mixed together. They weren't even allowed to sit in church together.

Schooling

30. I was quite academic and they had Fairbridge Farm, Primary School just down the road but still within the grounds of the farm. I went there for about a month before the teachers said that I was too advanced for that level of education. So they sent me to Pinjarra High. You had to wear a uniform to go there and that was the time when I got allowed to wear socks and shoes.
31. When you got to school the local kids knew we were a 'Fairbridgian' child from the home. The driver from Fairbridge would come at lunchtime with all the lunches. I think we got a bottle of milk, a sandwich and a bit of cake. So the other kids would go on about this and you were classed as a weirdo or a homey. This was name used for kids who came from a home.
32. You had to get the bus to and from school each day. It would pick you up at Fairbridge and travel to Pinjarra High which would take about 10-15 minutes. At the end of the day we would do the same journey in reverse and then we had to take any school uniform off and get back to bare feet, shorts and top. You then had to get straight back into your chores. If you didn't do this straight away you'd be pounced on by the auntie. She was a suppresser, there's no other word I can use for her, and that's being kind. My feet were soft as hell when I arrived, then we were exposed to hot gravel and dust etc.
33. MRU would be at me all the time. She would be saying, "You stupid girl, stupid, speak English". I think that's where my anxiety started, my stomach would be churning and I was nervous all the time. I felt like I was walking on eggshells from morning till night.
34. At school I did end up passing my subjects and I got a certificate but I wasn't a great student and I put that down to circumstances I found myself in at the home. In general the girls at Fairbridge were being groomed for a life in service or domesticity. The boys were being groomed to work on farms or provide cheap labour.

Healthcare

35. My bare feet used to get into a terrible mess. They were always covered in blisters and cuts. I was always in bare feet. My mosquito bites were really bad and unsightly, it was like having Chickenpox all the time. I would occasionally get taken over by the auntie to The Nightingale which was the medical ward and they would wash my sores. They would make a little dab of something here and there to ease the pain and itching. Being Scottish and fair skinned I also suffered a lot from sun and wind burn. As a consequence, I've had skin cancer problems for the last thirty years.
36. By the time mum took me out in [REDACTED] 1958 I had a big abscess from an infected mosquito bite. Mum urgently got me to a doctor and he lanced it. I have another scar which also came from an abscess that I got at Pinjarra.

Religious instruction

37. We got to wear shoes and socks at church. I really wasn't interested in church. I got a confirmation though, the priest was a Reverend ^{MIS} [REDACTED] I was confirmed as a Roman Catholic but my mum always told me I was a Protestant.

Work

38. Before and after school you always had chores to do. One of my chores I had to do was mix up the polish with kerosene. You had no mask, no rubber gloves and it was a messy task. Then I had to stain the whole veranda, every single bit of wood. Then I had to go back round again and polish every inch of it. The other chore that I sometimes had was lighting the fires before everyone else got up in the morning. I was really bad at lighting the fires because sometimes the wood wasn't dry. This would be around June, July and August which were the coldest months. They were also the wettest months and when it rained, it really rained. If I couldn't get the fire started due to the wood being damp I would get very anxious and frightened of what the house mother would say.

Christmas and Birthdays

39. On my thirteenth birthday in 1958 I was at Pinjarra and mum had sent me a parcel. But of course Auntie had got into it first. She gave me hell because of what I had received. There were lollies and bits and pieces. Auntie said that I shouldn't get all that because she said there were children there who had nobody to send them gifts. Fairbridge even sent a letter to my mum to rebuke her. They said the parcel was extravagant.

Contact with Family

40. We were given Aerogrammes which were like Air Mail to allow us to write home. I wrote home to my mother. I was writing, 'Please, please get me out of here'. I was covered in mosquito bites, I was in such a mess. There were no fly screens round the windows and we were out in the bush. I sealed my letter to my mum and the next day MRU [REDACTED] said that she wanted to talk to me. Every time she spoke to me my stomach would turn upside down with anxiety. She had ripped open the letter that I had sent to my mum.
41. She ranted on at me about what I could and couldn't say in a letter. She said that after tea we would sit and write another letter to my mother. So we sat at the kitchen table and I had to write along the lines that I was so happy to be there. Also I had to write that I was enjoying it so much. MRU [REDACTED] dictated to me what I had to write. I felt that I had no liberty and no freedom. I was a nothing. Inside I was cursing my mum, cursing everybody because I couldn't get the truth out. I had now become so introvert that I hardly talked.
42. My mum wrote back to the home asking for permission to come and see me. I went there in the [REDACTED] of 1958 and my mum came out in the [REDACTED] of 1958 on the RMS Stratheden. I wouldn't normally have known what was in my mum's letters though because anything I did get to see had been censored first by the cottage mother.

Emotional care / support

43. I don't recall ever receiving any emotional care or support from the staff at the home. No empathy or compassion was ever shown towards me.

Personal Possessions

44. Any personal possessions that I had taken with me from home were taken away from me on my arrival at Pinjarra. The only thing that I got to keep were my glasses but even they were a source of bullying.

Nature and frequency of abuse

45. Emotional and verbal abuse was pretty much all the time.

Reporting of abuse

46. I had tried to tell my mother about what I was going through, but my letters were censored. So the home knew how I felt but nothing changed. For all mum knew, everything was hunky dory. I didn't feel there was anywhere I could go, where someone would listen to me.

Life after Fairbridge Farm, Pinjarra

Leaving Pinjarra

47. Even when things got really tough, I still had no doubts that my mum was coming back for me. Mum eventually did come for me originally in the September of 1958. I think Fairbridge had very carefully arranged for her to be given her a position on a Sheep Station way up north in the bush. Eventually mum was given permission to meet with me and come down to Pinjarra. On this occasion I was allowed to go away with my mum for a week.

48. I have in my records a letter from the Secretary of the Fairbridge Society which states; ^{MRT} has been released to her mother who is still housekeeping in Perth. She left on the after finishing her school exams. They made some remarks about me having gained weight and gotten taller and tried to say that my time at Fairbridge had obviously helped me and gained many friends. It was a load of rubbish.
49. Between mum arriving in Australia in the of 1958 and me leaving Pinjarra on the 1958, mum was seeing me as often as she could. I don't know how she managed it all though because she was working well away from Pinjarra and she was new to Australia. When we did get together, I couldn't really say much because we were never alone. I remember that I was asking my mother the question, "Why do I have to be here until I'm 21?" I know that this idea had been put in my mind by the cottage mother ^{MRU}.
50. So it is now clear to me that my mother was fighting to get me out as soon as possible but was having bureaucratic problems with the Fairbridge Society. I know that there was a suggestion from Fairbridge that my mum had signed something to say that I had to stay a ward of the state until I was 21. My mother really fought against that and I know that on health grounds my mother was appalled that my mosquito bites had been allowed to develop into abscesses. My mother wrote to everybody she could to fight to get me back.
51. I have in my possession a copy of another Fairbridge letter which was written between the Director of the Fairbridge Society and Mr ^{MIP} the Principal of Pinjarra. A passage from it states, 'Thank you for your letter of the 19th. I'm sorry that Mrs has been such a nuisance. I'd like to think that none of the others has caused so much trouble' and then a couple of lines on, 'I quite agree with the view expressed in the last paragraph of your letter and I expect you will let us know when ^{MRT} is restored to her mother. I have no doubt however, that she will miss the life at Fairbridge and all her friends there'.
52. My mum eventually did get me out and we went to live together in a very small place in Cottesloe. I then went to another education establishment called Hollywood High

School which is in Perth. I did a commercial course at Fremantle College. I was an average student again but I passed.

Leaving School

53. I wanted to get a job when I left school, in a factory where I would have earned five shillings more a week than I would have in an office job. However mum didn't want me to do that. She wanted me to go to college and learn office work. I went to Fremantle College and did shorthand, bookkeeping, typing and Dictaphone work. Basically any office type skills. However something happened within my family and my mum said that we had to go back home to Edinburgh. By this time I didn't want to go home because I'd started to enjoy the freedom and the fresh air of Western Australia away from Fairbridge. I'd joined the Girl Guides and I could run around the streets on my bike because it was safe. However because I was under the age of sixteen I couldn't stay and I had to go home with my mum.
54. So in the June of 1960 we set off home again on a ship called the RMS Orontes. We got to Tilbury in July 1960. My brother [REDACTED] had a car and he met us at Tilbury in Essex. So we all went back to Edinburgh. So with all the other family gone it was just mum and I living in Edinburgh until 1965 when I got married. Thank goodness mum had the foresight not to sell the house in [REDACTED] otherwise I don't know where we would have gone.

Back in Edinburgh

55. I got a job doing secretarial work in a Timber Yard called Garland and Rogers in Leith and my husband-to-be [REDACTED] was working in the yard. I was also going to the Edinburgh Royal High School for three nights a week for five years doing additional study for my shorthand, typing and bookkeeping. I eventually got a certificate to say that I'd qualified. I used to walk around St Andrew's Square in Edinburgh looking for a job and I was lucky that an insurance company took me on.

56. I also worked in John Menzies in Rose Street. I had wanted to get money for my mother. Because she had come back to Scotland within two years we had to pay back money for our transport back home. I always wanted to go back to Australia though and I told my husband that. I'd become used to and fallen in love with wide open spaces. I think [REDACTED] my husband thought I was joking until I got hold of some application forms. They were for Canada, New Zealand and Australia and I wrote to all three migration boards. The fact that I'd been a migrant child seemed to stand me in good stead and I was called for an interview for Australia and accepted. They told me that my husband-to-be would have to pay ten pounds.
57. We had fifty pounds saved up, which seemed like a lot back then. We used the ten pounds and gave mum some of our money because she wasn't earning at the time. We had to cancel our departure a couple of times because we hadn't managed to get our wedding arranged. That was in [REDACTED] 1965 on RMS Orcades and we ended up landing in Fremantle, Australia with five pounds in our pocket. We were lucky because I had friends already there.
58. We went to Perth, opened a bank account and [REDACTED] put his name down for a job. We were fortunate and he got a job to start the next again day. We eventually got our own place but because I couldn't at that stage get a job, we were pretty skint. But we managed. We never looked back even though we had some very hard times. My son [REDACTED] was very sick after he was born but I never ever told mum that we had problems.
59. We had two children, [REDACTED] in 1969 and [REDACTED] in 1972 but we kept in touch with home. Every Monday I was guaranteed a letter from home. I was lucky enough to get a job in a bakery eventually in Cottesloe and that was a Scottish couple who ran that. We got our house in May 1968 and that is still my home after 53 years. [REDACTED] got a job as a 'Rubbish Man' because he loved the open air. He did that job for forty years before he died in 2012. [REDACTED] also cleaned a church in Claremont for over thirty years. I had three jobs going at one time.
60. After the bakery I got a job working on the Deli counter in Coles in Fremantle. I got a job in the hospital when it opened but our children were still young. So I got a job on

the catering side, washing the dishes and things. My son [REDACTED] was quite a sickly child so I was only working one night a week. As the children grew up I wanted to do more education so I went back to college.

61. I learned how to use a computer and started ringing up companies to see if they would take me on as a volunteer just so I could get work experience and to get back into the office environment. I wrote to Murdoch University here in Perth and I sent them my résumé. They eventually gave me a job and I stayed there for thirty years.

Campaigning / awareness raising / other organisations

62. I became involved down the years with the Child Migrant Trust here in Australia. I'd received a letter from them. I don't have any idea how they got my details. The CMT paid for me to go back to Scotland under the Child Migrant Scheme in 2013 which was the year after my husband [REDACTED] died.

Records and family tracing

63. My files were eventually lodged with the State Archive for Western Australia. Access was granted in certain circumstances to ex residents of Fairbridge, Pinjarra. Identification was required to be allowed access. I think I got access after October 1996. Pam who was secretary to the group called Old Fairbridgians was at one of the reunions and we were talking. She asked me if I had seven dollars handy and when I asked why, she told me that the records were about to be locked away for fifty years in the state archive and I could pay to get access to mine.
64. I've found out more background information about my experiences after mum got me 'released'. I use that word because that is what was written in my papers. I've also found out a lot from going to reunions. I was learning that other people had worse stories than what I had gone through.

65. So I paid my money and Pam sent me all my paperwork. Then, sometime later the State Archive got in touch with me personally and told me I could have my files. I asked them to forward them on to me which they did. So without having had that discussion with Pam at the reunion I wouldn't have known about how to get my records and they would have ended up locked away for fifty years.

Other matters for relating to migration

66. I became an Australian citizen on [REDACTED] 1987. It was quite easy after my husband and I had settled there. It was a matter of applying for the forms and filling them in. This of course was the second time in Australia for me and I had opted to come across and migrate. So it wasn't necessarily the same for other children who had come across as child migrants. At one stage I held an Australian and a UK passport. I now only hold an Australian passport as I am naturalised because of the time I had lived in Australia after migration.

Impact

67. I have suffered from anxiety all my life which I feel is as a result of some of the things that happened to me during my time at Fairbridge. I don't understand how an adult or anybody can have no empathy in their life. It was constant put-downs and being called 'Stupid Girl'.
68. The biggest and most hurtful thing that happened to me was the constant bullying and sarcastic comments about me not being able to speak English. I should be able to forgive but I can't. Why that type of person was in charge of children I'll never know. Fairbridge Society have a lot to answer for.
69. I have suffered with skin cancer for over thirty years. I have had numerous treatments for this. I put some of this down to the lack of care or supervision shown

to myself and other fair skinned children who were exposed to extreme heat and sunshine upon arriving in Australia.

70. One positive thing that may have come from my Fairbridge experience is that later on in my life I got involved with Scouting. I have loved my experiences with Scouting and it's possible that my experiences at Pinjarra of seeing how children should not be treated has helped me develop practices which are based on the child's needs.
71. The Scouts actually asked me to be on the Welfare Committee Team. My name in scouting was [REDACTED] and I was delighted to take that welfare role on. Apparently they had watched how I operated and thought I would be ideal for that. I actually attended three Jamborees in Australia as the [REDACTED]. These were in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide. On top of that I also took part in five or six Pre Jamborees out in the bush in Western Australia.

Australian Public Apology in Canberra 22nd October 2018

72. I was chosen in a national ballot of four hundred people to attend the apology at the Great Hall, Parliament House, Canberra. It was a very powerful and moving occasion.

Final thoughts

73. Something that I do remember when I look back at my time in Fairbridge with all of these children was that there was very little or no laughter there.
74. I've been back to Fairbridge about three times. One of those times was to show [REDACTED] my late husband where I had been. Another time, one of the old girl scouters asked me how I didn't end up dead, drunk or on drugs following my experiences. I told her that I put it all down to being the daughter of a strong willed mother.

75. I have seven grand-children and I have shown some of them where I lived for more than a year. I consider myself to be an Aussie with a Scottish accent. I won't have anyone knock Australia. I've been 53 years in Australia, I only spent twelve years in Edinburgh.
76. My brother [REDACTED] is buried at [REDACTED] Cemetery in the same plot as my mum. When mum died in 1976 I wasn't in Scotland so my sister-in-law contacted me and said that mum was going to be laid to rest near a bus stop. Mum had always joked that she wanted to be near a bus stop.
77. I just want people to believe me and understand what I went through. I spent a lot of my life believing that I was stupid because I was told that so often.
78. I have no objection to my witness statement being published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry. I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed..... MRT [REDACTED]

Dated..... *11 February 2019*