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Tuesday, 25 February 2020

(10.03 am)

LADY SMITH: Good morning and welcome back to our child migration case study. Most of the faces I see here were here what seems like just yesterday. We're glad to be able to report that we're all ready to get back to the evidence in this case study hearing.

One difference you'll have noticed is our new document display system. I won't bore you with how much work it has taken to get that system up and running. It has been a great challenge and I'm very grateful indeed to the members of the inquiry team who have toiled tirelessly to get this ready for today.

It seems to be working well. It was working last week during our dry runs extremely well. You're probably also aware we had a left field glitch yesterday when the Internet ceased to work in this room, but again it all seems to be up and running now, and fingers crossed that it'll be okay.

I'm saying all this really to apologise in advance if there are any difficulties. We're not expecting them, but please be assured we're on the case and we will stay on the case and get things up and running again as quickly as we can.

Mr MacAulay, I think we have a witness ready for us,

1 is that right?

2 MR MacAULAY: Yes, good morning, my Lady, we do. The first
3 witness is an applicant, he wants to remain anonymous,
4 and to use the name "Scott" in giving evidence.

5 "SCOTT" (sworn)

6 LADY SMITH: Scott, that microphone should pick up your
7 voice very well so that you won't have to shout. You
8 probably now can't work out where the sound is coming
9 from, but it's me, Lady Smith, speaking to you from
10 here. If you have any difficulties at any time, do let
11 me know. I'll tell you if we have a problem in hearing
12 you; I don't think we will.

13 So far as that red file is concerned, I'm going to
14 hand over to Mr MacAulay and he'll explain what happens
15 next. Is that all right with you?

16 A. That's fine.

17 Questions from MR MacAULAY

18 MR MacAULAY: Hello, Scott, can you see me actually?

19 Probably not. I think because you're quite low in the
20 chair, the monitor in front of you is blocking our view.
21 I wonder if that could be changed.

22 (Pause)

23 Is that better, can you see me now?

24 A. I can see you.

25 Q. And I can see you.

1 The first thing I want to do is to ask you to look
2 at your statement, which is in that red folder in front
3 of you. I'll give the reference of the statement for
4 the transcript and that's WIT-1-000000011.

5 If you would turn to the last page, which is
6 page 22. What I want to ask you, Scott, is
7 this: can you confirm, first of all, that you have
8 signed the statement?

9 A. Pardon me?

10 Q. Can you confirm to me that you have signed the statement
11 in front of you? You have signed the statement?

12 A. Yes, I believe this is the one I signed.

13 Q. Is it the case that you have no objection to the
14 statement being used as evidence in this inquiry?

15 A. No, I have no problem with it.

16 Q. And what you have set out in the statement, is that
17 true?

18 A. That's true.

19 Q. I'll be asking you questions based on your statement and
20 perhaps also on other information that the inquiry has
21 ingathered. If there's anything I ask you about and you
22 can't remember or don't know, just say so.

23 A. All right.

24 Q. You can put your statement aside. If there's
25 a particular part of the statement that I'll ask you to

1 look at, it'll be on the screen in front of you, and you
2 might find that more convenient to work from.

3 I don't want to know your date of birth, Scott,
4 because you want to remain anonymous, but can you
5 confirm that you were born in 1935, so I can get a time
6 frame?

7 A. Yes, I can.

8 Q. And you're now in your mid-80s, is that correct?

9 A. Unfortunately, yes.

10 Q. Okay. I think it is the case that you don't have a lot
11 of recollection as to the early years of your life. But
12 have you, along with your son in particular, carried out
13 some research to find out what your background was?

14 A. Yes. My son got this going and it's really brought up
15 a lot of, like ... I thought I was the only one in the
16 family and this has gone on for years. My son decided
17 he wanted to get into this and, well, as I can see now,
18 everything really broke lose and it really went haywire.

19 Like I say, there's a lot I probably can't remember,
20 because I was pretty young, I was 3 years old,
21 I believe, at the time. Put it this way, I felt like
22 I was a prisoner on the run. We were given information
23 that none of our relatives were allowed to contact us
24 and we weren't allowed to contact them. So I just felt
25 like being the only kid, the only child, I thought, when

1 this happened, so it just kind of threw me for a loop.

2 Q. Can I then put a time frame on the position and I'll
3 then try and fill in the gaps. I think it is the case,
4 Scott -- and I think you're aware of this from records
5 that you yourself have seen -- that you were sent to
6 a Fairbridge home in Middlemore in [REDACTED] 1939, is that
7 correct, when you were aged about 3?

8 A. I believe it was Middlemore, but I can't tell you what
9 year it was.

10 Q. Do you remember during the war being evacuated from
11 Middlemore to another place?

12 A. No, I can't remember that. Mind you, I couldn't have
13 been too old either then, but that's beside the point.

14 Q. Do you remember them, before you went to Canada -- and
15 I'll look at the date of that in a moment -- in about
16 [REDACTED] 1943, being in another Fairbridge home in
17 Bennington?

18 A. Yes, I remember Bennington.

19 Q. And eventually, what happened was that you were migrated
20 to Canada in [REDACTED] of 1945 when you were aged 10. Do you
21 remember that part of it?

22 A. I remember coming over to Canada in 1945, yes. The date
23 I can't exactly remember, but ...

24 Q. I think you do have some recollection during your time
25 when you were with Fairbridge in this country of being

1 with another family and spending some time with another
2 family; is that right?

3 A. Well, before I came to Canada I believe there was
4 a family -- I just called them Uncle [REDACTED] and
5 Auntie [REDACTED]. It was more like a little farm or whatever
6 because I remember, apparently, what came up is I fell
7 and broke up my arm, broke it or whatever. Then from
8 then on, I can't really remember very much until we got
9 to wherever the next place was that I got bounced around
10 to. From there on, coming over to Canada on the boat,
11 that was in 1945.

12 Q. If we just look at your time in Bennington, I think you
13 were in Bennington from about [REDACTED] 1943 until you went
14 to Canada in [REDACTED] 1945, about two years or so. What
15 can you remember about your time in Bennington?

16 A. Not much. Bennington ... From where we were living in
17 Bennington, we just walked across a field and went to
18 school. The problem with that was, it was okay, but
19 being in the Second World War, I remember this part,
20 which just came back to me now, we used to have German
21 prisoners of war digging ditches on one side of the
22 fence and we used to go through there. Well, they never
23 stopped us from going through until about a week after
24 the prisoners of war were digging these trenches and one
25 of the guys at Fairbridge, or Bennington rather, said

1 that -- one of the seniors, I can't remember the names,
2 but one of the adults said that we have to take the main
3 road and go down through the town to school.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. We ended up down there anyhow because that's where the
6 school was.

7 Q. You've already told us about the fact that you broke
8 your arm at a point in time. Do you also remember being
9 in hospital with an abscess?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. I just want to ask you about that. To put this in
12 context, I want to put a document that I think you may
13 have seen previously on the screen in front of you. The
14 reference for the document is PRT.001.002.3286.

15 That should be page 50. We'll just scroll down in
16 a moment. This is a letter, it's about you, after you
17 had been admitted to hospital, and it is dated
18 December 1943. Bits have been blanked out in order to
19 keep your anonymity, but I'll just read what it says:

20 "This boy was admitted [and the date is given
21 as October 1943] with right ischiorectal abscess. He
22 gives a history of being kicked on the buttock
23 three days previously."

24 Can I ask you about that? Do you remember what
25 happened to cause you to go into hospital?

1 A. I can't really remember much about that, but apparently
2 I ended up in the hospital and I was there for, I forget
3 how long they kept me in, but ... I'm trying to read
4 this at the same time.

5 Q. In any event, you recovered from that?

6 A. Yes, I recovered from that.

7 Q. And do you remember going for a medical in connection
8 with your migration to Canada?

9 A. I believe we had to go and get shots, like ...

10 Q. Injections?

11 A. Injections, yes.

12 Q. If I could ask you to look at another letter for me.
13 This is at WIT-1-000000003, and it's at 1760 at page 11.

14 (Pause)

15 Can I try 1770? Yes, so we have another letter on
16 the screen. It's dated December 1943 and the first
17 paragraph, again it's dealing with you, and it talks
18 about your admission to hospital. Then it says:

19 "LYE [REDACTED] had been passed for emigration to Canada by
20 the Chief Medical Officer at Canada House and we are
21 glad to have your report for his information."

22 So it would appear that you met with a medical
23 officer and you were passed as fit to go to Canada?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. I want to look at the position in relation to your

1 family members before you went to Canada. Do you
2 remember having any communication at all, in particular
3 with your grandmother, before you were sent to Canada?

4 A. Not really, because we were told that they weren't
5 allowed to contact us.

6 Q. Who told you that?

7 A. Well, apparently when we got -- I didn't know about this
8 until we got over there, mind you. One of the adults at
9 Fairbridge had told us that there would be no verbal
10 contact with any of our relatives or whatever and they
11 weren't allowed to contact us, we weren't allowed to
12 contact them.

13 Q. Did you discover later on that you had a grandmother in
14 particular who sought to make contact with you?

15 A. Yes. I believe it was the first Christmas I was in
16 Canada. I was only 10 years old, mind you, and my
17 grandmother from Dumbarton, she sent me a wristwatch for
18 Christmas and she sent letters, apparently, after that,
19 and the watch disappeared and I never ... I don't
20 remember any of the letters that I was supposed to get,
21 so I assume they took them.

22 Q. Again, can I put some documents on the screen for you to
23 see if this might help. The first document I want to
24 put on is PRT.001.002.3237 at page 61.

25 This is a letter and I think you can take it it's

1 addressed to Fairbridge. Although the names have been
2 blanked out, it is from your grandmother. Her name was
3 ██████████ is that right?

4 A. That's right.

5 Q. She begins by saying -- you'll see it's dated
6 11 November but unfortunately we don't have the year,
7 but it's before you were sent to Canada:

8 "Will you kindly let me know where my grandson
9 [Scott] is at present. His last address was with ..."

10 And I think she mentions the people that you spent
11 some time with. Have you seen this letter before coming
12 here today?

13 A. Never seen it.

14 Q. Okay. If you go on then, can we see she says:

15 "I have always sent him a parcel at Christmas and
16 would like to send as usual or he would be disappointed.
17 If I could be allowed to visit him at any time I would
18 like it very much, seeing I am so near now."

19 And I think at this time, although the address has
20 been blanked out, it's an address in Middlesex and not
21 Dumbarton, which would have been much closer to you.
22 Did you get Christmas presents sent to you from your
23 grandmother before you left to go to Canada?

24 A. Not before I left to come to Canada, no. In fact,
25 I never had any contact with them.

1 Q. Sorry, I didn't catch that?

2 A. I never had any contact with her at all after we left
3 her.

4 Q. Can I put another letter on then. This is at
5 PRT.001.002.3291.

6 LADY SMITH: Just while that's coming up, Mr MacAulay, was
7 that first letter sent to Fairbridge?

8 MR MacAULAY: Yes, it was to Fairbridge.

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

10 MR MacAULAY: Looking at this letter, we see now it's
11 a Dumbarton address. I can tell you it's December 1944.
12 You see the "44" on the screen.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. It begins by saying:

15 "To the secretary.

16 "Dear sir, would you be kind enough to let me know
17 if my grandson [and you're mentioned] is still at this
18 school? The last time I wrote to him I got no answer as
19 I had to leave London."

20 And it goes on to talk about that. Then she goes on
21 to say:

22 "I would like to write to him again and send his
23 usual Christmas parcel, so if you would give me his
24 present address I would be grateful."

25 Again, the suggestion here is she was wanting to

1 send you a Christmas present in particular and I think
2 you've told me you received no Christmas presents from
3 your grandmother before you went to Canada.

4 A. I got a present from her.

5 Q. In Canada?

6 A. In Canada the first year I was there, but for some
7 reason or other it took a hike and then the letters
8 I was apparently supposed to have gotten, I never got
9 one. Never.

10 Q. Can I look at the response to this particular letter?

11 This is at PRT.001.002.3289.

12 This is a letter dated 7 December 1944. The name
13 and address that's been blanked out is your
14 grandmother's address and it begins by saying:

15 "Dear Mrs [REDACTED]. In reply to your letter of
16 3 December [that's the one we've just looked at]
17 addressed to Bennington Place. I have to inform you
18 that [Scott] is still at Fairbridge Farm School."

19 And the Bennington place is given. It goes on to
20 say:

21 "We will give him your new address and he will look
22 forward to hearing from you. He is well and happy."

23 Again, this is all before you went to Canada. At
24 any point before you went to Canada were you ever given
25 your grandmother's address so you could write to her?

1 A. No, I wasn't.

2 Q. Can I then take you to this letter. This is at
3 PRT.001.002.3285. Again, this is a letter addressed to
4 your grandmother. The date that's been blanked out is
5 quite important, it's [REDACTED] 1945. The letter reads:

6 "Dear Mrs [REDACTED]. We have now been able to make
7 arrangements for a party of children to leave for Canada
8 this week for admission to the Prince of Wales
9 Fairbridge Farm School. [Scott] will be included in the
10 party."

11 And the address of the Fairbridge school is given.
12 So that's a letter being sent to your grandmother
13 telling her that you were going to Canada. Am I right
14 in thinking, as I took from you before, that you
15 actually left for Canada on [REDACTED] 1945?

16 A. I don't remember getting any letters, period.

17 Q. No, but what I'm asking you is that we see a letter of
18 [REDACTED] and I think it is the case that three days later
19 you left for Canada.

20 A. Probably, I believe so, yes.

21 Q. If we then look at your grandmother's response to this
22 letter, this is at PRT.001.002.3281. This is a letter
23 from your grandmother to Fairbridge. It's dated
24 [REDACTED], so it's a few weeks after the letter we've just
25 looked at. It says:

1 "Dear sir, I was from home when the letter informing
2 me about my grandson going to Canada came. Well, I hope
3 he will be very happy in his new home as I am sure he
4 will be. I intended to visit him in August if he had
5 been in England."

6 And towards the bottom she asks for photos and she
7 goes on to say:

8 "I would be glad to pay for one and can I send him
9 his usual parcel at Christmas ..."

10 Also she goes on to the next page, 3282:

11 "... and can he be allowed to answer my letters?
12 I should be very pleased to know."

13 That's what she's asking.

14 So it would appear, looking to that, that your
15 grandmother was told you were to go to Canada three days
16 before you left and she then responds after you had left
17 in the way we've looked at.

18 A. Well, I never saw and I never got any letter. That's
19 all I can say about that.

20 Q. Were you aware at any point under reference to either
21 your recollection at the time or what you've looked at
22 since that there was at some point some suggestion that
23 you might be migrated to Australia?

24 A. Well, apparently -- I'm just going on hearsay because
25 I'm not too sure about this. Apparently, one of the

1 other kids at Fairbridge over there, or over here in
2 England, I guess, he was supposed to go but apparently
3 he took a medical and he failed it and he was supposed
4 to go to Australia, and that's where apparently I heard
5 I was supposed to go -- pardon me, he was supposed to go
6 to Canada, but when he failed his medical then the way
7 I heard it, I was the last on the list to be sent to
8 Canada. So I came to Canada instead of Australia. Like
9 I say, I'm just going by what I'm hearing now, after all
10 these years. I mean, it's rough going, you don't really
11 know what's going on.

12 LADY SMITH: So Scott, what you remember you heard was that
13 originally the intention was for you to go to Australia,
14 but because this other boy didn't pass his medical and
15 they had a vacancy on the Canada list --

16 A. Yes.

17 LADY SMITH: -- you were added on to the Canada list?

18 A. So instead of going to Australia, I came to Canada.

19 LADY SMITH: Did you know where either country was?

20 A. Pardon me?

21 LADY SMITH: Did you know where either country was, either
22 Canada or Australia?

23 A. Didn't have a clue.

24 MR MacAULAY: Can I then just focus on when you actually
25 left for Canada and I'll come back to the lead-up to

1 that in a moment. If you look at another document I'll
2 put on the screen for you, Scott. That is
3 PRT.001.006.7430.

4 Although your name has been blanked out, which makes
5 it quite difficult to follow the document --

6 A. That's quite all right.

7 Q. -- it relates to you. The boat we're told is the
8 SS Bayano. Is that the ship you sailed on?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And the date for sailing, although it has been blanked
11 out, is [REDACTED] 1945. As we have seen from the
12 correspondence, it's three days after that the letter
13 that was sent to your grandmother telling you that you
14 were going. Your name is given, your date of birth is
15 given. There's some family details given and there's
16 a reference to some illnesses.

17 Then it says:

18 "Reports to be sent to ..."

19 And the names that are given, there's a Miss Ward,
20 who's I think connected with the welfare department in
21 Scotland, and also your grandmother is mentioned, with
22 a particular address. Do you see that's what's on the
23 document?

24 A. I don't remember any of this.

25 Q. This is a document that has been recovered in relation

1 to you just to confirm the date when you actually left
2 for Canada.

3 LADY SMITH: Don't worry, Scott, you wouldn't have seen
4 these at the time. You were only about 10 years old and
5 they wouldn't show any of these to you.

6 A. Yes, I was only 10 when I came over to Canada.

7 MR MacAULAY: Can I then, Scott, just ask you about your
8 recollections as to how you came to be told that you
9 were to go to Canada?

10 A. I can't remember who told me, but apparently it was one
11 of the adults that were -- I imagine one of the adults
12 was coming over, like in a group. All we were told is,
13 "You are going to Canada," and that's it, "You were
14 supposed to go to Australia, but this other guy failed
15 his medical or whatever".

16 Then any adults we talked to -- we were just loaded
17 us on a bus one day and off we went.

18 Q. When you left Fairbridge then to go to Canada, how many
19 were in your group?

20 A. I'm not really quite sure, but I know -- maybe this has
21 nothing to do with it, but the boys all came over on the
22 SS Bayano. That's the best of my recollection. The
23 girls came over on the SS Oria, but if they had -- this
24 is just what I heard -- if they had brothers then
25 instead of coming over with the boys on the SS Bayano,

1 they were allowed to go on the SS Oria with their
2 sisters to come over.

3 Q. So are you saying that you travelled on the Bayano with
4 a group of boys?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And were these boys who had all been at Fairbridge
7 during your time?

8 A. Yes. I can't remember how many it was in the party.

9 Q. That's fine. We know that you were 10 years of age at
10 that time. What about the age range of the boys
11 generally? Can you help me with that?

12 A. You mean the age between the boys?

13 Q. Yes, you were 10.

14 A. I was 10. I think there may have been a couple younger.
15 I'm not too sure on that because the first three days
16 out -- well, it was pretty rough and a lot of us guys
17 were seasick. They pretty well kept us to ourselves.
18 The staff were there, they came with us, and they made
19 sure we were okay.

20 Q. So you think there were perhaps a couple younger than
21 you?

22 A. I think probably a couple who were maybe 8, maybe 9.

23 Q. And what about some older than you?

24 A. They came over on the same party I came over on.

25 Q. Were there some boys that were a bit older than you that

1 you can remember?

2 A. I think there probably was, yes.

3 Q. And the trip itself, was it an enjoyable trip?

4 A. Oh yes -- well, after the first three days, like
5 bouncing around and who knows what.

6 Q. Did you know that you were going to Canada?

7 A. Well, I imagined Canada, but I didn't know what it was.
8 I don't think any of us kids knew where it was at.

9 Q. And I think you ended up on Vancouver Island, is that
10 right?

11 A. That's right.

12 Q. And that's where the Fairbridge Farm School was located?

13 A. Yes. Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School.

14 Q. Are you able to remember your first time when you got to
15 the farm school?

16 A. Oh ... Let me think here now. I can't remember the
17 date, I know it was [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] at the end of the
18 month, but anyhow ... We went to Nanaimo and that's
19 where we caught the bus in Vancouver and they took us
20 over to Nanaimo and then up to Fairbridge and Duncan.
21 Between Duncan and Calwell Hill on Vancouver Island.

22 The first thing -- we got off the bus there, they
23 hailed us off to the dining room, a great big huge
24 joint, and they assigned -- I called them teenage girls
25 then -- teenage girls and we ate and they made sure they

1 gave us baths and that and assigned us the cottages
2 we were going to be in and we were taken over and
3 introduced to our cottage mothers and stuff like that.

4 I think most of them must have gone out of there
5 pretty fast because --

6 Q. Do you remember if there's a photograph of the group
7 taken on arrival at Fairbridge?

8 A. Not really. But I know there was -- they fed us, I know
9 that, in the dining hall, fed us, made sure we had
10 baths, and then introduced us to our cottage mothers,
11 and the next day I can't remember what really happened
12 then.

13 Q. As you've just indicated, Scott, the set-up at
14 Fairbridge was a cottage set-up where there were
15 separate cottages?

16 A. Yes, there were, yes.

17 Q. And you were allocated to a particular cottage?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And was it all boys in the cottage?

20 A. Well, what the cottages were -- technically, they used
21 the alphabet, and where the dining hall area was,
22 anything on -- if I'm looking at you now, anything on
23 that side (indicating) was the girls' section and
24 anything on this side (indicating) was the boys'
25 section.

1 The cottage I was in, O cottage, the hospital was
2 right next to us, in the next quad over, and then the
3 school was right up by the main entrance coming in.

4 Q. I think what you're saying then is the boys and girls
5 were separated?

6 A. Oh yes, definitely.

7 Q. And I'll come to look at your cottage mother in
8 a moment, but who was in charge of the whole place when
9 you were there? Can you remember that?

10 A. Well, there was -- Major Plows was one of them, and
11 I can't remember the other guy's name before him. I'm
12 not sure what his name was. But they had an office
13 space they worked out of and they -- Major Plows is up
14 here. And Mr Garnet, that was who it was.

15 Q. A Mr Garnet, I think you mentioned?

16 A. Yes, it's up there too. I'm having a hard time trying
17 to think of who was what.

18 LADY SMITH: Please don't apologise, Scott, you're doing
19 really well. Don't worry.

20 MR MacAULAY: The cottage mother then that you've mentioned,
21 who was your cottage mother?

22 A. Mrs QDG .

23 Q. What can you tell us about your relationship with her?

24 A. Well, in my books, thumbs down all the way. She
25 shouldn't have even been a cottage mother.

1 Q. Why do you say that?

2 A. Well, it seemed to me she got it in her head that if she
3 was going to pick on somebody, she'd better find
4 somebody who's not going to argue back, and it seemed to
5 me I was number one on the hit list, which I was not
6 impressed with, but nothing I could do about it.

7 Q. So how would you describe your time then in the cottage
8 with her in charge?

9 A. Well, I did what I was told. And if you loused up, you
10 ended up piling wood. So that's why it don't bother me
11 to pile wood. I hope you heard that.

12 Q. So piling wood, was that the standard punishment?

13 A. That was the punishment.

14 Q. Was there any what we call physical punishment or
15 corporal punishment?

16 A. To me, it was just a mental thing. It just seemed that
17 if I loused up anywhere, I worked, whether I liked it or
18 not. It made it hard. And then not knowing about
19 family and that didn't help either.

20 Q. I think you told us already you thought you were alone?

21 A. I believed it right up until my son decided to start
22 this family tree thing, I thought I was the only one.
23 I didn't realise I had whatever's come up now.

24 Q. We'll come to that in a little while.

25 I think I'm right in saying that you were at

1 Fairbridge until [REDACTED] 1950. So that's from [REDACTED] 1945 to
2 [REDACTED] 1950. So you were there for five years?

3 A. Yes. The reason this happened is because apparently the
4 CPR, Canadian Pacific Railroad, they bought the farm out
5 and they kept the farm area, but where the cottages
6 were, they bought that all too, and then I guess most of
7 the cottages got knocked down, taken out or whatever.

8 Q. Yes.

9 A. The last time we were up there, I couldn't even find the
10 cottage where it should have been.

11 Q. I think Fairbridge was essentially shut down in the
12 early 1950s.

13 A. Technically, yes.

14 Q. You provide information in your statement about the
15 routine and I don't propose to dwell on that, we can
16 read that for ourselves. One thing you do say is that
17 bed-wetters were treated in a particular way. Can you
18 help me with that?

19 A. Yes. That was a no-no. But I think a lot of it was
20 because of nerves or just being picked on and bullied.
21 So I just thought to myself, well, it happens to the
22 best of us, but thank God I got over it.

23 Q. What would happen to a bed-wetter?

24 A. You ended up doing the laundry. You had to do your own
25 laundry then and you ended up getting punished. They'd

1 find something for you to do, wood piling or whatever,
2 or sweeping or cleaning the house, doing dishes.

3 Q. The other aspect of the general routine or set-up I want
4 to ask you about is your schooling, your education.
5 Can you help me with that? What was the education like?

6 A. Well, one thing I will say is we had a good teacher,
7 Mrs Gray was a very good teacher and they were pretty
8 good in the school itself. Mind you, it was no
9 different at the school (inaudible). If you got caught
10 doing something out of order, down to the principal's
11 office you went, and that's all there was to that.

12 But most of the time it was just a regular type
13 thing. You went to school, did your thing, and recess,
14 you were out the door and that. The only thing any
15 different from school there that I can think of to what
16 I'm seeing now, once a year at Easter time we had to do
17 a cross-country run whether we liked it or not. And
18 of course, being little rug rats like we were, it didn't
19 seem to bother us, but I was pretty short and of course
20 I always seemed to end up in the middle of the pile and
21 when they took off, I got flattened.

22 Being proud to be a Scot, I guess I was getting
23 stubborn too, so I got up and ran the stupid race all
24 the way, 5 miles cross country.

25 Q. Did you find the fact that you were left-handed

1 something of a problem for you?

2 A. Yes, I sure did.

3 Q. How did that manifest itself?

4 A. Well, Canada at the time, I don't know why, maybe other
5 countries were the same way for all I know, but if you
6 wrote left-handed, you got a slap on the wrist -- and
7 I mean with a ruler, not just a little tap like this
8 (indicating). You got the ruler and they forced you to
9 write right-handed.

10 To me, I couldn't see that. So I figured that's the
11 way I am today, I still can't use my right hand like
12 I should be writing surer than I do and I'm not. I have
13 to think about it before I write anything. Even the
14 other kids that were left-handed -- there were a couple,
15 or three of us -- they said the same thing: why are they
16 making us change?

17 I think what it was, when you're writing over in
18 England, when you write left-handed you always seem to
19 have a back slope when you're writing. Well, I tried it
20 over here. Forget it. They forced me to write
21 right-handed and I'm having a problem going this way
22 (indicating). We couldn't figure out why they forced us
23 to do it. Still haven't figured it out.

24 Q. You've already told us about the fact that your
25 grandmother did send you a present when you were in

1 Canada of a watch. What do you remember about that?

2 I take it someone told you there was a present for you.

3 What's your recollection of that?

4 A. Well, somebody told me that my grandmother had sent me

5 a Christmas present the first year I was in Canada,

6 [REDACTED] 1945. And I remember getting it, but it had

7 already been opened. I remember that because somebody

8 mentioned something that they had to open the mail

9 before the kids got it, make sure everything was

10 copacetic, and I thought to myself, oh no you don't.

11 Even though I was a young kid, I still thought that was

12 not good. I got the watch and I think I probably had it

13 maybe a week, if that, and then it took a hike and the

14 letters they said I got, I never saw them, period.

15 Q. Was there a letter sent -- were you given a letter when

16 you got the watch?

17 A. I can't remember that and I don't think so.

18 Q. Was that the only parcel that you got from your

19 grandmother throughout your whole time with Fairbridge?

20 A. That's the only parcel I ever got and none of the

21 letters I got either that were supposed to have been

22 there.

23 Q. Did you have any visitors while you were there in --

24 A. (inaudible) visitors?

25 Q. Any visitors?

1 A. Never.

2 Q. Do you remember anyone coming to speak from you from the
3 welfare department, for example?

4 A. Only before I left Fairbridge to go to Princeton and
5 that was because --

6 Q. That was in 1950?

7 A. In 1950, yes.

8 Q. I'll come to that.

9 A. Because when I left Fairbridge, I had to go back to the
10 mainland, Vancouver, and then up to Princeton. But
11 I had to go to Pantecland(?) first. There was
12 a welfare -- I can't remember the guy's name now, but he
13 picked up there and drove me back to Princeton, to
14 Wolf Creek Dairy.

15 Q. Before I come to that, Scott, how would you describe
16 your behaviour when you were at Fairbridge in Canada?

17 A. I guess I was known as a show-off or however you want to
18 put that. I don't know how they figured that out, but
19 somebody did. I don't know whether it was just me or
20 whether it was the kids, the other kids, but I always
21 seemed to get picked on because I was short. I was
22 probably only maybe 4 foot 1 or 2, and the rest of them
23 above me, and I was getting picked on at school, not by
24 so much the Fairbridge kids, but kids from Duncan who
25 were there.

1 Q. Because the school you went to was the local school in
2 Duncan, is that correct?

3 A. No, we had our own school on the farm at Fairbridge.

4 Q. Did you go to school at Duncan?

5 A. No, once I left Fairbridge that was the end of my school
6 years. But three years in on the Wolf Creek Dairy,
7 never went to high school or nothing. The anything
8 things I learned, I taught myself.

9 Q. Have you seen more recently correspondence relating to
10 your temperament and how you were behaving when you were
11 at Fairbridge?

12 A. Well, I do and I don't. There's times I have moments.

13 Q. Can I just look at this documentation for you? I think
14 this is maybe material that your son recovered in the
15 course of his research. Again, this will come on the
16 screen for you, Scott. The first document is at
17 WIT.003.002.1862.

18 A. I can't remember where that was.

19 Q. That's not what I'm wanting to look at. It may be
20 we can get it at WIT.003.002.1799 at page 64.

21 I don't propose to dwell on this for very long, but
22 we're looking at a letter from the Edinburgh Council of
23 Social Service. It's dated 28 September 1948 and it's
24 addressed to Mr Logan, who's the secretary at
25 Fairbridge. It's in response to, I think, a letter to

1 Edinburgh asking questions about how you had behaved
2 before you went to Fairbridge.

3 If you turn to the next page at page 1863, that's
4 the second page, about halfway down can we read that the
5 author of this letter, who I think was a lady with whom
6 there was correspondence with over a period of time:

7 "There is nothing to suggest that any behaviour or
8 personality problems presented themselves before he went
9 to Canada."

10 Do you see that? That's the information that's been
11 passed on to Canada:

12 "There is nothing to suggest that any behaviour or
13 personality problems presented themselves before [you]
14 went to Canada."

15 And you were described as "quite cheery" and so on
16 and so forth. So that was the response to the request.

17 If we look at the response to that at
18 WIT.003.002.1858.

19 We're now looking at a letter in response to
20 Miss Ashley who had written the other letter. It's
21 dated 5 October 1948. It makes reference to her letter
22 of 28 September and then it goes on to say:

23 "Part of the trouble is no doubt due, as your letter
24 suggests, to his cottage mother's lack of sympathy with
25 [Scott]. So many of our problems of childcare can be

1 traced to this source while the attempt is often made to
2 find causes elsewhere."

3 So does it appear to be the case that Fairbridge
4 seemed to recognise that your cottage mother and cottage
5 mothers generally could cause problems with children?

6 A. Yes, but what gets me is why didn't they do something
7 about it? They didn't do a thing about it. Kids were
8 still -- sorry.

9 (Pause)

10 Q. Are you okay to carry on for the moment --

11 A. Sure.

12 Q. -- or would you like a short break?

13 LADY SMITH: Scott, if you'd prefer to have a break, we can
14 take a break now.

15 A. No, that's fine.

16 LADY SMITH: Are you sure?

17 A. Yes.

18 It's just that they never did anything about it and
19 it just seemed to me they couldn't care less. I heard
20 they had quite a few complaints after the farm closed
21 down too. So to me, I'm not saying I was any angel, but
22 I don't think I was that bad. Anything I got nailed on,
23 I got nailed on good: go and do the kitchen work, you do
24 this, do that.

25 The other kids would be out swimming in the

1 summertime and I'd go down swimming, but I just felt out
2 of place. For some unknown reason or other I didn't
3 think I was wanted, anywhere.

4 MR MacAULAY: Can I take you to the time when you came to
5 leave Fairbridge? You've already mentioned when that
6 came about. Fairbridge was closing down, effectively,
7 and you did have some contact with a welfare person when
8 that was about to happen, is that correct?

9 A. Yes. It was just the one time that -- I don't know
10 whether it was the local welfare that got hold of me.
11 They gave us an option. They asked us where we wanted
12 to go or what we wanted to do when we leave Fairbridge.
13 This is after CPR bought it and they knew we had to be
14 out. I said, oh, find me a farm somewhere. That's all
15 I could think of, I just wanted, for some unknown
16 reason, to get out and get away.

17 Q. Was it then that you went to Princeton to work on a farm
18 with a family?

19 A. Yes, [REDACTED] and his wife.

20 Q. What was life like there?

21 A. It was beautiful. I guess I might as well put it this
22 way. They were as close to parents -- like family that
23 I ever had. They had two sons and they were younger
24 than I was, of course, obviously, and I put in
25 three years there, which -- it had to be three years;

1 I couldn't leave until I was 18 -- then I was on my own.

2 So I was there three years and I had a great time.

3 I learned quite a bit that I never would have learned at
4 Fairbridge, probably. Anyhow, I got used to haying,
5 mowing hay, cutting hay and whatever, not like modern
6 day stuff today, two old giddy-ups and go, and whatever.

7 But in all honesty, they're the greatest people.

8 Q. Is it the case although you left after three years that
9 you remained in contact with them?

10 A. I had to stay there for three years until I was 18.

11 Then, by that time, we were a dairy farm is what
12 we were. Okay? [REDACTED] was the name of the
13 place. And Mr and Mrs [REDACTED], they ran it, and the
14 thing is, once it was ... I can't remember ...
15 Mr [REDACTED] owned it, it was a relative of the [REDACTED],
16 a senior relative, [REDACTED]. He owned it, so the
17 government stepped in and would not let any milk be sold
18 that was not pasturised, is what happened. So we had
19 a contract with Copper Mountain, which is five miles up
20 the hill, to supply the milk and stuff like that, the
21 cream and milk and dairy products, basically to
22 Copper Mountain.

23 Well, we did that, but once the government stepped
24 in, that was the end of it and we couldn't sell any of
25 our milk period.

1 Q. I think what you tell us, though, in your statement
2 is that the work was hard but you enjoyed it and they
3 were good people.

4 A. Oh, they were great people. They were great.
5 Absolutely great.

6 Q. And you kept in contact with them after you left?

7 A. I did, yes. In fact, I think my son and I, when my
8 mother passed away -- I called her mum anyhow.

9 Q. You called her your mother?

10 A. Yes, when my mum passed away, we went to Princeton for
11 the funeral and, yeah, it was a bit of a loss.

12 Q. Can I ask you this: you were there with them for
13 three years. Did anyone from Fairbridge make any
14 contact with you during that period?

15 A. Never knew any of them, period. Never saw anybody
16 I knew.

17 Q. You then go on in your statement, Scott, to tell us
18 about what life was like and what you did after you left
19 the farm and, in particular, what your work history was.
20 In particular that that comprised of at least 23 years
21 working for the National Defence; is that right?

22 A. That was a few years after.

23 Q. You did a number of things, but that's what you --

24 A. Yes, just looking at that now, when I came back from the
25 dairy, I was hauling coal in Duncan for a company there.

1 I can't remember the name of it right now. But anyhow,
2 I was hauling coal to restaurants, because that's they
3 burnt back then. After that, I can't remember where
4 I went. Then quite a few years I guess after that, too,
5 I turned round and went to work at Honeymoon Bay, the
6 mill. I was there for a few years, but they were going
7 on strike too much and I finally just said, the heck
8 with it, I packed it in and went to Saskatchewan and
9 worked out there for five years and then in Alberta for
10 a bit. Finally, I just had had enough of that. The
11 coast kept calling me back so I came back to the coast.

12 Very fortunately, the Department of National Defence
13 were hiring drivers. I had enough experience under my
14 belt by that time, so I got a job with them and was
15 there for 21 and a half years, until they pulled the pin
16 and I retired.

17 Q. You also tell us about your personal life, in particular
18 that you met your present wife and you've been married
19 for 45 years.

20 A. Must be right, son? Right? I'm telling you, my mind
21 goes blank -- even our anniversaries, I know when they
22 are. If she said to me, it's such-and-such -- are you
23 kidding me? I don't think about it in year time. As
24 long as I remember our anniversary and her birthday and
25 all that stuff, that's fine.

1 LADY SMITH: If you're managing to remember your
2 anniversary, you're doing better than a lot of husbands!

3 A. That's about it. Anyway, I've had a great life with
4 her. That's my wife. I was married previous. That
5 lasted five years. We broke up, obviously, and got
6 a divorce, and I swore -- and this is no insult to any
7 females in the building, please -- I thought to myself,
8 well, I'll just stay single, every time you get involved
9 with a female, you get (inaudible). Well, that
10 backfired too! I met my present wife and I love her to
11 death.

12 MR MacAULAY: Can I just now look at the research that your
13 son did. I think you began that research very recently
14 in 2018, a couple of years ago, is that correct? That's
15 the research into your family background.

16 A. I'm really not too sure what's going on right now.

17 Q. Your son, I think, started to become interested in your
18 family background.

19 A. Oh yes.

20 Q. He carried out some research into where you'd come from,
21 who your relatives might be, and so on; is that right?

22 A. You'd better believe it.

23 Q. If you can tell us in your own words, what have you
24 discovered then from that?

25 A. Well, I thought he was joking when he said he wanted to

1 do this. Apparently, he wasn't and he started in on
2 doing it and we had a lot of help -- he had a lot of
3 help from other ... In fact, I can't recall exactly how
4 many he said, but the first day he put it on whatever it
5 was you call it, he put it on that, he said the thing
6 went nuts, and he said he had people all over the place.
7 Then he let me know what was going on and I said, are
8 you kidding me? I thought he was joking. I still
9 believed that I was the only one in the family, period.

10 Q. What you've discovered in fact is that --

11 A. When he found this out, boy, that blew it off the face
12 of the earth in a hurry.

13 Q. And that was very recently?

14 A. I can't remember exactly how long ago, but it was
15 a while back. I'm telling you, the best thing that ever
16 happened, now I'm finding out I do live, I do exist,
17 I do have family.

18 Q. And in particular, I think you know that you have two
19 sisters in Australia.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And you also have some brothers as well; is that --

22 A. Apparently, there's two brothers and two sisters.

23 I have a sister in Detroit, Michigan, in the US. I'm in
24 contact -- well, I've talked to all three of them.

25 Let's see ... That's about it, but I'm finding out

1 there's relatives scattered all over the place, in the
2 States, Australia, South Africa, Canada, back east
3 somewhere.

4 Q. And you've already told us that for many, many years,
5 you thought that it was just you.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. What has the impact been then on you to discover that
8 you have this family?

9 A. Well, my way of looking at it is now knowing that I'm
10 not the only one -- put it this way, it was a real good
11 shock. It really hit me when LYX had this info and
12 he was over the house and I can honestly say that was
13 a week of tears. Now it's kind of drifting down a bit,
14 but still I'm looking forward to meeting some of them
15 this week -- we're getting together in Dumbarton -- and
16 I'll just have to play it by ear.

17 You know, when you're not used to having family,
18 it's like saying, okay, you've been broke all your life,
19 and all of a sudden you buy one lousy lottery ticket and
20 it's a \$50 million lottery ticket and you haven't seen
21 that much money. So what do you do with it? Do you
22 give it away? Do you spend it?

23 It's like having a family, believing I'm the only
24 one, and all of a sudden, wham, the lights come on. It
25 makes me feel good, but it also has me with a little bit

1 of trepidation in the way I'm not really too sure --
2 whoa, how is this going to go, to meet all the ones
3 I can meet?

4 Q. If I look more generally at how would you describe the
5 impact of having been in care, in particular having been
6 a child migrant and being in Fairbridge in
7 Vancouver Island, are you able to tell me what impact
8 you think that has had on you as a person and on your
9 life in general?

10 A. When I was in Fairbridge, to be quite honest with you,
11 I hated it. I think it was because I was -- seemed to
12 be picked on all the time. Whether it was my height or
13 what, but I just didn't feel comfortable. Once I got to
14 Princeton, my life just seemed to spin right around the
15 other way. Nobody picked on me, they were kind to me,
16 the family members were nice, and it just changed
17 things.

18 Q. One of the things you say in your statement is that you
19 think that one of the impacts of having been in care had
20 on you is that you could be sometimes quite moody;
21 is that your understanding?

22 A. Things like that, it's hard for me to describe. But
23 I know -- I always believed if I did get away from
24 Fairbridge, or whatever, I just hoped I'd get somebody
25 that took me for what I was, not what somebody else

1 wanted me to be. At Princeton, the three years there,
2 I can honestly say were the happiest three years of my
3 life.

4 Q. You are aware, I think, Scott, that an apology to
5 child migrants was made on behalf of the
6 British Government.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. But I think what you say in your statement is that there
9 has been no apology as yet from the Canadian Government.

10 A. No, and I doubt if there ever will be.

11 Q. Do you consider there ought to be one?

12 A. I think there should be. I mean, they knew what was
13 going on. You can't tell me the government didn't know.
14 This is what I ... I just feel that any of us kids that
15 came over, regardless where they were living, we should
16 have gotten an apology from that government. The
17 Canadian Government should have given us an apology.
18 I just can't understand why they won't. I'm sure I'm
19 not the only one that's thinking that way. It's been
20 a rough go.

21 This is going better than I thought it was --
22 there's just so many things -- I'm trying to get my mind
23 back further to try and add to what we already know, but
24 Old Soggy up here (indicating) doesn't want to work.

25 Q. One of the things you do say in your statement, Scott,

1 is that you wouldn't want what happened to you to happen
2 to anybody else.

3 A. No. Definitely not. I don't think it should have
4 happened.

5 Q. But nevertheless, as you say, you are proud of what
6 you've actually done with your life?

7 A. Well, I guess here we go again, the stubborn Scot's
8 coming out of me -- and I don't mean the stuff in the
9 bottle either! Trying to make a joke here.

10 Anyhow, I don't think it should happen to anybody,
11 period. I don't care who you are, what colour your
12 skin, nationality. Who cares? It should not happen.
13 Period.

14 Q. And you mention being Scottish there, which of course
15 you are.

16 A. I am proud to be a Scot. I'm really proud to be
17 Scottish. I know my son is. But I just ... When
18 I stop and think about what the family's going through,
19 what did they go through? Nothing was done to help
20 them.

21 I'm proud this is going on the way it is, I'm proud
22 of the help and the people that are helping us. So help
23 me, I hope it never happens to anybody, to have to go
24 through what we went through.

25 You know, I was brought up to believe that whatever

1 an adult says, you do. You don't mouth them off, you
2 don't get lippy with them, and that's maybe because they
3 figured I was chicken, I wouldn't say anything back.
4 Well, now this has come to a head and so help me, I hope
5 it never, ever, ever happens to anybody else.

6 Q. Well, Scott, thank you very much indeed for getting in
7 touch with the inquiry, engaging with the inquiry, and
8 coming here today from Canada --

9 A. Thank you.

10 Q. -- to give your evidence. Thank you very much.

11 A. I just hope I was some help.

12 MR MacAULAY: Thank you.

13 LADY SMITH: Are there any outstanding applications for
14 questions of Scott? No.

15 Scott, that completes all the questions we have for
16 you today. Thank you so much for the way you've engaged
17 with the inquiry, both by providing your detailed
18 statement before today and travelling such a long way to
19 get here. I'm sorry you've arrived in such terrible
20 weather and I just hope it picks up a little bit before
21 you go back.

22 A. That's all right. I'm proud I came and I proud we -- if
23 I've been any help at all.

24 LADY SMITH: You have been an enormous help and having you
25 here in person has enhanced the contribution of the

1 child migrants who are giving evidence to us enormously.

2 It makes such a difference. Thank you.

3 A. Thank you. It's been nice to meet you people too.

4 LADY SMITH: I'm now able to let you go, but I think what
5 we'll do is we'll take the morning break now and then
6 you can take your time getting up and getting out. All
7 right?

8 A. Thank you.

9 (11.14 am)

10 (A short break)

11 (11.35 am)

12 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay, I gather the next witness is
13 ready.

14 MR MacAULAY: He is. He too wants to remain anonymous,
15 although it'll become obvious, I think, that he's the
16 son of the previous witness, and he wants to use the
17 name "Brian" in giving evidence.

18 "BRIAN" (affirmed)

19 LADY SMITH: Brian, you know where to sit, I think. If
20 you'd like to sit down and make yourself comfortable.

21 Can you make sure you're in a good position for the
22 microphone? It's important that the stenographers hear
23 you through the sound system.

24 Mr MacAulay will explain to you what he wants you to
25 do with the red file and you know that your statement

1 will come up on the screen in due course.

2 Mr MacAulay.

3 Questions from MR MacAULAY

4 MR MacAULAY: Good morning, Brian.

5 A. Good morning.

6 Q. In the red folder, as I think you are aware, you'll find
7 your statement. I'll give the reference for the
8 transcript. It's WIT-1-000000013.

9 If you could turn to page 20, can you confirm that
10 you have signed the statement?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. And you say in the final paragraph:

13 "I have no objection to my witness statement being
14 published as part of the evidence to the inquiry."

15 Is that correct?

16 A. That is correct.

17 Q. You go on to say:

18 "I believe the facts stated in this witness
19 statement are true."

20 A. That is true.

21 Q. I don't require your date of birth, but I think you tell
22 us that you were born in 1977; is that right?

23 A. That is correct.

24 Q. And your father has just given evidence before you.

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Before you carried out the research I'm going to ask you
2 about this: growing up as a child within your family,
3 what was your understanding as to your father's
4 background?

5 A. I didn't know much about it. He never really talked
6 about it. He told us that -- I knew he was born in
7 Glasgow. I knew he'd come from Glasgow and had been
8 sent to Canada from England. I knew he'd gone to
9 Fairbridge Farm School but that was it. I really didn't
10 know anything, he didn't really talk about it, he didn't
11 really tell me nothing. Granted, being just a kid, it
12 was probably none of my damn business, but he never
13 really did tell us.

14 Q. Did it come through nevertheless that he was proud of
15 his Scottish heritage?

16 A. Always. Dad's always been proud of his Scottish
17 heritage. That was always evident in our house and
18 I think that's why I'm as proud of our heritage as I am
19 because dad was always proud to be a Scot and he never,
20 ever let that -- you know, only the little bit of time
21 that he was here, being born here and only being in the
22 country for three years until he was shipped off to
23 England, he was always proud to be a Scot.

24 Q. And I think you also, growing up, had contact with the
25 family that he spent some time with, particularly from

1 the age of 15 to 18.

2 A. Yes. There was a lot of contact with the [REDACTED] when
3 I was growing up. I remember taking a few road trips
4 with my parents when I was younger and going to visit
5 them and going to the farm in Copper Mountain and just
6 hanging out there and seeing them and visiting them.
7 I was always told that they were granny and grandpa and
8 I never questioned it. I was a kid and it wasn't until
9 two years ago when I did all this research that
10 I discovered they weren't and they were actually just
11 his semi-adoptive parents.

12 Q. You have mentioned the research then. You touch upon
13 that in paragraph 6 of your statement, which you'll see
14 on the screen. Can you just give us the background to
15 how it came to be that you embarked upon this research?

16 A. Well, I was on Facebook, just scrolling on my phone
17 bored at work one day, and a friend of mine had posted
18 an article about British child migrants, and being the
19 inquisitive guy that I am, I was like, oh, my dad came
20 from England or something like that, I'll check it out.

21 So I started reading the article and going through
22 and scrolling through on my phone and there was
23 a picture of my dad and I knew it was my dad the second
24 I saw it. So that blew me away in the first place
25 because I'd never even seen the picture in my life, let

1 alone it being on a random article on Facebook. So then
2 I started questioning: who wrote this article, where did
3 this article come from?

4 So I started questioning, questioning, questioning,
5 like I do, and I contacted the person who posted it,
6 I contacted the person who wrote the article. She put
7 me in touch with another lady who had done some research
8 on the Fairbridge Society and I just kept asking
9 questions and messaging more people until I got all the
10 answers I wanted -- or at least most of them anyway.

11 Q. The photograph you mentioned, I'm going to put something
12 on the screen. It's not going to help us very much, but
13 I'm going to do it in the first instance. It's at
14 INQ.001.004.1788.

15 The reason it doesn't help us is because it's been
16 fully redacted. But in your red folder, if you turn to
17 the very last page, we have made available to you
18 a photograph that has not been redacted. Is that the
19 photograph that --

20 A. That's not the one that I found, no, but I have seen
21 that photograph, yes.

22 Q. While we have this one in front of us, and particularly
23 the one on the screen, if we look at the screen, can we
24 see that it's headed the Fairbridge Gazette?

25 A. Why.

1 Q. It's the edition for [REDACTED] 1945. If we scroll down
2 a little bit, it's not easy to read, but I'll read that
3 first paragraph to get a context:

4 "At 5.30 on the morning of [REDACTED] ..."

5 So this is 1945 and we know that your father left
6 the United Kingdom on [REDACTED] 1945:

7 "... our party of 14 boys under the care of
8 Major Prows and Ms Fermer left Fairbridge Farm Schools'
9 Hostel at Bennington and travelled to London."

10 And so on and so forth. So this article with this
11 photograph appears to relate to the trip to your
12 father's trip from the UK to Canada?

13 A. Correct.

14 Q. Do you recognise your father in the photograph?

15 A. Yes, absolutely.

16 Q. Where is he?

17 A. [REDACTED]

18 Q. In the photograph, which unfortunately only you and
19 I can see photograph, he looks quite a small little boy?

20 A. Yes, he's just a little fella.

21 MR MacAULAY: I don't know if your Ladyship would like to
22 have a copy.

23 LADY SMITH: If I could, that would be helpful.

24 (Handed)

25 You said he is [REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED] ?

2 A. That's correct.

3 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

4 MR MacAULAY: Having then embarked upon this research, did
5 you ask your father about what you were finding out?

6 A. Well, I asked him a lot of things. Like when
7 I discovered the picture -- I have a copy of it, you
8 guys don't, but I can make sure you get one -- I asked
9 him if he had ever seen it because I had never seen it
10 and so I wasn't sure if he'd ever seen it. And when
11 I showed it to him he was just blown away. He was,
12 like, I've never seen this picture, where did this
13 picture come from.

14 So when I started questioning it, saying where did
15 this picture come from, let's find out, right, he went
16 and retrieved a file folder, which I actually brought
17 with me, that had all the information that he had
18 received about his time in Fairbridge and all the files
19 and stuff that -- some of the stuff that you guys had
20 posted previously with his statement were all in the
21 file and I'd never seen it. I'd never seen it at all.

22 So when I asked him, where did this file come from,
23 when did you get this file -- I had a million questions
24 for him and he just handed it to me and said, take it
25 home, read it, see what you can garner out of it.

1 Right?

2 So I did. I took it home and I laid it out on my
3 kitchen table. It was all out of order, it was all just
4 jumbled together, so I laid it all out, put it all in
5 chronological order so that I could go through it and
6 read it.

7 Then I sat there for the next two and a half, almost
8 three hours at my kitchen table, going through it,
9 reading it, making notes, asking questions, shedding
10 tears to discover that my father at 3 years old was just
11 handed off and sent away from his family and then the
12 letters from his grandma and Fairbridge and all the --
13 not getting any answers, not getting ... getting lip
14 service from those in charge of Fairbridge and
15 everything else.

16 Going through all that, having a son of my own that
17 was the same age at the time -- man, that was tough,
18 that was hard for me to comprehend.

19 Because I look at my son at 3 years of age and
20 I couldn't ever fathom in a million years letting
21 somebody take my son for any reason at all. It wouldn't
22 happen. So to realise that that had happened to my
23 father and to see it on paper right there in front of
24 me, that was tough, man. That was tough to handle and
25 tough to comprehend.

1 But that got me asking questions and having all that
2 information and all that paperwork right in front of me,
3 I started making notes and doing research.

4 Q. And the correspondence that you have mentioned, I think
5 we've put some of that material on the screen this
6 morning already so you've seen that, in particular the
7 letters from his grandmother --

8 A. Mm-hm.

9 Q. -- seeking information about him and indeed indicating
10 she wanted to send Christmas presents and so on.

11 A. Correct.

12 Q. That's some of the material that was within this file
13 that you --

14 A. All that stuff was in the file folder that my dad had
15 given me.

16 Q. And was there also information there about how it came
17 to be that at the age of 3 he went to Fairbridge?

18 A. No. I mean, there was the paperwork in there that had
19 been signed, giving Fairbridge permission to take him,
20 I guess, is the only way I can explain it, but there was
21 no rhyme or reason why. There was a little bit of
22 explanation in there about his mum wanting to go back to
23 work and not thinking she could care for the child, with
24 his grandma -- I believe she was 65 at the time --
25 concerned for his welfare because of her age and ... but

1 there was no ... there's never been an explanation as to
2 why.

3 Q. I think the information was there that, as you've
4 indicated, the mother was essentially left alone because
5 I think the father had been killed [REDACTED].

6 A. He'd been killed [REDACTED]. When I went
7 through and did my research and did the timeline from
8 when my grandfather was killed and when my father was
9 born -- I don't think he or my grandmother even knew she
10 was pregnant at the time.

11 Basically from the timeline that I've put together,
12 they would have been together intimately on whatever
13 date it was and within a couple of days he was killed.

14 Q. He was killed before your father was born?

15 A. Like long before he was born. I don't think either one
16 of them knew that my father was coming into the world at
17 all.

18 Q. That was the background, at least to some extent, and
19 your father was being cared for by his grandparents who
20 was elderly and felt it would be better if he would be
21 sent to Fairbridge --

22 A. Yes. What I can gauge from it is when my father was
23 born, his mother was currently -- I believe the
24 paperwork showed she was still legally married. So she
25 was in the middle of a separation -- and I'm purely

1 speculating because this is just sort of what I've come
2 up with from the information I have. She was currently
3 married to [REDACTED]. She was separated from him
4 for whatever reason. She was involved with my
5 grandfather and then got pregnant with my dad, had my
6 dad, was in a relationship with her next husband at the
7 time, and then had my father, and just basically was
8 like, okay, because at that time he would have been an
9 illegitimate child born out of wedlock and back in that
10 time that was frowned upon. Right?

11 So she basically just handed him off to my great
12 grandmother and said, here you go, you raise him,
13 I don't want nothing to do with him, and went on about
14 her life. She got married in December of the same year
15 my father was born.

16 Q. Can we just look then at what your investigations --
17 what directions they took and what you discovered,
18 particularly in relation to other family members. What
19 did you find out in relation to what other family
20 members were in existence?

21 A. Sorry? Try that again.

22 Q. My fault, it wasn't very clear.

23 In your investigations, you were able to find out,
24 for example, that your father did have other family
25 members.

1 A. Correct.

2 Q. What did you find out?

3 A. Lots. When I contacted the lady who had originally
4 posted the article that I read on Facebook, I talked to
5 her for a couple of hours, three hours, and she had put
6 me in contact with the lady who was in charge of the
7 Fairbridge Gazette. So I contacted her, seeking
8 further -- that was Pat Skidmore -- seeking further
9 information from her.

10 She then put me on to a couple of different groups
11 on Facebook. "Dumbarton Families" is one and then
12 "Memories of Dumbarton" I believe is the other one. So
13 the wonders of Facebook.

14 I went on there and I'd taken all the notes I'd
15 written and I just posted a question, I just put it up
16 on Facebook, and I was like: hey, this is the
17 information I have, this is who my dad is, this is who
18 his mum is listed as, this is who his father is listed
19 as, we know nothing about their past or about our
20 family's background, does anybody from there know these
21 people or who these people were or anything about them,
22 does anybody have any information for me? And I just
23 hit send and that just started a snowball that is still
24 going to this day.

25 Q. I think one of the important discoveries you made is

1 that your father had siblings.

2 A. Absolutely. Within two days, I had gotten so much
3 information from so many different people that he had
4 brothers and sisters and we had cousins and aunts and
5 uncles and ... yeah, it was crazy.

6 Q. And the way you've described this in your statement at
7 paragraph 26 is that really this has been such a journey
8 of discovery.

9 A. Oh, it's been unbelievable. Like, it's not every day
10 you wake up and discover that not only do you have seven
11 aunts and uncles but you've got 200 or 300 cousins that
12 you knew nothing about, have never met, have never seen.

13 For me it was even more so because knowing my dad
14 had no clue about any of these people, knowing that
15 I was the one that got to present all this information
16 for him was -- it was pretty cool, man, it was a neat
17 discovery.

18 Q. That's what I want to ask you about then. There came
19 a point in time after you had carried out a degree of
20 research that you decided you would present what you had
21 discovered to your father?

22 A. I wanted to be sure. I waited. I had been in contact
23 with his sister in Australia, his one sister, and my
24 research had led me to her through other people, like
25 other people had given me her name and like a couple of

1 other friends that I had had been doing some research
2 for me and -- the lines and timelines and everything
3 lead us to this person.

4 So I'd messaged her and there had been a couple of
5 posts on Facebook from a couple of different people,
6 saying that they had information for me but they would
7 get back to me at a later date, and of course me not
8 knowing, I was like, sure, whatever.

9 Within probably a day of me posting it on Facebook
10 I had enough information in my notes and from everything
11 everyone had sent me to confirm who these people were,
12 and yes, these are my dad's siblings, these are my dad's
13 brothers and sisters.

14 But I hadn't been in contact directly with them, so
15 I didn't want to tell him anything until I was 100% sure
16 that I had what I had. Then his sister contacted me on
17 Facebook and obviously she was blown away because they
18 never knew anything about him. Right?

19 So when had I finally confirmed with her that these
20 people were who they said they were and I started giving
21 her names and dates and places and times and everything
22 lined up, I took everything that I had over the course
23 of a couple of days and I went over and was like, okay,
24 dad, you need to sit down, I got some crazy information
25 for you, and then I just spilled it to him.

1 I just gave it all to him all at once: this is your
2 mum, this is your brother, this is your sister, this is
3 your grandmother, this is your grandfather, this is --
4 I had pages and pages and pages and pages of documents,
5 pictures, like everything. Everything that anybody had
6 sent to me I showed to him.

7 Q. This was just a couple of years ago or so?

8 A. This was like two years ago in, like, March. It was
9 March of 2018 when I discovered all this.

10 Q. And how did your father react to this?

11 A. He was blown away, man. How would you react to it if
12 all of a sudden you discovered seven, eight siblings you
13 never knew existed after 80 years? He was -- you guys
14 saw him, he's still in shock over it.

15 Q. Did he then have the opportunity of himself having
16 direct contact with his siblings?

17 A. Yes, actually -- funnily enough when I was sitting there
18 discussing it all with him and showing him all the
19 pictures and everything else, his sister from Australia
20 phoned me on the phone while I was talking to him, so
21 I just hit FaceTime on the phone and, blip, there she
22 was and I just said, "Hi", and, "How's it going? I'm
23 your nephew and here's your brother." I handed my dad
24 the phone. So it was direct, instantaneous contact,
25 right?

1 Q. You do say in your statement that the whole experience
2 has been a great experience.

3 A. Oh, man, it's been mind-blowing. Look where we are: I'm
4 sitting in a chamber in Edinburgh, Scotland. I never in
5 my life thought I would ever be here and it's all due to
6 research and stuff and help from [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and
7 [REDACTED] and everybody that has been in contact with us and
8 helped us along the way. It's an unbelievable
9 experience.

10 Q. I think you have made available to the inquiry
11 documentation that you have recovered or --

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. Clearly, we will have regard to that.

14 What I want to ask you now, Brian, is this: we've
15 seen clearly that you are very close to your father --

16 A. Now.

17 Q. That's the point. Growing up, did you have any
18 difficulty in your relationship with your father?

19 A. Absolutely, 100%. He wasn't a dad, he didn't know how
20 to be a dad. My life growing up as a kid sucked.
21 There's no other term I can use. It sucked. It was
22 absolutely shit and I hated it. I hated everything
23 about him, I hated everything to do with him. He was
24 a complete asshole growing up.

25 Q. What you say in your statement at paragraph 45 is now

1 that you've gone through what you've gone through, that
2 you think that his behaviour when you were growing up
3 was, as you put it, to mask the pain of a bad childhood?

4 A. 100%.

5 Q. Why do you say that?

6 A. Well, how do you -- okay, how do you go through your
7 entire life of -- well, my dad was like 45 when I was
8 born. So you go through 40 years of your life being
9 cast aside, being ignored, never having parents, never
10 having anyone to teach you or to show you or to guide
11 you along in what it takes to be a loving father and
12 a husband and, you know, like ... That's all stuff that
13 we have to be taught as we got older.

14 My dad was never taught that. He was handed off at
15 3 years old, sent to an orphanage, raised by strangers,
16 mentally and verbally abused, tossed around, bounced
17 from this place to that place to this place to that
18 place. He had no clue how to be a dad. He didn't know.

19 Q. One of the points you make in your statement is the way
20 that someone like your father is referred to in the
21 documentation. This is at paragraph 52. What you say
22 is:

23 "Within the files that I have recovered, I read the
24 notes and the letters and they talk about [your father]
25 in an uncaring way."

1 You go on to say they refer to him as "the boy" or
2 "this child".

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. That struck you, did it?

5 A. It did, because they don't refer to him as a person,
6 he's a commodity. "The boy", like, how informal
7 is that? They don't use his name. Very rarely in any
8 of those documents do they use his name; he's just
9 referred to as "the boy" or "this child". They don't
10 care. They didn't care about his welfare, they didn't
11 care about his well-being. They didn't care about how
12 it was affecting him mentally being passed around from
13 this person to that person.

14 That's why, when you guys ask him, "Who was this
15 person, who was that person?" he doesn't know. He
16 doesn't have a clue because they're just total strangers
17 to him. Right? There was never the love and support
18 and care that a child needs to understand who any of
19 these people were. It was just: oh, that's
20 Mr So-and-so, that's Mrs So-and-so, right?

21 So reading that and being a father myself, it was
22 hard for me to get my head around that because there's
23 just a complete lack of care. They just don't care.
24 He's just a number on a piece of paper.

25 Q. Another point you make in your statement relates to how

1 it came to be that his grandmother was told that he was
2 going to Canada in a letter that was dated three days
3 before he left.

4 A. Yeah, three days.

5 Q. And you're concerned about that?

6 A. Yeah, I'm concerned about that. It's ridiculous, man.

7 Like, she sent all these letters to whoever it was in
8 charge, you know, this secretary or that secretary, to
9 pass along to here or there, and all they do is send
10 back: oh, he's fine, he's great, he's having a good
11 life, everything's all good, carry on.

12 They sent her a letter on [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] and then
13 put him on a boat and sent him to Canada three days
14 later. They didn't even give her a chance to say
15 goodbye or nothing.

16 Then when she writes back and says "I'm sorry, I was
17 out of town", because I can't imagine the postal service
18 was the greatest at that point in time, so she probably
19 didn't even get the letter until days after he had
20 sailed to Canada. Really?

21 LADY SMITH: You probably also noticed that in that letter
22 telling her about the forthcoming departure to Canada,
23 the wrong name was used for him --

24 A. Yes, ma'am.

25 LADY SMITH: -- and then struck through.

1 A. It was crossed out and they wrote his name on the top.

2 How many of those letters did they send --

3 LADY SMITH: In exactly the same terms telling everybody --

4 A. Lip service. All of them.

5 LADY SMITH: -- that every child was looking forward to it.

6 A. It's brutal, it's absolutely brutal.

7 MR MacAULAY: Yes, and coming back to what you've managed to

8 glean from records, essentially I think what you're

9 saying is that what the records disclose to you, as

10 a father, as you've disclosed, is there's no compassion

11 or love coming out of what's recorded.

12 A. None. These people didn't care about these kids. They

13 didn't care at all. They're just, oh, another farm

14 labourer, wicked, send him off. These kids were hired

15 slaves. That's it.

16 Q. You do tell us in your statement you still have many

17 questions to ask.

18 A. Thousands.

19 Q. And you're continuing your voyage of discovery?

20 A. Constantly.

21 Q. Particularly in relation to family connections?

22 A. I want to know for my dad, for me, for my kids. One of

23 the hardest things for me was knowing, okay, my dad was

24 in an orphanage and he was sent over to Canada in the

25 1940s during the war or whatever, but knowing nothing

1 else, nothing. Right? My mum always taught us when
2 we were kids that family was everything and the family
3 on my mum's side I know because they were always there.
4 I know who my grandma is, I know who my aunts and uncles
5 are, I know who my cousins are. Nothing on my dad's
6 side. Nothing.

7 Q. Until now, of course.

8 A. Until now. Right? So my dad's 85 -- my dad turned 85
9 [REDACTED]. Right? I'm 42. So
10 42 years of having no idea who the family is on my dad's
11 side. 82 years of my dad having no idea who his family
12 is. Really? I don't think there's a person in this
13 room who doesn't know who their family is. I'd be very
14 surprised if there was.

15 Q. You have carried out some research on Fairbridge, the
16 Fairbridge Society, and you mention this in
17 paragraph 71, which is now on the screen. What you do
18 say is that from what you've looked at, you do think
19 their intentions were sincere.

20 A. I do, I do. I think when Kingsley Fairbridge set up
21 these farm schools in Australia and Canada -- and
22 I believe there's one in Rhodesia -- his intentions were
23 true. He wanted a better life for these orphaned kids,
24 as he put it. But when you go back and do the research
25 now and you get these files and you read these files and

1 you see that some of these kids were orphans and some
2 weren't, and then you read, like ... I know a lot of
3 the kids that went to Fairbridge in Canada had it pretty
4 good. I mean, there were some horror stories I've heard
5 come out of there, but the kids that were sent to the
6 Fairbridge school in Australia, I've read absolutely
7 traumatising stories about what happened to those kids.
8 I'm just thankful that, through just a stroke of luck,
9 my dad got sent to Canada because obviously I wouldn't
10 be here if he hadn't.

11 The irony in that being that his entire family
12 emigrated to Australia in 1956, so had my dad been sent
13 to Australia at the time, there might have been
14 a chance, through whatever circumstance, that he might
15 have got to be involved with his family. But highly
16 unlikely.

17 But I think they meant to be sincere, I think they
18 meant to try to better the lives of these kids, but they
19 went about it in the worst possible way they could have.

20 Q. In paragraph 72, and you've mentioned this already, the
21 relationship you had with your father, you consider, was
22 greatly affected by his childhood experiences. You go
23 on to say:

24 "I feel bad for him."

25 A. I do, I feel terrible for him. To be basically

1 abandoned at 3 years old, he's going to have no
2 recollection of it. He only knows what he was told and
3 what he was -- you know -- so yeah, I feel bad for him,
4 man. How can somebody go through their entire life not
5 ever knowing anything about their family? Not knowing
6 anything about their mum or their dad or their
7 grandmother or -- and being fed lies constantly from
8 these people who are supposed to be there, to better
9 their welfare and better their lives for them, and just
10 being constantly fed bullshit.

11 I felt horrible for him, man. It was --

12 Q. You've mentioned your relationship when you were growing
13 up; since this discovery, has that helped the
14 relationship?

15 A. Oh, absolutely. Like, now I understand why my dad was
16 the way he was. Now I understand why he didn't know how
17 to be a father, how he didn't know how to show me love,
18 how he didn't know -- because he was never taught.
19 He was never shown how to love anyone or how to be a dad
20 or how to, you know, like ... So I mean, I can't ...
21 I hold him responsible for it because those were the
22 choices that he made in his life, but I don't hold it
23 against him anymore. I did for a long time, but after
24 finding out all this and seeing all this and going
25 through everything that we've gone through, how can

1 I hold a grudge against him? It's pointless, absolutely
2 pointless.

3 Q. There's a part of your statement that's headed "Lessons
4 to be learned" and the first point you make is:

5 "Governments are now trying to acknowledge that they
6 made mistakes and are trying to provide redress to the
7 people involved. This should have happened at an
8 earlier stage."

9 A. It should have happened 60 years ago or more. Why did
10 they wait 80 years until 90% of these people are dead
11 and gone before they decided, oh, maybe we made
12 a mistake, maybe we should do something about it, maybe
13 we should apologise to these people? Yeah, you think?
14 My dad's 85. He's a frail, little old man. So 40 years
15 ago when he was my age and still young enough and
16 healthy enough to do anything with his life, why weren't
17 they addressed them? Why weren't they given an apology
18 then? Why weren't they offered financial compensation
19 then? There's a million things that should have
20 happened 60 years before they did. Is it because of
21 bureaucracy and laziness? Sure, maybe, I don't know.

22 Q. But you also say there's a lot of things that should not
23 have happened?

24 A. There's a lot of things that shouldn't have happened,
25 a lot of things. I don't know who came up with the idea

1 that it's okay to just take people, kids away from their
2 families and send them off to foreign countries that
3 they've never heard of or seen. Who comes up with this?
4 Furthermore, who okayed it? Like, who decides one day:
5 hey, we're just going to take all these kids, who may or
6 may not have families -- and some did and some didn't --
7 and we're just going to put them on a boat and send them
8 across the ocean? That's a great idea, let's do that.
9 Who did that?

10 It blows my mind that people could think that way
11 and think that that would be okay and think that it's
12 not going to have a detrimental effect on these kids.

13 You know, I get mad at my boy and I yell at him and
14 I see what happens and I feel bad about it for days.
15 I couldn't imagine what growing up your whole life
16 having that happen would be like, right?

17 Q. And as you've pointed out already, the impact is not
18 just on him --

19 A. No.

20 Q. -- but the impact was also on you as a family.

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. And what you tell us at paragraph 75 is that:

23 "As a family, we have lost years."

24 A. Yes, because we never knew anybody. If you think in my
25 research my grandmother died in 1985 and, if I did the

1 research correct, she died three months before my dad
2 received the package from England with all his
3 information in it or what we believe to be all the
4 information in it from Fairbridge and where he was sent
5 and everything else.

6 So in that 60-year span, nobody in any of these
7 government offices thought: maybe we should release this
8 information, maybe these kids can find their parents,
9 maybe these kids would want to look out and search for
10 their families.

11 In 1985, I would have been 8 years old. Knowing my
12 grandmother was still alive and that I had all these
13 aunts and uncles and cousins and stuff already? I think
14 that would have been pretty awesome to know back then
15 instead of having to wait another 30 years to even be
16 able to begin my research.

17 Granted, had I known about any of this stuff when
18 I was younger, I probably could have started my research
19 sooner. Dad and I were talking about it the other night
20 in the hotel and I said it wouldn't have even mattered
21 if I had got this information 30 years ago because
22 30 years ago we didn't have the power of the Internet.
23 I would have had to sit down and go through all that
24 information that I already had and write letters to
25 every single one of these organisations and people and

1 mail them off and hope that somebody somewhere was kind
2 enough to get back to me, instead of having the wonder
3 and power of the Internet where I found everything
4 I needed to ever conceivably know in two days.

5 Q. One of the things you say in your statement -- and this
6 is addressed to us, the inquiry -- and this is at
7 paragraph 80, is that you just hope the inquiry is not
8 handcuffed --

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. -- as to what can be put forward. What do you mean by
11 that?

12 A. Government red tape, man. I don't know how much you
13 guys are involved with the Scottish Government or the
14 British Government or if you guys are a complete
15 separate entity --

16 LADY SMITH: We are a completely independent inquiry.

17 A. Perfect. That's what it should be.

18 LADY SMITH: That's what happens with public inquiries in
19 this country.

20 A. That's awesome, then you're not subject to the politics
21 and BS that goes on with the government. Being
22 a separate organisation, you guys are free to do your
23 research the way it should be done and free to make your
24 own judgements and your own -- you're not being told by
25 somebody up on high that you can't say that, you can't

1 do that. That's awesome. That's great. I think what
2 you guys are doing is fantastic.

3 MR MacAULAY: I think one of the main points that comes out
4 of your evidence, leaving aside your research, is what
5 you say again at paragraph 81:

6 "My father's experiences are not just something that
7 affected him; it has affected the whole entire family."

8 Indeed, it's affected you and how you raise your own
9 children.

10 A. It is, it's hard, man. I've got two kids at home I love
11 with all my heart and soul, but it's been damn hard
12 trying to learn how to be a dad because I never had one.
13 He was there physically, he wasn't there emotionally.
14 So I'm still having to learn now even with my kids how
15 to be a good dad, how to not get mad at my kids all the
16 time. My wife and I have the discussion all the time.
17 My little boy is an absolute hellion, I love him, he's a
18 great kid, but he's just wild.

19 Having grown up my whole life with a father that
20 never had the patience for nothing, that's all I ever
21 knew. So I'm snapping and barking at my son because
22 it's all I've ever known and now I'm having to learn
23 through the grace of my wife and trying to learn how not
24 to be that dad, right?

25 Q. Does the message come out to you though from the

1 documents you've looked at that your father was loved by
2 his grandmother?

3 A. Sorry?

4 Q. That your father was loved by his grandmother?

5 A. Yes, absolutely. Reading the letters that she wrote
6 clearly shows me that she loved him. I mean, his mum
7 might not have given any care for him, but his grandma
8 sure did.

9 Q. But did he know that?

10 A. No, he didn't know that. Like he said, he was never
11 shown any of those letters. He never received any of
12 those letters. It wasn't even until I did the research
13 and I showed him those letters that he even knew they
14 existed. I said to [REDACTED] earlier, "I don't think my
15 dad's ever read his file." I think he got it, thumbed
16 through it, went "meh", threw it in a box, and that's
17 where it stayed for 30 years until he gave it to me.

18 Q. You do express gratitude in particular to the
19 Scottish Government because you say they are beginning
20 to make amends for what happened.

21 A. Well, they appear to be. They appear to be trying to
22 right a wrong. Obviously, it's 80 years too late, but
23 they appear to be making an attempt. I know that the
24 British Government gave a formal apology in 2010,
25 I believe it was, and I'm not sure if the Scottish

1 Government has done it yet but I know that they're
2 trying. I think it's set a precedent for what Canada
3 should be doing. Our Prime Minister's got all the money
4 in the world to hand out to every foreign nation he
5 feels like, but he doesn't have enough money or even the
6 time to give an apology to the people and the kids that
7 helped shape the country.

8 Q. Is there any pressure being exerted on the
9 Canadian Government to --

10 A. I think there's some people that have put forth -- I've
11 read a couple of ... There's been a couple of
12 petitions, I guess would be the word for it, that have
13 been put forward for the Canadian Government to do
14 something about it, to redress the whole child migrant
15 scheme, but they're not doing anything about it. I'm
16 sure they might have seen it and just given it the
17 heh-heh, whatever, but I don't see them doing anything
18 about it. There definitely isn't anybody who's pushing
19 the issue as hard as maybe it should be.

20 Q. And I think as you tell us, at least insofar as
21 Fairbridge is concerned, those who -- the survivors from
22 Fairbridge are now a very small number?

23 A. Very small. I think there's four of them, my dad being
24 one of them.

25 Q. Well, Brian, thank you very much indeed for engaging

1 with the inquiry, coming here and indeed helping your
2 father to come here so that we could hear directly from
3 him.

4 A. Thank you guys for having us. It's been an amazing
5 experience.

6 Q. And I understand you're now going to go and do some
7 castle hunting in Scotland.

8 A. Yes, I got a whole list of stuff I want to go find while
9 I'm here. It's a beautiful, beautiful country you guys
10 have got here. I'm very, very impressed. I never in my
11 life thought I would ever get to come here, let alone
12 with my dad. To come here with him, that's the icing on
13 the cake.

14 Q. Thank you for these sentiments.

15 A. I appreciate it, cheers.

16 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, I haven't been sent any questions to
17 put to Brian.

18 LADY SMITH: Let me just check: are there any outstanding
19 applications for questions? No.

20 Brian, that completes everything we need to ask you
21 today. I'm very grateful to you for engaging with us
22 in the way you have done, not just in providing your own
23 evidence in writing and coming here today, but, as
24 Mr MacAulay's already said, supporting your father. It
25 has been tremendously valuable to have, not just him but

1 you as well in both those roles. Thank you very much.
2 You've given me a lot to think about as a result of your
3 evidence.

4 Let me ask you one thing: have you been to Halifax?

5 A. No.

6 LADY SMITH: Ah. There is a monument to the British home
7 children there.

8 A. I have seen it, yes. I've seen the pictures of it.

9 LADY SMITH: And at Pier 21, I think, an effort has been
10 made to always include in their exhibitions references
11 to the home children and such --

12 A. There's quite a bit of stuff going on in Canada now that
13 they're doing. They're doing tours and stuff of
14 different places and they're putting -- it's starting to
15 come out now, they're starting to put more of an
16 emphasis on it, but I think it's a little bit too little
17 too late. But hopefully it won't fade into history and
18 they'll actually make an effort to teach people what
19 happened and how it happened and why it should never
20 happen again.

21 LADY SMITH: That's important. I hope it does.

22 A. Me too.

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much. I'm able to let you go.

24 (The witness withdrew)

25 I think we're probably moving on to a break now, are

1 we?

2 MR MacAULAY: Certainly before lunch we can squeeze in
3 a read-in.

4 LADY SMITH: That would be fine. I didn't know that we were
5 ready for a read-in.

6 Can I just mention something before I forget it. In
7 both Scott's evidence and Brian's evidence, there were
8 references to a couple of names that I hope everybody
9 spotted are names that are covered by my restriction
10 order. One of them was LYE, the other was LYE.
11 We can use them within this room, but let me remind
12 everyone that they can't be repeated outside this room.
13 Any doubts, please check with us before you use them
14 elsewhere.

15 MR MacAULAY: We do have time, I think, to have this read-in
16 now. My learned friend Ms MacLeod will do that.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

18 Witness statement of "GRAY" (read)

19 MS MacLEOD: My Lady, this is the first of a number of
20 read-ins that will be read in during these hearings and
21 these are the statements of witnesses who are not able
22 to appear at hearings.

23 The first of those is to be found at
24 WIT.001.002.7713. It is the statement of an applicant
25 who wishes to remain anonymous and to use the pseudonym

1 "Gray":

2 "My name is Gray. I was born in 1949. My contact
3 details are known to the inquiry.

4 "I was born in Hawick. My mother, who was
5 a Protestant, had a relationship with my father who was
6 a Catholic. I was informed that his mother disallowed
7 them from marrying. My mother was sent away and hidden
8 until she had me.

9 "In those days having a child out of wedlock caused
10 embarrassment to the family. I found out in later life
11 that I have a full sister who is a year older than me.
12 She was born in 1948 in Galashiels and was adopted at
13 birth.

14 "I was born in Haig Maternity near Jedburgh. I
15 lived in a small house with mud floors. My mother's
16 parents and some of their children were still living
17 there. One of my mother's sisters had her two children
18 out of wedlock and they were living there too.
19 There was no space to keep them and my mother had to
20 work, so she decided to send me to an orphanage.

21 "I was taken to Quarriers Homes when I was 11 months
22 old. I arrived there in 1950 and left in [REDACTED] 1959.
23 I went into the babies' hospital in Quarriers.

24 "The very first memory I have is being with the
25 matron, ^{QAJ} [REDACTED] in there. I was about 2

1 or 3 years of age. QAJ became a cottage
2 mother at Quarriers. We had to call her QAJ
3 QAJ'."

4 My Lady, in records the inquiry has recovered from
5 Quarriers at QAR.001.008.6191, it shows that Gray was
6 admitted to Quarriers on [REDACTED] 1950 when he was aged
7 1, and that he was discharged on [REDACTED] 1960, aged 9,
8 when he was discharged to the care of Dhurringile
9 Training Farm, Western Australia:

10 "I was in three different cottages during my time in
11 Quarriers. I spent my first four years with
12 QAJ in her cottage. It could have been
13 slightly less. It was near the school in
14 Quarrier's Village. I think it was cottage 27."

15 And the records do confirm that it was cottage 27:

16 "When she became a cottage mother she selected
17 10 children and I was the first one. I was then moved
18 to another cottage run by a married couple. I can't
19 remember their names but my memories are that they were
20 bad to me. They might have been about 40, but I can't
21 be specific. I was in the other cottage for about
22 a year, possibly more. It was brutal. Their method was
23 different. I ran away a few times and cried my way back
24 to QAJ. I think she had a mothering instinct
25 because she took me back when I was 5 or 6.

1 "There were ten us in the cottage. It was boys and
2 girls. I think we slept together in the dormitories.
3 There was five in one and five in another.

4 "I was called 'hollow legs' and 'tubby'. My plate
5 was always empty so the food must have been good.

6 "The school was across the road.

7 "I was very into outdoor activities. I spent most
8 of my life outdoors playing sport like soccer.

9 QAJ always said that I had ants in my pants
10 because I was never still. I was always splitting my
11 pants or my breeches as I called it.

12 "We rarely went outside the orphanage walls. The
13 only trip I had was when QAJ took me to
14 Edinburgh for my farewell trip before I left Scotland.

15 "Every Sunday Aunt from the family would
16 come to visit me. She was my holiday carer. We would
17 go to church on a Sunday and come back and have our
18 lunch. After lunch, my Aunt would come and take
19 me out for a long walk around the village. It was
20 a beautiful place.

21 "I went on my holidays to stay with them in Paisley
22 for two weeks during the school holidays and Christmas
23 period. They were terrific. I kept in touch with them
24 and went back to see them in 1972.

25 "Religion was force-fed. It was Bible study and

1 church. It was horrible. It must have been the
2 Presbyterian Church philosophy. We all had Bibles.
3 I was given a Bible when I left and I had it for years.
4 At Bible study we had to learn the New Testament and
5 they would give us quizzes on it.

6 "I can't even remember if I had a teddy bear. If
7 you were to ask most children in a normal environment
8 they can tell you what their first teddy bear was or
9 their favourite book but I can't. I can remember
10 joining the Enid Blyton Club. I loved reading.

11 "QAJ [REDACTED] was very regimented and she ran her
12 cottage as if it were a hospital. She was her own
13 person. Everybody had their own shoes polished. You
14 would get the belt if you didn't do it properly, but it
15 was her way of making sure that we were all on the same
16 page.

17 "One of my jobs was to get the morning paper for
18 QAJ [REDACTED]. I would go up to the shop which was
19 a fair bit away from the orphanage. She asked me one
20 day why it was taking me so long and I said I had been
21 reading the sports results. I enjoyed doing that
22 because it got me out of the cottage for bit.

23 "We were all responsible for keeping our little
24 areas clean and making our beds. You never left the
25 house without an inspection from QAJ [REDACTED]. The

1 preparation and discipline was always there.

2 "I can't remember if they celebrated Christmas or
3 birthdays or Quarriers. I can't remember any so it
4 can't have been a big deal.

5 "I rarely left the orphanage except to go to
6 Paisley. I didn't have any visits. My mother
7 supposedly came when I was very young but I can't
8 remember her. I found out later on in life that
9 QAJ had informed her not to come again.

10 QAJ would dress me up ready for her to
11 come but she wouldn't turn up. I found out years later
12 that my mother had got into a relationship with a chap
13 who was physically abusing her. I didn't even know that
14 I had a mother and father then because I was so young.
15 I wasn't told about my mother or father or where they
16 were.

17 "I ran away a few times from the other cottage, but
18 I always came back when I was hungry. I got a belting
19 for it from the couple.

20 "I began wetting the bed when I moved into the other
21 cottage. If we wet the bed, we were belted by the
22 housefather. I was frequently punished for it. It was
23 a proper whipping and would often take place in front of
24 the other children. I can remember watching some of the
25 other kids freak out. The other kids would be waiting

1 for the kid to get a hiding or they would taunt you and
2 say, 'Oh, you wet the bed.' It was humiliating. Some
3 of the kids would make their beds after they had wet it.
4 If you had done that, you got another hiding.

5 "Quarriers was a very good place but there was bad
6 stories from there too. Some of the other cottages had
7 problems. QAJ [REDACTED] was a disciplinarian. You
8 could get the leather strap or if you talked you were
9 sent into the corner. She imparted discipline on the
10 children. Despite this QAJ [REDACTED] treated me like
11 a human being, whereas the other couple were aggressive
12 and punishing. She was fair but tough.

13 "I was psychologically abused in the cottage run by
14 the couple. It wasn't just me, it was everyone. I was
15 very unhappy there. It was the punishment and mental
16 anguish. I felt despair knowing that I was going to
17 receive a belting.

18 "You couldn't think freely. They didn't allow young
19 people to think for themselves. It didn't improve you
20 in any way. It is important to have creative minds.

21 "You tend to block things out that you don't want to
22 remember. I think that's the case with the other
23 cottage.

24 "I was bullied by some of the older boys in this
25 cottage. They were shockers. There were three or four

1 of them who formed a little pack. They would punch me
2 or belt me. It was normal in there. There was
3 a mentality of fear of dobbing them in. The
4 psychological abuse was awful.

5 "I still remember it as if it happened a week ago.
6 QAJ called me in and said, 'Gray, would you
7 like to go to Australia?' I was 9. She was sitting in
8 a chair by the fire in cottage 27. I said, 'Yes, where
9 is it?' She elaborated on it and told me the reasons
10 for it. She felt it would be a better place with more
11 opportunity in her eyes. She wasn't aware of what the
12 institution life was like in Australia. She had
13 obviously been asked if any of her boys would like to go
14 to Australia, so she selected me.

15 "They prepared me quite well. I can remember
16 sitting a IQ test to check my ability. I don't know how
17 some of the others got through. I didn't sign any
18 paperwork. I found out years later from a letter
19 I received that my mother had signed documents. They
20 couldn't release me until she signed the papers.

21 QAJ took me to Edinburgh before I left.
22 I can remember the trip and her saying goodbye to me.
23 She was caring enough to take me to Edinburgh. It was
24 a trip leading up to me leaving Quarriers. I suppose it
25 was a motherly instinct that she had for me.

1 "A year had passed by the time they carried out the
2 psychological testing and measured us for new clothes.
3 I still remember doing projects in school about
4 Australia. We did one about fruit because everyone
5 talked about the beautiful fruit where we were going."

6 I don't need to put these documents on the screen,
7 but at QAR.001.008.6175 there's a copy of
8 a psychologist's report deeming Gray a suitable boy to
9 be in the emigration party.

10 At QAR.001.008.6176 there's a copy of what appears
11 to be a letter from Gray's mother confirming that she
12 did sign a form earlier that year consenting to Gray's
13 emigration. The letter itself is undated but there's
14 a reference in another context to the year 1959 in the
15 letter. We don't have a copy of the consent form
16 itself.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

18 MS MacLEOD: "We caught the train to Southampton and
19 departed from there. There were 11 of us. We had these
20 big cases. They were beautiful, like big leather
21 trunks. Our new clothes were made of Harris Tweed. But
22 we couldn't wear them when we arrived because of the
23 weather in Australia.

24 [REDACTED] QAJ told us we were going on a big
25 journey. She told us to treat it like a holiday, so

1 I did. I thought I was going a five-week holiday.
2 I was excited. I was unaware of what was about to
3 happen.

4 "The ship was called the Fair Sky. I was actually
5 sick going aboard the ship. Everyone else was sick when
6 we were travelling. Lots of people were sick as we
7 sailed down the Irish Sea. Two carers came with us;
8 I think they were called Mr and Mrs Palmer. They were
9 from Tasmania. Mr and Mrs Palmer were generally very
10 good. The ship was one of the last to go through the
11 Suez Canal. I traded my socks and kilt for some Turkish
12 delight when we stopped at Port Said.

13 "I was very independent. I didn't get too close to
14 anyone, so I developed friendships with the other boys
15 but I never allowed myself to get too close. Being the
16 youngest, I was always looked to see what the older boys
17 were doing.

18 "When we came over to Australia if there was
19 a fight, and if one of you got into a fight, the rule
20 was that we always had to look out for each other. That
21 was the mantra. You wanted to protect each other.

22 "The boat was full of migrants. There seemed to be
23 a lot of people. People called them the 'ten quid
24 migrants'. We were down in the dungeon, several floors
25 below deck. There were four of us in each room in two

1 bunks. The Palmers were fairly close to us.

2 "Two or three weeks into the journey, I was pulled
3 into one of the older boys' rooms. I was bare chested
4 in my togs. One of the older boys, who I despised
5 anyway, grabbed me and stripped me. The other boys told
6 me to suck his penis. My head was pushed down. I was
7 gagging and bit his penis. He was screaming his head
8 off. I ran out and they were all screaming, 'Get the
9 bastard!'

10 "After that, I stole a small pointy screwdriver and
11 kept it on me all the time for protection. I told those
12 boys I had it. They'd sort of grab me and mess me
13 around. They thought it was funny but it didn't last
14 long.

15 "I didn't tell anyone about what happened for fear
16 of retribution. I was always on the lookout for danger.

17 "Apart from the assault, the journey was like
18 a holiday. I had food, morning noon and night, any time
19 I wanted it. I spent most of my time around the pool or
20 playing games, thinking it was wonderful. From that
21 perspective it was a great trip.

22 "We crossed the Indian Ocean and no one told us that
23 we were travelling at temperatures of over 100 with no
24 suncream. I got burned and ended up in the infirmary
25 for two days with calamine lotion all over me because of

1 blisters.

2 "We stopped off at Perth to drop off some migrants.
3 It took three or four days to sail from Perth to
4 Melbourne. I arrived on [REDACTED] 1960."

5 We don't need to put this on the screen either,
6 my Lady, but at NAA.001.001.0010, there is a copy of the
7 incoming passenger list for the ship, the Fair Sky,
8 which arrived on [REDACTED] 1960 in Perth, and Gray is
9 noted there as being bound for Dhurringile Training
10 Farm.

11 LADY SMITH: So that's where the [REDACTED] date will come
12 from, the time it took to sail on to Melbourne?

13 MS MacLEOD: Absolutely, yes.

14 "When we arrived I was landsick. It was
15 minus 4 Fahrenheit when I left Scotland and it was 104
16 Fahrenheit here. We said our goodbyes to Mr and
17 Mrs Palmer. They may have gone to stay in Melbourne for
18 the night or reported to the Presbyterian Church.

19 "A driver collected us in a white VW combi van with
20 bench seats and a trailer to carry all our luggage.

21 "We sat in the bench seats, it took two and a half
22 hours to get to Dhurringile, near Tatura, in rural
23 Victoria. There were 11 of us being taken, including
24 the boy who had stripped me on the ship.

25 "It was stinking hot with the windows open. We

1 drove all the way up there. I was too landsick to be
2 enjoying it.

3 "When we got to Dhurringile, I remember driving up
4 the driveway to the castle, as I called it, open
5 mouthed. We arrived and the van stopped. Then we saw
6 the two cooks, Mrs Muirhead and Mrs Moffat, the
7 superintendent, Mr ^{AIP} [REDACTED] and the farmer Mr Hyland were
8 there. They greeted us all and said, 'Welcome to
9 Australia, this is your home.'

10 "Mr ^{AIP} [REDACTED] said, 'Mrs Moffat will show you to your
11 rooms.' It was five in one and six in the other room.
12 Mrs Moffat said, 'Here are your bedclothes, now go up
13 and make up your bed.'

14 "The house was four storeys high with a turret. The
15 turret was the highest part of Dhurringile. It was
16 beautiful. Initially we were in awe of the place.
17 It was a 58-room mansion and it took us ages to walk
18 around and get our bearings given the size and magnitude
19 of it. I asked who cleaned the house and was told, 'You
20 do.' I couldn't believe it.

21 "Dhurringile was a 120-acre farm with pigs and
22 chickens. There were over 100 milk cows and an orchard.
23 It was fully irrigated. Supposedly it was looked after
24 by volunteers from the Presbyterian Church.

25 "As you walked in the entrance of the house you

1 turned left and that was where the superintendent's
2 office was. You walked up the stairs to the bedrooms.
3 I was in the top bedroom above the entry. There was
4 a dungeon room down a set of stairs. It had been
5 a prisoner of war camp. There was a massive dining room
6 and a kitchen, which could cater for 50 or 60 people.
7 There was a laundry at the back, a library with
8 a beautiful wooden staircase, and a dance hall. It
9 would have been a wonderful place.

10 "There were only 11 of us in the whole home. The
11 home had closed in 1958 and re-opened for our intake.
12 The home should have been checked out before our intake
13 because a lot of the problems already existed.

14 "When we arrived we were given aerogrammes to write
15 a letter via airmail to our holiday families from
16 Scotland. I can remember writing to the [REDACTED] family.
17 I only wrote a couple of lines and was told to write
18 more. We had no contact with our own families.

19 "In the mornings, we got up at 6.00 or 6.30 and made
20 our beds. We did our jobs before breakfast. There was
21 a weekly roster, so we had different jobs. Someone
22 would be rostered for breakfast duty. The other jobs
23 would be tending to the pigs and cows or doing the
24 school lunches. During the summer months we were
25 involved in the collection of the fruit.

1 "We worked in the morning and at night. There was
2 little time for your studies. You probably worked for
3 an hour after school. The milking of the cows might
4 take you two hours and you still had to prep yourself
5 for the next day and get your clothes done. We had
6 homework, but probably not as much as we should have.
7 We might ask one of the older boys for help on an
8 occasion.

9 "In the summer you might have cricket practice. The
10 local community in the area was a farming community.
11 There was a cricket ground at the bottom of our road and
12 the community would come and play, which allowed us to
13 mix with the local people. I played Aussie Rules at
14 school in the winter months.

15 "Bedtime was fairly early, at 7 or 7.30. The rooms
16 were massive with high ceilings. It took us a long time
17 to adjust because of the bats flying around. I was
18 still wetting the bed through stress. It wouldn't
19 happen often.

20 "I had to be careful because some of the boys would
21 prey on me. I still had my screwdriver for protection.
22 I usually kept it hidden in my sock.

23 "You were punished for wetting the bed. You got
24 more work or a belting from Mr AIQ who came after
25 AIP.

1 "The staff were Mr ^{AIP} [REDACTED], the two cooks,
2 Mrs Muirhead and Mrs Moffat. The farmer was Mr Hyland,
3 he lived in a farmhouse as you came in.

4 "Mrs Muirhead and Mrs Moffat were the kitchen hands.
5 They came from Murchison. They were revered because
6 they had been there long before our arrival and knew the
7 ropes of the kitchen. They rang a big bell so that
8 everybody could hear it was time to come for dinner.
9 Monday to Friday the meals were generally very good.

10 "There was plenty of food and it was generally
11 self-sufficient, especially in the summer months. There
12 was plenty of fruit like pears, peaches and apricots.
13 The orchard was around 30 acres.

14 "Saturdays were all right but Sundays couldn't cut
15 it. I can remember getting baked beans on toast and
16 peaches and cream. It was our regular meal on a Sunday
17 night. I hated it. The other thing I hated was bread
18 and butter pudding.

19 "The shower area was massive, like in a prison. It
20 was open-plan and everyone showered together. I tried
21 to avoid the shower area. I snuck in and had a shower.
22 I didn't trust anybody. I made a beeline for the shower
23 when there were four or five younger boys together.
24 I didn't go when it was just the older boys because it
25 was a well-known area where some older boys would

1 masturbate. I was scared. I never felt at ease and was
2 fearful of a repeat of what had happened on the ship.

3 "I think the auxiliary girls from the
4 Presbyterian Church got us clothing from different
5 people. We ended up with T-shirts. We had a school
6 uniform, which was grey cotton pants and grey or white
7 shirts. That was a fairly stranded uniform in those
8 days. We were always in shorts.

9 "We had a doctor who came from Mooroopna on
10 a regular basis. When I was 12 we all lined up at the
11 bus and were taken to Mooroopna to have our tonsils
12 extracted. I think one of the boys was having trouble
13 so they decided to take all our tonsils out.

14 "I [REDACTED] who went to the state school,
15 [REDACTED] Primary School. It was about 5 miles away
16 from Dhurringile. The others caught a different bus
17 which went in the opposite direction to Shepparton.

18 "I started school in grade 6. School was good,
19 I loved it. The country people were fantastic and they
20 couldn't do enough to help you.

21 "I would take my lunch with me. I will never forget
22 my first experience of lunch. I had my lunchbox and
23 opened it. All I could see was greaseproof paper.
24 I opened it and there were thick sandwiches with a red
25 line in the middle. They were tomato sandwiches that

1 had melted in the 100-degree heat. One of the teachers
2 got wind of it and rang Mrs Muirhead. The headmaster's
3 wife made some sandwiches so I was all right for that
4 day. The next day I opened my lunchbox thinking it
5 would be something good. It was sandwiches with a black
6 line through them. They were Vegemite.

7 "I was good up until year 9. I got a nice lecture
8 from the headmaster asking me to settle down.
9 I realised that I wasn't applying myself.

10 "Saturday morning was chore time. We had to polish
11 the floorboards in the massive rooms with the big
12 polisher strapped around our waists. If you didn't do
13 it, you couldn't do anything or go anywhere.

14 "People from the local community put their name down
15 to the Presbyterian authority if they were interested in
16 taking one of the Dhurringile boys. My first experience
17 wasn't good. I went to stay with a family called
18 Stanhope for two weeks and ended up getting up at
19 5 o'clock to milk the cows.

20 "When I got back to the home, Mrs Muirhead asked how
21 my holiday had been. She was shocked when I told her.
22 After that period they monitored all the people who were
23 taking kids.

24 "We went on day trips to churches and they tried to
25 make us wear our kilts. I had sold mine. We became an

1 exhibition being shown to all the local
2 Presbyterian Churches around the area. We went to
3 Tatura church on a Sunday morning and then the other
4 local churches in the afternoon, especially around
5 Thanksgiving time.

6 "I ended up going to stay with an Irish family
7 called the [REDACTED] during the school holidays.
8 Another boy had been billeted to go but he was sick so
9 I ended up going in his place. I would go for six weeks
10 during the Christmas holidays. They were called [REDACTED]
11 and [REDACTED]. They had come out from Belfast in
12 1952. [REDACTED] was a local builder. They had a son and
13 a daughter. We got on well and they were good to me.
14 We would go on holidays.

15 "The local people within the communities were superb
16 because they gave us Christmas and birthday presents.
17 We weren't short of anything. We would go to our
18 holiday families for Christmas. If I got presents from
19 the [REDACTED], like a baseball bat or something, most
20 of the other kids were respectful of that. You might
21 get a cake on your birthday but that was it, they
22 weren't really celebrated.

23 "I didn't have any visitors. The welfare officers
24 may have come round but we weren't aware of it. I think
25 the superintendent had to write a report but I can't

1 remember speaking to anybody from the welfare
2 department.

3 "I ran away a couple of times, especially after
4 a beating. I would usually go back myself and think,
5 'I'll suffer it again.' I was picked up by a driver
6 once and he took me straight back to Dhurringile. It
7 was generally good but it was just the discipline and
8 the bullying that went on. We just thought it was the
9 status quo.

10 "AIP [REDACTED] was the first of the superintendents
11 in charge of Dhurringile. He had an tendency to like
12 the boys. One of the older boys warned me about him.
13 He had boarded at Dhurringile until he had found
14 boarding facilities in Tatura or Murchison. I looked up
15 to him. He basically told me to be careful of AIP [REDACTED]
16 especially if he took you to Melbourne.

17 "AIQ [REDACTED] played badminton and because I was keen on
18 sports he used this as an excuse to take me to Melbourne
19 once. He took me to stay at his mother's house and told
20 me to sleep in bed with him. I made a point of refusing
21 him. Looking back, I think that was how he groomed you.
22 Other boys went with him so it might have happened to
23 them.

24 "AIP [REDACTED] was fairly brutal with the belt. He used to
25 hit me on the backside with the strap for talking back.

1 He would make sure that he did it away from the others.
2 He wasn't vicious.

3 "After AIP [REDACTED] we had another superintendent
4 called AIQ [REDACTED]. He was married. He and his wife
5 looked after us. AIQ [REDACTED] was an ex-detective who
6 played the part and treated the boys like young
7 criminals. He was the biggest problem we had there. He
8 was an aggressive person and he used to stand up in the
9 turret with binoculars and watch the boys going down to
10 the bus stop. If there was any pushing or shoving or
11 fisticuffs between the boys he would duly note it. The
12 next day he would pull you out and say, 'You and you get
13 in the boxing ring.' He would get us in the boxing ring
14 and make us fight with each other. The fights were
15 always unevenly matched. If there was an age difference
16 one boy would have his hand tied behind his back. He
17 would say, 'Hit him, hit him.' Of course, I was the
18 youngest and it happened to me.

19 "He created this mental anguish in us. He got great
20 delight in seeing some of the boys being hurt. He
21 thought it was sport. He would give you a whack with
22 his hand, or it could have been a punch, even if you
23 didn't deserve it. He was a big, strong man in his mid
24 to late 30s. I didn't like his attitude. He was
25 violent. There was an underlying discussion that his

1 wife was having an affair with one of the boys.

2 "AIQ [REDACTED] made us get up in the morning and have
3 a cold shower in the winter. He did this as a way of
4 toughening us up. It was his mentality. I think one of
5 the cooks might have had a word with him about it.

6 "I did talk back a lot but I just didn't feel that
7 some of the things were right. The dungeon was a place
8 that you avoided going to, but AIQ [REDACTED] used to put boys
9 in there. He put me in there once or twice. You
10 couldn't climb up out of it so you couldn't get out. It
11 was a psychological thing. He tried to break you,
12 particularly if you showed strength. AIQ [REDACTED] could
13 find ways to break you. The dungeon was used more as
14 a way to scare and intimidate the boys.

15 "We had another superintendent called Mr AIO [REDACTED] He
16 was short man. After him AIP [REDACTED] came back and
17 stayed until it closed.

18 "Another practice that went on quite often was
19 nuggetting. This was when older boys would hold you
20 down, pull down your pyjamas, and cover your private
21 parts in black shoe polish. It was immature but they
22 found it funny. They soon learned not to mess with me.
23 I had a shocking temper. That is one of the things it
24 does to you: it creates this anger or lack of respect.

25 "The boy who stripped me on the ship didn't last

1 long at Dhurringile. He was gone after six months.
2 Someone said he joined the navy. He was a bully and
3 used to get a gang together. It affected me
4 psychologically. I was glad he was gone. Most people
5 were. You were looking over your shoulder to see what
6 he was up to.

7 "He had a brother who I think was two years younger
8 than him.

9 "When boys left Dhurringile they were left to their
10 own devices. The church let them down. The church was
11 duty-bound to find them boarding but it never happened.
12 We came home from school one day and the staff were all
13 standing out the front. They told us they were closing
14 the home. I was 13.

15 We were told we were all going to a delinquent home
16 for unruly children. It was about three and a half
17 hours away. I told the superintendent ^{AIP} [REDACTED] that
18 I wasn't going and asked him to call my Uncle [REDACTED] and
19 Aunty [REDACTED] the [REDACTED] that I used too stay with.
20 He took me into his office and I phoned my Aunty [REDACTED] to
21 say goodbye and told her that they were closing down the
22 home. My Aunty [REDACTED] told me that she would speak to my
23 Uncle [REDACTED].

24 "She rang [REDACTED] who was in one of the pubs. In
25 1963 in Australia hotels closed at 6 o'clock, so a lot

1 of the builders and tradesman went to the pub at 4.30
2 for a '6 o'clock swirl'. A 6 o'clock swirl was the name
3 given to their drink. After [REDACTED] spoke to him, [REDACTED]
4 finished his 6 o'clock swirl and went home. He asked my
5 brother and sister if they would like a brother. They
6 said yes so he drove out to Dhurringile to pick me up.
7 I had done a runner again and some of the boys told me
8 he was there looking for me.

9 "The next thing I knew, I saw [REDACTED] remonstrating
10 with Mr ^{AIP} [REDACTED] in his Northern Irish accent. He said,
11 'Gray, get in the fucking car', so I did. Mr ^{AIP} [REDACTED]
12 told him that he couldn't do that and he was breaking
13 the law, but he said, 'Just stop me.' He drove me home.

14 "I can still remember he stopped the car and was
15 threatening to go round to the manse to complain about
16 the way I'd been treated. I found out some time later
17 that he had gone to the manse and told them that the
18 church had let me down.

19 "This was the last time I saw some of boys. A lot
20 of the kids walked out of there with no self-belief and
21 no confidence in themselves. These young blokes had no
22 chance or opportunities."

23 My Lady, without needing to put these on the screen,
24 I can confirm that there are reports from Dhurringile,
25 one from [REDACTED] 1962 going to Quarriers at

1 QAR.001.008.6174, another dated [REDACTED] 1964 to
2 Quarriers at QAR.001.008.6173, and another dated
3 [REDACTED] 1963, at QAR.001.009.0135. These note
4 Quarriers Homes in Bridge of Weir as the overseas
5 correspondent and they are all reports which are
6 complimentary of Gray and appear to have been sent from
7 Dhurringile to Quarriers.

8 LADY SMITH: So not describing him as a delinquent?

9 MS MacLEOD: No, my Lady, for example, one says:

10 "A excellent boy in many respects. Presents no
11 problems whatsoever. We are very proud of him."

12 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

13 MS MacLEOD: The records also confirm the date on which Gray
14 was discharged from Dhurringile, and that was
15 [REDACTED] 1964, and that's at QAR.001.009.0121. It's
16 noted there that he was fostered by a Mr and
17 Mrs [REDACTED] an excellent foster home, and Gray
18 regarded them as his family.

19 LADY SMITH: So that would be the people he referred to as
20 aunt and uncle?

21 MS MacLEOD: That's right:

22 "I lived with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] for three and a half
23 years. They fostered me. [REDACTED] had built their home in
24 Tatura and he was very proud of it. They also gave me
25 the opportunity of changing my name to [REDACTED]. After

1 a day or so, [REDACTED] came to ask me and I said no because
2 everybody knew me as my own surname.

3 "Around the time I had a run-in with my English
4 teacher. [REDACTED] came home one day and said, 'I've got
5 you a plumbing apprenticeship. You didn't talk back in
6 those days, so I agreed. I left school and started my
7 apprenticeship.

8 "The welfare department used to ring [REDACTED] to ask how
9 much money I had in the bank. [REDACTED] called and told
10 them not to call again. He told them that he would
11 never let them now how much money I had. They never
12 visited the house to check on my welfare, it was all
13 done by phone. They were only ever interested in how
14 much money I had. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] had proven that they
15 were far superior to them.

16 "[REDACTED] was a great orator. He was as proud as punch
17 of me. He would pick up other Dhurringile boys who had
18 lost their way up off the street, take them home, let
19 them have a bath, give them a feed and a bed for the
20 night. He was known in the town for doing that. He was
21 fantastic. I was always respectful of [REDACTED]. You never
22 messed with him. If I looked like going off the rails,
23 he would let me know about it.

24 "[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] always wanted to have a pub, so they
25 took a lease on a pub over the Murray River near New

1 South Wales. It was called the [REDACTED] in the
2 Middle of Nowhere. [REDACTED] told me I was going with them,
3 but I didn't want to go. I told him he could swear as
4 much as he wanted but I wasn't going. Then [REDACTED] said
5 he wanted me to live in a boarding house. I agreed with
6 it and promised them I would finish my plumbing
7 apprenticeship.

8 "I left Tatura when I was 18 and moved to Mooroopna.
9 I told [REDACTED] I was leaving because I felt as if the town
10 was spying on me and reporting back to them. After that
11 we shut down communication for a while. I completed my
12 apprenticeship after I moved to Mooroopna.

13 "I moved to Melbourne when I was 22. By that time,
14 I had started speaking to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] again. I went
15 to Holmes College to study sales and marketing. I did
16 a cadetship with a large building company. I ventured
17 off from there into project management, I started
18 working in sales and marketing.

19 "I married my wife in 1979. You get lucky sometimes
20 and I have been blessed. I married the right woman and
21 she keeps me focused. We have two girls, I couldn't be
22 happier.

23 "The most important thing that happened in my life
24 was the [REDACTED]. My parents, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], were
25 just wonderful. The world was my oyster under the

1 guidance of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

2 "I have never reported any abuse to anyone.
3 I thought it was the status quo. It only came into play
4 a few years ago when I looked up the definition of
5 abuse. I never knew what the consequences of reporting
6 could be and I didn't feel confident in the system.
7 I just hope it never happens to anyone again.

8 "I have considered counselling at times. In the
9 last six months I have been overthinking and
10 overanalysing things to a point where I find myself
11 getting distracted from what I'm doing.

12 "I ended up with post-viral fatigue infection in
13 1986 and after that I decided I wanted to find out more
14 about myself. I contacted Quarriers to obtain
15 information about my family history. Within a fortnight
16 they sent me photocopied documents relating to my
17 height, weight and temperament. I think they had
18 destroyed a lot of information. I got my birth
19 certificate and discovered I was a year older than
20 I thought.

21 "I haven't obtained any records from Dhurringile.
22 I think there would have been a file kept on everyone.

23 "My oldest daughter had wanted me to find out about
24 my biological family for some time. Then I heard about
25 Margaret Humphreys from the Child Migrants Trust and the

1 shoestring budget they were working on, so I sent \$100
2 to them.

3 "One day in March 2003 I got a phone call from them
4 and arranged a visit. I took my daughter with me. They
5 handed me a photo. It was of my mother and her twin
6 sister. It was the first photo I had ever seen of my
7 mother.

8 "Later that day my mother [REDACTED] and her sister came
9 for dinner at our house. I took her into the bedroom
10 and showed her the photo of my mother. She was as proud
11 as Punch. I found out that my mother had passed away
12 a month before I received the photo.

13 "The Child Migrants Trust investigated my family on
14 my mother's side. They traced my mother's twin. I met
15 her and her son. She told me I had a sister.

16 "From there we carried out further investigation and
17 found out about my father's side. I re-enacted my
18 family history when I visited Scotland. I drove to
19 Jedburgh with my mother's twin and went to the house
20 where my father lived.

21 "I discovered that I have 15 first cousins; some of
22 them live in Balerno and Currie, Edinburgh.

23 "I have been searching for my sister since I found
24 my family. I haven't been able to contact her because
25 of the adoption laws in Scotland.

1 "People like Margaret Humphreys don't come along
2 often. The awareness is there now for all to see.
3 Gordon Brown, the former Prime Minister, has pushed
4 boundaries. I respect people like Gordon Brown for
5 stating that he would be there to support us forever.

6 "We had a family function when I turned 61. All of
7 the family were there from my biological mother and my
8 father's side. My cousins from the foster family were
9 there as well.

10 "I naturalised myself in 1991. I took the oath.
11 I travelled to the UK on an Australian passport in 1973.
12 I met ^{QAJ} [REDACTED] during the visit. A lot of the
13 families who came out here probably don't have
14 passports.

15 "I receive a part Commonwealth pension. I have
16 looked into redress.

17 "I had three visits to Scotland to find out about my
18 biological family funded by the Child Migrants Trust.
19 I have paid for five other visits myself.

20 "Overall, I would give the care I got in Quarriers
21 a tick. I take away the positives from Quarriers.
22 I didn't know anything else. I think that is why they
23 kept the children within the bounds of the orphanage, so
24 you couldn't see what else was outside.

25 "I would say overall if you get the right carers, it

1 was a wonderful place for children. I would rank it as
2 a good orphanage.

3 "At the time bullying was, unfortunately, part of
4 the process of growing up. I hate seeing people bullied
5 or brutalised.

6 "I would give Dhurringile 5 out of 10. The
7 psychological aspect of it was poor. People called you
8 bastards, you're tarred with a brush and stigmatised,
9 you aren't taught to belief in yourself. It created
10 self-doubt in me. There was no one there to say 'I love
11 you', to respect you, or even say, 'Keep up the good
12 work.' It was a case of, 'Get on with it', or, 'Do
13 this.' It is not that you looked for it but it is a
14 natural progression.

15 "There is something about growing up in an
16 institution where you can't get too close to anyone.
17 You're brought up in a manner not to be close. I think
18 people always think you are stand-offish. You don't get
19 too close to anyone in case you are disappointed.

20 "I needed a lot of sandpaper to smooth me out
21 because I was scarred.

22 "I have had more flashbacks since I have retired and
23 since this has all started purely because I never want
24 this to happy happen to other people. I get angry
25 sometimes but it isn't good for you to be angry.

1 "The British Government just flick it under the
2 carpet and think it will go away. It doesn't go away.
3 It's there for life. We need to be careful how we go
4 about addressing what happened to all these people. It
5 happened to 150,000 people.

6 "In my view, it's an abuse that those children don't
7 know who they are or why they're out here. They should
8 have been told that they would a family in the UK but
9 they were being sent there for a reason. They shouldn't
10 have been told that they didn't have a family. They
11 were lied to. I think that was their way of preventing
12 the children from fretting all the time. Some of the
13 children fretted. They should have considered how the
14 children would cope with going to Australia.

15 "A lot of boys left Dhurringile with nothing. They
16 had no life skills or preparation. It angers me that
17 these young boys didn't have the same opportunities
18 I did. Life skills are so important. The welfare
19 department should have prepared them for leaving
20 Dhurringile.

21 "I'm 69 now and I was the youngest boy to go to
22 Dhurringile. Most of the people who looked after us in
23 Quarriers will be dead. Most of the perpetrators here
24 are dead too. I just feel for some of the boys who
25 needed this 20 or 30 years ago. It's too late for them.

1 I don't know why it wasn't done then. It defies logic.

2 "I hate to think how many Dhurringile boys are left.
3 There aren't many of us. I think that two, possibly
4 three out of the 17 boys from Dhurringile committed
5 suicide.

6 "Most importantly, children need love and support.

7 "I hope the Scottish inquiry completes itself and
8 the Scottish Government allows it to be completed.

9 "I have no objection to my witness statement being
10 published as part of the evidence to the inquiry.

11 "I believe the facts stated in this witness
12 statement are true."

13 The statement was signed by Gray on
14 27 December 2018.

15 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much, Ms MacLeod.

16 It's after 1 o'clock now, so we'll stop now for the
17 lunch break. I think we're lined up for a video link to
18 begin at 2, is it?

19 MS MacLEOD: At 2 o'clock, my Lady, yes.

20 LADY SMITH: Until 2 o'clock then.

21 (1.02 pm)

22 (The lunch adjournment)

23 (2.10 pm)

24 LADY SMITH: Good afternoon. Ms MacLeod.

25 MS MacLEOD: My Lady, the next witness is joining us by

1 video link from Ontario in Canada. She wishes to remain
2 anonymous and to use the pseudonym "Kathy" when giving
3 her evidence.

4 LADY SMITH: Kathy, can you hear me?

5 THE WITNESS: Yes, I can.

6 LADY SMITH: And can you see me?

7 THE WITNESS: I certainly can.

8 LADY SMITH: Thank you. I'm Lady Smith and I chair the
9 Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry. Thank you for agreeing to
10 join us today. I'm just trying to work out what time
11 it is with you: about 9 o'clock in the morning, is it?

12 A. Yes, it is, nice and early.

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you for getting up so soon.

14 Could I begin by asking you to take an oath to tell
15 the truth, please.

16 "KATHY" (sworn) (via video link)

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you for that. Tell me, in the part of
18 Ontario you're in, do you have snow today?

19 A. It's on its way. It left us and now it's coming back,
20 so we're not out of it yet.

21 LADY SMITH: So long as you don't send us any more here!

22 I'm going to hand over to Ms MacLeod and she will
23 explain to you what happens next.

24 Questions from MS MacLEOD

25 MS MacLEOD: Good morning, Kathy.

1 A. Good morning.

2 Q. I don't need your full date of birth, but can you
3 confirm for me that you were born in 1953?

4 A. That's correct.

5 Q. And are you now 66 years old?

6 A. Yes, I am.

7 Q. You've provided a statement for the inquiry and I think
8 you've got a copy of that in front of you, is that
9 right?

10 A. Yes, I do.

11 Q. I'll just give the reference of that for the transcript:
12 it's WIT.001.002.8252. Could you please turn to the
13 final page of the statement? Have you signed the
14 statement?

15 A. Yes, I have.

16 Q. In the last paragraph do you say that you have no
17 objection to your witness statement being published as
18 part of the evidence to the inquiry?

19 A. That's correct.

20 Q. Do you go on to say that you believe the facts stated
21 in the witness statement are true?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Thank you for that.

24 Kathy, you begin by telling us in your statement
25 that you were born in Ontario in Canada; is that right?

1 A. Yes, it is.

2 Q. You give us some details about your career and that that
3 covered a lot of different roles and I think you tell us
4 your last job was as a school bus driver for 26 years.

5 A. Correct.

6 Q. Are you now retired?

7 A. I am.

8 Q. I think you're here today to tell us about your paternal
9 grandmother and her experiences, particularly as a
10 child; is that right?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. You tell us that it was about 20 years ago or so, Kathy,
13 that you developed an interest in that part of your
14 family.

15 A. That's correct.

16 Q. Can you tell me how that interest came about initially
17 and when that was?

18 A. The whole story or an abbreviated version?

19 Q. Did there come a point in time when you spoke to your
20 uncle about your paternal family?

21 A. Yes, I did.

22 Q. What led you to doing that?

23 A. I became involved in genealogy due to the area that
24 I live in. I found a lot of information on my mother's
25 family. When it came to my father's family, I was very

1 limited. I knew about my paternal grandfather, I knew
2 very little about my paternal grandmother. So I asked
3 my father who had very limited knowledge. He was the
4 middle child and he didn't know a whole lot of what went
5 on. I don't know if that was by choice or if he wasn't
6 privy to the information.

7 He directed me to my Uncle [REDACTED], who he believed
8 had some information, so I went to visit and got as much
9 as I could from picking his brain.

10 Q. Before we look at what your Uncle [REDACTED] told you,
11 I think you tell us that your grandmother was born on
12 [REDACTED] 1901.

13 A. Yes, that's my understanding, yes.

14 Q. So when was it that you went to visit your Uncle [REDACTED]?

15 A. That would have been about 20 years ago.

16 Q. And what did you find out from your uncle about your
17 grandmother?

18 A. A lot of misinformation. He believed that she was an
19 orphan, brought to Canada by the Masonic Temple. He
20 told me she was 2, she and her twin sister, [REDACTED] came
21 with the older sister, [REDACTED] and that [REDACTED] looked
22 after them on the boat.

23 Q. Did he tell you that it was from Scotland they came on
24 the boat?

25 A. They came from Scotland as orphans, yes.

1 Q. After speaking to your uncle, did you then carry out
2 some of your own research into --

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. What steps did you take to find out more information?

5 A. Well, I belong to Ancestry, so I started looking there,
6 I did Google searches online, of course, and then
7 we have archives here, so I went into the archives to
8 see if there was anything there and there were ship
9 records and so I was able to find the documents stating
10 that they came to Canada, the boat that they came on,
11 the group that they came with, which led me to
12 Quarriers.

13 Q. Indeed, I think you've provided copies of the shipping
14 records that you obtained and provided those to the
15 inquiry.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. We'll look at those in a moment.

18 You've mention Quarriers there and you had some
19 correspondence with Quarriers, is that right?

20 A. Yes, that's right.

21 Q. How did you find out about Quarriers and make contact
22 with them?

23 A. Through the ship's records. The group that sent them,
24 said Quarriers had sent them, so I again went online and
25 researched and found an address and just sent a letter

1 requesting information.

2 Q. Did you get a reply?

3 A. I did.

4 Q. You've provided a copy of that document to the inquiry?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Do you have copies of that document and the enclosures
7 in front of you?

8 A. Yes, I do.

9 Q. So I'm going to put the letter on our screens here,
10 first of all, so I'll give the reference. It's
11 WIT.003.002.2859. Kathy, do you have the letter in
12 front of you from Quarriers dated 21 September 2005?

13 A. I do.

14 Q. At that time were you really looking for any information
15 from Quarriers you could get about your grandmother?

16 A. I was looking for anything and everything I could find,
17 yes.

18 Q. Do we see that in this letter it enclosed various
19 documents that Quarriers were able to find in their
20 archives?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. I'll just read part of this letter out:

23 "Enclosed please find some information on your
24 grandmother and her siblings. I am not sure what
25 information you already have, so will explain the

1 different bits to you. The two large sheets of paper
2 are from one of the history books held in Quarriers'
3 archives. These give all the information that was known
4 about the children and the reasons why they came into
5 the care of the Orphan Homes of Scotland, as Quarriers
6 was known at the time."

7 There's then a summary given of the information
8 contained in the documents themselves which we'll look
9 at; is that right?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. So I'm now going to put the first of these documents on
12 the screen. I think you've also got that in front of
13 you. It's WIT.003.002.2860.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Did you receive two handwritten pages of this kind from
16 Quarriers as well as other documents like a death
17 certificate for your grandfather, for example?

18 A. From Quarriers?

19 Q. Yes.

20 A. No.

21 Q. So --

22 A. No death certificate, no; I have one.

23 Q. I see. You had that yourself?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. So this document that we're looking at, did you receive

1 that from Quarriers?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. The version of that that's on our screens is heavily
4 redacted and that's to protect your own identity and the
5 identity of your wider family. Are you able to
6 summarise for me what information you were able to
7 obtain from this document?

8 A. This document gave me the girls' names, their dates of
9 birth, their address, the addresses where they were
10 born. It talks about the father, his occupation, his
11 date of death, and what he passed away from. It
12 discusses the mother, [REDACTED], her maiden name, the fact
13 that she's in prison, I believe. It's a bit difficult
14 to read.

15 Q. Do we see that your grandmother had an older sister who
16 was born in 1897?

17 A. Yes, that's [REDACTED].

18 Q. And that there was also another sister who was born in
19 1899?

20 A. [REDACTED] yes.

21 Q. I think you tell us further on in your statement, and
22 it's noted in the records, that she died as a child?

23 A. Yes, [REDACTED] passed away, yes.

24 Q. And your grandmother also had a twin sister, I think
25 that's noted.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And your grandmother travelled to Canada with her two
3 sisters, an older sister and her twin sister?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. You've touched on there that you discovered from these
6 records that your grandmother's mother was in prison and
7 that her father had died.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Do we see also there noted that your grandmother and her
10 sisters went into Quarriers in 1909?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. On that page also do we see the date given as
13 [REDACTED] 1913 as the date the girls migrated to Canada?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Something you tell us in your statement, Kathy, and this
16 is at paragraph 18, is you say that you don't have any
17 knowledge of who might have spoken to the girls about
18 their migration or --

19 A. That's correct.

20 Q. -- about whether any consent was sought from family
21 members?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. You also refer to a document called the "Narrative of
24 facts". I think this is a document that Quarriers sent
25 you a copy of; is that right?

1 A. Yes. Yes, that's correct.

2 Q. Do you understand that it might contain photographs of
3 the --

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. -- party in which your mother migrated?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Sorry, your grandmother.

8 A. My grandmother, yes.

9 Q. I'm not going to put this on the screen because of
10 redaction issues, but I'll give the reference for the
11 narrative of facts. That's at INQ.001.004.2501. The
12 photograph and relevant passage are at pages 22 and 23
13 of that document.

14 You've referred, Kathy, to a passenger list, which
15 you were able to obtain yourself.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And you provided a copy of that to the inquiry. I'll
18 just give the reference of that for the transcript.
19 That's WIT.003.002.2866. That list shows that
20 the Grampian sailed on [REDACTED] 1913 from Glasgow and it
21 makes mention of the Quarriers party, including your
22 grandmother and her sisters.

23 A. Right.

24 Q. It shows that the ship arrived in Quebec on [REDACTED] 1913.
25 That's at WIT.003.002.2864.

1 Kathy, what information do you have about where the
2 girls went once they arrived in Canada?

3 A. Just what I have through my search at the archives that
4 says that they were placed at Fairknowe, the holding
5 centre, the holding home in Brockville.

6 Q. And you tell us at that time your grandmother would have
7 been 12 and her twin would have been the same age and
8 her older sister would have been about 16?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Do you have any information about how long they spent at
11 Fairknowe?

12 A. A couple of weeks, to my knowledge. That's it.

13 Q. Do you have information about where your grandmother
14 went from there?

15 A. No. I don't know where she went. I know she had
16 several placements, but I don't know where the early
17 placements were.

18 Q. The information you do have, for example that she went
19 on placements and that kind of thing, has that come from
20 your Uncle [REDACTED]?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. I think the one placement you mention having knowledge
23 of is one at [REDACTED] in
24 Spencerville?

25 A. Yes. And that one my uncle knew about, he had that name

1 and that one I found in the census as well.

2 Q. You mention a census in your statement. Is that
3 something that you looked at as part of your own
4 research?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Were you able to establish from that that she was with
7 a family, the [REDACTED] family, who ran that [REDACTED],
8 at least when she was 18?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. I think you tell us that you were told by your uncle
11 that that family treated your grandmother well?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And did she live there until she got married?

14 A. She lived there until she was married, yes.

15 Q. In terms of contact between your grandmother and her
16 sisters, do you know if they were together after
17 Fairknowe or if they were separated?

18 A. They were separated.

19 Q. And again, is that information from your Uncle [REDACTED]?

20 A. That's from my Uncle [REDACTED], yes.

21 Q. Are you now in contact with some of the family of your
22 grandmother's sisters?

23 A. Yes, I am.

24 Q. Have you been able to get a little bit more information
25 about them from their own families?

1 A. A little bit, yes.

2 Q. I think you tell us, for example, that you learned from
3 your second cousin in the United States that your
4 grandmother's older sister was sent to Brockville for
5 her placement?

6 A. Yes, that's correct.

7 Q. Is that somewhere that's a little distance away from
8 Spencerville, where your grandmother was?

9 A. By car, about a half hour.

10 Q. And I think you tell us that you don't know if they were
11 able to have contact with one another at that time.

12 A. Not at that time, no.

13 Q. In terms of your grandmother's twin sister, were you
14 able to get some information in particular about one
15 placement that she had?

16 A. Yes. Yes, I was.

17 Q. What were you able to find out about that?

18 A. Well, she had only the one placement and it was not
19 a good placement. She was mistreated. She gathered all
20 her belongings the one night she was sick, gathered all
21 her belongings in a pillowcase, snuck out the window, it
22 was the wintertime, and just proceeded to go down the
23 road, walk as far as she could, and then sat down.
24 There was a couple passing by. They saw her, they
25 picked her up and they took her to the hospital. She

1 told this story. They were able to somehow find the
2 older sister [REDACTED] in Brockville and, however it
3 happened, [REDACTED], [REDACTED] as we called her, ended up living
4 with [REDACTED]. She never had another placement after that.

5 Q. I think you say in your statement, Kathy, that while you
6 don't know the detail of what she went through, what
7 [REDACTED] went through in that placement, you do know that
8 it had consequences for her.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. What were those consequences?

11 A. She ended up suffering from anxiety and developed
12 a stutter.

13 Q. Do you know if she was -- did she speak about what had
14 happened to her?

15 A. No. No, absolutely nothing. I think with the families
16 in the States that I have contact with, I have given
17 them more information than they've been able to share
18 with me because they weren't aware, it was all a big
19 secret.

20 Q. Did your grandmother share some information about
21 [REDACTED] experience with your Uncle [REDACTED]?

22 A. I don't know if she shared that.

23 Q. Did she share some information with her own daughter
24 about what happened to her?

25 A. I believe she did. They were very close and I believe

1 she did. My aunt refused to share, protecting her
2 mother.

3 Q. So is that something you asked your aunt about?

4 A. I did. After I spoke to Uncle [REDACTED], he said that Aunt
5 [REDACTED] possibly knew her and to speak to her. I went
6 to speak to her and she got hostile, very hostile;
7 didn't understand why I needed to pull skeletons out of
8 the closet and dirty up the family; and she was
9 extremely upset.

10 Q. I think you tell us that you went back to speak to that
11 aunt shortly before she passed away.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And by that time she had more of an understanding of why
14 you wanted to know?

15 A. I had more information that I could share with her and
16 it made better sense to her, what I was after, my roots,
17 my family, my history, my past. So she understood, but
18 she still wouldn't give up anything.

19 Q. Kathy, you go on in your statement to provide some
20 information about your grandmother's life after she
21 married.

22 A. Mm-hm.

23 Q. You tell us that she and her husband went on to have
24 eight children together.

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And that you were the descendant of one of her sons?

2 A. I am.

3 Q. You tell us that they lived on a farm and that your
4 grandmother worked in various jobs during her lifetime.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. You describe her as a very quiet and unassuming lady.

7 A. Very much so, yes. Very quiet.

8 Q. You also say that she was very hands-on with her
9 grandchildren.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And indeed, I think you tell us that she brought up
12 a number of her grandchildren?

13 A. She did, yes. She had a younger daughter that was
14 a little bit wild.

15 Q. What relationship did you have with your grandmother
16 when you were growing up, Kathy?

17 A. My father was in the military, so we travelled a little
18 bit. We didn't live near his family. So maybe once
19 a year we were able to go down to the farm and see her.
20 On occasion, maybe twice a year. But usually it was
21 once a year. We had to spend a week with her and it was
22 good.

23 Q. What was she like as a grandmother?

24 A. Very loving, very hands-on, quiet. She was always
25 touching you, her hands on your shoulder, touching your

1 hair. She was just there. She was awesome.

2 Q. In terms of relations between your grandmother and her
3 sisters in later life, do you know if they kept in touch
4 as adults?

5 A. There was some contact. I believe early on, they would
6 go back and forth across the border because the two
7 sisters ended up in the US. They married and went to
8 the States. There was some contact back and forth, and
9 then the one time when [REDACTED] came over to see grandma, she
10 was given an extremely hard time at the border. They
11 had started to tighten up the border crossings and the
12 girls became afraid that they wouldn't be able to cross
13 back into the US. So they stopped with the -- they
14 thought they were illegal so they stopped moving back
15 and forth. I know my grandmother didn't have
16 a telephone, even later on, so probably by mail they
17 kept in touch, I don't know.

18 Q. I think you tell us that your grandmother passed away
19 when you were a teenager.

20 A. Yes. I was 13.

21 Q. And her sisters passed away, one in 1989, and the other
22 in 1993, you tell us.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. They both lived to be the age of 92?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Your Uncle [REDACTED], who we've spoken about, did he have
2 contact with family in Scotland during the 1940s?

3 A. Yes, he did.

4 Q. Can you tell me about that?

5 A. He had served in the War, he was in the military and
6 he was overseas. He had the opportunity to go to
7 Scotland and, armed with the little bit of information
8 that he had, went to the town that they lived in.
9 He was able to track down a relative and he attempted to
10 get information from them, for his mother, and they
11 wouldn't share very much, other than the family was an
12 embarrassment and they didn't want to talk about it.

13 Q. So your grandmother therefore shared some information
14 about her life with [REDACTED] and then --

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. To allow him to go to Scotland in this way and meet with
17 some of the family?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. You tell us in your statement -- and we can look at this
20 in the record from Quarriers -- that there's reference
21 in those records to an uncle, an Uncle [REDACTED].

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. We might just want to look at that in the records.
24 If we look back at the page WIT.003.002.2860. Almost
25 the final entry on that record Uncle [REDACTED] writes, and it

1 gives an address in Musselburgh, asking for the address
2 of the children as the grandfather and granny are
3 worrying about not having heard from them.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Is that something that you were able to follow up in any
6 way?

7 A. No.

8 Q. I think something you've learnt from speaking to your
9 cousin, your second cousin in America, is that your
10 grandmother's older sister, she kept in touch with her
11 mother back in Scotland?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Is that something you've learnt in recent times?

14 A. Yes, the last few years, yes.

15 Q. And indeed, you tell us that your understanding is that
16 she actually paid for her mother's funeral in Scotland?

17 A. That's correct.

18 Q. What you tell us is that you don't know how that contact
19 was established.

20 A. Right, I have no idea.

21 Q. Do you have any information about whether your
22 grandmother had any contact with her family in Scotland?

23 A. No, I don't.

24 Q. So since starting to look into this, Kathy, and finding
25 this information, finding out this information about

1 your own extended family, how would you describe that
2 process in terms of its impact on you?

3 A. I was stunned. I mean, the story that my uncle had told
4 me wasn't quite the story that unfolded. Being an
5 orphan at 2 and being sent over by the Masonic Temple
6 was one thing, but then to find out that they had been
7 removed from the home, an abusive home from the sounds
8 of it, put into an orphanage, brought over here, it
9 overwhelmed me, I couldn't believe it. And then for
10 them to not be able to freely speak about it, it tore me
11 apart.

12 Q. In terms of the process of trying to recover records,
13 Kathy, for example recovering the records from
14 Quarriers, what was that like for you?

15 A. The process itself was simple. I believe the one time
16 there was a cost to it, which was a little bit annoying,
17 but the process was simple. The limited information was
18 a bit of a disappointment, though. I expected more.

19 Q. I think you also tried to obtain some records from
20 Fairknowe.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Were you able to get anything there?

23 A. Absolutely nothing, no. All the records were destroyed.

24 Q. You tell us that you don't think your grandmother had
25 a passport, a Canadian passport.

1 A. No, I don't believe she did.

2 Q. And you don't know if she was a Canadian citizen?

3 A. No, I don't know.

4 Q. You tell us a bit about a web page that you put up,
5 I think including a photograph of your grandmother.

6 Can you tell me a little bit about that?

7 A. The photograph or the web page?

8 Q. The web page. What was the purpose of that?

9 A. Just my genealogy. I had set up a web page with all the
10 information that I'd gathered so far, hoping that
11 possibly somebody researching would come across it and
12 maybe be able to add to my story or, if nothing more,
13 take away from it and add to theirs.

14 Q. I think you're aware, Kathy, that in 2010 the then
15 Prime Minister of the UK, Gordon Brown, made an apology
16 in relation to child migration.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. What are your own feelings about that?

19 A. Well, it doesn't fix it. I don't know.

20 Q. I think you say that there's been an apology in Canada,
21 but it's still not good enough.

22 A. Not the one here, no, definitely not good enough, no.

23 LADY SMITH: What's the problem with it, Kathy?

24 A. Here, it just seems to be lip service, if I can say
25 that. Like there's no feeling or thought behind it,

1 it's just: yeah, okay, to shut them up, we'll just say
2 we're sorry. But there's no feeling, no empathy,
3 nothing behind it. It's still a big guarded secret,
4 part of our dirty past, if I can say that as well. It's
5 just -- a lot of people I talk to now don't have a clue,
6 have no idea about it, you know. These people helped
7 form the country.

8 MS MACLEOD: In terms of your own thoughts, Kathy, you set
9 out towards the end of your statement some thoughts that
10 you have about this. You've touched on this already,
11 but you say that when you found out what happened to
12 your grandmother and her sisters, you were dumbfounded
13 and heartbroken.

14 A. Yes. For sure, yes.

15 Q. And what you say is:

16 "I can't believe they would take kids that small
17 away and put them on a ship."

18 A. That blows me away, but yeah, they would just pile them
19 on a ship. They'd probably never seen a ship before,
20 you know, and to send them two weeks across the ocean
21 ... Like, the fear, you know? It blows me away.
22 I don't even know how to describe it. I went to Europe
23 with my mother as a child. My father was stationed in
24 Germany. My mother took two of us, I was 6, my brother
25 was 3, and I still remember the fear and the anxiety of

1 doing that, and we knew where we were going and we were
2 going to be with my father. I can't imagine what they
3 went through. It dumbfounds me, dumbfounds me that
4 people think this was okay.

5 Q. Something you say is that you discovered that there was
6 a stigma attached to British home children.

7 A. Yes. I discovered that through my research and then
8 getting involved with the one website, the British Home
9 Children website, that [REDACTED] -- I can't pronounce her
10 last name -- has set up and been involved in. I had no
11 idea. But it explains to me now why it was such
12 a guarded family secret. I didn't even know my
13 grandmother was from Scotland originally. She didn't
14 have an accent. I mean, most people over here are proud
15 of their accent and they hang on to it, it gets
16 bastardised, of course, but she had none that I can
17 recall. You know, to go to those lengths to get rid of
18 it and keep things guarded and under wraps, that rips me
19 up.

20 Q. You say that you contacted the inquiry because your
21 grandmother's childhood has been secret long enough.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And you wanted to restore some dignity to the family and
24 remove the stigma.

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. In the penultimate paragraph of your statement, Kathy,
2 you say:

3 "It is sad that this is such a big part of Canada's
4 history."

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. "These children helped to build Canada, but most people
7 I talk to had no idea it happened."

8 A. That's correct.

9 Q. Is that still your experience when you speak to people
10 about it?

11 A. Yes, it is, yes.

12 Q. And you think that's something that should change?

13 A. Definitely. It should be taught in schools. It
14 shouldn't be a secret, no.

15 Q. You say:

16 "I guess people are ashamed. It's a big secret, but
17 it should be talked about in the history books."

18 A. Yes, definitely.

19 MS MacLEOD: Well, thank you, Kathy, for sharing your
20 experiences and those of your grandmother and her
21 siblings with the inquiry.

22 My Lady, I'm not aware of any other questions for
23 Kathy.

24 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

25 Are there any outstanding applications for

1 questions?

2 Kathy, that does complete the questions we have for
3 you today. Thank you so much for engaging with us, both
4 by providing a very detailed written statement and
5 talking to us today. It's been enormously helpful.
6 What a lot of work you've done. This must have been
7 exhausting for you, both physically and emotionally,
8 I can see that. I hope you don't have too tough a day
9 ahead today.

10 A. No, it should be good.

11 LADY SMITH: I think you need to look after yourself.

12 Thank you very much.

13 A. Thank you for the opportunity.

14 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

15 (Video link terminated)

16 LADY SMITH: Thank you for that, Ms MacLeod. Are we having
17 another read-in this afternoon?

18 MS MacLEOD: Yes, my Lady.

19 LADY SMITH: How long will it take?

20 MS MACLEOD: About half an hour.

21 LADY SMITH: Maybe we should have the five-minute break now
22 and then we'll go on to the read-in after that.

23 Thank you.

24 (2.48 pm)

25 (A short break)

1 (3.00 pm)

2 LADY SMITH: Ms MacLeod.

3 Witness statement of "ROSE" (read)

4 MS MACLEOD: This is a read-in of an applicant who wishes to
5 remain anonymous and to use the name "Rose". It is to
6 be found at WIT.001.002.3016:

7 "My name is Rose. I was born in 1938 and I am
8 presently 81 years of age. My contact details are known
9 to the inquiry.

10 "I was really young when I was put into the care of
11 the Good Shepherd Convent at Colinton in Edinburgh.
12 I was there until I was 9 years old when I was sent to
13 Australia as a child migrant.

14 "In Australia I was put into St Joseph's Orphanage
15 at Subiaco in Perth and I was there until I was 18 years
16 old.

17 "My father died in 1941 when he was 35 years old.
18 I can't remember my childhood before I went into care.
19 I certainly have no recollection of a loving mother or
20 father or anything like that. I don't even know what
21 age I was when I went into care.

22 "My mother had nine children in total, although
23 I thought I was one of five until I went back to
24 Scotland in 1997.

25 "Her first child died and then there were my two

1 sisters and then there was my brother. My brother and
2 sister also came out to Australia as child migrants.
3 After my brother, there was me and then there were
4 twins, but they died too.

5 "After the twins, there is my sister, who is
6 five years younger than me. I didn't even know I had
7 a sister until I had been in Australia for a few years
8 and I was told she was coming too. After her, there was
9 another girl who was born the year I came out to
10 Australia. I have never met her.

11 "I knew the home in Edinburgh as the Good Shepherd
12 Convent, although I believe it was actually called
13 Woodfield Children's Home. It was run by the Good
14 Shepherd Sisters and was at Colinton in Edinburgh. The
15 children were all girls and it wasn't a big concern,
16 there weren't a lot of us.

17 "My older sister was in there with me and not long
18 before I went to Australia, my younger sister came in as
19 well. I'm not sure what happened to my older sister.
20 At that time I didn't even know my younger sister was my
21 sister or that I had a brother.

22 "I'm really vague about my life there. All
23 I remember is that we had to get a bus to school, which
24 was outside the convent somewhere. Otherwise we were
25 pretty much locked in. I can also remember playing with

1 the other girls when we were not at school, but not much
2 else.

3 "I do recollect that my older sister had a very bad
4 accident. She had been walking up the stairs with
5 a bowl of boiling water when she tripped and the water
6 went all over her. When I asked the nun where she had
7 gone, she told me she was in hospital and she thought
8 she was going to die. I think my mother came to see us
9 because I remember meeting my grandparents, her mum and
10 dad. I have got a photograph of them.

11 "The nuns were pretty strict but I found them a lot
12 better than the nuns that looked after me in Australia.
13 I certainly don't remember getting whacked there. Maybe
14 because we were younger, but we looked on them as mums.

15 "I think I was about 8 when they started making
16 arrangements to bring us out to Australia. We were all
17 asked as a group who wanted to go to Australia. I think
18 we nearly all put our hand up. I thought I was going
19 somewhere for a holiday.

20 "I have a copy of my migration form. It's dated
21 [REDACTED] 1947. My mother signed my form and it is
22 witnessed by the Reverend P Quill. Mum virtually gave
23 me away. I have passed a copy of this form to the
24 inquiry. That form can be found at NAA.001.001.1789.

25 "We were all vaccinated for smallpox and I still

1 have the scars from the injection on my arm. I think
2 they must have been some sort of medical examination as
3 well because on the migration form it mentions things
4 like my throat was clear. I don't remember getting any
5 examination or health tests though.

6 "We were put on a train to Southampton carrying
7 little brown cases with a few clothes in them and that
8 was it. I never saw mum before I left.

9 "When we arrived in Southampton we were all put in
10 a room because we were a bit early. We were kept there
11 until we could board the boat, the Ormonde.

12 "There were only seven girls in my group, including
13 my older sister and me. The rest were boys. We were
14 looked at on the boat by a Mrs O'Neill. I think it as
15 her and her husband and their two girls. It was on the
16 boat that I found out I had a brother. We girls mixed
17 together with the boys from Scotland and one of the boys
18 told me there was a boy with my surname. That's when
19 I met my brother for the first time.

20 "We weren't allowed off the boat at any time and
21 I remember a couple of the other passengers died on the
22 journey and were buried at sea. I also remember they
23 used to show us a lot of movies about Australia. We saw
24 sheep, kangaroos and black men who had spears. I asked
25 Mrs [REDACTED] how long we were going to be there before we

1 looked like that.

2 "I have been shown a copy of the passenger list for
3 the Ormonde from the Australian National Archives, which
4 says that we arrived in the port of Fremantle,
5 Western Australia, on [REDACTED] 1947. That is
6 correct."

7 My Lady, that document is at NAA.001.001.0135:

8 "I have been shown another file from the Australian
9 National Archives which lists all the children and where
10 they were going. All the girls that came with me from
11 the Good Shepherd in Colinton are listed there."

12 That document is at NAA.001.001.0940:

13 "The file shows that we were all to go to
14 St Joseph's Orphanage in Subiaco, which is correct. The
15 file also shows some details about my brother who was
16 going to Bindoon, but by that time I'd only known him
17 for a month and that was him being taken off to Bindoon.
18 We didn't catch up again until I was 18.

19 "It was about 40 degrees when we arrived at
20 Fremantle and yet we all had our hats and coats on.
21 Everything was taken off us, including our little brown
22 cases. I am sure we got fingerprinted while we there as
23 well.

24 "I know we arrived before lunch because the wharfies
25 had put on food for us in the wood sheds. We went to

1 eat it but there were ants all over the food and we
2 couldn't.

3 "We weren't there long before my brother was put
4 back on the truck and we were taken up to St Joseph's.
5 I was calling after him not to go. I think we went in
6 two cars to St Joseph's, along with a couple of nuns and
7 the minister for migration. I don't know how long it
8 took us. I was more interested in looking where we were
9 going.

10 "St Joseph's Orphanage was run by the Sisters of
11 Mercy, but they had no mercy. There were about four
12 nuns who were nice but the rest were not. The orphanage
13 was right in the middle of suburbia with houses all
14 around it. It was a huge place with lots of vacant land
15 around it. In our part it was strictly girls, probably
16 about 300 on average. There was also a foundling home
17 that had boys and girls in it up to the age of 5. Once
18 the boys were 5 they went to Castledare.

19 "There were what were called senior girls who helped
20 in the kitchen and had their own jobs to do. They
21 stayed in a separate place at night. There was also an
22 old man who was a chauffeur and used to do odd jobs as
23 well. Otherwise it was strictly nuns looking after us,
24 probably about 20 of them.

25 "The Reverend Mother was in charge and was called

1 LYB [REDACTED] and of the other nuns there was
2 Sister MEH [REDACTED], Sister LYC [REDACTED], Sister MEI [REDACTED] and
3 Sister MDS [REDACTED]. A couple of days after we arrived
4 we were told by the nuns that we had no family, no
5 mother and no father. We just had to live with that
6 belief.

7 "I remember we were given lunch when we first
8 arrived at St Joseph's and there were beautiful
9 tablecloths on the table. With there only being seven
10 of us, it was lovely. There was a big Irish setter dog
11 called Brucie Brown that belonged to St Joseph's and it
12 came in barking at us as we ate. I ended up on the
13 table with the nuns trying to pull me down while my
14 sister was telling them that I was scared of dogs.

15 "That was my introduction to St Joseph's. From then
16 on we just got on with our lives, answering the bells
17 and commands. They taught us how to work and they
18 taught us how to pray, but that was about it.

19 "We were all given a number, although we were never
20 called by that number. All our clothes were marked with
21 a number and mine was [REDACTED]. A lot of the nuns would just
22 call us by our surname and after a while I got called
23 naughty and my surname, but I don't know why.
24 I probably gave a bit of cheek but no more than that.

25 "We slept in a big dormitory with a balcony outside

1 and a room attached where a nun slept. We called it her
2 cell. The nun that looked after us was called Sister
3 MEH. She was all right with me because I was her
4 pet but she could be cruel.

5 "There were about 75 or 80 girls in our dorm as well
6 as some girls sleeping on the balcony and some in
7 a smaller dormitory upstairs called the Sacred Heart.

8 "We were up at 6 o'clock in the morning and
9 immediately on our knees praying. Then we could get
10 dressed, do our chores and then go to church. After
11 that, we had breakfast and after breakfast we would do
12 whatever other work needed to be done. Then we had
13 school.

14 "After school we had some leisure time before the
15 evening meal, and then we had night church and then
16 there was homework. There was no help with homework, we
17 just had to sit in the school and do it ourselves.

18 "After homework we went to bed, but before we got
19 into bed we had to do the toilet in a row of buckets.
20 I don't know who emptied the buckets. While we were
21 doing that a couple of the senior girls would be
22 standing there. There was no privacy.

23 "The doors were locked at night and we'd say our
24 prayers at the side of our beds before we got in. Once
25 we were in bed we couldn't move. Sister MEH walked

1 about and up and down the dormitory and if we moved she
2 would hit us with her strap. You could have been
3 scratching yourself or anything. Their thoughts were
4 that if we were moving, we were being improper.

5 "All meals were served in the dining room except for
6 morning tea and afternoon tea. The meals were terrible.
7 I used to get belted for not eating them.

8 "For breakfast we got what was supposed to be
9 porridge, but which was actually semolina or sago or
10 something. We used to call it 'frogs' eyes'. It was
11 disgusting. We would also get a cup of tea, but it was
12 what the nuns had left over and it had been brewing for
13 a couple of days.

14 "Lunch was just a sandwich and dinner was just as
15 bad.

16 "For morning tea we were given little bottles of
17 milk that had been sitting out in the sun for
18 four hours. I threw mine up, so I told the nun I was
19 allergic. Afternoon tea was a piece of bread with
20 golden syrup on it which we ate in the playground.

21 "If you didn't eat, you had to sit until everybody
22 else had finished and then you'd get hit by one of the
23 nuns. Sometimes I used to take a paper bag with me and
24 put my food in that. Sometimes the dog, Brucie Brown,
25 got it under the table.

1 "We had one shower a week. Other than that we had
2 to wash at a set of basins. We'd wash our hands and
3 face and then the nun would turn the light off so we
4 could wash the rest in private. There were no
5 toothbrushes. I didn't clean my teeth until I went out
6 to work at the age of 16.

7 "We were given one pair of knickers a week to wear.
8 We never had shoes unless we were going out to a funeral
9 or to the church. We wore ordinary clothes most of the
10 time, although we wore uniforms if we were going
11 anywhere.

12 "Leisure time was spent outdoors where there was a
13 big playground with swings in it. We made our own fun.
14 There were no toys or games or anything. The only trips
15 out we had were twice a year at Christmas or on
16 St Patrick's Day. At Christmas we would all go into the
17 city to watch movies, which I think was paid for by the
18 council. On St Patrick's Day we would go to one of the
19 big ovals in Perth, where the bishop would say Mass to
20 all the Catholic schools. We had to have our uniforms
21 on then.

22 "Schooling was done at the orphanage. The classes
23 they had were first and second standard, as it was at
24 that time, then third and fourth standard, up to sixth
25 standard. We'd already done some schooling in Scotland

1 but they still put us into the first and second
2 standard. We knew how to read and write. We
3 were 9 years old. We kept telling them that we had
4 already done the work and they eventually put us up into
5 the first and second fourth standard.

6 "One of the things we had to do while we were at
7 school was to write letters to our families. I don't
8 know what happened to them. I don't think they ever
9 went anywhere. The nuns also got an elocution lady in
10 to teach us how to speak English so that we never had an
11 accent when we left.

12 "Usually the final year was sixth standard, but I
13 was lucky and went up to seventh standard. I was 14
14 when I finished schooling.

15 "The nuns told us that our periods were us getting
16 punished by God. We were never given any of the proper
17 stuff. It was horrible what we had to use. All we had
18 was a piece of elastic, two pins and some material that
19 we had to wash ourselves by hand."

20 LADY SMITH: Ms MacLeod, can we slow the pace just a little
21 bit? Thank you.

22 MS MACLEOD: "There was an infirmary there and when there
23 was an outbreak of polio, we got injections. Even so,
24 a couple of the girls still got polio. I got mumps one
25 time, so I was put in a little room so that nobody else

1 would catch them. Later on, I developed asthma, which
2 the doctor thought had been brought on by nerves.

3 "We just put up with any injuries we might have got.
4 If we were sick all we could get was a cup of castor oil
5 and that was it.

6 "Work consisted of waxing and polishing the floors
7 on our hands and knees. Some girls also went to the
8 laundry and some went to the kitchen. We were spread
9 around but I was mainly polishing floors.

10 "There were a lot of olive trees in the grounds and
11 another job for us was to pick the olives. If we filled
12 up a 4-gallon tin we got sixpence. We used to get fed
13 up and half fill the tin with sand and then cover the
14 sand with olives. The old man that did the driving
15 would make olive oil with them. You could hear him
16 screaming in rage when he discovered the sand in his
17 machine.

18 "Every year, early in December, we were taken to the
19 movies in Perth. As we went into the cinema, we'd get
20 a bit of Christmas cake and a bucket of ice cream.

21 "On Christmas Eve, we would all gather to sing
22 Christmas carols at 11 o'clock at night. Then we would
23 have Midnight Mass, which was lovely. When we got back
24 to our dormitories, they'd give us a cup of cocoa and
25 a biscuit and there would be a wrapped gift on the end

1 of every bed. We were allowed to open them and see
2 what was inside and then we had to put them back. When
3 we woke up in the morning, all the gifts were gone.

4 Most of the gifts were clothes that had been
5 donated. There were never toys or books. One year the
6 gift I got was a horrible dress. I said to someone that
7 it must have been meant for my grandmother. I think the
8 nuns just got fun out of wrapping. We never got
9 anything to keep or had any personal possessions at any
10 time.

11 "My mother came out to Australia in 1953 when I was
12 14. She migrated out as one of the ten-pound poms which
13 was a government-assisted scheme to encourage folk to
14 migrate.

15 "The Reverend Mother at St Joseph's got her a job at
16 the Bishops' Palace in Perth and then she got a job at
17 the Christian Brothers' college as a cook. Mum would
18 come up now and again to see us but then she met this
19 man and that was it. He was a sleazy, horrible man.
20 They moved a long way away and I never saw my mum after
21 that.

22 "My older sister was 14 when we arrived at
23 St Joseph's and she left at 16 to go to work. After she
24 left she would come back and visit every couple of
25 weeks.

1 "Once a year someone from the health department came
2 to St Joseph's. I remember that so well because we
3 always got a beautiful lunch. They always seemed to
4 come when we were all sitting and eating our lunch.
5 They never spoke to us. The nuns escorted them around.
6 We never had to dress differently, we just wore our
7 ordinary clothes.

8 "I had a choice to go and live with my mum when she
9 moved out to Australia. I'm not sure whether she
10 actually started to make arrangements with social
11 workers or with the nuns. I didn't want to go though;
12 I didn't know her.

13 "After I had been at St Joseph's for a while one of
14 the nuns told me my sister was coming out as well.
15 I didn't understand because I thought she was meaning my
16 older sister. It was then I found out I had a younger
17 sister. My younger sister was supposed to be going to
18 South Australia, but when my older sister learned that
19 she insisted that our younger sister come to St Joseph's
20 instead. The Reverend Mother then arranged for that to
21 happen.

22 "We tended to stay in our age group so I didn't see
23 my younger sister very much because she was five years
24 younger. We didn't have much contact.

25 "I was 16 before I met my brother again. He was 18

1 and had got a job as a shearer when he left Bindoon. He
2 would travel around and come and see us whenever he came
3 to the city.

4 "We would just to talk to each other if we had any
5 worries or concerns. We certainly could never speak to
6 any of the nuns.

7 "It was sad what happened to girls that wet their
8 bed. There was a balcony outside our dormitory with
9 about 10 beds on it where they had to sleep. We used to
10 call it Lavender Lane. I think these girls only did it
11 because they were scared. I don't know what happened to
12 them if they wet the bed.

13 "The nuns were very harsh and cruel and life at
14 St Joseph's was very military-like. We all suffered
15 mental and physical abuse but that was as far as it
16 went.

17 "They told us we had come from the slums and that we
18 should be grateful we were in a better place now. Every
19 nun carried a leather strap rolled up in their pocket.
20 If we didn't eat our food, we would get hit with that.
21 If we weren't polishing the floors hard enough, we would
22 get belted on the bottom of our feet with the strap.
23 We were children and we would do naughty things, but
24 I don't think the punishment was ever appropriate.

25 "I remember one day in particular when I was

1 struggling to eat a piece of meat, chewing away, one of
2 the nuns came round and belted me across the back of the
3 head with a strap because she thought I was talking.
4 I got hit again for answering back when I said I wasn't
5 talking. If a nun questioned you and answered you back
6 you'd get your ears boxed. That happened many a time.

7 "The LYB [REDACTED] used a cane.
8 I got caught pinching sugar once and got called up to
9 see her. She whacked me twice with a cane for that.
10 There was nobody to tell about the way the nuns were
11 treating us. I have never reported anything to the
12 police or anyone else either.

13 "There was no preparation for leaving. I went out
14 to work for the last two years I was living there.
15 I couldn't even speak to people. I was too scared that
16 they might find out where I was from.

17 "My first job was with the Land and Service
18 Department of the government. I would take my pay home
19 and give it to the nun in charge and she would give me
20 the money for the bus. I just took it that my pay was
21 my board and lodging at St Joseph's. I never got any of
22 the pay back when I eventually left at 18.

23 "When I did leave, I went to stay with my older
24 sister, but it didn't work out. She took in quite a few
25 of the girls from St Joseph's at different times.

1 I packed my suitcase and went to work that day with
2 nowhere to stay. My boss took me to his mother's and
3 I stayed there until she got sick. After that, I moved
4 into a room in Subiaco where I stayed until I got
5 married. Nobody from St Joseph's ever checked to see if
6 I was okay or gave me any support at all.

7 "I was 20 when I got married and I had to leave my
8 job then. At that time you had to leave a government
9 job when you got married. We had three beautiful kids
10 and I now have three beautiful grandchildren and two
11 great-grandchildren.

12 "The marriage was abusive and I left my husband in
13 1983. After that, I started living a good life. I went
14 back to work in 1969 and got a factory job.

15 "In 1984 I got a job in the canteen of a television
16 company, where I was for 10 years until they shut the
17 building down. Then I got another job and I carried on
18 working until I was 76, when I eventually retired.

19 "I participated in the Redress Western Australia
20 Scheme, which was a scheme to provide redress to those
21 who had been abused or neglected in the care of the
22 State of Western Australia. Dr Philippa White of the
23 organisation Tuart Place compiled a statement on my
24 behalf. The statement was submitted in November 2008
25 and I have provided a copy of this statement to the

1 inquiry. I confirmed that the facts stated in it are
2 true.

3 "I don't know why, but I honestly got half the
4 payment from the Redress Western Australia Scheme that
5 everybody else in my group got. I have not sought any
6 other compensation and I have never raised the abuse
7 I suffered with the Sisters of Mercy. There's none of
8 them left now.

9 "I have been asked whether I recall providing
10 a submission to the Health Committee of the UK
11 Parliament, which was looking at child migration in the
12 late 1990s, but I don't recall doing so.

13 "Over the years, I have been involved with some
14 child migrant organisations, however I don't remember
15 specifically if I was a member of the Child Migrant
16 Friendship Society of Western Australia.

17 "I have been shown the transcript from 2001 of
18 evidence that I apparently gave to the Community Affairs
19 Reference Committee, the Senate inquiry. I'm afraid
20 I don't remember doing so. That document can be found
21 at HOC.001.001.0192.

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[REDACTED]

"I've never had any support or counselling regarding my time in care. If I have ever had any problems, I have just asked Dr White from Tuart Place. She's very helpful and supportive. I think I'm too old for anything else.

7

"In 1997 I went back to the UK with other former child migrants. We called the trip 'the sentimental journey' and it was paid for by the Sisters of Mercy. One of the girls from Ireland that was at St Joseph's started off the sentimental journey. It was lovely. We all went back and forwards for meetings to explain what was going to happen. A lady escorted about 47 of us back to the UK. There was only one other Scottish migrant on the trip.

16

"When we got to the airport there were media there, along with the Premier of Western Australia and the archbishop. Everyone was getting interviewed by the press, although I never spoke to them.

20

"When we finally arrived in the UK, there was even more media there who took photos of us and spoke to a few of us.

23

"My older sister, who lived in the UK, came to meet me and I had eight hours with her that day.

25

"We stayed in England as a group for the first few

1 days and went to different luncheons that were put on.
2 Then we had to go to Ireland to visit the Mother House
3 of the Sisters of Mercy.

4 "My oldest sister lived in Surrey at that time so
5 after we had done all that I went back and stayed with
6 her and her husband. I spent three weeks with them and
7 it was lovely. She died two years later.

8 "I have tried to get my records from the Sisters of
9 Mercy and from St Joseph's, but their response every
10 time is that there was a fire and the records don't
11 exist anymore.

12 "I only got a few pages from the Western Australia
13 State Archives, which include my child migration form
14 and a paper called 'movements and remarks'. It has
15 a few entries about where I stayed and what I did after
16 I left St Joseph's up to the time I got married.

17 "Dr White wrote to the Good Shepherd in Edinburgh,
18 but all they had was information about my baptism and
19 that I wasn't confirmed.

20 "There are lots of mistakes in the records I've
21 managed to get. Some of them have my surname spelt
22 wrong. I also have some papers for my younger sister
23 that record her birthday incorrectly.

24 "It has been difficult to form a relationship with
25 my brother and sisters because we were all separated.

1 My younger sister and I now have a good relationship but
2 it took a long time.

3 "As far as I know, the first time I met my older
4 sister who lived in the UK was when I went back on the
5 sentimental journey in 1997. I don't remember seeing
6 her before.

7 "I've tried to trace my younger sister but I can't
8 find her. I have her birth certificate but all I know
9 is that she was adopted from St Catherine's Convent from
10 Edinburgh when she was 8 months old."

11 My Lady, I can confirm that the inquiry has had
12 sight of various documents showing attempts made by the
13 witness to trace her sister:

14 "I have some first cousins in Livingston in
15 Scotland. Our mothers are sisters. They contacted
16 Tuart Place, who then put my younger sister and I in
17 touch with them. We still contact each other fairly
18 regularly.

19 "Our biggest problem as child migrants is that we
20 had no identity. When I left the orphanage I had
21 nothing, not even my birth certificate. When I was
22 getting married the priest told me I needed to get
23 permission, so I told him I was a ward of the state. He
24 told me to go to the Immigration Department and speak to
25 them. I spoke to the boss, a Mr Young, and he gave me

1 my birth certificate. That was the first time I had
2 seen it.

3 "When I stopped working for the television channel
4 and was looking for another job, I applied for
5 unemployment benefit. The lady asked for my passport,
6 but I never had one. I was so angry. Luckily enough,
7 the next day I found a job.

8 "I spoke to my younger sister and we applied to get
9 naturalised. We had to pay a fee and had to go through
10 the process and I now have an Australian passport.
11 I never even thought of getting a British one as well.

12 "I didn't have a problem getting my pension because
13 by that time I had a little more paperwork and I had
14 a passport.

15 "In my redress statement I mention my time in care
16 and the impact that and my being migrated has had.
17 I discuss my loss of faith, the impact on my life and
18 how I have felt about myself. I felt I had gone from
19 the orphanage into marriage only to be treated the same
20 way. I was so used to getting whacked around in the
21 orphanage, I didn't know any different when I left.
22 I also discuss the periods of depression and anxiety
23 I have suffered.

24 "It was hard having no identification documents when
25 I was a teenager and when I got married. Whenever

1 I have to fill in any official documents, like for the
2 doctor, I always find it upsetting being asked about my
3 parents. I just say I'm an orphan.

4 "I think someone must be held responsible. There is
5 no need for children to be migrated as we were. My
6 mother was only 53 when she died in Australia in 1963.
7 She smoked like a chimney and drank like a fish. My
8 older sister died in 1994.

9 "I hope the experiences I have had never happen to
10 another child again. I feel my childhood has been lost.
11 That's the sad part about it.

12 "I have no objection to my witness statement being
13 published as part of the evidence to the inquiry.

14 "I believe the facts stated in this witness
15 statement are true."

16 The statement was signed by Rose on 6 December 2018.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

18 So what now?

19 MS MACLEOD: That completes matters for today, my Lady.

20 We have the next witness lined up to be here for
21 10 o'clock tomorrow.

22 LADY SMITH: That's fine. Thank you very much. We've made
23 good progress today. Thank you for that, Ms MacLeod.

24 I'll rise just now and we'll be sitting again at
25 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

1 (3.35 pm)

2 (The inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am on

3 Wednesday, 26 February 2020)

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