

Thursday, 27 February 2020

(8.00 am)

LADY SMITH: Good morning and thank you to everybody for arriving bright and early, ready for the video link today.

I can see that we have the video link up and running, Ms MacLeod. Is the witness ready to start, do you know?

MS MACLEOD: Good morning, my Lady. Yes, I understand that he is. The first witness is joining us from Perth, Australia. He would like to remain anonymous and to use the pseudonym "Jack" in giving his evidence.

LADY SMITH: Jack, good morning.

THE WITNESS: Good morning.

LADY SMITH: I'm Lady Smith and I chair the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry here in Edinburgh. Could I begin by thanking you for joining us at what is the morning for us and your afternoon all the way from Perth. We'll move on to your evidence in a moment, but before we do that I would like to start by putting you on oath if that's all right with you.

"JACK" (sworn) (via video link)

LADY SMITH: Jack, could I just make absolutely clear to you that you must let me know if you want a break, if we're going too fast, too slow, or if you think there's any

1           problem with the video link. It's very important to me  
2           that you're entirely comfortable throughout the time  
3           you're giving your evidence. Do you understand that?

4           A. Yes.

5           LADY SMITH: So don't be shy about speaking up if you think  
6           there are any problems or, let me repeat that, if you  
7           want a break at all. All right?

8           A. Okay.

9           LADY SMITH: I'll hand over to Ms MacLeod and she'll explain  
10          to you what happens next.

11                               Questions from MS MacLEOD

12          MS MACLEOD: Hello, Jack.

13          A. Hello, how are you?

14          Q. I'm well, thank you. How are you?

15          A. Good, thank you.

16          Q. Jack, we don't need your full date of birth, but could  
17          you confirm for me that you were born in 1937?

18          A. Yes. 1937.

19          Q. Are you now 82?

20          A. Yes, 82.

21          Q. You have provided a statement to the inquiry and I think  
22          you might have a copy of that with you. I'll just give  
23          the reference of that for the transcript and it's  
24          WIT.001.002.4885.

25                 Jack, would you be able to turn to the last page of

1 the statement, please? Have you signed it?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. In the very last paragraph do you say that you don't  
4 have any objection to the statement being published as  
5 part of the evidence to the inquiry?

6 A. Mm-hm.

7 Q. And do you also tell us that you believe the facts  
8 you have stated in the statement are true?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Thank you for that.

11 I'm just going to go back to the beginning, Jack,  
12 and start there. You tell us some information about  
13 your family background and your early years. You tell  
14 us that you were born in Milton in Glasgow.

15 A. Yes, Milton, yes.

16 Q. And that you're the oldest and that you had a brother  
17 and a sister.

18 A. Actually, a brother, a sister and a half-brother.

19 Q. Yes, I think you go on to tell us that your  
20 half-brother -- was he quite a bit younger than you?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. You give some information about your father. Was he  
23 a cobbler?

24 A. Yes, he was.

25 Q. I think you tell us that he had a shop in Grove Street

1           in Glasgow.

2           A. Yes, the shop was attached to the house.

3           Q. Did there come a time, Jack, in your early life when  
4           your mother left the home?

5           A. Mm-hm. I was (inaudible: distorted) and my brother was  
6           2.

7           Q. Did she move to another part of Glasgow, about  
8           15 minutes away?

9           A. Yes, back to her mother's house, my grandma's.

10          Q. Did you sometimes go to visit your mother?

11          A. My brother and I, yes, against my father's wishes.

12          Q. You attended primary school in Glasgow?

13          A. Mm-hm, yes.

14          Q. And the plan had been, you tell us, that you would go on  
15          to attend St Mungo's Academy in Glasgow.

16          A. (Inaudible: distorted) St Columba's, up near where my  
17          mother lived, and while we stayed there we passed the  
18          exam because we were going on to Mungo's Academy.

19          Q. You give us a little bit of insight, Jack, into what  
20          your life was like at that time and you say that your  
21          life was good.

22          A. It was, yes. My father looked after us very well.

23          Q. And you tell us that you and your brother and sister  
24          lived with your father from when you were 4 until you  
25          were 12.



1 A. Yes.

2 Q. You mention that as a family, you were regular  
3 churchgoers.

4 A. Yes. Every Sunday my dad would go to church and then he  
5 would come home and send us.

6 Q. Did there come a time when it was suggested to your  
7 father that you might be migrated to Australia?

8 A. Yes. He was told by the Hierarchy of the  
9 Catholic Church at the government officers in Edinburgh.

10 Q. What was he told by these people, Jack?

11 A. You'd do a good job, going to Australia for a better  
12 life, send the children first, you can follow later.

13 Q. Do you know who it was who told him that?

14 A. Possibly it could have been the bishop, one of the  
15 bishops from the Catholic Church, and an emigration  
16 officer, because they worked hand in hand.

17 Q. What was the first you heard at the time about this  
18 possible move to Australia?

19 A. My dad said that we're going to Australia. He said,  
20 we'll send youse over first and I'll follow later, I'll  
21 come later on to pick you up. My sister was sent away  
22 about 2 months before us. They sent her to Sydney.

23 Q. Then you and your brother followed?

24 A. Yes. We got to Australia on 30 March 1950.

25 Q. You've told us already, but just to be clear, it was

1           very much your father's intention to follow you and your  
2           siblings to Australia?

3       A.   Yes.  He was actually offered a job at Bindoon, to go  
4           there and work there.

5       Q.   Was he offered that job while you were still in Glasgow?

6       A.   No, no, this is while we were in Bindoon.

7       Q.   Did your mother have any involvement in the decision to  
8           send you to Australia?

9       A.   No.  My father said to her, if you don't sign the  
10          papers, the children are still going, we're all going to  
11          Australia, because she'd left the family home.

12      Q.   What about your grandfather, your mother's father?  Did  
13          he have any views on the proposed move?

14      A.   No, he -- (inaudible: distorted) was the boss, he was  
15          head of the clan, more or less.  My grandfather was  
16          a very quiet, easy-going person.  He was from London.  
17          My grandma was Irish, from County Cork.

18      Q.   You've provided the inquiry with a copy of the consent  
19          form which was signed for you to go to Australia and I'm  
20          just going to give the reference for that to the  
21          inquiry: WIT.003.001.2981.

22                I think we see on that form that you've provided for  
23          us, Jack, that your father signed that form on

24          [REDACTED] --

25      A.   1949.

1 Q. 1949, you're quite right, yes. Do you recall who made  
2 the practical arrangements for you to go to Australia?

3 A. It'd be between the government officials and the  
4 Catholic Church, the Hierarchy of the Catholic Church.  
5 One couldn't do it without the other.

6 Q. They were working together?

7 A. Yes. That's how they've managed it, they worked  
8 together.

9 Q. Something you tell us in your statement, Jack, is that  
10 you were only young and didn't have any say in it at the  
11 time.

12 A. No, no say at all.

13 Q. What were your thoughts --

14 A. Actually, I said to my dad, "I don't want to go to  
15 Australia", and this particular afternoon or evening, my  
16 brother and I, we took off, got on the tram and went  
17 into the city and he had the police out looking for us  
18 to bring us back.

19 Q. You've mentioned already that your sister went before  
20 yourself and your brother did.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Was she around 10 at the time?

23 A. Yes. My brother was 9, she was 10, and I was 11  
24 (inaudible: distorted) Australia turned 12.

25 LADY SMITH: Jack, why did you not want to go to Australia?

1       A. Because I wanted to catch up with my mother and uncles  
2       and aunties and cousins and everything, and I thought,  
3       well, I'd never see them again, because it was many,  
4       many years before I did see any of them.

5       LADY SMITH: Thank you.

6       MS MACLEOD: What were your sister's thoughts at the time  
7       about going to Australia?

8       A. We'd actually no say in the matter. We had no choice.

9       Q. When your sister arrived in Australia, where did she go?

10      A. She went to Albury, New South Wales, St John's Convent  
11      in Albury.

12      Q. In terms of your own journey, Jack, did you travel with  
13      your younger brother?

14      A. Yes.

15      Q. And at the time you left Scotland, was your  
16      understanding that you would meet your father in  
17      Australia?

18      A. No, he was supposed to come over after.

19      Q. Yes, my apologies. He was going to follow you?

20      A. Yes. That's what they told him: send the children first  
21      and you can follow later on.

22      Q. In terms of your own journey, Jack, I think you tell us  
23      that you initially got a train in Glasgow to Edinburgh  
24      and then the train down to London?

25      A. Yes.

1 Q. Were you with a group of children?

2 A. A group of children, yes. There were a few from  
3 Edinburgh, some from Aberdeen, and some from other  
4 parts. We got to London, met up with some more from  
5 different places in England, and before we left we went  
6 to a big restaurant, a big café -- I can still see it  
7 now, big red painted woodwork, big windows -- and we had  
8 lunch there. Then on the bus, down to Tilbury Docks and  
9 on the ship.

10 Q. How many children do you think were in your group?

11 A. It'd be about 20 at least.

12 Q. What about the Scottish --

13 A. Boys and girls.

14 Q. Boys and girls. How many of the children do you think  
15 were from Scotland?

16 A. It'd be about half a dozen at the time.

17 Q. What was the age range of the children, Jack? We know  
18 that you were 11, your brother was 9; what about the  
19 others?

20 A. There were some in the same age bracket, but there were  
21 younger ones too, as we found out later on, on the ship;  
22 some were only 5 or 6.

23 Q. You tell us that the ship you said on from Tilbury Docks  
24 was the SS Otranto.

25 A. Yes, and we had couples looking after us on the ship.

1 In fact, I met up with one of the ladies in Tasmania in  
2 1964.

3 Q. I see. Did you have any understanding at the time of  
4 who the couples were or --

5 A. No. They were given free passage in exchange for  
6 looking after the children on the way to Australia.

7 Q. Did anybody accompany you and your brother, I mean  
8 adults, did any adults accompany you from Scotland down  
9 to London?

10 A. No.

11 Q. In terms of the journey, Jack, on the ship, can you tell  
12 me about that? What was the trip like for you?

13 A. Well, we couldn't wander about like the other passengers  
14 did. We had to stay in the one position more or less,  
15 or one place, because these people kept an eye on us and  
16 made sure we didn't try to wander off or mix with the  
17 other passengers.

18 Q. You tell us that the ship arrived in Fremantle in  
19 Australia.

20 A. Yes, 30 March.

21 Q. And I'll just give the reference number for the document  
22 confirming that: NAA.001.001.0422. That's the passenger  
23 list for the ship.

24 A. I've got a copy of it.

25 Q. We can see that your own name and your brother's name

1           are included amongst the passengers.

2           A. Yes.

3           Q. When you arrived, Jack, were you met off the ship by  
4           people?

5           A. Yes, by two Christian Brothers.

6           Q. Did you know --

7           A. Brother MDY and Brother MIU.

8           Q. Did you know who was going to meet you off the ship?

9           A. No.

10          Q. What happened next? Once you met those two  
11          Christian Brothers, what was the next thing that  
12          happened?

13          A. We got on the back of a big blue Dodge truck and we went  
14          to Castledare. This is another orphanage, for the  
15          smaller children. We were there for about 3 or 4 hours.  
16          We had a cup of cold drink and piece of cake, then back  
17          on the back of the truck and then we travelled up to  
18          Bindoon, 60 miles away.

19          Q. So how many of your group travelled to Castledare with  
20          the brothers?

21          A. It must have been at least a good 20.

22          Q. And yourself and your brother were amongst that group?

23          A. Mm-hm, yes. Some of them they separated. Some of the  
24          brothers were separated and sent to different places.  
25          And the girls sent to different places. In fact, some

1 of them weren't even told they were related. They split  
2 them up and they were told they weren't related, and  
3 then they met up years later.

4 Q. Something you tell us is that you thought you were going  
5 to be meeting your sister when you arrived in Australia.

6 A. I didn't know who she was, never seen her for years.

7 Q. Once you arrived in Castledare, Jack, did some of the  
8 party stay there?

9 A. Yes, the smaller boys, the younger boys stayed there and  
10 the others, up to say 12 or so, 11 or 12, went up to  
11 Bindoon.

12 Q. Were Brother MDY and Brother MIU still with you on  
13 the way to Bindoon?

14 A. Yes. We were on the back of the truck, they were in the  
15 cabin.

16 Q. I think you tell us that it was about 60 miles to  
17 Bindoon.

18 A. 60 miles, yes. And three miles off the main road into  
19 Bindoon itself, the convent itself.

20 Q. Do you remember arriving at Bindoon for the first time?

21 A. Mm-hm --

22 Q. Can you tell me --

23 A. -- I do.

24 Q. Can you tell me what your memory is of that?

25 A. We got there and then they took us up to the convent, to



1           the laundry, the suitcases were taken from us, all our  
2           clothes taken from us, and they gave us two pairs of  
3           shorts and two shirts, no shoes or socks.

4           Q. Can you describe the building at Bindoon for us? What  
5           does it look like?

6           A. A lot of the buildings were only half done, not  
7           finished. We had to work on the building sites.

8           Q. Was it in large grounds? Was there a lot of land around  
9           it?

10          A. There were 17,000 acres there.

11          Q. You tell us in your statement, Jack, that it was like  
12          walking into a prison camp.

13          A. It was. Worse than a prison camp.

14          Q. How many boys were at Bindoon when you arrived? Can you  
15          give me some idea?

16          A. I think there must have been only maybe 40 or something  
17          there at the time.

18          Q. And no girls?

19          A. No girls, no. You had the priests from New Norcia,  
20          which was a Benedictine mission further up, 70-odd miles  
21          from Perth and 36 miles from Bindoon, and the priest  
22          (inaudible: distorted), "Here are the good girls come to  
23          help the nuns."

24          Q. What was the age range of the boys who were there?

25          A. Some of them were about 11/12 and some were about 14.

1 Q. So you and your brother, were you amongst the younger  
2 boys when you arrived?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. How many Christian Brothers were at Bindoon when you  
5 arrived?

6 A. I think it'd be about half a dozen at the time.

7 Q. Can you tell me their names, the ones you remember?

8 A. There was Brother MIU [REDACTED], Brother MDW [REDACTED],  
9 Brother ALR [REDACTED], Brother ALU [REDACTED]. There was Brother MHZ [REDACTED],  
10 Brother Tuppin, and there was a Brother Drake.

11 Q. Over time, did the brothers change, did some brothers  
12 leave and others arrive?

13 A. Yes, (inaudible: distorted) all of a sudden and that's  
14 what took them from one orphanage to orphanage. They'd  
15 do a set number of years in one place and then transfer  
16 them to another place. Some were sent back -- some went  
17 back over to Melbourne, some went back to Tasmania.  
18 Brother MIY [REDACTED], who took Brother MDJ [REDACTED] place,  
19 he was in Tasmania for a while. He also was in charge  
20 of the Christian Brothers College in Perth and he left  
21 there and took over MDJ [REDACTED] place at Bindoon when  
22 MDJ [REDACTED] passed away.

23 Q. When you arrived was there a particular brother who was  
24 in charge at Bindoon?

25 A. Brother MDJ [REDACTED].

1 Q. You have mentioned nuns as well, Jack.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Were there about four nuns there when you arrived?

4 A. (Inaudible: distorted).

5 Q. Would you be able to say that again, Jack? We lost the  
6 connection slightly. I think you told us there were  
7 four nuns.

8 A. Four nuns. The four nuns, a priest, and three  
9 Aboriginal girls who came from New Norcia. And every so  
10 often they changed them around, sent them back to  
11 New Norcia and other ones would come.

12 LADY SMITH: Was that four nuns and the priests?

13 A. Yes.

14 LADY SMITH: Did you say three Aboriginals that came from  
15 New Norcia?

16 A. Yes (inaudible: distorted) 14 and 15 years of age.

17 LADY SMITH: And who else?

18 A. The priest. Four nuns. And three Aboriginal girls used  
19 to come to help the nuns up the convent and do the  
20 housework and the laundry work and all the -- whatever  
21 had to be done.

22 LADY SMITH: Thank you, Jack.

23 MS MACLEOD: I think you tell us that it was a Sister Benita  
24 who was in charge within the nuns? Was she the  
25 Mother Superior?

1 A. Yes, when we got there, she was in charge, yes.

2 Sister Benita. When she went back to New Norcia,

3 Sister Mary come down and took over.

4 Q. And can you tell me -- you have mentioned Brother MDJ

5 was in charge, was the Christian Brother in charge.

6 Sister Benita was the nun, the Mother Superior in

7 charge. What was their relationship? Who was in charge

8 between them?

9 A. Sister Benita was in charge of the nuns and MDJ was

10 in charge of the brothers.

11 Q. And who was in charge of the boys?

12 A. MDJ

13 Q. You've mentioned that when you arrived and you were

14 shown around your suitcases were taken away. What about

15 your clothes? What happened to the clothes that you had

16 brought with you from Scotland?

17 A. The clothes were taken from us and I found out later on

18 they were all sent down to Perth to the St Vincent de

19 Paul shops.

20 Q. In particular --

21 A. We had a pair of shorts -- two pairs of khaki shorts and

22 two khaki shirts, no shoes and socks. Your clothes were

23 marked with a number, you weren't a name, you were

24 a number. My number was 88, my brother was 64. They

25 took your names away and gave you a number.

1 Q. Were you referred to by your number?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. In particular in relation to the clothes, Jack, you  
4 mention that your father had bought some clothes for you  
5 and your brother for going to Australia and that --

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. -- he had bought you some beautiful blue checked shirts.

8 A. No, it was a lumber jacket, a blue checked lumber  
9 jacket, black and blue, with checks on it. And one day,  
10 I seen a nun, it was ripped in half and she was  
11 polishing the floor with it.

12 Q. So that was taken away from you when you arrived?

13 A. Yes, they took everything from us.

14 Q. Were you shown to your dormitory on the first day?

15 A. Yes, we were taken down to the dormitory, an old Kapok  
16 mattress, and maybe they had one sheet, a couple of  
17 blankets, that was all, and pillow.

18 Q. How many boys were in your dormitory?

19 A. It would have been about 20.

20 Q. Was your brother in your dormitory?

21 A. Not the same one as me, no, he was in another dormitory.  
22 They had them in the age groups in the different  
23 dormitories.

24 Q. You mention that you were always cold at night.

25 A. Yes, bitterly cold.

1 Q. Something else you mention is that there were  
2 passageways from the dormitories which led to where the  
3 brothers slept.

4 A. The brothers' rooms.

5 Q. You mention a Brother Conlon in your statement. Was he  
6 at Bindoon when you arrived?

7 A. Yes, he was there.

8 Q. What was his role?

9 A. Well, he was in his 80s then and he was a diabetic. He  
10 used to go putting up fences. This particular time,  
11 myself and another boy, [REDACTED] we ended up on the  
12 job with him putting up the fences. He was the main  
13 character who used to go to Ireland and tee up the  
14 children to come to Australia. Some came over without  
15 passports or birth certificates. He was high up in  
16 those days, high-ranking in those days, in his younger  
17 days.

18 Q. You give us some information about the routine at  
19 Bindoon and what the day-to-day life there was like.  
20 I think you tell us that you got up early in the  
21 morning --

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. -- and went to chapel.

24 A. Mm.

25 Q. And did you then have work to do?

1       A. Yes. Once we had breakfast, we went back down again to  
2       change clothes, to the locker room, the showers and  
3       locker room, then on with work. You got very little  
4       education because in the classroom MDJ would walk in  
5       and want volunteers to go to the building and all the  
6       hands would go up and he just pointed to whoever, "Go  
7       and change your clothes, you don't need school, forget  
8       school, go and work."

9       Q. Was the school then on site in the building?

10      A. Yes.

11      Q. Do I understand from what you're saying that work was  
12      more important than education?

13      A. It was, yes.

14      Q. What was the work that you were being asked to do?

15      A. Pulling barrels of concrete up the ramp to put the  
16      buildings up.

17      Q. Were these buildings parts of Bindoon that were being  
18      built at the time?

19      A. Yes. That was MDJ, MDJ idea of building up  
20      a monument to himself, more or less.

21      Q. So can you just give me an idea, Jack: if you went out  
22      to work on the building site in the morning, instead of  
23      going to school, what would you be doing?

24      A. Well, pulling barrels of concrete, carrying bricks up on  
25      the roof, putting up tiles, passing tiles up to go on

1           the roof, putting scaffolding, building scaffolding.

2           Q. Were many of the boys involved in that work?

3           A. Yes, quite a lot, quite a lot. Young boys, old boys,  
4           older boys.

5           Q. Was it hard work?

6           A. Very hard, in bare feet, especially in bare feet. Very  
7           hard.

8           Q. And was it brother --

9           A. No wages. No money.

10          Q. Did you ever get paid for any of the work you did there?

11          A. The money I should have had put into a bank account by  
12          the child welfare department. When I turned 21,  
13          I called in to get it and there was nothing there. Many  
14          of the boys were the same because the two welfare  
15          officers, they controlled all the money and they gambled  
16          it away.

17          Q. So you never got --

18          A. (Inaudible: distorted) at present, no.

19          LADY SMITH: Jack, had you been told that you were being  
20          paid for the building work but you would get it later on  
21          when you were older?

22          A. When you turned 21, you were on welfare until you turned  
23          21.

24          LADY SMITH: You thought somebody was putting the money away  
25          for you, saving it for you?



1 A. Yes, it was being sent down to the child welfare  
2 department.

3 LADY SMITH: Right.

4 A. But when I left Bindoon, the second one down,  
5 Brother MDY, said, "You're leaving here, get in the  
6 truck." That was all the notice I got. I had a little  
7 suitcase with two pairs of trousers that I got from this  
8 person that happened to be up there working at the time,  
9 Clem Naughton, and no money, nothing.

10 I was taken to Perth, dropped off at the corner of  
11 King and Wellington Street, with the commonwealth  
12 employment, the dole office. "Get yourself a job", and  
13 that was it. I ended up on a dairy farm at Keysbrook,  
14 which is about 32 miles from Perth.

15 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

16 MS MACLEOD: What was the food like at Bindoon?

17 A. Well, the pigs ate better food.

18 Q. I think you tell us, for example, that the tea was  
19 purple.

20 A. And I'll tell you why it was purple. They used to get  
21 the bottom of the nun's stocking, a black stocking, put  
22 tea leaves in it and boil it up in the urn. When the  
23 tea was made in that, it turned purple. It was purple  
24 tea because all the dye came out of the stocking.

25 Q. I think you tell us that a lot of the food, you couldn't

1 eat it?

2 A. No, no. It was sheep flaps, boiled sheep flaps, like  
3 sheep that they give to dogs.

4 Q. Did anything happen, Jack, if you didn't eat your food?

5 A. Yes. You got a smack across the side of the face and  
6 told to eat it because the good nuns spent all day  
7 cooking it.

8 Q. Who would give you a slap across the face?

9 A. Whoever was in the -- mostly MDJ. And then this  
10 other one too, Brother MDY, he punched me in the nose  
11 one morning because I wouldn't answer him and it bled  
12 into the porridge and he forced me to eat the porridge.

13 Q. Did the brothers themselves have the same food or did  
14 they have different food?

15 A. Oh no way, no. They had the best. The nuns had the  
16 best, the staff had good food and the brothers had good  
17 food. MDJ would sit in the dining room with the boys  
18 and we'd have a look at what he had and I thought, well,  
19 there's something wrong here, why are we having this and  
20 he's having that? He had chops, bacon, eggs and stuff,  
21 and we got a plate of stodgy old porridge. If you stuck  
22 a stick in it and it wouldn't move.

23 Q. You mention in your statement, Jack, an occasion when  
24 I think there was a birthday party for one of the  
25 brothers.

1 A. Oh yes, that was a good night, that was.

2 Q. Can you tell me about that? What happened?

3 A. I was working in the kitchen at the time and I heard  
4 about what was going to take place and this Brother MDY  
5 -- he was another cruel one -- it was going to be for  
6 him. So I got half a dozen of the boys together to come  
7 up, 7 o'clock, and said, "We're going to have a party  
8 tonight".

9 So when they arrived we went into the brothers'  
10 dining room, which was just off the kitchen, and we took  
11 everything off the tables, down behind the dam, and had  
12 a good feed. When they came in at 8 o'clock there was  
13 nothing for them.

14 They had us lined up the next morning in the  
15 dining room, asking if we knew anything about it and  
16 they couldn't prove it. They had a fair idea but they  
17 couldn't prove it.

18 We took the cake and all.

19 Q. You tell us that bedtime was about 9 o'clock, Jack.

20 A. Yes, lights out at 9. Then at midnight we would go out  
21 to the bin yard and get grapes.

22 Q. Would you sneak out of bed then at midnight?

23 A. Yes, go to the vineyard and get some grapes off the  
24 vines.

25 Q. Were the brothers involved in getting the boys ready for

1 bed and into bed?

2 A. Yes. One of them would go back there and just make sure  
3 that they were all in bed and put the lights out.

4 Q. Were there particular brothers who were more involved  
5 with the care of the boys than others or were all the  
6 brothers involved with the boys?

7 A. Most of the brothers were involved. Most of them:  
8 Brother Conlon wasn't, he was too old.

9 Q. Something you tell us in relation to bedtime, and we'll  
10 come to look at this later on, but you say that there  
11 were brothers sneaking about the dorm at night, taking  
12 kids from their beds and taking them to the brothers'  
13 rooms.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Did you see that happen?

16 A. Yes, I did see that happen, yes. And even Brother  
17 (inaudible: distorted), when he took over from MDJ,  
18 he was doing it.

19 Q. Could you say that brother's name? We didn't catch  
20 that.

21 A. MIY

22 Q. Were there boys in your dorm who wet the bed?

23 A. Yes, a few of them, and they used to put them on the  
24 veranda, to sleep out on the veranda.

25 Q. Did Brother MIZ have an involvement with the boys?

1 A. MIZ yes. He was a very cruel man.

2 He had one young chap there, he was  
3 a bit backward and he had him with a wet sheet on his  
4 head, dripping wet, and made him stand there and  
5 ridiculed him and then made him have a cold shower.

6 Q. And I think --

7 A. Very cruel.

8 Q. -- you tell us this was done to humiliate the boys.

9 A. Yes, humiliate them. Treated us worse than animals,  
10 worse than dogs.

11 Q. Were other boys encouraged to ridicule boys who'd wet  
12 the bed?

13 A. Yes, they were.

14 Q. What kind of things would the brothers say?

15 A. They'd say, "Oh, look at this, they can't even go to the  
16 toilet, they're too lazy", "Look, he's wet his bed, he's  
17 got a wet sheet there", and make a fool of them, which  
18 is wrong.

19 Q. Were rubber sheets put on the beds of some people?

20 A. A rubber sheet, yes, on the beds. And they more or less  
21 only had one blanket out on the veranda. It was cold.

22 Q. You tell us that it used to upset you how the brothers  
23 treated those boys who wet the bed.

24 A. I beg your pardon?

25 Q. Did it upset you at the time how these boys were

1 treated?

2 A. Yes. Yes, it did upset me very much. Really upset me.

3 We were called sons of whores.

4 Q. Who called you that?

5 A. Brother MDJ. He said, "You were sent here because  
6 your mothers didn't want you." He said, "You won't  
7 amount to nothing, you'll end up in prison."

8 Q. Did he say that to you?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Did you hear him say that to other boys?

11 A. Yes, I seen how he -- the tall man, the chap we were  
12 doing the fencing with Brother Conlon, we went over  
13 a bump on the horse and cart, and Brother Conlon was  
14 sitting on a little chair at the back and it gave him  
15 a little jolt. I said, "Be careful, we nearly lost  
16 him." We done the job, were coming home from the job,  
17 had had lunch and that, and Brother Conlon told them  
18 that we'd tried to throw him off the cart and kill him.

19 So MDJ got us into the office, locked the door --  
20 the strap, so big, so thick, laid into us with the  
21 strap. He had a blackthorn walking stick, copped me  
22 with that, and I got under this green settee for  
23 protection and he started kicking at me. Both of us  
24 copped it.

25 Q. How old were you at that time, Jack?

1 A. I'd be about 14.

2 Q. Were you injured?

3 A. Yes. You know, a thick -- like a shillelagh, an Irish  
4 shillelagh, like a blackthorn walking stick, and then  
5 the boots went in, they put the boots into us.

6 Q. Which part of your body was he kicking with his boots?

7 A. Whatever he could reach, it didn't matter what. He  
8 kicked me in the head, the legs, hit us anywhere with  
9 the strap, the walking stick.

10 I seen him kick a -- knock a chap down.

11 [REDACTED] was the chap's name, the late

12 [REDACTED] They'd lift him off his boot and kick  
13 him against the wall.

14 Q. You give us some information, Jack, about the showering  
15 arrangements at Bindoon. I think you say there was  
16 a specific time of day when you would have a shower.

17 A. Mm.

18 Q. At 5 o'clock?

19 A. Yes. In the evening, yes.

20 Q. The showering area, can you tell me, was there privacy  
21 or was it a communal area?

22 A. No doors, just open. In the cubicles, open cubicles.  
23 You had a locker room, the footbath, and then the  
24 (inaudible: distorted) around the wall for doing your  
25 teeth, and then the showers.



1 Q. Can you remember roughly how many shower cubicles there  
2 were?

3 A. Six on either side. There was six on that side and six  
4 on this side (indicating).

5 Q. Was there a brother who was particularly involved in the  
6 showering?

7 A. Quite a few of them.

8 Q. I think you tell us about a Brother MIZ in your  
9 statement.

10 A. Yes. Brother MIZ, yes.

11 Q. What was his involvement with the showering  
12 arrangements?

13 A. He'd get in the shower with you, start soaping you up  
14 and would wash you.

15 Q. Would you be naked in the shower, Jack?

16 A. Yes, of course. Yes.

17 Q. What would Brother MIZ be wearing when he would come  
18 into the shower?

19 A. Nothing.

20 Q. So he was naked too?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And would he come in to your individual shower cubicle?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And what would he do?

25 A. Start soaping you up, rubbing his hands all over you.



1 Q. You're pointing towards your head; would it be your head  
2 or different parts of your body?

3 A. Different parts. More or less molesting you in the  
4 shower.

5 Q. Did he make contact with your private parts in the  
6 shower?

7 A. Yes. He did that to many boys.

8 Q. So you've told me he was in your --

9 A. MDJ used to have a bath and have the young boys go in  
10 with him, scrubbing his back and everything, washing him  
11 in the bath.

12 Q. If we just stay with Brother MIZ and the showers first  
13 of all. You have told me he came into your shower  
14 cubicle. How often would he do that, Jack?

15 A. Every chance he got. There was nothing to stop them.  
16 Nothing at all.

17 Q. So would that happen on a weekly basis, a daily basis?

18 A. Yes, weekly. As if it was (inaudible: distorted) turn  
19 to take the showers, it's my turn now, you had a turn  
20 last week.

21 Q. So once he had been in your cubicle, would he go into  
22 other boys' shower cubicles?

23 A. Yes, he would.

24 Q. Did you see him do that?

25 A. Oh yes. Yes.

1 Q. If they were on shower duty, were there any other  
2 brothers who behaved in that kind of way with the boys?

3 A. There might have been one more, but I never seen it  
4 happen. That was another one, but most of the time it  
5 was mainly MIZ and I forget the other one's -- it  
6 might have been MIU -- Brother MIW, he'd make  
7 you bend over and poke a stick up your backside and say,  
8 "You haven't cleaned it."

9 Q. What was that brother's name, I didn't catch it?

10 A. MIW, Brother MIW.

11 Q. Would he come into your shower cubicle while you were  
12 naked?

13 A. No, he didn't.

14 Q. Did he stay outside the cubicle?

15 A. He'd stand back near the wall and he'd call you over and  
16 tell you to bend over, to examine you, and he'd put  
17 a stick up your backside.

18 Q. And what would he be wearing while he was doing that?

19 A. Just the habit. You know, their habit.

20 Q. Okay. You mentioned a practice there relating to  
21 a brother having a bath and boys being asked to assist  
22 with that.

23 A. Yes, Brother MDJ, the boss himself, yes.

24 Q. So did you see Brother MDJ have a bath?

25 A. No, this is -- the boys -- well, a few of the boys were

1 his -- you know in the army you have a batman? You  
2 know, a batman, a person who looks after the officers  
3 and everything? They used to go in there, had to wash  
4 his hair, wash him on his body and everything, and some  
5 of the young boys had to sleep in his bed to warm the  
6 sheets for him.

7 Q. Okay. So did the boys tell you that they had to do  
8 that, had to go through that process in the bath with  
9 him?

10 A. Yes, oh yes.

11 Q. And did boys tell you that they had to go into his bed  
12 to warm the sheets?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Were you aware at the time of that happening?

15 A. Yes. It's a strange thing to ask young 'uns to go into  
16 a man's bed and sleep there to warm the sheets up.

17 Q. Were you ever asked to go into his bed to warm the  
18 sheets?

19 A. No.

20 Q. How old were the boys who were asked to go and warm his  
21 sheets?

22 A. Ten or 11.

23 Q. And do you know what happened in that process, how it  
24 would come to an end? Was it one boy or more than one  
25 boy at a time who'd go into his bed?

1 A. Two or three at once was in his bed warming the sheets,  
2 the so-called warming his sheets.

3 Q. And do you know what happened when he wanted to go to  
4 bed and the boys were warming the sheets?

5 A. Well, you can imagine. What would have happened?

6 Q. Did you hear anything from any of the boys about what  
7 happened?

8 A. Yes, a few of them I've met up with later on told me.

9 Q. What did they tell you?

10 A. That he made them masturbate him.

11 Q. Do you think other brothers at the time knew that young  
12 boys were going into Brother MDJ bed?

13 A. Yes, because there were a lot of them at it.

14 Q. When you say most of them were at it, what do you mean  
15 by that, Jack?

16 A. Taking a young boy into their bedroom, into bed with  
17 them. Even Brother MIY himself, when he took over  
18 from MDJ, he was doing it, would come to the  
19 dormitory, take a boy from his bed and up the passageway  
20 and into his room.

21 Q. Could you repeat that brother's name, Jack?

22 A. It was Brother MIY.

23 Q. Thank you.

24 In relation to the practice of boys being asked to  
25 warm a bed for a brother, was it just Brother MDJ

1           that asked boys to do that, as far as you know?

2           A. Yes, just Brother MDJ .

3           Q. Were there animals in the grounds, pigs and other  
4           animals in the grounds at Bindoon?

5           A. I looked after the pigs. As well as working on the  
6           building site, I looked after the pigs.

7           Q. What job did you have in relation to the pigs, what was  
8           your responsibility there?

9           A. To feed them, look after them, get them ready for  
10          market. I got top price for them, £20 a head back in  
11          those days, and I won the competition for the best pigs,  
12          best bacon when they went to market.

13          They said, "When they get big enough, we'll give you  
14          so much money." I'm still waiting.

15          Q. So you never got the money?

16          A. No, no, no.

17          Q. Did you --

18          A. The pigs -- sometimes the pigs -- you had to kill a pig,  
19          get it ready so they could send it down to their mates  
20          in Perth, their friends in Perth. Turkeys, chickens and  
21          all that went to Perth.

22          Q. I think you mention that there was an occasion where  
23          Brother MDY assaulted you when you were working with  
24          the pigs.

25          A. Yes -- no, it was in the dining room.

1 Q. I see. What happened on that occasion?

2 A. I ignored him when he spoke to me, I wasn't answering  
3 him. I said, "You can do what you like, I'm not  
4 answering you", and he punched me in the nose, bleeding  
5 into the porridge, and he forced me to eat the porridge.

6 Q. Was there another occasion when he hit you on the leg?

7 A. Yes, he hit me with wire and he drew blood from my calf,  
8 on my leg. It was thick -- what they called bull wire,  
9 very thick wire, and you had it doubled over -- and he  
10 used to hit you with it and then tall pieces of wood,  
11 batons, anything at all (inaudible: distorted).

12 Q. On the occasion where he used the wire, did he take  
13 a piece out of your leg?

14 A. He did, yes.

15 Q. Did you receive any kind of medical attention for that?

16 A. No, they had no time for that. MDJ used to tell you,  
17 "Don't worry, you'll be all right, get back to work,  
18 don't worry about it", "If you get lime in your eyes or  
19 are bleeding, don't worry about it, you'll be all  
20 right." He said, "The only time you need to stop is  
21 when you've got the work done."

22 Q. You tell us about a tuck shop, Jack, and that

23 Brother MDY had a role in relation to the tuck shop.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. In particular, you tell us about his treatment of

1 a Maltese boy.

2 A. Yes, the late [REDACTED]

3 Q. How was he treated by Brother MDY?

4 A. (Inaudible: distorted) handful of sweets and he went up  
5 to get his. He'd say, "Hold your shirt out like that",  
6 and he said, "What do you want, wog? Nothing for you."

7 And Brother MIY [REDACTED] was in charge then and he said  
8 to [REDACTED] "What's wrong?" "He won't give me any

9 sweets." He said, "You come with me", and he said to

10 Brother MDY, "When this boy comes for sweets, make sure  
11 you give them to him and don't do that again." Because

12 [REDACTED] was a good worker, he worked with

13 Brother MIY [REDACTED] he was a very good worker and  
14 a lovely person, a lovely person.

15 Q. Did some boys go on holidays or breaks with families?

16 A. They did, yes.

17 Q. Was that sometimes at Christmastime?

18 A. Yes, Christmastime, yes. If you were a good worker,

19 MDJ [REDACTED] wouldn't let you go, "We need you here, we need  
20 the work done."

21 Q. So if you were a good worker, you didn't go?

22 A. Yes. I was working on the piggery, on the building  
23 site, seven days a week.

24 Q. So generally, Jack, you weren't able to go on these  
25 trips?

1       A. There was only one time I went and that was with this  
2       man by the name of Clem Naughton. He was sent up there  
3       to recuperate. Well, the place to go and recuperate is  
4       Bindoon. He had a breakdown, but a lovely chap. I got  
5       friendly with him. I actually worked on the olive grove  
6       with him, this Clem Naughton, a good churchgoing man.  
7       He said to me one day, near Christmas, "Would you and  
8       your brother like to come down to our house, to mum's  
9       place, and have Christmas with us?" and I said that  
10      would be lovely.

11             We went down there for two weeks, to Clem Naughton  
12      and Mrs Naughton. One of Clem's brothers was an engine  
13      driver, the other one was a schoolteacher, and we had  
14      a lovely time.

15      Q. In terms of healthcare, I think you tell us there was  
16      a doctor, but that he didn't do any health checks.

17      A. No. In fact, I've got an article on that. I don't know  
18      if I gave it to [REDACTED] or not. This chap from the  
19      Air Force base, a few miles down the road, he was  
20      supposed to come up there to check -- no, no, that was  
21      all lies, made up. It was all lies. All lies.

22             In fact, I met the doctor who done the operation on  
23      the boys in the Clontarf bus accident, when they lost  
24      their legs, I met him some months back. I'd joined this  
25      Maltese club, we went up to the Maltese club and he was



1 invited along as a special guest. And then the Maltese  
2 boys, [REDACTED] -- and I asked him,  
3 "How often did you go to Bindoon?" and he said, "Every  
4 couple of months."

5 Another one from Toodyay, a county down alongside  
6 Bindoon, down from Bindoon, and Dr Riley, he was an old  
7 drunk, and many a time we had to come and get him out of  
8 the bog, he would get bogged in his car and we would  
9 push him out.

10 Q. I think you tell us that he would be drinking with  
11 Brother [REDACTED] MDJ.

12 A. Yes. It's all about boozing.

13 Q. Was it the same with the dentist, Jack?

14 A. Yes, Dr O'Keefe. He was a drunk. And  
15 Margaret Sanderson from the Catholic Welfare, another  
16 one, another drunk.

17 Q. Would the brothers themselves drink?

18 A. Yes, of course they would. Yes.

19 Q. Would you see the --

20 A. I can still see the little green fridge in the office  
21 now, about so big (indicating), round, all burst(?)  
22 bottles and the empty whisky bottles under [REDACTED] MDJ bed.

23 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, I see that it's 9 o'clock.

24 LADY SMITH: Jack, I think we'll take a break now. That  
25 will give you a breather and it will also give people

1        here time to draw breath, if that's all right with you,  
2        maybe about 10 or 15 minutes, and then we'll get back to  
3        you after that and check that you're ready to carry on.

4 A. Bindoon is there (indicating) all the time.

5 LADY SMITH: I can tell. You've got a lot of detail that  
6 you're giving us and it's really helpful. So we'll take  
7 a break just now and get back to you. Okay?

8 (9.00 am)

9 (A short break)

10 (9.15 am)

11           LADY SMITH: Hello again, Jack.

12           A. Hello, how's is going?

13           LADY SMITH: It's going great here. How's it going with  
14           you?

15            A.    Very good.

16 LADY SMITH: Good. Are you ready for us to carry on if  
17 I hand back to Ms MacLeod to continue your questioning?

18 A. Yes.

19           LADY SMITH: I'll do that.

20 Ms MacLeod.

21 MS MACLEOD: Hello again, Jack.

22           A. Hello.

23 I forgot to mention the incident in the shower

24 (inaudible: distorted) --

25           LADY SMITH: We lost a little bit of that, can you tell us

1           again, Jack?

2           A. Brother MIZ was erected in the shower.

3           MS MACLEOD: So when he was in your shower cubicle, did he  
4           have an erection?

5           A. Yes. Then he went on to the other showers.

6           Q. Did boys run away from Bindoon?

7           A. Yes, they did. They did run away. I was just talking  
8           about two who ran away, the late and

9

10          Q. Did you ever run away?

11          A. No, I was too frightened.

12          Q. I'm sorry?

13          A. I was too frightened.

14          Q. I see. What happened when boys were returned to Bindoon  
15          having run away?

16          A. They were given a flogging, flogged.

17          Q. Who were they flogged by?

18          A. MDJ

19          Q. And what did that entail?

20          A. The strap, fists, boots, and the blackthorn walking  
21          stick in the small office.

22          Q. Did boys tell you that they were flogged in that way?

23          A. Yes. He ruled by fear.

24                 In fact, I copped it from MDJ with  
25                 myself in the office: the strap, the blackthorn walking

1 stick and the boots went in.

2 Q. While you were at Bindoon, did you get any cards or  
3 letters from your father?

4 A. Yes, I got cards and letters. He used to send me money  
5 for my birthday and Christmas.

6 Q. You had been expecting your father to follow you out to  
7 Australia.

8 A. Yes. That's correct, yes.

9 Q. So did you realise at some point in time that that  
10 wasn't going to happen?

11 A. Yes. He mentioned that in the letters that he sent. He  
12 said he was trying to get out but -- I don't know if  
13 you have copies of the documents there, but he got in  
14 touch with the bishop in Sydney to try and get  
15 nomination to help him come over. No one was interested  
16 to help him come over and he wrote a letter to Bindoon  
17 saying, "Is it just a form of cheap labour for the  
18 children, do you not want the parents over?"

19 Q. And we'll look at one of the letters that he wrote in  
20 a moment, Jack.

21 But in the letters that he wrote to you, did he  
22 explain to you that he was having difficulties getting  
23 over?

24 A. Yes, he did. He said, "The children are too young  
25 (inaudible: distorted) to come across, can anyone help

1           me?" No one done a thing to help him.

2           Q. Do you remember if there were any inspections of Bindoon  
3           while you were there?

4           A. There were inspections, but MDJ had that much power  
5           and very, very forceful, and he told the inspectors,  
6           "Don't come when I'm not here, come when I'm here so  
7           I can see what you're up to." He said, "Don't come when  
8           I'm not here, give us plenty of warning that you're  
9           coming so we can get everything all set out to look  
10          good."

11          Q. You tell us that in your statement. You say that:

12                 "Brother MDJ made sure any inspectors phoned him  
13                 in advance."

14          A. Yes, yes.

15          Q. You also say that:

16                 "Brother MDJ would even order inspectors to leave  
17                 the property if they started asking too many questions."

18          A. Yes. And if you said anything to any visitors what were  
19                 going on, you copped it.

20          Q. Did anybody say anything to visitors about what was  
21                 going on?

22          A. Yes.

23          Q. Who spoke to visitors about what was going on?

24          A. Different boys.

25          Q. And did the boys tell you they spoke to the visitors?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. What did they tell the visitors?

3 A. About what was happening up there, they were being  
4 abused and flogged and had to work and the food wasn't  
5 much good and everything, different things. You had to  
6 (inaudible: distorted) item of clothing (inaudible:  
7 distorted) you never seen the movies, you sat with your  
8 back to the wall and never seen the pictures that was  
9 going on.

10 Q. The visitors who the boys told this to, where were these  
11 visitors from?

12 A. From Perth, different parts of the city. They used to  
13 come up there visiting the place and the boys would show  
14 them around.

15 Q. Were they from the Christian Brothers or were they  
16 from --

17 A. No, no. Just ordinary people, ordinary -- they could be  
18 any nationality and they could have been any religion.

19 Q. You mention one inspector in particular, an  
20 Inspector Doyle.

21 A. Commissioner John Doyle, the police commissioner.

22 Q. I see.

23 A. MDJ [REDACTED] outsider. See, [REDACTED] MDJ [REDACTED] in the  
24 Irish police force back in Ireland before [REDACTED] come to  
25 Australia. Doyle worked his way up to police



1 commissioner while MDJ was in Sydney and then went to  
2 become a Christian Brother. He was in the police force  
3 himself, but they kicked him out, so he put the collar  
4 on.

5 Q. To go back for a moment to the boys who told you they  
6 spoke to visitors about what was happening to them at  
7 Bindoon, did they tell you how the visitors responded to  
8 what they were saying?

9 A. Well, they were in shock, they couldn't believe it.  
10 They couldn't believe such a thing was happening.

11 Q. Do you know if the visitors did anything with the  
12 information they were given?

13 A. They might have mentioned it to some of the brothers,  
14 and if they did, woe betide the boys. They'd go back to  
15 the boys and they'd cop it.

16 Q. And do you know if any boys were spoken to by brothers  
17 for having spoken to the visitors?

18 A. They were given a flogging. They flogged them. If the  
19 brothers found out from visitors that the boys had told  
20 them such-and-such, when the visitors had gone, they  
21 copped it.

22 Q. Are you thinking of any brothers in particular who did  
23 that, Jack?

24 A. Well, mainly MDJ Mainly MDJ. He made it his  
25 business to find out.

1 Q. And do you remember that happening at the time, boys  
2 being flogged for having spoken to visitors?

3 A. Yes. Oh yes. All the time. Every Sunday morning after  
4 church service, you had to go down to the big water  
5 tank, sit on the big raised concrete lid outside the  
6 dormitories, and he had a list. If your name was on  
7 that list, they called you up and you copped it.

8 Q. And what would happen then if your name was on the list?

9 A. Call out to you, call you out, drop your trousers, no  
10 underpants on, bend over and cop it across the bare  
11 backside with a strap.

12 Q. And did that happen in public in front of other  
13 children?

14 A. Yes, because he ruled by fear and it put the fear of God  
15 into everyone to see him like that. They could be  
16 shaking in their boots.

17 Q. Was your name on the list on any Sunday morning?

18 A. Maybe once or twice, that was all.

19 Q. Could there be a number of boys --

20 A. (Inaudible: distorted) embarrassing, very embarrassing.  
21 I think what happened to the late [REDACTED], that  
22 was bad enough: he hit him and he punched him and he  
23 lifted him off his boot and kicked him against a wall.

24 Q. Did you see that happening?

25 A. Yes.



1 Q. You mention a lady, and I think you've actually  
2 mentioned her in your evidence, Margaret Sanderson from  
3 the Catholic Welfare.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Was she one of the visitors who came to Bindoon?

6 A. She used to come up. She worked for the  
7 Catholic Welfare and when she came up there, you had an  
8 interview in the office to see whether you were ready to  
9 go outside and work. She would always tell MDJ that  
10 I was not quite ready to leave, "He wouldn't make a wage  
11 equal to his age if he left now, keep him back."

12 I was nearly 21 before I left there and I was told,  
13 "Get in the truck, you're leaving now." They dropped me  
14 off in Perth at the corner of King and Wellington  
15 Street, the commonwealth employment, the dole office,  
16 "Get yourself a job." No money, nothing.

17 Q. And we'll come to look at that, Jack, and you've  
18 provided some documents in relation to that when you  
19 left Bindoon. But Margaret Sanderson, what was the  
20 purpose of her visits?

21 A. She was up there entertaining the brothers.

22 Q. What was she doing?

23 A. She was a tart, a drunken tart.

24 Q. I see. Would she speak to the boys?

25 A. She was up drinking, wandering about naked one night

1           there.

2           Q. Did you ever --

3           A. (Inaudible: distorted) welfare officers.

4           Q. Could you say that again, Jack?

5           A. So much for the good Catholic Welfare officers. Shower  
6           of hypocrites.

7           Q. Would she stay overnight at Bindoon?

8           A. Yes. She couldn't go anywhere else, she was drunk.  
9           I don't know whose bed she ended up in.

10          Q. You've told us that your brother was with you at Bindoon  
11          for part of the time you were there. Did there come  
12          a time when he left Bindoon?

13          A. Yes, there was, yes.

14          Q. Was he around 16 at the time?

15          A. He was, yes.

16          Q. Did you see much of him while he was in Bindoon with  
17          you?

18          A. From time to time, because they didn't let you sort of  
19          mix with your own, with your flesh and blood, like  
20          brothers. They kept them separated sort of thing.  
21          You'd be working here, he'd be away working there  
22          (indicating). You'd very seldom catch up with each  
23          other.

24          Q. You tell us in your statement that they didn't encourage  
25          you to have contact, you and your brother?

1 A. No.

2 Q. What were your thoughts about that at the time?

3 A. I thought, it seemed a bit strange. Your own flesh and  
4 blood, own relation, and they didn't want you to mix  
5 with one another, unless they thought, if one starts  
6 telling stories about this, and they get together, oh  
7 yes, that's going on, is it? My brother ran away with  
8 another chap, [REDACTED] He stayed away for  
9 three or four days and I found out afterwards he was  
10 hiding down by the dairy and hiding up a tree, a big  
11 tree up in the paddock a bit. When they came back up to  
12 the house again, they got him and flogged both of them,  
13 held them down and cut all his hair off.

14 Q. Who did that?

15 A. The brothers.

16 Q. And in relation to --

17 A. Brother [REDACTED] MIU Brother [REDACTED] MDY, Brother [REDACTED] MIZ, between  
18 the three of them, they held them down and gave them  
19 a flogging and I had to stand there and watch it,  
20 couldn't do a thing about it.

21 Q. You were there?

22 A. Yes, I had to stand and watch them do that to him.

23 Q. How old was your brother at that time?

24 A. He'd be about 11 or 12.

25 Q. In relation to your sister, Jack, I think you mention

1           that you did ask the brothers about your sister and  
2           where she was, but you were encouraged to stop asking  
3           questions.

4           A. Yes. We got, "No, don't worry about it." It was many  
5           years before I caught up with her again.

6           Q. You've mentioned a few moments ago that your father was  
7           making efforts to try and get out to Australia.

8           A. He was, yes.

9           Q. And you've provided the inquiry with copies of letters  
10          in relation to that.

11          A. Yes.

12          Q. I'm just going to give the reference for some of those  
13          and then I'll read them out for you, okay?

14          A. Mm-hm.

15          Q. If we could look, first of all, at POA.001.001.0045 at  
16          page 2.

17                 This is a copy of a letter that you wrote to the  
18          secretary of the Senate Community Affairs in  
19          December 2000. So about 20 years ago you wrote this  
20          letter and enclosed with it a copy of the letter from  
21          your father?

22          A. Yes.

23          Q. What you say is:

24                 "Please find enclosed a letter from my father to the  
25          Catholic Child Welfare Council. Also a newspaper

1 article which speaks for my brother, now deceased."

2 If we look, first of all, Jack, at the letter from  
3 your father, that's at page 3 of that same document.  
4 I'm just going to read this letter out to you. It's the  
5 letter from your father. It's dated 8 June 1956 and it  
6 says:

7 "Dear sir, in 1949 I applied for immigration to  
8 Australia for myself and three children. In order to  
9 expedite my departure the Catholic Immigration Committee  
10 in Edinburgh suggested I should migrate the children  
11 separately under the child migration scheme. This I did  
12 and in February 1950, the girl aged 12 [that's your  
13 sister] sailed for St John's Convent, New South Wales,  
14 and later the boys, then aged 12 and 11, sailed for  
15 St Joseph's Boys' Town, Bindoon, Western Australia."

16 A. Excuse me, we were both 12 together. My sister's  
17 birthday was in [REDACTED] and mine is in [REDACTED].

18 Q. So that's maybe a typo?

19 A. Mm.

20 Q. We don't need to worry about that.

21 It goes on to say:

22 "Three days after the boys' departure, I received  
23 word from Australia House that I failed to fulfil  
24 medical requirements and was therefore a reject. On  
25 enquiring which medical deficiency I had acquired, I was

1 told that it was not the policy of Australia House to  
2 disclose diagnostic findings.

3 "For six years I have had but one idea, to join my  
4 children in Australia, and finally last year  
5 Australia House asked me to get a specialist's report at  
6 my own expense. This I did, and received a favourable  
7 letter from Australia House saying that from a medical  
8 aspect my application could continue, but as I was now  
9 over 45 I would have to find my own nomination.

10 "As my children are yet too young to do this,  
11 I wrote to many organisations, thinking they would help,  
12 but those who did reply were sorry but couldn't help.

13 "My children for the last six years have been asking  
14 when I'm coming over and are under the impression that  
15 I have abandoned them, as did their mother when she left  
16 with them to rear in 1941. I trust that you may be able  
17 to assist me in my request, and if you find it possible  
18 to do so, I shall be pleased to furnish you with any  
19 further particulars.

20 "Yours sincerely ..."

21 And it's signed by your father.

22 A. That's correct.

23 Q. So this is your father setting out the situation that  
24 he was in at that time.

25 A. (Inaudible: distorted) to come over to Australia.

1 Q. Yes.

2 A. He even got in touch with the bishop over in Sydney.

3 No one wanted to do anything to help him. And he wrote  
4 to Bindoon and says, "Do you just want the children as  
5 cheap labour? You don't want the parents." He was  
6 supposed to come over and worked at Bindoon.

7 Q. You have provided also a copy of a letter at page 4, the  
8 next page, and it's a letter from the Catholic Child  
9 Welfare Council of England and Wales. It is to the  
10 director of the Federal Catholic Immigration Committee  
11 in Sydney, and it says:

12 "Dear Monsignor Crennan. I'm enclosing an  
13 application for [and it gives your father's name]. In  
14 view of the circumstances I feel like some effort should  
15 be made to give special help in this case. I will be  
16 grateful if you could find some means of giving this man  
17 a nomination."

18 But as it turned out, your father wasn't able to  
19 join you in Australia at that time?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. What impact do you think it had on your father that  
22 he had been told to move his family to Australia in this  
23 way with the children going first and then that  
24 he wasn't able to join you himself?

25 A. It broke his heart. It was very disappointing to him

1 and he was very upset because the last thing he wanted  
2 to do was for -- because he was sent away as a child  
3 himself from Ireland when his mother passed away and the  
4 father married again, from Belfast.

5 When he realised he'd been conned, he gave the  
6 church away altogether. He was a good churchgoing man  
7 and he gave it all away. They tricked him.

8 Q. And I think, Jack, you would like to see an apology  
9 being made to your father for the way he was treated.

10 A. Yes, I would, yes. It was disgusting to do that, treat  
11 a person like that. He was a good man, looked after us  
12 very well, had good intentions of coming over here, get  
13 the family back together, and it never happened.

14 I told Bindoon -- at the Commission I went to,  
15 I said, "I'll never forgive youse for what you did to my  
16 father, done to me, my brother and sister, and all my  
17 other friends at Bindoon. I'll never forgive youse."  
18 That's in writing.

19 Q. And I think for your father, Jack, you are looking for  
20 an apology from the church and from the government.

21 A. Yes. Yes, they were both to blame. Both of them are to  
22 blame for what happened to him and lots of other people  
23 too. There's other boys up there, [REDACTED] for  
24 a start. He went back to Bindoon one time and he got  
25 all these letters that were sent to him but he never got



1           one while he was there.

2           Q. And you have told us that you received letters and cards  
3           from your father while you were at Bindoon. Did there  
4           come a time when you stopped getting the letters?

5           A. Yes, there did. I never got letters sometimes. They  
6           had to censor the letters -- if you wrote a letter they  
7           censored it in case you put anything wrong in it against  
8           them (inaudible: distorted).

9           Q. Are you speaking there about letters that you wrote to  
10          your father in reply, they were censored by the  
11          brothers?

12          A. Yes. If there was something wrong in them, they'd rip  
13          them up and throw them away and he wouldn't get them.  
14          Because sometimes he would write to me and say,  
15          "I haven't heard from you for some time", and I would  
16          say, "I've written to you but you never got them."

17          Q. Do you also tell us that there were some letters you  
18          know your father sent you that you didn't receive?

19          A. Yes. And when I turned 21, I went to the child welfare  
20          department at St George's Terrace and I said, "Anything  
21          for me here?" I was expecting a bank book with money in  
22          it. I never got that. I got a letter from my dad.  
23          That's all I got.

24                 When I left Bindoon I had no clothes or nothing.  
25          They gave me nothing. They were supposed to find me

1 a job, accommodation and everything.

2 Q. If your father sent you money, let's say for your  
3 birthday, what happened to the money?

4 A. We got it. We got the money because they probably  
5 didn't realise what was in it.

6 Q. Did you have to hide the money?

7 A. Well, if any visitors gave you money, you had to hide it  
8 because if any visitors gave you money, you had to hand  
9 it in. We weren't allowed to have money there.

10 Q. Jack, you've told me already quite a bit about the  
11 violence that you yourself suffered at Bindoon and that  
12 you saw other boys suffer but I just want to ask you  
13 a little bit more about the discipline that was there.

14 Who was in charge of discipline of the boys?

15 A. MDJ [REDACTED] He ruled the roost. No one went over his head,  
16 no one done anything against MDJ [REDACTED] What MDJ [REDACTED] said  
17 went. He even had (inaudible) and nuns, the nuns too.

18 Q. Were the other brothers frightened of Brother MDJ [REDACTED]?

19 A. Yes, they were. A few of them that some of the boys met  
20 up with afterwards mentioned the fact that they were  
21 frightened of MDJ [REDACTED].

22 Q. Were the nuns frightened of him?

23 A. Yes. I never heard such language, such swearing in all  
24 my life, in front of the nuns and everything. Never  
25 heard nothing like it.

1 Q. What kind of age was Brother MDJ ?

2 A. He'd be in his 50s. He was 66 when he passed away.

3 I mentioned to this sister, Sister Flora Sullivan, who  
4 worked up at the Catholic Welfare in Victoria Square,  
5 Perth. I said, "Sister Flo, if Hitler and MDJ got  
6 together, Hitler wouldn't have a chance." That's the  
7 kind of a person MDJ was.

8 Q. You've told us about Brother MDY as well and that  
9 he was somebody who would physically discipline you and  
10 other boys.

11 A. Him and MDJ were a good pair together, a good  
12 combination.

13 Q. You tell us --

14 A. Sadistic and cruel. Punch you in the side of the head,  
15 hit you with wire, sticks, pieces of baton they would  
16 (inaudible: distorted) in the ceiling and hit you with  
17 you that.

18 Q. Was this a daily occurrence, Jack, that boys were being  
19 treated in this way?

20 A. Every day there was always somebody being flogged, every  
21 day. Not a day went past when it never happened.

22 Q. Brother MIU is another brother you mention in  
23 relation to physical discipline --

24 A. (Inaudible: distorted) another one pussyfooting about  
25 with the strap up his sleeve there.

1 Q. He had the strap up his sleeve?

2 A. Yes. He'd call you over, take a good whack and be off  
3 with it. If it was a bad whack or a good one.

4 Q. You also mention a Brother MDV and Brother MIZ again.

5 A. Yes, another evil pair together.

6 Q. Did they physically --

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. -- punish boys?

9 A. Mm-hm. MDV was guilty of causing the early death of  
10 the late [REDACTED] with the kicking he used to give  
11 him with his hobnail boots.

12 Q. You mention Brother MIW and that he had a dog that  
13 he would set on the boys.

14 A. Yes, he done it to me.

15 Q. What kind of dog was it?

16 A. It looked a bit like a sort of wolf, a bit like an  
17 Alsatian wolf type of thing.

18 Q. How would he set the dog on the boys? What would  
19 happen?

20 A. He'd get him on to them.

21 Q. Did he set the dog on you, Jack?

22 A. Yes, because we were playing soccer one time, down near  
23 the swimming pool in the paddock, the (inaudible:  
24 distorted) field, and he was running and I ran, I pulled  
25 him by the legs and he fell face first into a cowpat,

1 right? And I said, "That's stopped you", and the look  
2 I got, I thought, yes, he'll get me for this, and he did  
3 a few days later. I said, "That stopped you."

4 Q. Were you hurt by the dog?

5 A. Yes, it bit me around the leg. It got me round the leg.

6 Q. Jack, you have told me about some of the sexual abuse  
7 that took place. We've talked about the showers and the  
8 bath and the night-time routine.

9 I want to come on to look at that in a little bit  
10 more detail now. You give us some information about  
11 some things that happened to you, Jack.

12 Can I ask you, first of all, about Brother MIU  
13 and what happened with him in relation to sexual abuse.

14 Did Brother MIU sexually abuse you, Jack?

15 A. He did.

16 Q. How did that start?

17 A. Because he was in the dormitory in the main part of the  
18 building, when they moved the dormitory up there, and  
19 his room was at the far end. Right? He used to come up  
20 wandering about to the different beds. Some of the  
21 other younger boys, he'd take back to his room.

22 Q. So you saw him taking other boys back to his room?

23 A. Mm-hm. (Witness nods).

24 Q. Would he take one boy or more than one boy?

25 A. Take one boy at a time.

1 Q. Would the boy then return to the dorm?

2 A. Yes. The dormitory -- his room is in the dormitory  
3 at the far end. It was one room: beds, his room was  
4 there (indicating), he'd wander up, take them back.

5 Q. So his room was in the dormitory, but did his room have  
6 a door and walls around it?

7 A. Yes, a wall, a door, his room, and the dormitory, all  
8 the beds and that on each side.

9 Q. How old were you, Jack, when you were in that dormitory?

10 A. I'd be about 13, I think, 12 or 13.

11 Q. How many boys were in that dormitory?

12 A. It would have to be 20 because the beds were like this  
13 (indicating), both together.

14 Q. And the first time that he sexually abused you,  
15 Brother MIU, did he come to your bed?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. What did he do? Did he take you from your bed?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Where did he take you?

20 A. To his room.

21 Q. And what happened when you got into his room?

22 A. He started abusing me.

23 Q. Are you able to tell me a little bit more about what  
24 happened?

25 A. He tried to make me -- put his penis in my mouth.

1 Q. I see. Was he fully clothed?

2 A. He had nothing on underneath the habit.

3 Q. Did he interfere with your clothing at all?

4 A. Well, I only had pyjamas on, no underpants.

5 Q. And how did that situation come to an end?

6 A. Well, I started getting upset and he hit me and took me  
7 back to my bed.

8 Q. Were you taken to his room on any other occasions?

9 A. Three or four times, yes.

10 Q. What happened on these other times?

11 A. He tried to penetrate me.

12 Q. And did he penetrate you?

13 A. No, I pushed him off. I pushed him out of the way.

14 Q. And did you go back to your bed?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. So you've told me that you were taken into his room  
17 about three or four times and sexually abused.

18 A. And he still used to come to the bed and abuse me.

19 Q. Could you say that again, Jack?

20 A. He still used to come to the bed and abuse me when the  
21 lights went out.

22 Q. He would come to your bed in the dormitory and abuse  
23 you? What would he do to you in the bed?

24 A. Start molesting me.

25 Q. Would he touch your private parts?



1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Did you see Brother <sup>MIU</sup> go to the bed of other boys  
3 in your dorm?

4 A. Yes, at the far end of the dormitory, some of the young  
5 boys.

6 Q. How old were the young boys?

7 A. They might have been 11, maybe 12, maybe 10. He took  
8 down one time, the late .

9 Q. Did you see him take some of those boys to his room?

10 A. Yes. You couldn't help but see him because there's his  
11 room (indicating) and there's all the beds going along  
12 the side of the wall and he'd walk down and walk past  
13 the beds.

14 Q. Did the other boys ever speak to you about being taken  
15 to his room and what happened there?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. What did they tell you?

18 A. That Brother <sup>MIU</sup> had taken them down there, made  
19 them take their pyjamas off, and abused them.

20 Q. How long were you in the dormitory in which  
21 Brother <sup>MIU</sup> had the room?

22 A. Quite a while, quite a long time, quite a few years.

23 Q. And this behaviour that you're telling me about, Jack,  
24 of him coming out of his room, going to a boy's bed and  
25 taking a boy back to his own room, how often did that



1           happen?

2           A.   Quite regular.

3           Q.   Every week?

4           A.   Yes.  Oh yes.  There were quite a lot of them up to it:

5           Brother **MDV**, Brother **MIZ**, Brother **MHZ**.

6           Q.   Those other brothers you are mentioning there, Jack, was  
7           that happening in their own dormitories?

8           A.   Yes.  You weren't safe anywhere.

9           Q.   When you were in Brother **MIU**

10          A.   (Inaudible: distorted) sleep at the piggery.  I felt  
11          safer at the piggery than what I did in the dormitories.

12          Q.   Yes, I think you tell us that, Jack, that you would  
13          sometimes sleep in the piggery as you preferred it  
14          there.

15          A.   Mm.

16          Q.   When you were in the dormitory with Brother **MIU**, did  
17          other brothers come into that dormitory to abuse  
18          children?

19          A.   Yes.

20          Q.   Which brothers came into Brother **MIU** dormitory?

21          A.   Brother **MDV**.  Who else was it?  And another one.  There  
22          were three of them all together one time: **MIU**

23          **MDV** and another one.  Was it **MYK** It might  
24          have been **MYK** or **MPQ**

25          Q.   And when you say at the same time, were they actually

1           physically in the dormitory going round at the same  
2           time?

3           A. No, one would go and take a boy down and the others  
4           would be in the room waiting.

5           Q. So those three brothers you've mentioned would all be in  
6           Brother <sup>MIU</sup> [REDACTED] room in the dorm?

7           A. Yes. The late [REDACTED] told me that.

8           Q. And individually, the brothers would leave the room,  
9           take a boy from his bed, bring the boy back to the room?

10          A. Yes.

11          Q. So would it end up in a situation then where there could  
12          be three brothers and three boys in the room?

13          A. No, just one boy.

14          Q. One boy at a time with the three brothers?

15          A. Yes.

16          Q. Were you ever taken into the room --

17          A. That came from the late [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] told  
18          me that.

19          Q. He told you that?

20          A. Yes.

21          Q. Did you see those two other brothers in the --

22          A. (Inaudible: distorted) have a meeting, a reunion, and we  
23          discussed things about what took place and different  
24          things.

25          Q. Did you see those two other brothers in the dormitory?

1 A. Yes. They'd go into Brother MIU room and he'd  
2 come out and go out and go down and bring someone.

3 Q. You saw that yourself?

4 A. Yes. No doubt some of the other boys would see it too.  
5 You couldn't help but see it.

6 Q. As well as taking boys to the room, you've told me that  
7 Brother MIU would come to your bed and abuse you in  
8 your bed.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Did you see him go to other boys' beds and abuse them in  
11 bed?

12 A. Yes. Up at the far end of the dormitory, where it was  
13 darker.

14 Q. We've spoken there about Brother MIU and you have  
15 mentioned the two other brothers who came into his dorm.  
16 Did you see any other brothers in other dorms take boys  
17 to their room?

18 A. No. Before we moved from the old dormitories up to the  
19 main building in this new dormitory, different brothers  
20 used to come through the passageway -- the door opened  
21 up to the dormitory -- and take different boys back to  
22 their room. When MDJ was in that -- MDJ had been  
23 there, that was his room, such-and-such, such-and-such,  
24 Brother Conlon, Brother MDW, Brother Tuppin,  
25 Brother MDY. That was their rooms off the passageway

1           and so that was where the brothers slept.

2           Q. This is when you moved into a different part of Bindoon,  
3           Jack? How old were you when you moved to that part?

4           A. I might have been about 12.

5           Q. Okay.

6           A. Twelve or 13.

7           Q. How many boys were in that dorm?

8           A. Let's see ... About 20.

9           Q. Okay.

10          A. You had beds, one, two... Like that (indicating).

11          Q. Side by side?

12          A. Yes, side by side. So much space between the beds, that  
13          was all.

14          Q. You said there that a number of brothers had rooms close  
15          to that dormitory.

16          A. Yes, there was a door leading into the dorm and  
17          the passageway -- the brothers' rooms were in the  
18          passageway and they'd come to it, open up, go through to  
19          the other dormitories where the younger boys were and  
20          bring them in. You couldn't help but see it.

21          Q. So you saw brothers going into another dormitory where  
22          there were younger boys and taking those boys into their  
23          rooms?

24          A. Yes.

25          Q. Which brothers did you see doing that, Jack?

1 A. Brother MIY [REDACTED] for a start, that was him, and then  
2 Brother MIZ [REDACTED] brother MDV [REDACTED].

3 Q. By that time, Jack, was Brother MIY [REDACTED] in charge of  
4 Bindoon?

5 A. Yes, Brother MIY [REDACTED] took over when MDJ [REDACTED] died.

6 Q. So you saw these three brothers going into the younger  
7 boys' dormitory. Did any of them come into your  
8 dormitory?

9 A. Yes, they had to come in because they opened the door  
10 and they had to walk through the dormitories. The  
11 dormitories were one, two, three (indicating).

12 Q. I see. You had to go through your dormitory to get to  
13 the younger boys' dormitory?

14 A. (Inaudible: distorted) go through it to get to the other  
15 dormitories. You had to go through that dormitory to  
16 get to the others.

17 Q. Did any of those brothers come to your bed while you  
18 were in that dormitory?

19 A. No. No.

20 Q. You've told me that you saw them take younger boys out  
21 of their dormitory and take them to their room.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Did any of these younger boys tell you what happened to  
24 them in the rooms of any of these brothers?

25 A. Some of them did. Some of them didn't want to talk

1 about it because they felt ashamed.

2 Q. Did any boy speak to you about Brother MDV and being  
3 removed by Brother MDV ?

4 A. Yes. He was one of the main culprits.

5 Q. What did the boy tell you?

6 A. He took them to their bedroom and abused him, made him  
7 do things -- he done the same with the younger boys at  
8 Castledare.

9 Q. And have you heard that from boys who were at  
10 Castledare?

11 A. Boys who were at Castledare, yes. After we left  
12 Bindoon, we grew up, we used to have gatherings and  
13 meetings and we'd start talking about different things  
14 and it all came out then, lots of it came out.

15 Q. And Brother MIZ did any boy speak to you about being  
16 removed from their bed and taken into Brother MIZ  
17 room?

18 A. Yes. The late [REDACTED] -- there were two, [REDACTED]  
19 [REDACTED], two brothers at Bindoon, not  
20 Christian Brothers, just brothers.

21 [REDACTED] -- I used to stay at [REDACTED] house, him and  
22 his wife and the kids, sometimes. He told me different  
23 things that went on. This particular time -- this was  
24 a few years after, later on -- he told me what  
25 Brother MIZ had done to him and I couldn't believe it.



1 Q. What did he tell you?

2 A. Brother <sup>MIU</sup> [REDACTED] actually chained him to the water pump  
3 on the dam (inaudible: distorted) and chained him there  
4 all night.

5 Q. What did he tell you that Brother <sup>MIZ</sup> [REDACTED] did to him?

6 A. He abused him, sexually abused him. I said to him,  
7 I was shocked, "I didn't realise it happened to you,  
8 [REDACTED] He kept it to himself for years. Then we were  
9 up at his house and we were having a few beers and we  
10 started talking about things and he opened up to me.

11 Q. And you said there that he told you that Brother <sup>MIU</sup> [REDACTED]  
12 had involvement with him and I didn't quite catch that.  
13 How did that come about?

14 A. Because [REDACTED] was in the same dormitory.

15 Q. I see. He was in the same dormitory as you were?

16 A. Yes. Some of the boys thought they were the only ones  
17 it happened to until the other ones opened up and  
18 started talking about it. They thought they were the  
19 only ones it happened to.

20 Q. You've mentioned that --

21 A. It was a paedophile's dream at Bindoon. That was what  
22 it was. Do you know why it went on so much? Do you  
23 know why it was kept under wraps? By Commissioner John  
24 Doyle, <sup>MDJ</sup> [REDACTED] best mate.

25 Q. Did he know it was going on?

1 A. Yes, he used to go up to Bindoon -- he knew MDJ from  
2 his [REDACTED] and he knew what was going on and he kept  
3 it under wraps.

4 Q. Did he know about the sexual abuse?

5 A. Yes, of course he did. No one done nothing about it:  
6 "The good brothers wouldn't do that, stop making up  
7 stories, you're telling lies."

8 Q. The other brother you mentioned there was

9 Brother MIY [REDACTED] You said that you saw him take young  
10 boys to his room.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Did you ever speak to any of the boys who'd been taken  
13 to Brother MIY [REDACTED] room?

14 A. Yes, when I met up with them.

15 Q. What did they tell you?

16 A. Talking about things, and blah, blah, blah, and it came  
17 out.

18 Q. What did he say?

19 A. That MIY [REDACTED] used to come and take him to his bedroom  
20 and abuse him. He was well-known for that because you'd  
21 see him walking about the yard with his hand on a young  
22 boy's shoulder, like a pet, petting him up.

23 Q. So during --

24 A. And also, my brother made a statement, I've got it about  
25 somewhere, and this was done in Glasgow, the statement,



1           the reporter -- right? He said you knew who was abused  
2           because the young boys would come with black stockings  
3           as a reward.

4       Q. Yes. We'll look at the article about your brother, but  
5           that's something I wanted to ask you about. You  
6           mentioned the black socks in your statement.

7       A. Yes, a reward for services rendered.

8       Q. Do you remember seeing boys with black socks at Bindoon?

9       A. Yes.

10      Q. And at the time what was your understanding of what the  
11          black socks meant?

12      A. As a gift from the brothers; the brothers wore black  
13          socks.

14      Q. I see.

15      A. Dressed in black, black socks. That was their reward  
16          for services rendered.

17      Q. So you saw some boys wearing black socks?

18      A. Yes, quite a few of them.

19      Q. At the time what did you think that meant? What was  
20          your understanding of why the boys had got black socks?

21      A. Well, for services rendered.

22      Q. What did that mean?

23      A. Well, that was for services rendered, for putting up  
24          with the abuse. How can we reward them? Oh, we'll give  
25          them a pair of socks, that'll keep them happy.

1 Q. At the time did you know that those boys who were  
2 wearing black socks had got them as a reward for sexual  
3 abuse?

4 A. I didn't wake up to it until my brother mentioned it to  
5 me.

6 There's another person too who'll be going over to  
7 talk to the Commission later on, Fred Smith -- have you  
8 heard of Fred Smith? You have a good talk to Fred. You  
9 have a good talk to him.

10 Q. Was he at Bindoon at the same time as you, Jack?

11 A. No, he was at Bindoon -- he was in all four orphanages.  
12 He was at Castledare, Clontarf, Bindoon and Tardun, and  
13 he was abused in every one of them.

14 That article in the paper that [REDACTED] in,  
15 Fred's story is in that too.

16 Q. The sexual abuse you've been telling me about, Jack, of  
17 boys, including yourself, being taken from their beds  
18 into brothers' rooms and boys being abused in their beds  
19 by brothers, did that go on for the duration of the time  
20 you were in Bindoon?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Do you think Brother Conlon knew about the abuse?

23 A. He knew everything because he was involved with bringing  
24 the migrants from Ireland, from the south of Ireland to  
25 the north, without passports or birth certificates. He

1           made it his business to bring them whether they wanted  
2           to or not. I have a list of different names of the  
3           different ones who came over without any passports or  
4           birth certificates.

5       Q. Do you think he knew that boys were being sexually  
6       abused in the way you have described?

7       A. Yes, of course. He was high up in the ranks before he  
8       got too old. He was very high up. He knew what was  
9       going on. He was at Tardun as well. He was all over  
10      the place in different places. He knew what was going  
11      on.

12     Q. Do you think all the brothers who were there knew what  
13     was going on?

14     A. Yes. And the ones -- the good ones, they knew what was  
15     going on, if they opened up and spoke up they got  
16     transferred somewhere else. There was one particular  
17     chap, a Brother O'Brien, I still remember him, he used  
18     to get the whip and stand on the big concrete tank there  
19     and crack the whip, show us how to crack the whip.  
20     He was only there for three or four months and they got  
21     rid of him.

22     Q. Did you understand then that he spoke about what was  
23     happening?

24     A. Yes.

25     Q. In what way did he speak out?

1 A. Well, he mentioned what was going on, he knows what's  
2 happening, and they got rid of him, transferred him  
3 somewhere else.

4 Q. Who did he mention it to?

5 A. To MDJ MDJ would have said, "You're out of here,  
6 get rid of him, get him out of here, we don't want him  
7 here, he's not good." Anyone who was decent in any way,  
8 they weren't wanted. You can't tell me people don't  
9 know these things and see what's going on and think it's  
10 all right.

11 Q. You also --

12 A. John Doyle kept it all under wraps and him and MDJ --  
13 when MDJ was at Clontarf, right, before he ever went  
14 to Bindoon, Doyle would come with a driver and pick him  
15 up and take him out drinking to the Raffles Hotel at  
16 Canning Bridge. And the particular time this was  
17 happening, two young policemen walked in and said to  
18 MDJ "You're drinking after hours", and MDJ said,  
19 "Don't you know who I am?" and they said, "Yes, you're  
20 Brother MDJ "Well, if you don't get out of here and  
21 take your little notebook, you'll find yourself up the  
22 country and you won't see the city for some time, what  
23 do you want to do?" and he just ripped the page out of  
24 the notebook and put it away.

25 Q. You have told me, Jack, that brothers were moved between

1 the different Christian Brothers homes such as Clontarf  
2 and Castledare. Were there also occasions when brothers  
3 from the other homes would visit for a few days and then  
4 leave again?

5 A. Yes. Especially Kalgoorlie, a country town, 300 miles  
6 away. Kalgoorlie, they came down there. Because  
7 I spoke to these chaps one day -- they went to school at  
8 Kalgoorlie, the Christian Brothers -- and they said the  
9 brothers used to come down to Bindoon for a holiday.

10 I said, "Yes, to abuse the kids", "Oh, it never happened  
11 to us", "No, because they done it at Bindoon instead."

12 Q. And that's what I was going to ask you next, Jack: the  
13 visiting brothers, the ones who were there for a few  
14 days or weeks, did they sexually abuse boys?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Did you see that happen? Did you see them --

17 A. It'd be at night-time.

18 Q. So did you hear about that from other boys?

19 A. Yes, yes, I heard lots of things -- in fact, this is  
20 going back a few years. I was in a hotel having a few  
21 beers, I got talking to this young chap there. He loved  
22 dancing and I got talking to him. He worked at the  
23 Christian Brothers college in Fremantle and I happened  
24 to have my bag with me and different articles, like  
25 a carrier -- I said, "Oh, you went to Fremantle, the

1 Christian Brothers?" "Yes", and I said, "Read this,  
2 I went to Bindoon", and he read it, and he opened up and  
3 he said, "I was abused by the music teacher at  
4 Fremantle, the Christian Brothers."

5 He opened up to me. Two or three weeks later I went  
6 back to the same hotel and I said to the chap behind the  
7 bar, where's so-and-so, I haven't seen him around, and  
8 he had committed suicide. He was of Italian parentage,  
9 his parents were Italian.

10 Q. Someone else you tell us about in your statement is  
11 Father MJC, the priest.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Was he the priest from New Norcia?

14 A. Yes. That's right. It was him, Father MJC,  
15 yes, and Father MPG.

16 Q. Was he a Benedictine priest?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Did he sexually abuse you at Bindoon?

19 A. Yes, give you holy pictures and sweets and stuff.

20 Q. How did his abuse of you start, Jack? What happened the  
21 first time he abused you?

22 A. It was supposed to be sex lessons, teaching you about  
23 sex and everything.

24 Q. So where was the lesson, the supposed lesson, taking  
25 place?

1 A. He lived up in the towers. There were two towers,  
2 right? And there were rooms -- his room was up there.  
3 The dining room area, the church (indicating) -- well,  
4 up above there was two towers at Bindoon. He was up  
5 there and that was where he slept.

6 Q. And were you asked to go to his room?

7 A. Yes. He'd give you some holy pictures and medals,  
8 holy ...

9 Q. So did he try to befriend you?

10 A. Yes. Not to be friendly, just so he could molest you  
11 and abuse you.

12 Q. What happened on the first occasion that he abused you?  
13 What did he do?

14 A. He said, I'm teaching you about what sex is all about,  
15 sex education.

16 Q. What did he do to you?

17 A. Started molesting me.

18 Q. Touching your private parts?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Did you have to touch him?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Did you have to remove some of your clothing?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Did he remove some of his clothing?

25 A. Yes. And he was supposed to be a priest.

1 Q. So he touched you sexually and he asked you to touch him  
2 sexually?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Did anything else happen?

5 A. He tried to make me put him in my mouth.

6 Q. I see. On how many occasions did the priest sexually  
7 abuse you in this way?

8 A. It must have been four or five times. Until eventually  
9 I said, "No, this is wrong." Many times I said, "No,  
10 I'm not going up there, I'm not going up there."

11 Q. On the occasions that he did sexually abuse you, how did  
12 it come to an end, how did it stop?

13 A. I just started crying. I knew it wasn't right. We had  
14 to work with him in the gardens. He was [REDACTED] of  
15 the gardens, so we had to work alongside him in the  
16 gardens and he'd bring you lollies and stuff and play  
17 around with you when he put them in your pocket.

18 Q. When you say "play around with you", was he touching you  
19 inappropriately?

20 A. Yes, of course.

21 Q. How old --

22 A. He'd bribe you, stuff like that.

23 Q. How old were you when the priest sexually abused you?

24 A. I'd be about 14 then.

25 Q. Did he sexually abuse you during confession?



1 A. No, no, because he's in one side -- there's a box thing  
2 and there's a window thing, he's on one side and you're  
3 on the other. It did happen to one of the other boys,  
4 who told me, a friend of mine, [REDACTED] a Maltese  
5 boy. He abused him in the confessional box.

6 Q. Did the boy tell you what he did to him in the  
7 confessional box?

8 A. Yes. He masturbated him. I was surprised that he  
9 opened up to me because I thought -- well, I couldn't  
10 believe it. I said, "But that was in the confessional  
11 box, [REDACTED] He wouldn't tell me a lie, he wouldn't lie  
12 to me about it. Because one day -- this is when my  
13 cousin came over -- we went to the casino just to show  
14 him around there and [REDACTED] happened to be there with his  
15 wife. He said to me, "Can I talk to you?" "Yes", and he  
16 told me what happened. I said, "What?" --

17 Q. So just to be clear, Jack, was it the boy who was asked  
18 to masturbate the priest?

19 A. Yes. [REDACTED]

20 Q. Other than that boy and your own experiences with the  
21 priest, do you know if MJC [REDACTED] sexually abused  
22 other boys at Bindoon?

23 A. Yes, he did.

24 Q. Did you know at the time when you were there that he was  
25 sexually abusing other boys?

1 A. No, but I found out. One of the other boys mentioned it  
2 to me one time when I met up with him. He said, oh,  
3 blah, blah, blah. I said, oh yes. Then when I met up  
4 with [REDACTED], this is some years later, and he  
5 told me what happened to him in the confessional box,  
6 I couldn't believe it. I just could not believe it.  
7 And [REDACTED] wouldn't tell me a lie, he wouldn't lie to me.

8 Q. Something you mention in your statement, Jack, at  
9 paragraph 74 is you say:

10 "The priest would tell different brothers who was  
11 available. It was like a paedophile ring."

12 A. Yes, exactly. The priest (inaudible: distorted) and  
13 he'd inform the different ones who was available to be  
14 abused.

15 Q. I just want to explore that with you a little bit. How  
16 do you know that the priest spoke to brothers in this  
17 way?

18 A. How do you think the brothers found out? The priest was  
19 an abuser, they were abusers, and they all used to  
20 discuss who they'd been with, who they had abused.

21 Q. And how did the priest know?

22 A. Well, because he was an abuser himself. He knew  
23 what was going on. He used to discuss who was available  
24 to abuse.

25 Q. So the priest and the brothers would discuss together

1 boys who were being abused --

2 A. Who was available, yes: you'll be right with him, you'll  
3 be right with him. It was a paedophile ring they were  
4 running. The same priest used to befriend the boys too  
5 and even write to them when they left Bindoon and they'd  
6 think he was wonderful.

7 Q. Okay. In relation to leaving Bindoon, Jack, you tell us  
8 that you couldn't just leave when you arrived at  
9 a particular age, you had to have permission to leave.

10 A. You had to wait for Margaret Sanderson to come up there  
11 and tell MDJ "He's all right to leave now, he'll be  
12 all right", blah, blah, blah. But she'd tell any good  
13 workers, "No, he's not ready to leave yet, keep him here  
14 a bit longer."

15 Q. You tell us that you were 21 before you were deemed fit  
16 to leave.

17 A. [OVERSPEAKING] the day I left. I turned 21 at a place  
18 called Keysbrook, 32 miles from Perth, on the dairy  
19 farm, on the first job I had. When I went and travelled  
20 down, I had to get a ticket from the employment office  
21 to go down there to start the job.

22 Q. And you've provided the inquiry, Jack, with some letters  
23 written around this time, which demonstrate that it was  
24 being said that you weren't ready for employment, as it  
25 were, in the marketplace. I just want to look at

1 a couple of these documents. I'll read them out so you  
2 don't have to worry about having them in front of you.  
3 The first one I'm going to look at is at  
4 WIT.003.001.9257.

5 This is a letter to the assistant director of the  
6 child welfare department and it's dated January 1956.  
7 It's a letter that sets out various information. It's  
8 about you and it says:

9 "I regret that we have not been successful in  
10 finding an employer who would take [you] on."

11 It goes on in the final paragraph to say:

12 "He should now be quite steady, but it is doubtful  
13 if he could earn a wage equal to his age."

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. "In order to place him I am afraid we will have to  
16 accept employment for him at the rate of a 17-year-old.  
17 However, we will do our best."

18 You were 19 at that time and I think we see here  
19 that it was being suggested that you wouldn't be able to  
20 get a satisfactory job in the open market.

21 A. (Inaudible: distorted) my age.

22 Q. In fact you were telling us --

23 A. I had letters as well to state that I left there in  
24 1955. How come I've got letters dated from Bindoon in  
25 1956?

1 Q. In fact, you have been telling us that you were a good  
2 worker and that's why they wanted to keep you at  
3 Bindoon?

4 A. They kept quite a few of us there that were good  
5 workers, like [REDACTED] who I came up on the ship  
6 with, he was a good worker. There were quite a few of  
7 us there and they were getting free labour, cheap  
8 labour.

9 Q. You mention in your statement, Jack, that it was also  
10 arranged for a psychologist's report to be carried  
11 out --

12 A. Yes [OVERSPEAKING]. He said I was formerly coached by  
13 a harsh father. I thought the only harsh father I knew  
14 was MDJ [REDACTED] not my father.

15 Q. And you've provided a copy of that to the inquiry, Jack,  
16 and I'll have a brief look at that. That's at  
17 POA.001.001.0045 at page 6.

18 This is a psychologist's report which is dated  
19 April 1956, so just about three months after the letter  
20 we looked at, so you would have been about 19 at that  
21 time as well.

22 Indeed, it sets out a kind of assessment on you and  
23 your prospects in relation to work --

24 A. (Inaudible: distorted) Bindoon and he wasn't the least  
25 bit interested.

1 Q. In particular, it gives, as you say, some information  
2 about your parents, which I think you tell us is  
3 incorrect. It says you're in touch with your parents,  
4 who live together and --

5 A. They didn't live together. They lived together until my  
6 mother left when I was 4. That's their lies, their  
7 stories made up.

8 Q. And it also says:

9 "However, the paternal interest is probably not much  
10 for these children."

11 And we know, Jack, from what we have looked at that  
12 that is not correct --

13 A. [OVERSPEAKING].

14 Q. Could you say that again, Jack?

15 A. My father done a good job looking after us when my  
16 mother left. It broke his heart to think he couldn't  
17 come here to join us and he died a lonely man. He was  
18 dead for two days before they found him.

19 And that Margaret Sanderson, she was no good. She  
20 was a bitch, she was a drunk, a floozy. All she came up  
21 there for was to booze and grog on with the brothers and  
22 wander around half naked at night-time.

23 Q. You go on to tell us that there did come a time when you  
24 were able to leave Bindoon, I think when you were 21,  
25 and you were given a reference at that time to be able

1 to work --

2 A. (inaudible: distorted) turned 21, yes.

3 Q. And at that time --

4 A. I had my 21st birthday party at the first farm job at  
5 Keysbrook, the English couple there, the married couple  
6 there, they gave me a bit of a party for my birthday.  
7 Mr and Mrs Higgins.

8 Q. And just before that, John, when you were 20, in 1957,  
9 you were given a very positive reference by Bindoon,  
10 which is in different terms to the ones we've just  
11 looked at and you've given us a copy of that. That's at  
12 page 5 of the same document.

13 By this time, you were being given a positive  
14 reference to try and assist you with getting employment.  
15 So you were now deemed to be suitable for employment,  
16 is that right?

17 A. If that's the case, why did they one day tell me, "Get  
18 in the truck, you're leaving here now"? I wasn't taken  
19 to the welfare department for any suit of clothes or  
20 find accommodation or any money. Dropped off, and  
21 I told you before, at the corner of King and Wellington  
22 Street, the Commonwealth employment office: get yourself  
23 a job. And then Brother MDY took me down, "Get in the  
24 truck, you're leaving here now", and that was my  
25 farewell to Bindoon.

1 Q. And you were just left there on the street?

2 A. Yes, just left: get out the truck, get in there, find  
3 yourself a job.

4 Q. And did you go and speak to the welfare department to go  
5 and see --

6 A. When I turned 21 I went to the welfare department and  
7 said, "Have you got anything for me?" "Oh, we've been  
8 looking for you." I said, "No, you haven't, you  
9 couldn't care less about me." I got a letter from my  
10 dad. I was supposed to get a bank book with money. Not  
11 a cracker, nothing, because there were two welfare  
12 officers who were gamblers, they had access to the money  
13 and they spent the money on gambling.

14 Q. You've provided us to documents in relation to that and  
15 I'm going to look at those briefly. The first one is at  
16 WIT.003.001.9297. This is a ledger that you have shared  
17 with us which shows you supposedly being paid at  
18 Bindoon.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. So for example, we see entries there for 1953 and 1954  
21 that you were being paid for the work you were doing.  
22 You have told us, of course, that you weren't getting  
23 the money.

24 A. You weren't allowed to have money there. If the  
25 visitors gave you money, they took it from you.



1 Q. And you've also provided us with a note at  
2 WIT.003.001.9292. This is a note written to you, Jack,  
3 I think when you were trying to get some records in  
4 later life. You've given a copy of this to the inquiry  
5 and I'll just read that out to you. What it says is:

6 "Inspections: Reports of immigrant children,  
7 residents. The file is restricted for 75 years, so  
8 giving the information out to people could be an  
9 offence."

10 It goes on to say:

11 "You have a letter about the wages you were  
12 supposedly paid while you were at Bindoon. These show  
13 that you were paid certain amounts."

14 And that's the page we've just looked at. It goes  
15 on to say:

16 "Notice that the clerk in charge of accounts,  
17 Leonard Joseph Townsend, was convicted of stealing funds  
18 from children's accounts."

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. So --

21 A. Child welfare, a Mr Young was there too, he was one of  
22 the bosses.

23 Q. So this is a note that you were provided with in later  
24 life from the welfare department.

25 A. If you look at the Battye Library in Perth, you'll get

1 all the information you need about the whole lot.

2 Oliver Cosgrove got that for me.

3 Q. There's no date on this, Jack, but do you have any idea  
4 when you got this letter?

5 A. Some time a few years back.

6 Q. In recent times?

7 A. A few years back.

8 Q. You've mentioned a number of times [REDACTED] and that  
9 there was [REDACTED] where he spoke to  
10 [REDACTED] about his experiences at Bindoon.

11 A. And I spoke to [REDACTED] when I went back to  
12 Glasgow. I met up with him in Maryhill, where the old  
13 army barracks used to be, and I met him down in the  
14 little park, the same man that [REDACTED] spoke to and  
15 the same one that Freddy Smith spoke to.

16 Q. You've provided us with a [REDACTED] in relation  
17 to [REDACTED] and I think that's [REDACTED]  
18 [REDACTED] and it  
19 [REDACTED]

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. [REDACTED] on [REDACTED] 1995.

22 A. Mm-hm.

23 Q. I'm just going to read out a few quotations from [REDACTED]  
24 [REDACTED] which [REDACTED], just to get that  
25 into the evidence.

1           There are a number of quotes from [REDACTED] and  
2           I'll just read those out. [REDACTED] said:

3           "We all knew the boys who were being raped. They  
4           were the guys with black socks. The monks would entice  
5           them to their bedrooms and give them the socks for their  
6           services."

7           He goes on to say:

8           "It was known as MDJ [REDACTED] concentration camp'. He  
9           and others put us through hell. Because of what they  
10          did, I have no religion."

11          [REDACTED] is also quoted as saying:

12          "Our father applied to go with us, but the committee  
13          said it would be quicker if we went separately. We set  
14          sail, but it was an evil trick."

15          The quote from him goes on:

16          "From the first day we arrived, lonely and hungry,  
17          we were given a lesson in misery by the black-habited  
18          monks. Your name vanished and you became a number.  
19          Staff at Bindoon got pleasure from abusing boys and  
20          dishing out perverted punishments. The favourite was to  
21          catch you out for some minor misdemeanour like losing  
22          a towel. The brothers would make you fetch a stick,  
23          drop your trousers, then whack your bare bottom. I was  
24          regularly beaten by Brother MDJ [REDACTED] who was 18 stone and  
25          6 foot 2.

1            "One of his favourite tricks was to let us watch him  
2            feast on chops while we had lumpy porridge. Then he'd  
3            walk away leaving a chop on his plate and watch us fight  
4            over it. At Bindoon we reared all the usual farm  
5            animals, chickens and so on, but we never got a piece of  
6            chicken ever. After MDJ death they erected  
7            a statue, but some old boys went back and tore it down.

8            "We were given sandshoes and once they wore out, we  
9            worked barefoot, risking our lives up unstable  
10           scaffolding. We had to walk over gravel and through the  
11           bush beating out fires. At least two boys, one from  
12           Scotland and another from Ireland, were killed. The  
13           Scot died after being hit by a runaway cart carrying  
14           rocks. The Irish youngster fell off a balustrade after  
15           a paedophile brother took him in his bedroom and got him  
16           tipsy."

17        A. That was Brother MIZ He was thrown over the balcony,  
18           the first floor up. He was thrown over that. He didn't  
19           slide down any balustrade because you couldn't slide  
20           down it. I had a reporter from the Sunday Times ring me  
21           up and talk to me about that. I said, you can't slide  
22           down that because it's not like that, it's just stuck  
23           there. The quickest way to go down is down the stairs,  
24           why would you slide down a balustrade like that? He was  
25           thrown from further back with a little small balustrade

1           around the top floor and they moved the body to say, oh,  
2           he fell off -- and he slid down head first. Well, if  
3           you slide down a balustrade, why would you slide down  
4           head first?

5       Q. That account or those quotes from your brother that  
6           we've looked at, does that chime with what your brother  
7           told you about his experiences at Bindoon?

8       A. Mm-hm.

9       Q. You tell us, Jack, that you spoke to the police much  
10          later on in the 1980s or 1990s.

11      A. Yes.

12      Q. What was the outcome of that report?

13      A. The detective who was taking my statement was taken off  
14          the case and told, drop it, let it go, it's not going to  
15          go any further, and they just closed it up.

16      Q. Had you told the police about what you've told us today?

17      A. I beg your pardon?

18      Q. Did you tell the police about the sexual abuse and  
19          physical abuse?

20      A. Yes.

21      Q. You give us some information, Jack, about what you did  
22          after you left Bindoon. You tell us that you worked at  
23          a dairy farm, first of all.

24      A. The first job I had. And the first food I had, I can  
25          tell you what I had for dinner: half-cooked smoked

1           boiled pork and turnip. It brought back memories of  
2           Bindoon the first time I looked at it.

3       Q. And you say that you slept in a hut on a dirt floor  
4           in that job.

5       A. I had a bed, an old wire bed, and an old (inaudible:  
6           distorted) for blankets. A piece of wood with  
7           (inaudible: distorted) across hanging down as  
8           a wardrobe.

9       Q. When you said you wanted to leave that job, you were  
10          told you'd be sent back to Bindoon?

11      A. Yes, Ivan Gray, he said, "If you leave me, I'll send you  
12          back to Bindoon."

13      Q. I think there came a time quite shortly after that when  
14          you met a man on a train and things changed for you.

15      A. That's when I left the farm. I got on the milk truck  
16          and the milk truck took me two stations up, to Pinjarra.  
17          I got on the train there and this man had been sat  
18          at the table there on the train, asleep, and he left his  
19          little cigars and matches. "Excuse me, sir, you've left  
20          them", I said and he said, "I'll be coming back." He  
21          went to the tearooms, come back, and we had a discussion  
22          and a conversation: "Where are you going?" " I'm going  
23          to Perth, sir", "What for?" "To look for work", "What do  
24          you do?" I told him and he said, "I want someone to  
25          look after my farm, are you interested?" and I said, "Oh

1           yes."

2           So I went down to manage the farm. About 100-odd  
3 miles away in Bunbury. I was in charge of the farm.  
4 He was such a wonderful person. He said to me one day,  
5 it was too wet, "Stay in bed, read a book." I said,  
6 "I couldn't do that, you're paying me to do the work."  
7 He gave me a strange look and thought there was  
8 something wrong with me.

9       Q. And you tell us your time there was a happy time?

10      A. It was very happy. Him and his wife came up every  
11 weekend and would bring big boxes of fruit and  
12 everything. The shearers would come and shear the sheep  
13 and everything. He was a wonderful person.

14           Then he leased his farm out to one of the locals,  
15 Bobby Gardener, and I come back to Bunbury and done work  
16 around the house, put up a new fence in his backyard for  
17 him and everything. He was a wonderful man.

18      Q. Did you meet up with your brother when you left Bindoon?

19      A. No, not for a long time.

20      Q. And what about your sister?

21      A. It was years before I met up with her. Didn't know  
22 where she was. [REDACTED] and I didn't have a clue where she  
23 was. We thought she was over here with us, going to  
24 meet up again, but ... she actually looked for me and  
25 she found me.

1 Q. When did you go back to Scotland for the first time?

2 A. I think it was back in the 1980s, 1983.

3 Q. So you'd have been in your mid-40s around that time?

4 A. Mm-hm.

5 Q. Had you continued writing to your father?

6 A. No, I didn't write as often as you used to. From time  
7 to time. I was always on the move all the time, all  
8 over the place. He wrote to me, "Tom, you're like a  
9 gypsy." He said, "You're like a gypsy, you're always on  
10 the move."

11 Q. And when you --

12 A. I didn't want people getting too close to me, you know.

13 Q. When you visited Scotland in 1983 did you surprise your  
14 father?

15 A. Yes. He said to me, "Have you got anything to say?"  
16 I said, "What do you mean?" and He said, "Well, your  
17 sister's made a visit, she said such-and-such, gave me  
18 a good dressing-down, a telling off, your brother's done  
19 the same", he said, "it's your turn." I said, "What do  
20 you want me to say?" He's been through enough as it is.  
21 He's been through enough. I said, no, don't worry about  
22 it, it's okay.

23 Q. And I think what you say is that he spoiled you on that  
24 visit and you had a good visit with him?

25 A. Yes, he couldn't do enough for me, couldn't do enough.



1 Q. Did you see your mother on that visit to Scotland?

2 A. Yes, I went and seen her, caught up with her. I went to  
3 visit her.

4 Q. And this was the first time you'd seen your parents  
5 since you were 12?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. How was that --

8 A. In the morning, she said to me, "I'm sorry, son, forgive  
9 me." I said, "Let it go, that's it, finished, let it  
10 go."

11 Q. What was it like seeing your parents after all that  
12 time?

13 A. I was so used to being there with them, I used to go and  
14 visit my mother with my brother, even though my father  
15 forbade me, and I said, "No, it's my mother, I'm going  
16 to go and see her." He accepted that, but not -- he was  
17 a wonderful father, and my mother was -- sorry,  
18 apologised and everything. I said, "Don't worry about  
19 it, it's in the past."

20 Q. I think you came back for your mother's funeral about  
21 10 years after that.

22 A. I did, I came back for her funeral, yes. I came back  
23 before that in hospital and I said to the doctor, "If  
24 she's dying of cancer, why are you allowing her to  
25 smoke?" He said, "Well, it's too late."

1 Q. And you were back in Scotland in 2013, I think you tell  
2 us, and you went to visit your father's grave?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. You give us -- sorry?

5 A. And my mother's as well, up in Glasgow.

6 Q. You give us some information about your own life. You  
7 tell us that you were married and that you had a son and  
8 that the marriage didn't work out and you tell us that  
9 you have a number of other children as well.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. I think you had some involvement with the Royal  
12 Commission in Australia, is that right?

13 A. Mm.

14 Q. And I think you tell us that you went to see Justice  
15 Peter McClellan, who chaired the Commission?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Did you speak to him one on one?

18 A. Yes. Mr McClellan, yes.

19 Q. And what did you tell him?

20 A. I told him that MDJ should have been hit on the head  
21 at birth. He said he was worse than Hitler.

22 Q. And did you tell him about your experiences at Bindoon,  
23 like you've told us today?

24 A. Yes, I opened up to him and told him what had actually  
25 taken place at Bindoon.

1 Q. You mention in your statement that there came a time  
2 when you got an apology from the Christian Brothers.

3 A. Mm-hm. In my opinion, it's not worth the paper it's  
4 written on.

5 Q. And you have provided the inquiry with a copy of that  
6 apology at WIT.003.001.9298. I'll just read part of  
7 that out for you, Jack:

8 "On behalf of the Christian Brothers [and it's dated  
9 February 2008] I would like to apologise for the way you  
10 were treated whilst under the care of the  
11 Christian Brothers in Bindoon between 1950 and 1957."

12 Of course we know you were there beyond 1957:

13 "Your story is quite tragic. Your mother left your  
14 family when you were quite young and your father, who  
15 loved your sister, brother and yourself, was advised by  
16 a British official that it would be wise for him to send  
17 his children out to Australia first and join them later.  
18 I can only imagine the absolute pain he and his children  
19 suffered when he was refused permission to enter  
20 Australia. You again felt rejected.

21 "When you were sent to the Christian Brothers, you  
22 should have been given loving care and yet, apart from  
23 brothers like Norbert Tuppin, who respected and treated  
24 you well, you suffered under a harsh discipline. I am  
25 sorry for the way you were treated and wish to formally

1           apologise on behalf of the Christian Brothers."

2           And that's a letter from a Brother Peter Negus.

3           What did you make of that apology, Jack?

4           A. He should have made a statement and it wasn't -- it  
5           wasn't ... (inaudible: distorted) Christian Brothers  
6           that were in the wrong, it was the Catholic Church.

7           Q. I think you were asked when you --

8           A. (inaudible: distorted) apology from MDJ. Can you  
9           ever imagine me getting an apology from MDJ. An  
10          apology is admitting guilt, isn't it? Isn't it  
11          admitting guilt?

12          Q. You tried to get your records, Jack, when you left  
13          Bindoon. You went to the child welfare department and  
14          I think the only thing you were able to get was a letter  
15          from your dad.

16          A. That's correct, yes.

17          Q. I don't think you've ever been able to recover any  
18          records from the Christian Brothers about your time at  
19          Bindoon.

20          A. Well, for a start, this Sister MJA who was working for  
21          the Catholic Welfare, up in Victoria Square by the big  
22          church there, says a lot of the records were destroyed  
23          because they were kept downstairs in a sort of dungeon  
24          area and the damp got to them. They were destroyed.  
25          I got quite a bit of paperwork from her.

1 Q. You tell us about compensation in your statement and  
2 I think you say that you've received some compensation  
3 from the Western Australia Government's redress scheme,  
4 in about 2011 and you tell us about that.

5 A. Mm-hm.

6 Q. In the final part of your statement, you talk about the  
7 impact that your experiences as a child have had on your  
8 life.

9 I just want to ask you, first of all, what impact do  
10 you think it has had on you, the fact that you were  
11 migrated from Glasgow to Australia as a child?

12 A. We were sent away like prisoners of war. It's not as  
13 if we wanted to come out voluntarily, is it? We were  
14 sent away and they tricked my father into sending us  
15 away over here, right, and wouldn't let him follow us.

16 In the letter regarding -- "You're welcome to get  
17 another examination, another check by the doctors at  
18 your own expense", right, "However, you're too old now."  
19 Why would he be too old?

20 Q. You mention, Jack, that you're angry at the  
21 British Government and the Catholic Church who let that  
22 happen.

23 A. Yes, very much.

24 Q. And you say that your father was tricked by both  
25 parties?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And that you and your brother were used as cheap labour?

3 A. Yes. They all -- going back a number of years,  
4 especially the Labour government, bringing out the white  
5 population -- populating this country with white  
6 country. Now look at it.

7 Q. In terms of your experiences at Bindoon, what impact do  
8 you think that's had on the rest of your life?

9 A. It's ruined my life. Ruined my life. Who knows what  
10 I could have been if I'd been looked after properly, had  
11 a decent education? I even mentioned that to  
12 Mr McClellan.

13 LADY SMITH: And you are referring there to  
14 Mr Justice McClellan, are you, the judge who chaired the  
15 Australian Royal Commission?

16 A. I mentioned to him, "Who knows what I could have been if  
17 I'd had a decent education. I could have been  
18 prime minister of this country."

19 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

20 MS MACLEOD: In terms of other impacts it has had on you,  
21 Jack, you say you find it hard to hug people.

22 A. Yes. I don't get too close to people.

23 Q. In that respect, you say that if people try to get too  
24 close to you, you move on.

25 A. Yes. I've done that all my life: move from job to job,

1 state to state. I've been all over. I kept on the  
2 move. My father used to write and tell me I was like  
3 a gypsy.

4 Q. Do you get flashbacks from your time at Bindoon?

5 A. Yes. Bindoon is there all the time (indicating).

6 Q. In your head all the time, you're pointing to your head?

7 A. I can talk about it like it was yesterday. What's  
8 happened to me, you never forget and to the other boys.  
9 You don't forget. Like I said to Sister MJA: you don't  
10 forget cruelty, you don't forget kindness.

11 Q. In relation to the final thoughts you gave us in your  
12 statement, you say you think this has been left a bit  
13 late because most of the perpetrators are dead.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. You tell us, for example, that Brother MDJ died in  
16 1954.

17 A. He was 66 years old. He didn't die quick enough. He  
18 should have died sooner.

19 Q. And the point you make is -- you say:

20 "It could have been a wonderful place if the people  
21 running it had been good."

22 A. Had it been run according to everything that is right  
23 that started off the Christian Brothers, that would have  
24 been wonderful.

25 MS MACLEOD: Well, thank you, Jack, for answering my

1           questions today. I don't have any other questions for  
2           you.

3           My Lady, I'm not aware of any other questions that  
4           have been put forward for Jack.

5       LADY SMITH: Thank you. Are there any outstanding  
6           applications for questions? No.

7           Jack, that completes all the questions we have for  
8           you today. Thank you so much for engaging with the  
9           inquiry as you have done, both by providing your  
10          detailed written statement and by talking to us today.  
11          Your clear recollection and detailed memory is very  
12          apparent to me and has been of great assistance. I hope  
13          we haven't exhausted you too much and that you can now  
14          rest for the remainder of the day. Thank you again: it  
15          has been tremendous to listen to you and engage with  
16          you.

17       A. I've got a very good memory. I can bring up names and  
18          photos and everything. I've got a very good memory.

19       LADY SMITH: You certainly have and that's of great benefit  
20          to us.

21       A. Being in a place like Bindoon, you don't forget, you  
22          never forget how you're treated. It's there all the  
23          time.

24       LADY SMITH: Thank you, Jack. We'll now switch off the link  
25          and you can relax, I hope.



1 (The video link was terminated)

2 We'll take a break now, Ms MacLeod. The next  
3 witness is, I think, ready?

4 MS MACLEOD: Yes, the witness is here and ready.

5 LADY SMITH: I really must give the stenographers  
6 a reasonable break at this stage.

7 We'll take at least 15 minutes and I'll check when  
8 they feel ready to carry on. Thank you.

9 (10.52 am)

10 (A short break)

11 (11.15 am)

12 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

13 MR MacAULAY: The next witness, who is an applicant, is  
14 Hugh McGowan.

15 HUGH McGOWAN (affirmed)

16 LADY SMITH: Hugh, please sit down and make yourself  
17 comfortable. I can hear that you have a good, clear  
18 voice, but I would ask you to make sure you're using the  
19 microphone because it helps everybody, including the  
20 stenographers to hear you properly if you can do that.

21 If you're ready to start your evidence, I'll just  
22 hand over to Mr MacAulay and he'll explain to you what  
23 happens next. Is that all right?

24 A. Can I just ask this first?

25 LADY SMITH: Please do.

1       A. I would like to thank you very much for this  
2       opportunity. It's something that I have wanted to do,  
3       to try and set the record straight in respect to what  
4       was called child migration, which was really child  
5       deportation.

6               I'd also like to pay my respects to the 21 children  
7       that went from Quarriers, I would like to pay my  
8       respects to those who took their own lives and others  
9       who have passed away for other reasons.

10              Thank you for that.

11       LADY SMITH: No, thank you for that opening, Hugh. May  
12       I return my thanks to you for being prepared to come  
13       a long way -- a long way I think in every way, not just  
14       geographically, but also in other ways to -- to engage  
15       with us and come here today.

16       A. It has been a 50-year journey.

17                      Questions from MR MacAULAY

18       MR MacAULAY: Hugh, in front of you, you'll find your  
19       statement in the red folder. I'll give the reference  
20       for the transcript: WIT.001.001.7515.

21              The first thing I would like you to do is to look  
22       at the last page of the statement. That's at page 7557.  
23       Can you confirm that you have signed the statement?

24       A. I do remember signing it, yes, but it's not shown here  
25       that I have a signature.

1 Q. I wonder if I have -- I don't know why that is.

2 I wonder if I can have a copy that --

3 A. Hang on, sorry, it's another page. Yes, that's my  
4 signature, thank you.

5 Q. And can you also confirm that you have no objection to  
6 your witness statement being published as part of the  
7 evidence to the inquiry?

8 A. I have no objection whatsoever.

9 Q. As you tell us in the final paragraph, do you believe  
10 the facts stated in the witness statement are true?

11 A. They are true.

12 Q. Hugh, I think you can confirm for me that your date of  
13 birth is [REDACTED] 1948.

14 A. Yes, it is.

15 Q. So you're now, I think, aged 71?

16 A. I'm 71, yes.

17 Q. I want to begin by just getting a time frame for aspects  
18 of your evidence. This is based upon what you say in  
19 your statement and also other documents that the inquiry  
20 have had access to, some that you have supplied to the  
21 inquiry.

22 I think it is the case, although you have no  
23 recollection of this, no real recollection of it, that  
24 you were placed in Quarriers Homes on 30 June 1950, aged  
25 just under 2.

1 A. That's correct.

2 Q. I think it's also the case, according to the records,  
3 that you left Quarriers on 11 September 1961, and the  
4 following day, on 12 September 1961, you sailed off on  
5 the SS Orion?

6 A. That's correct.

7 Q. On 15 October 1961, just over a month later, you arrived  
8 at Dhurringile in Australia?

9 A. Yes. That's pronounced "durr-in-gyle".

10 Q. Thank you for that.

11 The other date I want to put to you at this point in  
12 time is that, having spent some years, three years or  
13 so, at Dhurringile, you moved to Kilmany Park, which was  
14 a farm home in Victoria, in September 1964?

15 A. Yes. It's about 300 kilometres south-east of where  
16 Dhurringile was.

17 Q. Let me just go back to the beginning of that and your  
18 placement in Quarriers Homes.

19 You look at this in particular at paragraph 3 of  
20 your statement. I think you have found out that your  
21 mother had a connection with the Salvation Army in  
22 Glasgow; is that right?

23 A. It is true that my mother was ... she was a single  
24 mother. Her mother, who was the mother of nine  
25 children, had already looked after one child out of

1 wedlock and she said she wasn't going to do it again;  
2 that's my understanding from relatives. So my mother  
3 had no choice and she went to that place, the [REDACTED] in  
4 Glasgow, and I understand that she worked for her board  
5 and lodgings. And when I was approaching 2, the  
6 Salvation Army said, "You can't stay here". You can see  
7 there some of the language they used in describing my  
8 mother, even though they said that I was a mighty fine  
9 child. It just seems odd.

10 Q. This is material, correspondence that you've recovered  
11 and you've made available to the inquiry. Can I just  
12 take you to that particular letter you have mentioned?  
13 It's WIT.003.001.3603.

14 (Pause)

15 We're looking at a letter with the heading of "The  
16 Salvation Army" and it's dated 20 May 1950. This is  
17 a letter you've seen before, is that right, Hugh?

18 A. Yes, I have seen this before.

19 Q. You'll see it's addressed to Mr Munro, secretary of the  
20 Orphan Homes of Scotland. It begins:

21 "Dear sir, I would appreciate it if you would please  
22 consider reception of this child, Hugh McGowan, into  
23 your homes. The mother [and your mother is named] is  
24 [and this is what you quote in your statement]  
25 a useless, dirty type. I have appealed to [her] parents

1           to take the child and they refuse to have anything  
2           whatsoever to do with either [her] or the child."

3           And moving on towards the end you're described as:

4           "... a very fine child and could soon be adopted if  
5           only the mother would agree."

6           A couple of points there. The description of your  
7           mother is the one I think you have referenced in your  
8           statement?

9       A. Yes.

10      Q. And I think you take exception to that.

11      A. I do take exception to it. I've discussed it with ...  
12           I was under the care of a psychologist for a long, long  
13           time back in the -- earlier this century. She pointed  
14           out to me: hang on, "useless, dirty type", and yet they  
15           describe me as a mighty fine child, there's something  
16           amiss there.

17           May I say also, the idea of "could be adopted if  
18           only the mother would agree", I think that's a really  
19           important thing that happens later.

20      Q. Even here, do you take an inference from this that your  
21           mother is not agreeable to an adoption?

22      A. That's what I've deducted from that, that she would not  
23           want me to be adopted.

24      Q. And I think when we look at this later, you would also  
25           infer from that attitude that she would not have wanted

1           you to be sent away to Australia --

2           A. I believe that's the case as well, yes.

3           Q. -- if she had been asked?

4           A. I believe she'd have said no.

5       LADY SMITH: There is, isn't there, Hugh, a tone of  
6           exasperation about your mother's refusal to agree to you  
7           being adopted there?

8           A. Yes. It's the language that was used at the time. If  
9           I may, I was cognisant of the time I was born, 1948,  
10          three years after the most horrific conflict the world  
11          has ever seen. And every country, the UK in particular,  
12          suffered tremendously from that, and there were ways and  
13          means that people did things. One of them was that if  
14          you were a young woman who had engaged in sexual  
15          activity before you were married, you were garbage, and  
16          that's the way that they did it. That's the way that  
17          I think the Salvation Army had expressed that. I feel  
18          that's the way they did it.

19       MR MacAULAY: Do you know what age your mother was at this  
20          time in 1950?

21       A. I believe she was 20 or 21. I think she had me when she  
22          was -- well, I think she was born, I think, 1928, so she  
23          was 20 when she had me. We were there for two years, so  
24          she'd be older than that, yes.

25       Q. The next document I want you to look at is another

1 letter and that is at WIT.003.001.3606. This is  
2 a letter from the Royal Scottish Society for the  
3 Prevention of Cruelty to Children, and again it's  
4 addressed to the superintendent of the Orphan Homes of  
5 Scotland. You see this is now dated 29 May 1950,  
6 shortly after the previous letter. Have you seen this  
7 letter before?

8 A. I have, yes.

9 Q. If I just read what it says, again it relates to you,  
10 and it says:

11 "I have received your enquiry relative to the  
12 application by [REDACTED] [and an address is  
13 given] for admission of her illegitimate son Hugh to  
14 your homes. The mother is a resident worker in the  
15 Salvation Army home [and the address is given]. She  
16 came from Ayrshire but does not know the present address  
17 of the father of the child. She had to leave home prior  
18 to the birth of the child."

19 And then I'll look at this particular sentence:

20 "Her parents are willing to have her back but not  
21 the child. She is not prepared to return on this  
22 condition."

23 Does that tell you that your mother had made  
24 a choice in your favour?

25 A. Absolutely. It tells me that my mother cared about me,



1           cared for me, unlike what the Salvation Army seemed to  
2           infer. There's no question that my mother wanted to  
3           have -- wanted to be with me as long as she could.  
4           I don't think she knew the consequences of what might  
5           happen later.

6           Q. The position was, Hugh, that you were in fact placed  
7           within Quarriers Homes, I think on 30 June 1950, just  
8           before you were 2 years old?

9           A. Yes.

10          Q. A significant part of your statement to the inquiry is  
11          devoted to your time at Quarriers and I think you are  
12          aware that that part of your statement has already been  
13          read into the evidence of the inquiry --

14          A. Yes, thank you for that, yes.

15          Q. -- so I don't propose to look at that.

16                 What I do propose to look at, though, are two  
17          aspects of what happened to you in Quarriers.

18                 If I can look at this document, WIT.003.001.3599.  
19          You will see this is a letter -- I think you may have  
20          seen it before -- I'm sorry, I think this is the wrong  
21          document.

22                 Well, can I move on and look at the issue of  
23          migration. So far as your statement is concerned,  
24          I think you begin to talk about this in your statement  
25          at paragraph 77 onwards. When was the issue of going to

1           Australia first raised with you?

2           A. Quarriers became involved in the migration system and it  
3           was first mooted in 1959. I was aware that another boy  
4           from cottage 27, where I was, was selected to go to  
5           Australia and they left in 1960. At that time, it was  
6           suggested to me that I would be another person who would  
7           possibly be sent to Australia.

8           Q. Who suggested that?

9           A. The cottage mother. Her name was QAJ [REDACTED]. She  
10          was a single woman.

11          Q. When it was first raised with you? What were you told  
12          about Australia?

13          A. "You'll never see snow again. You won't see fairy  
14          lights. You can't go into the waters, there's a lot of  
15          sharks there." It was more -- and you know, "You'd have  
16          this Strine", she tried to imitate this Strine.

17                 There wasn't a lot told to us about it. We had some  
18          information from the school that Australia was a very  
19          big country, that there was X number of people, I think  
20          they said 9 million -- I think it was about that then --  
21          and the capital city was Canberra.

22                 But there wasn't a lot of information. We would be  
23          going to a home that was a children's home that was for  
24          Scottish migrants in Victoria.

25          Q. So that sort of information was given to you?

1 A. Yes. That was even before -- that's the information  
2 that I'd gleaned about it before I was actually chosen.  
3 I was chosen in January 1961.

4 Q. At the time when this was being discussed up to the time  
5 you were chosen to go, what was your attitude to it?

6 A. Anything to get out of Quarriers.

7 Q. Do I take it from that that you were happy enough to go?

8 A. Yes. Then, yes.

9 Q. If I can take you to this document then. It's at  
10 WIT.003.001.3605.

11 If we just scroll down a little bit, I think this is  
12 something you've seen before. Can we see this is  
13 a letter from Quarriers dated 11 January 1961, and can  
14 we see it's addressed to your mother?

15 A. Sorry?

16 Q. You can't see this, unfortunately it has been blanked  
17 out, but this was a letter that was sent to your mother.

18 A. Yes, I have that letter.

19 Q. I think you provided it to us in fact.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Can we just read this, it reads:

22 "Dear [REDACTED]. We have been invited to send  
23 a small party of boys to a home not unlike our own in  
24 Australia and where we have some boys already."

25 And, I think you've already told us, a group of boys

1           had left Quarriers the year before you left:

2           "After a time there the boys would be placed in  
3           suitable employment and altogether we feel it would be  
4           a very good chance for the boys selected, especially  
5           when their outside contacts in this country are not so  
6           strong."

7           The letter goes on to say:

8           "Having regard to these circumstances, would you be  
9           willing to allow your son Hugh to be submitted to go to  
10          Australia? I should of course like to make it clear  
11          that investigations are, at present, only in the  
12          preliminary stages. I would too like you to know that  
13          Hugh is very keen to go."

14          Just looking at that last sentence there, does that  
15          at that time properly reflect your attitude?

16        A. It does.

17        Q. Clearly, this is an attempt by Quarriers to obtain your  
18          mother's approval for your migration, but can we see,  
19          if we scroll up to the top of this letter, it appears to  
20          have been a letter that was not delivered to her?  
21          Is that right? Is that your understanding?

22        A. That's my understanding. That's something that I found  
23          out over 40 years after the letter. What you see  
24          there is what was given to me and I looked at that and  
25          said, "Hang on, my mother never even knew I was going to

1           Australia." I didn't know I had a mother. I didn't  
2           know about that letter. That letter was sent and I had  
3           no knowledge of it. I do know that they did say that if  
4           I had a mother and/or father, they would be contacted  
5           and asked if they would allow me to go.

6           Q. But you don't know that a letter was actually sent?

7           A. I was sent to the Orphan Homes of Scotland. I was  
8           allowed to believe that I was an orphan. I didn't know  
9           that I had a mother and I didn't know that letter had  
10          been sent. Again, I didn't know that she never got it,  
11          because I think if she did get it, she would have said  
12          no.

13          Q. Do you there have in mind the fact that she was clearly  
14          not agreeable to you being adopted?

15          A. That's the opinion I have formed, that she would not  
16          have agreed to me being sent. I don't know, I don't  
17          have -- you know, it's conjecture.

18          Q. Can I just go back in time -- and I should perhaps have  
19          asked you this before. Although you were admitted to  
20          Quarriers at the age of coming up to 2, do you have any  
21          recollection at all of going to Quarriers?

22          A. I have two memories that are quite strong. One was, as  
23          a very, very young child, I was taken into the toilet by  
24          a woman. I believe that was my mother.

25                 The second time I was, I think, possibly 3 or

1           4 years old. I was standing facing the front gate of  
2           the Orphan Homes and someone had my hand -- I think it  
3           was a male, I'm not quite sure -- but someone had my  
4           hand and I was screaming. There was a woman walking  
5           away from me and I believe that was my mother. If that  
6           was, that's the last time I saw her.

7           Q. But you've said, Hugh, that throughout your time at  
8           Quarriers you believed that you were an orphan.

9           A. Yes. I was always allowed to believe that I was an  
10          orphan and I believed it. I did believe it.

11          Q. When you put it in that way, that you were allowed to  
12          believe, what do you mean by that?

13          A. I also strongly believe that Quarriers was actively  
14          involved in separating child and parents. I believe  
15          that they actively were involved in that because I saw  
16          other children, two of whom went to Australia, whose  
17          father came and visited them regularly, and I've spoken  
18          with that person and he told me that his father just  
19          told Quarriers where to go, he was coming, no one was  
20          going to stop him, he was coming to see him, on an  
21          infrequent basis, but he did do it.

22                 That's why I believe that my mother succumbed to  
23          their -- look, you don't really want to know, you don't  
24          want ...

25                 She eventually did move to England and I understand

1           that she changed addresses and that's why the letter  
2           never got to her and I don't believe there was any  
3           effort made by Quarriers to try and find her. The Child  
4           Migrants Trust were able to do it, quite easily, and  
5           they found her, they found where she had moved to, but  
6           Quarriers didn't make any effort at all to try and  
7           actually contact mother and find out. They just said,  
8           "He's available, we'll send him."

9       Q. I think you do tell us in your statement, Hugh, that  
10       although you were keen to go at a point in time, your  
11       thinking changed in relation to whether or not you  
12       should go to Australia. Can you help me with that?  
13       What happened to you?

14      A. I got a case of severely cold feet about it. While  
15       I was -- and as I say, I was allowed to believe --  
16       no one ever said I was an orphan, no one said I wasn't.  
17       I wondered sometimes whether in fact I wasn't an orphan  
18       and that there was someone -- maybe a mother or  
19       a father -- that maybe I'd be able to find.

20               Going to Australia, you know, I thought about it and  
21       I was very frightened of the prospect of being sent to  
22       Australia. So we'd gone to a camp the week before my  
23       13th birthday and when I got back from that camp I had  
24       my 13th birthday and I decided to take the chance  
25       because I didn't know what the consequences would be.

1           They could have been very rough.

2           I said to the cottage father, Mr Mac --

3       Q. Can I just be clear, you had moved cottages by this  
4       time? You had moved from one cottage to another?

5       A. Yes, sorry, I'd moved from the care of QAJ [REDACTED] and  
6       it was some time early in 1961. I think I'd been there  
7       for a few months. Yes, I was moved from cottage 27 to  
8       cottage 22.

9       Q. The house father was a Mr Mac?

10      A. Yes, Mr and Mrs Mac. I can't remember the rest of their  
11      name. I'd love to know what it was, but I can't  
12      remember it. It might have been something like  
13      McInerney, I'm not sure.

14           I was making my bed, I don't know why I was the only  
15      person in the room, but I was in the bedroom. It might  
16      have been my job to make the beds or something, I don't  
17      know.

18           I said to him, "Mr Mac, I don't want to go to  
19      Australia", and he just replied, "Too bad, you're  
20      going", and that was it.

21      Q. Were these his exact words?

22      A. These were his exact words, yes.

23      Q. As I understand what you're saying, by this time, by the  
24      age of 13, as you'd now become, you were having some  
25      thoughts about whether or not there was a family out



1           there?

2           A.   Yes.

3           Q.   And was that what motivated the change of heart?

4           A.   That was part of the motivation, yes.  I think the main  
5           motivation was the fear of change.

6           Q.   If you had been told that Quarriers had sought to  
7           contact a person who was your mother, as we know they  
8           did, what impact do you think that would have had on you  
9           and the strength of the position you might have taken?

10          A.   I think I'm getting the gist of your question.  If  
11          Quarriers had been able to contact my mother and she had  
12          said, "That's okay", I think my faith in my mother would  
13          have been shattered.  If she had said no, I also think  
14          it would have been shattered because why didn't she take  
15          me out of Quarriers?

16          Q.   What I'm putting to you is slightly different --

17          A.   Okay.

18          Q.   -- and that is that if you had been told by someone at  
19          Quarriers that they had written to a person who was your  
20          mother, but had not heard or made contact, how would  
21          that have impacted upon your thinking?  You've already  
22          said you're wondering whether you had family, but if you  
23          were actually told that there was a mother they had to  
24          make contact with, would that have made a difference to  
25          your stance?

1 A. I don't know. I don't know because it's hypothetical.

2 Q. Yes.

3 A. I really don't know what my reaction would have been if  
4 they'd said, "Your mother's said you can go". I might  
5 have said, "Good, okay", you know.

6 Q. You have told us that this conversation you had with  
7 Mr Mac was just about the time of your 13th birthday.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And that was not long before you left Quarriers in  
10 September 1961?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Can I just ask you to look at the migration forms.  
13 That's at WIT.003.001.3635 and onwards.

14 You have them on the screen in front of you and  
15 I think this is documentation you've already seen,  
16 Hugh --

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. -- a document headed:

19 "Commonwealth of Australia: Child migration."

20 And it's in various sections. We see your name, the  
21 cottage address, your date of birth, and then there's a  
22 reference to your mother, "address unknown". Do you see  
23 that?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. There are various bits of information required. If you

1           turn over to the next page at page 3636, there's  
2           a section there dealing with your medical history.

3           If we scroll down a little bit, can we see that this  
4           is an ongoing process because the medical history date  
5           is 31 March 1961? The date on the previous page is  
6           17 August 1961, so this is happening over a period of  
7           months.

8           A. Yes.

9           Q. Then if we turn to page 3638, can we see that this  
10          section, section B, is:

11          "... to be completed by the parent or guardian,  
12          (father if living)."

13          And then do we read:

14          "I, Hector Cameron Munro [with the address the  
15          Quarriers] ..."

16          And we can see "father" and "mother" have been  
17          effectively stroked out and he's been designated as  
18          the guardian of you. This forms he signs as that and  
19          this is essentially a consent form consenting to you,  
20          described as "the ward", proceeding to Australia. This  
21          is dated 6 April 1961. So it'd appear that Mr Munro has  
22          signed the consent form for you to migrate. That's your  
23          understanding?

24          A. That's my understanding, yes.

25          Q. At this time, when this is happening in April 1961, was

1           this at a time when you were still content to go?

2       A.   Yes.  I was starting to have some reservations, but  
3           I was still -- yes, I think the presiding thought was,  
4           "Great, I can get out of Quarriers".  That was one of  
5           the motivations for wanting to go.

6       Q.   But certainly by the time you came to leave, you had  
7           changed your mind and you did not want to go?

8       A.   By the time that I was ...  After Mr Mac said, "Too bad,  
9           you're going", I accepted my lot.  I was going to  
10          Australia and there was nothing that I could do about  
11          it.  I could have run away from Quarriers, but gee, no  
12          thanks, the consequences of that were too great.

13      Q.   Did you consent to go to Australia?

14      A.   Yes, I did.

15      Q.   But at the time you were expressing your position with  
16          Mr Mac, were you essentially -- were you withdrawing any  
17          consent you may have given?

18      A.   Yes, I was.

19      Q.   So at that time, when you actually came to leave, had  
20          you consented to go?

21      A.   Yes, we were taken -- I'm very vague on this.  I think  
22          we were taken into a room.  There was a number of boys  
23          there and they told us that we were candidates for going  
24          to Australia, that if you were selected, if you have  
25          parents -- and this is one of the things, I thought, do

1 I have parents -- if you have parents, they will be  
2 contacted and asked for their approval. And I heard  
3 nothing, I knew nothing. I didn't know of any approach  
4 to anyone seeking approval for me to go to Australia.

5 Q. But nevertheless, there came a point in time, at about  
6 the time of your 13th birthday, when you had changed  
7 your mind?

8 A. I had changed my mind. It was fairly strong. But  
9 Mr Mac put paid to that, yes. I was a boy in  
10 a children's home and the first thing you learn is you  
11 do what you're told.

12 Q. What you do say in your statement at paragraph 83 is  
13 this:

14 "I think Quarriers had good intentions in sending  
15 children to Australia."

16 I just wondered what you mean by that.

17 A. They said to us that it would be a good opportunity for  
18 us to have a better life. I thought that they were  
19 sincere about that. I look at my life in Quarriers and  
20 at 13 I was starting to get a bit concerned about the  
21 quality of my life in Scotland. They had said to us  
22 that this is a good opportunity and they convinced us  
23 that it was going to be a good opportunity, and I think  
24 they believed it, but you know, you get conflicting  
25 things about teachers telling you this and that, you

1 know. But it was regarded as a good opportunity, yes.

2 Q. What information did Quarriers give to you as to where  
3 you'd be going?

4 A. They told us that we'd be going to a boys' home that's  
5 run similarly to Quarriers. They told us that it was on  
6 a farm and they told us that there weren't as many  
7 children.

8 Q. Did they tell you who was running the home?

9 A. I don't remember whether they did. I do know that the  
10 Presbyterian Church of Victoria and Tasmania was  
11 responsible for running the home.

12 Q. And do you know or were you told if anyone from  
13 Quarriers had gone to check the place?

14 A. No, I don't know. My smile is a bit wry, but I doubt  
15 that they did. We never saw them, we never saw anyone  
16 from Quarriers when we were there.

17 Q. One thing you tell us in your statement, and I think  
18 this comes in particular from the book you have in front  
19 of you, is that you found out at a later point that the  
20 place that you were going to go to had been criticised  
21 in 1956 in a fact-finding mission that had been sent out  
22 by the British Government; is that right?

23 A. Yes. I was aware that there was -- from the book, I was  
24 aware that there was a fact-finding mission -- there  
25 were two of them. The one that was most relevant to me

1           was the one in 1956, where Dhurringile Rural Training  
2           Farm Home for Boys was blacklisted.

3           I am told by the Child Migrants Trust that the  
4           report had been -- I don't know if it was classified,  
5           but it was not released and it was only through the  
6           efforts of David Hill, he was a former chairman of the  
7           Australian Broadcasting Commission -- he had other very  
8           important jobs -- who was a child migrant, sent to  
9           Fairbridge Farm in Molong near Orange in New  
10          South Wales. He had actually done some research in  
11          London when he was here and he discovered that the  
12          report -- and he has summarised the report, what the  
13          report was about, in his book.

14          I've spoken with David Hill and I trust him that  
15          that was accurate.

16        Q. The book which you have in front of you is by  
17          David Hill. Perhaps you can give us the title of the  
18          book.

19        A. It's called "The Forgotten Children" and for him it's  
20          about the Fairbridge Farm School and its betrayal of  
21          British child migrants to Australia. Well, it wasn't  
22          just Fairbridge Farm, it was the whole system that  
23          utterly failed everyone.

24        Q. I think I can say to you that we will be leading  
25          evidence on what the fact-finding mission found later on

1 in the course of this case study.

2 Can I then move on to the time when you came to  
3 leave Quarriers on [REDACTED] 1961.

4 There was a group of you, is that right?

5 A. There were five of us.

6 Q. Five boys?

7 A. Five boys, yes.

8 Q. And the age range of the boys?

9 A. We were all 12 and 13.

10 Q. I think you sailed on the [REDACTED], as we touched upon  
11 before.

12 Can you give me the background? Where did you go to  
13 to set sail for Australia?

14 A. We very proudly went from Glasgow to London on the  
15 Flying Scotsman. We stayed in a hotel in London, I'm  
16 not quite sure where it was, overnight. And then on  
17 [REDACTED], we boarded the SS Orion, where we were put  
18 into the care of two nurses that were migrating to  
19 Sydney, and they sort of looked after us, and I found  
20 out what freedom was like.

21 Q. You have provided the inquiry with a photograph of  
22 yourself and the other boys.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. I won't put it on the screen, but you're being seen off,  
25 I think, by --



1       A.   Hector Munro and the four women that were our cottage  
2           mothers or cottage fathers. It's interesting to note  
3           that only one of those women was married. The other  
4           three were not.

5       Q.   The photograph on the face of it tends to suggest you're  
6           a happy bunch of boys.

7       A.   Oh, yeah. Yeah. We were leaving Quarriers and we'd  
8           never see it again.

9       Q.   Insofar as the trip itself was concerned, how did you  
10          find the trip?

11      A.   Wonderful. Couldn't describe it any other way. I  
12          learned to swim. I had told a fib to the boys that  
13          I could swim. I didn't know that they had pools on the  
14          ship, so I jumped in and started swimming.

15      Q.   You do provide us with some detail of the trip and  
16          places you visited on the way.

17      A.   Yes.

18      Q.   But we also know that you eventually arrived at  
19          Dhurringile on, I think it was, [REDACTED] --

20      A.   [REDACTED] --

21      Q.   -- 1961.

22      A.   -- 1961.

23      Q.   Before I ask about first impressions, you have told us  
24          about the group of five. Did that group remain a group  
25          or did more boys join the group?

1       A. There were 21 boys that were sent from Quarriers. There  
2       was 11 in 1960, there was we five in 1961, and there was  
3       another five in 1963 or late 1963/early 1964. I'm not  
4       quite sure. But there were another five boys.

5       Q. On the trip across on the ship, were there any other  
6       boys who were being migrated?

7       A. I'm not aware of any, no.

8       Q. What then were your first impressions of Dhurringile  
9       when you saw it?

10      A. I remember ... Dhurringile is 110 miles north of  
11      Melbourne and I remember coming over a hill and the  
12      superintendent at the time said, "Well, take a good look  
13      at this because it's the last hill you'll see for  
14      another 90 miles." So we went through two towns,  
15      Nagambie and Murchison, and we were coming towards  
16      Dhurringile and we could see this large mansion on the  
17      right side ahead of us and they said, "That's  
18      Dhurringile."

19             It was the last thing I would have expected.

20      I didn't know what to expect, but I certainly didn't  
21      think that I would be housed in a 68-room mansion.

22      Q. I'll put a photograph on the screen in a moment. Before  
23      I do that, can I just locate where Dhurringile is? I'll  
24      put this on the screen. It's at INQ81. We're looking  
25      at a map of Australia that has been essentially

1           constructed by the inquiry to identify where different  
2           places might be. If you look to the bottom right to the  
3           State of Victoria --

4           A. In Victoria, that first flash is pointing to  
5           Dhurringile -- the point is probably a bit more south.

6           Q. But that's the general area?

7           A. Yes. The biggest town was Shepparton, which was  
8           120 miles north of Melbourne. Dhurringile was between  
9           two small towns, Tatura to the north and Murchison to  
10          the south, and they were about 6 miles from Dhurringile.  
11          Dhurringile was smack in the middle of those two towns,  
12          on a rural property.

13          Q. So would you consider it was an isolated location?

14          A. It was an isolated location, yes.

15          Q. If you can look at this photograph, which is at  
16          WIT.003.001.8378.

17          A. That is Dhurringile. The tower was 74 feet high. There  
18          are 68 rooms. We were accommodated on the left balcony,  
19          where you see the three windows. There were three  
20          different rooms that we were accommodated in.

21                 The other facilities, the kitchens, the showers, and  
22          the laundry and all that sort of stuff was on the back  
23          of this building.

24          LADY SMITH: Hugh, do you know what the building was before  
25          it became a farm school?

1       A. Yes, it was built by -- I think the name was Irving --  
2       back in, I think, 1868. It was a mansion of some people  
3       that were quite wealthy. It changed hands a number of  
4       times and during the Second World War it was used to  
5       house German officers, German prisoners of war, one of  
6       whom hanged himself because he had told the Australians  
7       that they were building a tunnel, and the other Germans  
8       made it very clear to him that he was not welcome. So  
9       he hung himself in the dungeon, which is down on the  
10      left side, down below. And his ghost is still there.

11             This is what we had. He was a ghost and he would  
12      wander around and his head would roll over his arm and  
13      he'd put his head under his arm. So we had the  
14      Dhurringile ghost.

15             After that, the Presbyterian Church bought it with  
16      the view of housing child migrants in it. I think the  
17      most they ever had there was about between 50 and 60  
18      kids. When we arrived, all the other kids had left,  
19      they'd either grown or they'd been adopted or fostered  
20      or something like that. We were the only children in it  
21      and there were 21 of us.

22             When I arrived, I think there was 18, 18 or 19 that  
23      were there -- sorry, no, when I arrived there was about  
24      14, 13 or 14 kids in that home. The other five came  
25      later, and at the very best I don't think there was any

1 more than about 17 kids in that home at any one time.

2 MR MacAULAY: If I could just pick up on what you've just  
3 said: when you arrived I think you met the Quarriers  
4 children that had been sent the previous year; is that  
5 right?

6 A. That's correct.

7 Q. And had there been other children there before them?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And are you saying that some at least of those children  
10 had moved on?

11 A. All of those children had moved on, yes.

12 Q. So that --

13 A. And some of them were ... I personally know one of the  
14 boys that was from that previous group of boys and  
15 I know that some of them were as young as 5 and  
16 6 years old.

17 All the boys that came from Quarriers -- I think the  
18 youngest was 11, he was still in primary school, but  
19 everyone else was 12, 13. Once they got to 14 or 15,  
20 especially 15, they were bundled out into employment or  
21 something like that.

22 Q. So you arrive in 1961?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. I think you said that, possibly in 1963, another group  
25 of Quarriers boys arrived?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. So at a point in time what would you say was the largest  
3 number of boys who were being housed in that property?

4 A. About 17. I think that was the most, yes. Others had  
5 been -- I know of one boy that was adopted, I know other  
6 boys had ... I think some of them joined the navy, the  
7 Royal Australian Navy. Others, they got a trade. But  
8 others were -- we were just left there. In 1964 there  
9 were only six of us left and that was through most of  
10 1964.

11 Q. The boys that were there, the maximum number you reckon  
12 at the time you were there, were they all Scottish boys?

13 A. They were all Scottish, yes.

14 Q. At any point in time were there any other nationalities  
15 at Dhurringile?

16 A. Yes, before there were English and Irish.

17 Q. Is that before --

18 A. That was before we got there, before the first lot of  
19 boys from Quarriers got there, there was kids that were  
20 Irish and one was actually -- the one that I know is  
21 actually in the Irish Republic.

22 Q. Do you know or have you discovered how these children  
23 had been sent there?

24 A. Much the same way as we were, but some of them ...

25 I don't know where they came from, I don't know which

1           home. They all came from children's homes in the UK, we  
2           know that.

3           We know that -- well, historically I was told -- how  
4           accurate it is I don't know -- that the children that  
5           were sent after the Second World War all came from  
6           children's homes. They couldn't get the kids -- they  
7           said, "We'll take the kids off the streets", and the  
8           parents were there saying, "Oh no you don't", so they  
9           went to children's homes and plucked them out of  
10          children's homes.

11        Q. It's quite a splendid building as one looks at in the  
12        photograph --

13        A. Isn't it?

14        Q. -- but what were the conditions like in the building?  
15        Let's look at things like sanitary provisions, for  
16        example, dormitories, sleeping accommodation. Can you  
17        give us a description of what it was like internally?

18        A. Large. Cold in winter. Hot in summer. Kept clean by  
19        us, the boys. Adequate in respect to sleeping. We were  
20        in dormitories. They were large rooms, they weren't  
21        really dormitories. I think there were six in one room.

22        There were places we weren't allowed to be in. We  
23        went there anyway. They had a cellar, which we called  
24        the dungeon, and it was, that's where the naughty German  
25        officers were kept.

1           We were isolated from the staff. Basically, there  
2           was one superintendent -- on one occasion there was  
3           a superintendent and his wife and they had their own  
4           quarters.

5       Q. I will ask you about the staff in a moment. What about  
6       toilet facilities, for example shower facilities?

7       A. And open shower block -- no, not open, but it was ...

8       LADY SMITH: You mean no cubicles?

9       A. No cubicles, no privacy whatsoever -- and some strange  
10       things happened.

11       MR MacAULAY: And toilet facilities?

12       A. You'll get on to that.

13       Q. Toilet facilities?

14       A. Toilet facilities, there were doors, there were  
15       cubicles, there were two. It wasn't a urinal or  
16       anything like that, just toilets.

17       Q. What other facilities were there?

18       A. A kitchen, a laundry. They had a library full of books  
19       that the National Library would have been proud of  
20       because some of them were very old. But there was  
21       nothing -- you know, nothing modern, there was no modern  
22       facilities that way. At first, we didn't have  
23       a television. That was brought in after the departure  
24       of one of the superintendents. The time that we watched  
25       it was limited.



1           The dining room was just one room. They had a hatch  
2           to the kitchen and your meals were just brought up  
3           through that.

4       Q. Then looking at the staff, when you first went there  
5           can you tell me about the staff? Who was in charge?

6       A. They always had a superintendent. The first one was  
7           a man named AIO . We called him "sir" or  
8           AIO . He didn't last very long; I'll explain  
9           later.

10           Then we had another person come in -- sorry, AIO  
11           was a single man. At the time there were two part-time  
12           cooks, one would take one part of the week and the other  
13           one would take the other part of the week. There was  
14           a farm manager. That was it. So there was nothing  
15           else.

16           The home was governed, if that's the right way, by  
17           a committee, generally made up of local people, the  
18           minister at the Tatura church. There were people that  
19           were involved with the Presbyterian social services.  
20           They had a Women's Guild and especially at harvest time  
21           we'd go to churches and they'd hand their fruit and  
22           vegetables to us for consumption.

23           The kitchen was a coal-fired kitchen stove, very  
24           large, and the laundry had very big washing machines.

25       Q. Can I look then at some aspects of the general routine.

1           You've already mentioned the dining area. What were the  
2           meals like?

3           A. Adequate. They would be meat and three veg, usually, or  
4           fish or a pie. It was usually a stew or mince or chops.  
5           Very routine. You knew you had to eat it because, if  
6           you didn't, you'd starve.

7           Q. We've touched upon the shower area already and you've  
8           indicated to us that it was an open area. Can I just  
9           ask you about showering practices then.

10          A. Oh ...

11          Q. I think what you say in your statement is showers were  
12          normally taken in the evening; is that correct?

13          A. That's correct, yes.

14          Q. Can you help me with that? What happened?

15          A. Showers would be after dinner or after tea, as we called  
16          it, and we'd all be showered at the same time. You  
17          would wait until -- there was five shower heads,  
18          I think, and you would wait until the previous boy was  
19          finished and you'd be told, "Out!" and so you'd get out  
20          and dry yourself off and put your pyjamas on.

21          Q. You do tell us about some strange activities. Can you  
22          help me with that?

23          A. Yes. AIO was a former Scoutmaster. The  
24          Presbyterian Church chose people for what they thought  
25          was the right thing. AIO was a former

1 Scoutmaster. He was a really strange man.

2 Q. What sort of age was he?

3 A. He was in his 50s, I think. He ... He ... He seemed  
4 to delight -- sometimes seemed to delight in supervising  
5 the showers. He seemed to encourage the boys into  
6 activities that a boy would normally want to do in  
7 private. Sometimes the boys would get an erection and  
8 he thought it was hilarious, he was quite -- he found it  
9 quite funny. Next time they did it, he'd belt them  
10 because they were filthy, dirty, grubby. That was the  
11 way he was.

12 He was difficult to understand. He was there simply  
13 to make sure the boys behaved themselves. There was  
14 nothing -- there was no ... We didn't get a bit of  
15 tenderness or care, any caring or loving, which was just  
16 not available. That was not on the agenda.

17 Q. I think what you have told us is there was AIO, two  
18 part-time cooks --

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. -- and a farmhand --

21 A. The cooks lived in Murchison and they came during the  
22 day -- they came first thing in the morning, and --  
23 well, they didn't have to cook in the morning. They  
24 only had to cook at night because we'd just have some  
25 corn flakes or something like that.

1 Q. So who stayed on the premises with the boys?

2 A. Only the superintendent of the home.

3 Q. So there was no matron or any female input?

4 A. No, only once. Only once. Although one of the cooks  
5 classified herself as a matron, she wasn't.

6 Q. You've been telling me about AIO unusual  
7 behaviour. What about punishment? Were boys punished  
8 in any particular way, by him in particular?

9 A. Sometimes, but not often. With AIO, one of the times  
10 that he'd punish boys was when they'd mistakenly thought  
11 that he was going to find them getting an erection funny  
12 and he belted them.

13 Q. Would that be then and there in the showers or would  
14 that be --

15 A. That would be in the showers, yes. A wet towel flicked  
16 at them, at their buttocks and ... But they were belted  
17 by hand, generally. I don't recall a strap being used  
18 in Dhurringile.

19 Q. Were you ever yourself subjected to physical punishment  
20 by him?

21 A. No.

22 Q. But you saw that sort of punishment --

23 A. I saw it happen, yes.

24 Q. Generally, how was discipline maintained within the  
25 home?

1 A. We had all come from Quarriers. Quarriers' first  
2 objective was discipline. Quarriers' discipline was  
3 meted out quite harshly. You knew that if you didn't  
4 follow the rules, you were in trouble.

5 With that in mind, we were wary of the discipline  
6 that could be meted out in Dhurringile, so I know that  
7 I always did the best I could not to be punished and  
8 physically I wasn't punished that often in Dhurringile.

9 Q. Let's keep your focus on AIO regime for a moment  
10 because there came a point in time when he left.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. How long had you been there when that happened?

13 A. It wasn't long. I don't actually recall the time that  
14 he was removed. Again, here's his strange behaviour.  
15 It was very suddenly. We didn't know why he was going,  
16 but he got us into his office, all of us into his  
17 office, and he said, "Boys, I'm leaving", and he started  
18 giving a sob story about how difficult it will be for us  
19 because he wasn't there to protect us and how this and  
20 that thing ... and he had every child crying except one.

21 Q. Were you crying?

22 A. I was, yes, except one, who I said at the time, you  
23 know, he was ... He was laughing. I sort of felt a bit  
24 of offence that he did that while we were all crying.  
25 What we found out later put the whole thing in

1 perspective, very much so.

2 Q. And what was that?

3 A. I didn't know. One of the boys that I went to Australia  
4 with, [REDACTED], was killed in a car accident, which  
5 shattered me.

6 Q. Was this some time later?

7 A. Yes, this was some time later. This was in 1969.

8 [REDACTED] had been killed in a car accident. We all went  
9 to his funeral, which was up in Tatura, near  
10 Dhurringile. [REDACTED] was well-loved by us -- I know,  
11 [REDACTED] and myself, we were at the YMCA in Melbourne  
12 together, it was a hostel-type accommodation.

13 But after the funeral, we went to -- I think we had  
14 a beer somewhere in Tatura and it was revealed to us  
15 then that AIO [REDACTED] had been fired because the convener  
16 of the Presbyterian Church for Victoria and Tasmania had  
17 been informed that AIO [REDACTED] was a paedophile and they  
18 came up that day and decided that he'd be fired  
19 immediately. There was no ifs or buts or anything, and  
20 of course when you take what happened to us in that  
21 office, and what AIO [REDACTED] did.

22 Then the boy who was laughing, when AIO [REDACTED] approached  
23 him, he actually pushed AIO [REDACTED] away. I can only think  
24 that he was a victim of AIO [REDACTED].

25 Q. But do you know in fact whether or not that boy was the



1 person who made a complaint or not?

2 A. No, there was no complaints by any of the boys, I am  
3 sure. Well, oh ... Oh no, no, you would never complain  
4 about that.

5 Q. So the source for the information that AIO may have  
6 been a paedophile must have been from another source?

7 A. It was from the convener -- his name was Colliver -- it  
8 was from the convener of the Presbyterian Church. He  
9 got it from someone else. I don't know who that person  
10 was.

11 Q. Before I go on to look at AIO replacement then,  
12 just some other aspects of routine and you touched on  
13 this earlier on. Chores. Did you have chores to do?

14 A. Yes, we did. The chores were on a roster. You would do  
15 some sort of cleaning, polishing. You'd all make your  
16 own bed. There were dishes to be washed. There were  
17 floors to be swept. We didn't do the laundry, the cooks  
18 did the laundry.

19 But generally -- and that was always done before we  
20 went to school on the weekdays and after breakfast on  
21 Saturday and Sunday.

22 Q. Do I take it from what you're saying, Hugh, that there  
23 wasn't a cleaning staff as such?

24 A. Oh no.

25 Q. So the cooks did the laundry and the boys did

1 the cleaning?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Did that remain the regime throughout your whole time at  
4 Dhurringile or did it change?

5 A. Yes, it did; and that happened in Kilmany Park too.

6 Q. Then just looking at schooling, education, what were the  
7 arrangements for schooling?

8 A. We were schooled at the public school in Shepparton, the  
9 technical school for boys, so it was a secondary school,  
10 years 1 through to 4. Because it was a technical school  
11 the boys would go from year 10, which was intermediate,  
12 and they would probably go on to an apprenticeship.

13 There were a couple of boys that were young enough  
14 to go to primary school, who eventually went to  
15 secondary school. We went to school at the -- and  
16 we were always identified as Dhurringile boys.

17 Q. Just before I look at that, how far from the home was  
18 the school?

19 A. 18 miles.

20 Q. So how --

21 A. We travelled by bus.

22 Q. On a daily basis?

23 A. On a daily basis, yes, to and from.

24 Q. And then how were you treated at school?

25 A. It depended on the teacher. I was unfortunate in that



1 I had -- I can't remember what they called them now, but  
2 the class master, the master of the form, was an English  
3 teacher, who took a lot of dislike for we Dhurringile  
4 boys. Some of the boys did well, some of the boys did  
5 well, others didn't do so well. As I say, some of them  
6 joined the armed forces. I think that the discipline  
7 type thing and continuation of what it was like in  
8 Dhurringile was what it was also like in the military.

9 Q. I think you tell us in your statement that at a point  
10 you effectively took yourself out of school to work on  
11 the farm.

12 A. I didn't take myself out of school, they took me out of  
13 school.

14 This English teacher -- and this is again one of  
15 these really strange things that happened at  
16 Dhurringile. It was with this guy <sup>AIQ</sup> [REDACTED]. I was  
17 continuously being picked on in the class and instead of  
18 doing homework, I was required to write 500 lines  
19 "I must not do this, I must not do that". I'd get back  
20 to Dhurringile to do the homework and myself and another  
21 boy were sitting there writing lines because we had to  
22 do it.

23 <sup>AIQ</sup> [REDACTED] at the time said, "What are you doing?" and  
24 I said, "Well, they gave us lines because I was doing  
25 this or that." I wasn't doing anything that any other

1 boy wasn't doing but I was identified for this.

2 You'd have thought that if someone had my welfare at  
3 heart, they would go to the school and say, "Hey, what's  
4 going on, why are these kids always coming home with  
5 lines to do?" No, AIQ just said, "Well, you've got  
6 to behave yourselves when you go to school and do what  
7 the teacher tells you." We did, but no, it was ...

8 Q. Are you saying then that's the background to you  
9 effectively being taken out of school?

10 A. Yes. As I say, we were given chores. The farm  
11 manager -- it wasn't the same farm manager when I first  
12 came -- he was looking for someone to help him on the  
13 farm. The then superintendent, his name was John Muir,  
14 he was convinced to have a boy help on the farm. My  
15 chore at the time was milking the cows in the morning  
16 and milking the cows at night and I was good at it. So  
17 because my schooling wasn't going well, because I didn't  
18 have the support that one would expect to get, they  
19 asked me whether I wanted to go on the farm, and I said  
20 yes. But really I didn't really have a choice.

21 Q. And what age were you then, Hugh?

22 A. I was 14 or 15. I was 15 -- no, hang on. Yes, I was  
23 15, yes. It was the beginning of 1964.

24 Q. Do you consider that your education was affected at the  
25 time you were at Dhurringile?

1 A. Yes, very -- yes. Very badly.

2 Q. You mentioned the name AIO and I think that's

3 AIO.

4 A. AIO.

5 Q. Can I go back a little bit? You've told us about the  
6 departure of AIO who was superintendent. Who  
7 replaced him?

8 A. They had a guy who had previously been a superintendent  
9 of Quarriers, his name was AIP. AIP had  
10 been --

11 Q. Did you say he'd been a superintendent at Quarriers or  
12 Dhurringile?

13 A. Sorry, Dhurringile, yes, not at Quarriers at all, no.

14 AIP was the superintendent of Dhurringile for the  
15 last half of the 1950s, and he'd been there for the  
16 children that had preceded us. So they selected him to  
17 come back until they found a full-time replacement for

18 AIO

19 AIP was just there to fill in the gap at the  
20 time. I was not aware of any misbehaviour by him at  
21 that time.

22 Q. We'll return to that. Was he there on his own or did he  
23 have a wife?

24 A. No, he wasn't married either.

25 Q. Can you say how long he spent as a sort of stopgap --

1 A. It was only a couple of months.

2 Q. Was it then that Mr AIQ [REDACTED] came on the scene?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. So he became the superintendent?

5 A. He became the superintendent. He was married. He had  
6 a daughter. I think I'm correct in saying he had twin  
7 babies and Mrs AIQ [REDACTED] was there.

8 Q. And do you know what his background had been before he  
9 came to Dhurringile?

10 A. Yes, he was a detective sergeant in the Victorian  
11 police.

12 Q. Do you know what qualifications he had to care for the  
13 number of children that were there at Dhurringile?

14 A. I am not aware of any qualifications that any of the  
15 staff at Dhurringile had in regard to the care of  
16 children. AIQ [REDACTED] was a former superintendent --  
17 sorry, a former policeman -- and he enjoyed telling us  
18 all about his escapades as a policeman, and some of them  
19 were ... I don't think they were suitable for children  
20 to be told. There were some pretty nasty murders that  
21 he went into.

22 Q. How did you get on with Mr AIQ [REDACTED]?

23 A. I don't like saying I hated anyone, but AIQ [REDACTED],  
24 I hated him. He was an absolute bastard. He was like  
25 that -- because his training as a policeman included

1 a lot of training in psychology and stuff like that, he  
2 used that against us.

3 In my brief there, you will see two reports that  
4 were written by <sup>AIQ</sup> [REDACTED]. They were a form that he  
5 wrote out and there was a few lines at the bottom.

6 Q. Before we look -- and I will look at these -- but can  
7 you just elaborate on how this psychology impacted on  
8 you?

9 A. His attitude was not to take any emotional stuff from  
10 the boys, not to be sympathetic, not to be caring. He  
11 regarded it that the most important thing for us was to  
12 be a man.

13 Q. Would he say that?

14 A. Oh yes, oh yes, yes. He said it to me a number of  
15 times. It's because of that I mention this in these  
16 reports because the report does reflect that attitude  
17 that he had.

18 Q. Can I look at these reports? Let's begin with the  
19 earliest of the reports that you've made available to  
20 the inquiry. This is at WIT.003.001.3657. Again, it'll  
21 come on the screen. This report is dated June 1962 and  
22 we can see your name at the top and various references  
23 in the body of the report. Are you drawing attention in  
24 particular to the "general remarks" section at the  
25 bottom?



1 A. Yes.

2 Q. If we just move down to there I will read that -- are  
3 you saying this is written by Mr AIQ

4 A. This was written by AIQ, yes.

5 Q. Although I don't think we see a signature associated  
6 with it, but that's what your position is?

7 A. AIQ was in charge of ...

8 Q. We read:

9 "Hugh is showing steady improvement. He is  
10 well-mannered, neat and tidy and is a very willing boy  
11 around the house. At first he was not very popular with  
12 some of the boys, but appears to be adjusting better  
13 now."

14 Just focusing on that, do you read anything into  
15 that?

16 A. I read very much into that.

17 Q. What do you read into that?

18 A. That I was being bullied. That's why I wasn't liked by  
19 the other boys and I was reacting to their bullying. He  
20 accepted it, he accepted that I was being bullied, and  
21 I was the one that had to grow up and be a man.

22 But the next report really does reflect what I am  
23 saying there.

24 Q. I'll come to that.

25 A. If I may, there's one thing that's really quite

1           important to me. You'll notice up the top there, it  
2           talks about bed-wetting.

3       Q. If we scroll up to the top --

4       A. The headmaster's remark -- somewhere there I saw ...

5       Q. The headmaster's remarks, is that what you're looking  
6       for?

7       LADY SMITH: Was it the remark about bed-wetting? It's near  
8       the top, Hugh:

9           "Fairly regular wet bed."

10      A. In Scotland, of course, I was punished every time I wet  
11      the bed. They didn't realise that the punishment was  
12      making me wet my bed more.

13           In Australia, one of the first things that was said  
14      to me was, "Don't worry if you wet the bed, we don't  
15      punish you for it."

16      Q. Was that the previous superintendent?

17      A. That was the previous superintendent. AIQ  
18      basically said the same thing.

19           However, AIQ went one step further: he wanted  
20      to stop me wetting my bed, so he brought in this  
21      machine, which was something that had a small electric  
22      charge attached to it. It was a little sheath that was  
23      put over my penis, it was attached to an electric  
24      machine, and there was another -- a lead coming from it  
25      that had a strap put around my waist. I slept with that

1 to stop me wetting my bed, because every time ... Every  
2 time liquid went on to the sheath, it would send an  
3 electric charge through to my waist to wake me up. It  
4 didn't work because I'd already wet my bed.

5 AIQ said he would fix the problem, you know,  
6 and that was his way of fixing the problem. This was  
7 his way of -- I think it describes the way that AIQ  
8 regarded us.

9 There was another incident which I thought was ...

10 LADY SMITH: Hugh, just before you leave this electric  
11 system, did it also involve a bell? Did it ring a bell?

12 A. No, no. It was only an electric shock.

13 LADY SMITH: It sounds very similar to something I've heard  
14 which was used in Quarriers, possibly about the same  
15 time.

16 A. Nothing like that happened to me in Quarriers.

17 But this was not a bell because if it was a bell,  
18 it'd have woken up the other kids. So this was just an  
19 electric shock. And it never worked. It did not work.

20 MR MacAULAY: How long did you persevere with this system?

21 A. It was about three or four weeks, as I recall, every  
22 night. But I didn't wet my bed every night, it was  
23 every now and again.

24 LADY SMITH: Did it affect your skin? What I have in mind  
25 is whether it caused any sores.



1 A. No, I'm not aware of anything like that, no. It was  
2 just a minor electric shock. It was enough to wake you  
3 up. I think that that sort of arousal will ... it would  
4 concern anyone.

5 LADY SMITH: Yes, thank you.

6 A. There was another incident with AIQ [REDACTED] that describes  
7 AIQ [REDACTED] to a T. One of the farmers that had a farm  
8 next to us was concerned about a pack of dogs that  
9 attacked his sheep. That farmer identified two dogs  
10 that came from Dhurringile. One was owned by my friend  
11 [REDACTED], it was a medium-sized dog, a Kelpie,  
12 a beautiful dog, very friendly, and the other was  
13 a corgi. That corgi was owned by AIQ [REDACTED].

14 The farmer came to Dhurringile and complained to  
15 AIQ [REDACTED] that there were dogs. AIQ [REDACTED] came to us and  
16 said there were dogs that were involved in attacking his  
17 sheep and they were to be put down. AIQ [REDACTED] put down  
18 Lassie, as her name was, put her down, and didn't put  
19 down his dog, called Bobby. That really affected me and  
20 it really affected some of the other boys that he would  
21 do that.

22 MR MacAULAY: But did he explain why he had chosen --

23 A. He only said that the dogs from Dhurringile were  
24 involved. There was only one dog belonging to any of  
25 the boys because he was working on weekends with

1 a plumber. He was the only one with a dog and the other  
2 dog belonged to AIQ [REDACTED], and the farmer identified the  
3 corgi as one of them, but we don't know ... But yeah,  
4 Lassie was put down and Bobby wasn't, and he said, "Oh,  
5 it was a pet of my daughter." I think that we knew that  
6 was nonsense because it was -- the daughter didn't go  
7 near the dog.

8 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay, it's now 1 o'clock. I think we'll  
9 break now until 2.00.

10 We'll stop now for the lunch break, Hugh, and I'll  
11 sit again at 2 o'clock, and I hope you manage to get  
12 a bit of a rest in the hour or so.

13 (1.00 pm)

14 (The lunch adjournment)

15 (2.00 pm)

16 LADY SMITH: Hugh, I hope you have had enough of a breather.  
17 Is it all right with you if we carry on with your  
18 evidence now?

19 A. Yes, thank you, it's quite fine.

20 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

21 MR MacAULAY: Before the break we had looked one of the two  
22 reports that you've drawn our attention to. Before  
23 I look at the second report, can I understand what your  
24 understanding is as to what the purpose of these reports  
25 were? By that, I mean do you know why they were being

1 submitted?

2 A. When you look at them, you think: is that all? Is that  
3 all they think of us? Is this what they think is  
4 adequate to ensure our care and safety? I only ever saw  
5 the report when the Child Migrants Trust got it for me.  
6 That was back around 2003. So I've had them since then  
7 and I thought, you know ... When I read the second  
8 report of AIQ, it epitomised what that man was  
9 like.

10 Q. I'll come on to that.

11 Coming back to what I'm looking at, and it may be  
12 the Child Migrants Trust were able to tell you what the  
13 answer to this was as to whom, if anybody, were these  
14 reports being sent.

15 A. I think -- I don't know -- I think it would be to the  
16 Presbyterian social services and to the Victorian State  
17 Government social services.

18 Q. If we look at the first report again, that's at  
19 WIT.003.001.3657. It's on the screen. If we move down  
20 a little bit, can we see that certainly the overseas  
21 correspondents are described as Quarriers Homes, which  
22 of course is where you came from. Do you know if these  
23 reports were being sent to Quarriers?

24 A. No, I don't know.

25 Q. The second report then that you've touched upon already,

1           Hugh, I'll put on the screen. That's at  
2           WIT.003.001.3658. We now have that on the screen.

3           We can see on the top there that we're now into  
4           January 1964 and I think this is not long before you  
5           came to leave Dhurringile; is that right?

6           A. I left Dhurringile in September 1964.

7           Q. I think the particular part that you want to look at is  
8           the bit at the bottom, which on this occasion has been  
9           signed by AIQ [REDACTED], although his signature has  
10          been blanked out. You can take it --

11          A. Yes. It was him. I recognised the signature. It  
12          makes, me wonder because AIQ [REDACTED] was no longer  
13          the superintendent of Dhurringile at that time.

14          Q. In January 1964. I think you tell us that he was  
15          replaced before the place closed down. Do you  
16          understand, however, that even although he may have left  
17          by January 1964, that this report had been prepared at  
18          a time when he was there and he signed it?

19          A. Yes, I'm not sure what the -- how the running of it came  
20          because I was at Quarriers when the first boy came back  
21          from our break from Quarriers into -- we were sent to  
22          families around the area and I'd been placed with this  
23          farmer near East Shepparton. When I came back,

24          AIQ [REDACTED] was gone and that was in late January.

25          Q. Of 1964?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Can I just then read what has been written in the  
3 general remarks section:

4 "Hugh has shown good improvement during the past  
5 12 months and has learnt to shoulder the teasing and  
6 provocation from other lads."

7 Can I just ask you about the reference to teasing  
8 and provocation that you've learnt to shoulder? Do you  
9 understand what's being said there?

10 A. I understand what's being said, but it's not accurate.  
11 Yes, the teasing and provocation -- he should have used  
12 one word, bullying, because that's what it was. That's  
13 all it was, bullying. It was constantly being bullied.  
14 There was another boy who was younger than me and  
15 smaller than me and they turned on him, and he was the  
16 subject of their bullying. So I was left alone, which  
17 he has now interpreted as I've learnt to shoulder the  
18 teasing and provocation.

19 Q. Did you understand that you were being bullied because  
20 you were small?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And we know --

23 A. I was vulnerable.

24 Q. Pardon?

25 A. I was vulnerable.

1 Q. And who bullied you?

2 A. The other boys.

3 Q. What form did the bullying take?

4 A. There were threats. There was pushing around. There  
5 were insults. They used a derogatory term to describe  
6 me. I don't know if you've ever heard of it, but they  
7 called me footer(?).

8 I was a fidget and I was always looking at things,  
9 you know, trying to work them out. They said that  
10 was -- and it was that sort of thing. But there was  
11 a bit of pushing, shoving. I wasn't prepared to go into  
12 battle because I knew that I wouldn't survive it,  
13 I would come out of it worse off than what they did, and  
14 it happened frequently.

15 Q. Did <sup>AIQ</sup> [REDACTED] -- for example, did you take from this  
16 that he knew about it?

17 A. He knew about it, he absolutely knew about it.

18 Q. Did you speak to him about it?

19 A. I went to him and complained about it and he told me,  
20 "Don't be silly, be a man." It didn't help at all. It  
21 made me feel even more vulnerable because he was  
22 claiming I wasn't as developed as the other boys -- and  
23 I wasn't, I was of short stature.

24 LADY SMITH: Hugh, what did you think he meant when he told  
25 you to "be a man"?



1       A. I think he meant to put up with it, put up with  
2       bullying, put up with the provocation, and just accept  
3       it. That was his -- and he thought that that would make  
4       me ... I think he thought that sort of attitude from  
5       him would make me more resilient when I got into life,  
6       when I was defending -- looking after myself and  
7       defending myself. Quite the contrary.

8       MR MacAULAY: Can I touch upon another aspect of your life  
9       in Dhurringile and that's leisure time and holidays.  
10       You tell us a bit about that in your statement and  
11       I think you do say that during the school holidays in  
12       particular you'd be farmed out to local families.

13       A. Yes.

14       Q. And I think you had a bad experience on one of these  
15       occasions.

16       A. I did. They were generally people that went to church.  
17       They weren't just local. I know that on one occasion  
18       I was sent to a family that was 400 kilometres away from  
19       Dhurringile. At that time we went by train to Melbourne  
20       and then there was a few hours before we were to go and  
21       get on our train that took us to Warrnambool, which is  
22       in the south-west of Victoria on the coast.

23       So I was met by the social services manager of the  
24       Presbyterian Church and he took me up to their office.  
25       At the office he gave me 5 shillings or something for me

1 to go to the pictures and go and see a film. I'm pretty  
2 sure the film was "The Time Machine" with Rod Taylor.

3 I was sitting there, I think eating an ice cream,  
4 and this guy sat down beside me and next thing  
5 I noticed, he had his hands on my leg, going up to my  
6 groin. I thought, gee, what's going on, and I stood up  
7 and walked out of the theatre and went back to the  
8 social services department.

9 Q. And did you tell them about it?

10 A. I reported it to Mr Gates, his name was, Arnold Gates,  
11 and I told them that a man had put his hand on my leg,  
12 and he said, "Don't be silly, men don't do that".  
13 He was accusing me of lying. I thought -- I didn't know  
14 what to think.

15 I went on to where this place was and stayed there,  
16 and generally wherever we were there was a couple of  
17 kids around about our age. I had a couple of good  
18 experiences there. I had one very good experience  
19 with -- I can't remember his name now. It's in there,  
20 I think. Because his sons were about my age and they  
21 were a bit more free-going than what others are, and we  
22 got some idea of what it was like to be in a family.

23 Q. Turning back to life at Dhurringile, did you have any  
24 sense of there being inspections being carried out?

25 A. Yes, oh yes -- you mean as far as our chores were



1           concerned?

2           Q. No, no, so far as perhaps the state welfare department,  
3           for example.

4           A. Ah, right. I don't recall ever seeing someone from the  
5           Victorian Government at Dhurringile.

6           Q. Or from the welfare?

7           A. They may have, but none of them ever approached me.

8           I knew of Arnold Gates, who was the social worker for  
9           the Presbyterian Church, I knew of him, but he never  
10          talked to us at Dhurringile.

11          We were afraid if someone came. People used to come  
12          to Dhurringile because of its history, they used to come  
13          to Dhurringile and be shown around the various places  
14          because some of it was -- it was quite good, quite  
15          beautiful. We'd show them around, and we knew that  
16          if we had told those people that were there that we  
17          didn't like it here, there would be consequences and the  
18          consequences would be quite severe.

19          I didn't get involved in that. I remember once  
20          I was taking a family round and they complained and they  
21          thought that I was expecting a tip from them. The truth  
22          is I was, but they weren't going to give it to me and  
23          they complained to the superintendent and the  
24          superintendent had a go at me for wanting a tip.

25          Q. But coming back then to the point you're making about

1           official inspections of any kind, you have no  
2           recollection of inspections?

3           A. None whatsoever, I don't recall seeing anyone from  
4           anywhere come to me and say, "How are you?" No,  
5           definitely not.

6           Q. One of the main points I think you do make in your  
7           statement, Hugh, is that what you did not get from  
8           Dhurringile was emotional support. That's what you did  
9           not get.

10          A. That's absolutely correct, and I'm not the only one.  
11          None of the other boys got it either. I'm a fan of  
12          Abraham Maslow and his hierarchy of needs. One of the  
13          things is love and caring and emotional support and you  
14          pull that out and what chance have you got of getting to  
15          the pinnacle? You've got none. And that's what it was  
16          like for us.

17                 We were sent -- I was sent on to a farm once at  
18          Dhurringile. I lasted two weeks. The issue was that  
19          I had no understanding of what was required of me  
20          because I got none of that from the staff in  
21          Dhurringile. Their job was to keep the kids under  
22          control, no matter how much it took to do that. That  
23          was what their job was: keep them under control, keep  
24          them under the thumb.

25          Q. So far as life skills would be concerned, did they teach

1           you anything about life in general when you were there?

2           A. No. In Dhurringile, nothing. At Kilmany Park, we went  
3           to one father-and-son night and that was it. There was  
4           nothing about how to communicate with people, how to  
5           understand them, what your role in life is, how to  
6           respect others. Nothing like that. We were left to our  
7           own devices and the devices we had were archaic and we  
8           just didn't have those devices available to us.

9           Q. You left Dhurringile in September of 1964 at a time when  
10          the place was closing down, is that right?

11          A. Yes.

12          Q. At that time did AIP [REDACTED], who you've mentioned  
13          already had been a superintendent in Dhurringile before  
14          your time and as a stopgap, did he come back to take  
15          part in the closing down of the home?

16          A. I don't remember how long it was, but he was there for  
17          a while. It was only a matter of days, but I know that  
18          he was there for four days that were significant for me.

19          Q. Can you explain that?

20          A. He was there for a little while longer than that,  
21          possibly two weeks, but he was there to get us down to  
22          Kilmany Park because it was a fair distance away, it was  
23          300 miles from Dhurringile.

24          Q. So what happened then involving you and AIP [REDACTED]?

25          A. Can we go back to that photograph of Dhurringile?

1 Q. Yes, certainly. That's the one at WIT.003.001.8378.

2 A. On the left side, on the top floor, you'll see a small  
3 window on the left.

4 Q. On the far left?

5 A. Yes, and then there are two -- there's a large window  
6 and two small ones beside it. That room is significant  
7 to me.

8 Q. The one beside the small window?

9 A. Yes, because I'd been taken out of school and been  
10 placed on the farm and worked on the farm. As a result,  
11 they gave me my own room. I wasn't with the other boys  
12 because I was getting up at 6 o'clock and they weren't  
13 getting up until 7, so I had to be out there to go and  
14 milk the cows. So I had that room myself.

15 AIP had come to Dhurringile and one night,  
16 before I was going to bed, I opened a drawer that was  
17 there and there was a book "Return to Peyton Place" by  
18 Grace Metalious. That book in 1964 was a pretty raunchy  
19 book and I was reading it. I don't know where it came  
20 from, but it was in that drawer and I was reading it.

21 No knock on the door, no nothing, he just opened the  
22 door, and I tried to put the book underneath the  
23 blanket, "What are you doing?" and I said, "Nothing."

24 Q. This was Mr AIP who came in?

25 A. Yes, this is AIP who came in. I said, "Nothing",

1 "You were doing something, what was it?" I told him  
2 about it and he sort of pulled the blankets off me and  
3 saw the book and we started talking about the book and  
4 about sex, about sex between man and woman.

5 [AIP] was never married and he was talking to me  
6 about it and he left and then, over the next couple of  
7 days, the discussion got more explicit.

8 Q. And where did the discussions take place? Did the  
9 discussions take place in your room or elsewhere?

10 A. He came to my room. I was the only one there. There  
11 were two beds and I was in one of them. He sat on the  
12 other bed for a while and then he came back and he sat  
13 on my bed. I've put it in here and I'm finding it  
14 difficult to talk about it.

15 I think he made me feel that he was guiding me in  
16 regard to what it was going to be like in the future if  
17 I got married and stuff like that. I think it was the  
18 night before we left Dhurringile. I was pretty tired  
19 and I went to bed, I went to sleep fairly early, only to  
20 be woken up later on with [AIP] in bed with me.

21 He tried ... He tried to rape me. I was  
22 fortunately strong enough not to allow it. I just ...  
23 I managed to get out of bed and I told him I was going  
24 to report him and he whacked me, he whacked me in the  
25 head. He told me to get dressed and, you know, you did

1           what you were told. I was scared, I was really  
2           frightened. He got dressed, he dragged me down to the  
3           van that we had, and he drove off. I said, "Where are  
4           you taking me?" and he told me he was taking me to  
5           Turana.

6           Turana was the youth detention centre run by the  
7           Victorian Government in Melbourne. I thought that  
8           he was serious, I thought he was going to do it, and he  
9           said, "Well, you know, what you can do is you cannot  
10          mention anything to anyone else, otherwise you're  
11          going." So I said, "Okay, I won't, I'll keep my mouth  
12          shut", and I did.

13        Q. For how long?

14        A. Sorry?

15        Q. For how long did you keep your mouth shut?

16        A. Over 40 years. I didn't tell anyone, I didn't tell [REDACTED].

17          It was more embarrassment than anything. I was 16 years  
18          old and I allowed a man to do that to me. When I went  
19          to the Royal Commission in Melbourne, the Commissioner  
20          that I was interviewed by said to me, "Look, you were  
21          16 years old, but you were a very immature 16 years old  
22          because of the life that you led", and I said, "You  
23          know, that's true." It was. That's what it was like.

24          You know, everything was done for you. You didn't  
25          get the opportunity to think for yourself, that sort of



1           thing. It was very unpleasant.

2           AIP -- I later found out AIP was a serial  
3           paedophile.

4           Q. Do you know what happened to him?

5           A. I knew that in 1968 or 1969 the two boys that were  
6           in the YMCA with me went to visit him. He was the  
7           secretary of the Royal Australian Air Force Association  
8           and he was there and they went to see him. I said, no,  
9           I'm not going there, no way, I'm not going nowhere near  
10          that man. But he died in, I think, the 1980s. I'm not  
11          sure, but yeah, he died a single man.

12          Q. You may have touched upon this before but he had been  
13          superintendent at Dhurringile before AIO --

14          A. Yes.

15          Q. -- in the early days of the institution?

16          A. Yes. I am aware -- from men who were there before me  
17          that I know, I'm aware that he was a practising  
18          paedophile then and there's a number of people who were  
19          his boys. That's taken from the people who were  
20          involved, so it's not hearsay or anything like that.

21          Q. I think this incident you've been telling us about  
22          happened just before you moved to Kilmany Park.

23          A. Yes.

24          Q. A couple of days before that.

25          A. Yes. I can't remember whether it was one or two days,

1 but it was about a four-day period, yes.

2 Q. And so far as Kilmany Park, that was a farm home school  
3 in Victoria.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. You moved there, according to records that we've seen,  
6 on 23 September 1964.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Can you just tell me a little bit about Kilmany Park?  
9 What sort of institution was it?

10 A. Kilmany Park was a large mansion-type building. I think  
11 it was built in the late 19th century. There were 36  
12 boys in that home virtually all the time. The farm was  
13 a much larger farm. Dhurringile had 119 acres,  
14 Kilmany Park had 500 acres. It had a large milking  
15 herd. There were 120 cows that were milked twice a day.

16 Because I'd already been taken out of school, it was  
17 decided I would be put on the farm and stay on the farm.

18 Q. But was there a school associated with the --

19 A. No, the school was like Dhurringile, it was a local high  
20 school in Sale. Boys went there. There were some  
21 younger boys.

22 Before child migrants went to Kilmany Park, there  
23 were two types of children who were there: the ones that  
24 came from a Presbyterian home called Kildonan, who were  
25 young boys, small kids, and they had grown up and they



1           were now ready to be sent to Kilmany Park when they got  
2           older.

3           The other group were children that had fallen foul  
4           of the law and had been taken out of places like Turana  
5           and they were sent to Kilmany Park as a halfway house  
6           before being released back to their families.

7           Then we came, the child migrants, and it was  
8           completely ... It was quite a foreign feeling being  
9           there because it was different. The older boys were  
10          considerably rougher than what we'd been used to.  
11          I steered completely away from them and it was easy to  
12          do because I was on the farm.

13          We'd get up at 5 o'clock in the morning to go and  
14          milk the cows and we'd be back at 5 o'clock at night.

15          Q. But in relation to -- you've mentioned three categories  
16          of boy. So far as the child migrant category was  
17          concerned, how many child migrants were there when you  
18          were there?

19          A. Six -- actually, no, five, because one of the boys had  
20          come from Dhurringile and was a [REDACTED] boy. We didn't  
21          know much about him, but he wasn't a child migrant  
22          in the sense that we were child migrants.

23          Q. Were the other child migrants --

24          A. The other child migrants were there, yes.

25          Q. There were five child migrants?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And were they boys that you'd gone to Dhurringile with  
3 or were they a mixture of Scots --

4 A. No, all five boys were all from Dhurringile.

5 Q. When Dhurringile closed, you were 16. Were you then at  
6 that point one of the older children at Dhurringile?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Were there younger children there?

9 A. There were younger and there were older.

10 Q. The younger children, were they sent off to some other  
11 place?

12 A. No, there was only ... The youngest boy was probably  
13 about 12.

14 Q. And did he also go to --

15 A. He went to -- yes.

16 Q. -- Kilmany Park?

17 A. Yes. The rest of us were about the same age, 15 or 16,  
18 but there was one boy who was about 12.

19 Q. As with Dhurringile, was Kilmany Park also run by the  
20 Presbyterian Church?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. So far as the staff at Kilmany Park was concerned,  
23 can you give us an understanding as to -- first of all,  
24 who was in charge when you were there?

25 A. There was a superintendent.

1 Q. What was his name?

2 A. AIS [REDACTED] his name was. I know he had a background in  
3 the community. He was a member of the Rotary Club.  
4 He had things going through them. A very strict man.  
5 Some would say he was fair.

6 Q. Would you say he was fair?

7 A. I would say he was fair sometimes. He could be ruthless  
8 at other times. His wife was [REDACTED].  
9 He had an assistant superintendent and an assistant  
10 matron and they lived in Kilmany Park. AIS [REDACTED] and  
11 his wife lived in a house that was just a few metres,  
12 not even 100 yards, from the main building. It was run  
13 very similarly to Dhurringile, although their routines  
14 were more set than what Dhurringile was.

15 AIS [REDACTED] was -- I think he gave the appearance of being  
16 a strong Christian man, but he had his idiosyncrasies,  
17 one of which I was subjected to with -- I didn't like at  
18 all.

19 I slept in one day, he used to -- every now and  
20 again he used to come and manage the milking with us.  
21 On this day he was going to manage the milking with us  
22 because there were four farm boys and we would get up,  
23 milk the cows, and then go out and do the hay and we'd  
24 be given various other jobs on the farm, and then we'd  
25 be back at 3 o'clock to milk the cows again, and we'd

1 finish at 5 o'clock.

2 There was one day I slept in -- I slept in until  
3 5.05 -- and AIS came into the room. We were in  
4 a dormitory. He came into the room, stripped the  
5 blankets off me, saw that my hands were around my groin,  
6 and he gave me such a belting because I was  
7 masturbating. I hadn't been, and if I had, I don't  
8 care, but he belted me because he claimed I was  
9 masturbating.

10 Q. When you say he belted you, did he use a belt?

11 A. He used his hands. He knew how to use the hands.

12 Later that day, he made a very strange comment to me  
13 and also gave me a lecture about saving myself because,  
14 "You're a handsome young man, you'll get married one  
15 day", you know. I think of it now and I think, oh my  
16 God, what was going on?

17 He also said, "You know, girls are lucky in a way  
18 because on a day like this when it's very hot, they only  
19 have to have a light blouse and a light skirt" ... and  
20 I just said, "Yeah, right", and immediately thought to  
21 myself: hang on, why aren't blokes lucky, all they have  
22 to have is a pair of shorts, they don't have to cover  
23 their upper body. But that was the way he thought.

24 Q. You describe this incident, in relation to you and you  
25 touching your groin, that nevertheless Mr AIS -- this

1           was a pet hate of his?

2           A. It was a pet hate.

3           Q. He didn't like boys touching their groin and did he  
4           punish them in the way you described if they were  
5           caught?

6           A. Yes, and he would lecture us about playing with  
7           ourselves and how we were doing ourselves harm.

8           Q. And another point you make in your statement is  
9           in relation to smoking.

10          A. Yes.

11          Q. Did you smoke at that time?

12          A. I had one puff of a cigarette. Someone dobbed me in,  
13          someone dobbed us all in. There were five of us. He  
14          took us into his office and belted the crap out of us  
15          with his hand.

16          Q. He didn't like smokers?

17          A. It wasn't that he didn't like smoking, it was against  
18          the rules, so if you -- and this is what it was about in  
19          Quarriers, what it was about in Dhurringile, what it was  
20          about in Kilmany Park, and in my later life what it was  
21          like in the army: you had to obey the rules and if you  
22          didn't obey the rules there would be consequences.

23          Q. But overall, how would you describe how you were treated  
24          at Kilmany Park?

25          A. Generally, fairly. There are incidents that were not

1 fair, but generally it was fairer than it was in  
2 Dhurringile. It was fairer than what it was in  
3 Quarriers.

4 Q. Was there a social worker attached to Kilmany Park?

5 A. The same social worker who we never saw, the same guy.

6 Q. Do you know what his name was?

7 A. Yes, Arnold Gates.

8 Q. Does the name Bruce Belcher mean anything to you?

9 A. Yes. I don't think he was ... Bruce was not a social  
10 worker for ... I think he was involved in a programme  
11 that they called aftercare. I was kind of involved in  
12 it a little, but it was after, well after, I had left  
13 Kilmany Park.

14 Q. Did you get any benefit from his involvement with you?

15 A. Not really, no. At the time I thought there was, but it  
16 really didn't amount to anything. It didn't seem to  
17 achieve anything.

18 Q. There came a point in time when you left Kilmany Park.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And in the interim, before you left for good, I think  
21 you had been farmed out, so to speak --

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. -- to one or two places to work; is that correct?

24 A. There were two places, yes.

25 Q. Was that essentially to gain some work experience? Was

1           that the essence of it?

2           A. The first one, I wouldn't call it gaining work  
3           experience, I would call it providing help because  
4           AIS [REDACTED] brother needed it, so he sent me to his  
5           brother to work on his farms for a period. I'm not sure  
6           what ... It was a busy period, you know, the haymaking  
7           and stuff like that. I didn't get paid for that.

8           The other one was, I was sent to a farm near  
9           Bairnsdale, east of Sale. I was there on that farm with  
10          a share farmer. I'm told that the farm owner was a guy  
11          called Masters, but I didn't know him. I knew the share  
12          farmer and I also know that AIS [REDACTED] said that he took  
13          me off that farm because the share farmer had introduced  
14          me to alcohol. I don't know where he got that from, but  
15          that is absolutely not true. I thought I was having  
16          a good time there, but suddenly I was taken back to  
17          Kilmany Park.

18          So that lasted -- that job lasted a couple of  
19          months. Then I went back to Kilmany Park. Then, not  
20          long after that, I was then farmed out to a farmer near  
21          a place called Yarram, which is south-west, a little  
22          south-west of Sale, and I stayed with him for about  
23          eight months.

24          Q. All that experience you were having up until then was in  
25          connection with farm work?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. I think at about the age of 17 or so you left  
3 Kilmany Park altogether and you went to Melbourne;  
4 is that right?

5 A. I left the farm. I left the farm in Yarram. I didn't  
6 go back to Kilmany Park. I was told that I should have,  
7 but, no, I wasn't going back there. So I went and lived  
8 in Melbourne and I got a job in Melbourne, and I went  
9 and saw Arnold Gates. He said go to the CES and they'll  
10 help you, and I went there and got a job with the  
11 Victorian Railways.

12 Q. You set out in your statement, Hugh, from paragraphs 162  
13 onwards, in fact what your work experience was and has  
14 been, including joining the army --

15 A. I didn't join the army.

16 Q. Were you called up?

17 A. I was conscripted, yes.

18 Q. How did you find the experience in the army?

19 A. The army sent me back to children's homes: do what  
20 you're told, when you're told, how you're told, and  
21 don't you dare ever ask why.

22 Q. How long were you in the army for?

23 A. Two years. Two of the worst years of my life.

24 Q. Ultimately, did you work for the Civil Aviation  
25 Authority?



1       A. I did. After being in the Victorian Railways for  
2       a while, I left there because they gave me a job that  
3       I didn't want and they said it was the only job.  
4       I said, well, I don't have a job anymore.

5               So I left there, I went to see Arnold Gates. His  
6       attitude was: listen, you don't come here every time  
7       you're looking for a job, go and see the CES. So that  
8       was the last time I ever saw Arnold Gates. I knew what  
9       his thoughts were about us. He was supposed to be there  
10      to support us and he didn't, just like all the others,  
11      they didn't.

12      Q. But you had a successful career, I think, with the Civil  
13      Aviation Authority?

14      A. I did, but it was a struggle.

15      Q. I'll come back to some aspects of that in a moment.

16              From there, you went into the Department of Defence  
17      and you worked there for about 11 years before you  
18      retired.

19      A. Yes.

20      Q. I just want to -- before I ask you some personal  
21      questions, I want to ask you to look at another document  
22      before we lose sight of it and that is WIT.003.001.3682.

23              I'm looking here at a copy of a letter dated  
24      5 August 1969 addressed to you. Do you see that? It  
25      says:

1           "Dear Hugh. As mentioned to you when you last  
2 visited this office, guardianship of this department  
3 ceased when you turned 21 years of age on 22 July 1969.  
4 Wishing you all the best ..."

5           Does this come back to a conversation you had with  
6 Mr Gates?

7       A. Can you scroll up, please?

8       Q. Yes, certainly.

9       A. We don't have an address there, do we?

10      Q. Well, this is a copy letter.

11      A. It says the:

12           "Department of Human Services. Released under  
13 freedom of information."

14      Q. I think that's probably --

15      A. The Child Migrants Trust did that.

16      Q. Yes.

17      A. I don't know who this Mr Gourlay is. And I don't recall  
18 having any conversation with him. The only person that  
19 was associated with the social services was the  
20 Presbyterian social services, not the Victorian  
21 Government social services.

22      Q. But do you recall receiving this letter?

23      A. Yes, I do. I do. I think I wrote on one somewhere at  
24 one stage, "So much for the care."

25      Q. Yes.

1       A. Because I just said -- but ... It ceased the day  
2       I turned 21. No, it didn't. It ceased the day I walked  
3       out of Kilmany Park because they were not interested.  
4       They didn't care.

5       Q. Well, was there any aftercare in any real sense after  
6       you left Kilmany Park at the age of 17?

7       A. Absolutely none.

8       Q. One thing you say in your statement then, Hugh, at  
9       paragraph 151, when you're talking about life after care  
10      and the impact of that experience is that the person you  
11      became was a man without love:

12                "I seriously lacked skills. I had little exposure  
13      to family life."

14                And that's how you sum up what it was like, at least  
15      initially, after you left care; is that your position?

16      A. You've got ... I think we're looking at different ...

17      Q. Paragraph 161.

18      A. Yes, that's the way I felt. In all of the homes there  
19      was black and there was white, nothing else. No  
20      in-betweens, no shades of grey, no "this is how life  
21      is", no "this is what it's like to be this or" ...

22                In my years in the Civil Aviation, I was in it  
23      because I liked it because there were strict rules. You  
24      identified those rules and people operated in accordance  
25      with those rules, whether they were airlines or

1 commercial operators or private aircraft. The rules  
2 were followed very strenuously and I liked that.

3 But by the same token, with the department, we had  
4 the rules of the administration and people used to  
5 juggle those rules a bit to suit their needs, and that  
6 caused me and gave me a lot of grief, a lot of trouble,  
7 because I would argue with them about it: "No, the rule  
8 says this", and they'd say, "I don't care, we want to  
9 achieve a result", and I'd say, "But if you go by the  
10 rules, you will achieve a result."

11 I didn't understand that they weren't really rules,  
12 they were guides, but that was very difficult for me,  
13 and because I was like that -- and it's because I was  
14 raised like that, people found me difficult to get on  
15 with.

16 Q. And you say that during your working life you had such  
17 personal struggles, but you also tell us, in quite  
18 a candid way, I think, in your statement, that also in  
19 your personal life you had struggles. Are you prepared  
20 to elaborate upon those?

21 A. Yeah, look ...

22 (Pause)

23 As I said, I was a difficult person to get on with.  
24 I found it very difficult to make friends. I struggled  
25 with -- I was terribly lonely because I didn't know how

1           to relate to people. I unwittingly brushed them off and  
2           they didn't want to know me and that was a worry.

3 MR MacAULAY: Well, I want to just explore that with you --  
4 actually, perhaps since it's coming up to 3 o'clock we  
5 should have a short break.

6 A. If you wouldn't mind, yes.

7       LADY SMITH:  If we take five minutes or so at this point  
8               in the afternoon, Hugh, but if you need longer, let me  
9               know.

10 (2.58 pm)

11 (A short break)

12 (3.10 pm)

13           LADY SMITH: Are you ready for us to carry on, Hugh?

14           A. I am, thank you.

15           LADY SMITH:   Thank you.

16 Mr MacAulay.

17 MR MacAULAY: Before the break, Hugh, I was moving on to ask  
18 you about the personal struggles you've had,  
19 particularly within the context of your family life and  
20 I only want you to tell us as much as you care to tell  
21 us.

22           Before you met your wife, who's with you today, you  
23           were drinking alcohol and that formed a part of your  
24           life for quite a considerable time; is that right?

25           A. Yes.

1 Q. You met your wife and you got married and you've got  
2 a family. But thereafter, how did things work out from  
3 a drinking perspective?

4 A. Can I just go back a little bit? Before I met [REDACTED], I was  
5 lonely, very lonely. I used alcohol to curtail the  
6 loneliness and it became obsessive and I had a drinking  
7 problem. I didn't acknowledge it myself at the time,  
8 but it was there and it was probably serious. I was not  
9 a -- in terms of most alcoholics, I was not a heavy  
10 drinker, but I was a constant drinker.

11 I met [REDACTED] in 1997 and, after a courtship of two and  
12 a half years, we married, and I think she then started  
13 to realise that I was having problems with drinking, and  
14 I was hiding it.

15 I was sent to detox after having a horrible seizure.  
16 I didn't realise, but I'd had those seizures in the past  
17 at night. I thought something else, but ... I think  
18 I realised that the alcohol wasn't doing me any good.

19 My sons were aware of it, but I wasn't. I didn't  
20 handle it terribly well and I stopped, but -- I did  
21 manage to stop and I stopped in the late 1990s,  
22 I stopped drinking. I did relapse, but I stopped again  
23 because my [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] sat me down one day  
24 and [REDACTED] said, "Dad, if you don't stop drinking, mum's  
25 going to leave you and you're not going to see her and

1           you are not going to see your grandchildren." That was  
2           a cross that was far too big to bear and I stopped and  
3           I haven't been drinking since.

4           I think I did relapse for a little while, didn't I?  
5           Then I became -- but I haven't had ... For me, I know  
6           what I will lose if I start drinking again and nothing  
7           is worth that, losing what I have.

8       Q. And you have listed that for us, I think, that what's  
9           important to you is your wife, your sons, your  
10          daughters-in-law, your wife's family, your family in the  
11          United Kingdom, and perhaps very importantly your  
12          grandchildren.

13       A. Yes. I love my family, I love my wife, but for quite  
14          a while there I didn't think they did me. But it was  
15          only because of the situation that I had put myself  
16          in that I realised that ... I found out that, yes,  
17          their love was much more unconditional than what mine  
18          was.

19                I blame the problems that I had at work, the  
20          problems that I had with the alcohol, the problems that  
21          I had relating to people, was because of the way that  
22          I was raised in the children's homes. That's what they  
23          taught me: that's how you live your life. I'm sure it  
24          was not something that they deliberately did, I'm sure  
25          it's just that they were the wrong people in the wrong

1           job that were doing this to me and to others in my same  
2           situation.

3       Q. You do tell us in your statement that you do know of  
4       child migrants who failed miserably in --

5       A. Sorry, the ...?

6       Q. You say you do know of child migrants who failed  
7       miserably in their lives, whereas I think what you're  
8       saying to us is although you've had your problems,  
9       you have got through these problems and you've made  
10      a success of your life.

11      A. Yes. My success is my life now, my life with [REDACTED] my  
12      life with my family, my life with my friends that I've  
13      got now because the burdens are no longer there. I'm  
14      able to enjoy life.

15            Had it not been for [REDACTED] I would have been dead years  
16      ago. I would have joined -- there are three others who  
17      committed suicide.

18      Q. Were these three known to you from Dhurringile?

19      A. Yes, and Scotland. They were in Quarriers, they were in  
20      Dhurringile, and one of them was in Kilmany Park with me  
21      too, and it was all too much for them.

22      Q. Can I then, perhaps briefly, look at the contact with  
23      your family. And by that I mean the family you had in  
24      Scotland once you started to focus on that part of your  
25      life. I think what you tell us in your statement



1 is that in about 2000 you got in contact with the Child  
2 Migrants Trust.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And indeed you have told us already that although  
5 Quarriers couldn't track down your mother's address, the  
6 Child Migrants Trust did track down her address. What  
7 was the position then? What did you discover in  
8 connection with your mother through the Child Migrants  
9 Trust?

10 A. Am I allowed to make an assumption here?

11 Q. Yes, certainly, if you tell us.

12 A. I believe my mother carried a decision that she made  
13 that destroyed her life. She died at 52 years old. She  
14 was an alcoholic, she was a heavy smoker, and she died  
15 of complications from those two things.

16 Q. I think you discovered that she died in 1980.

17 A. Yes, I believe it's about that. She was 52, so it'd be  
18 1980, yes. She was born in 1928.

19 When I was told that she had died, I was  
20 half-expecting it, and then they told me that my mother  
21 was one of nine siblings, which just floored me when  
22 I was told. It was the Child Migrants Trust that  
23 advised me. At the time, six of them had already died.

24 I'm actually going to Caen in France to pay my  
25 respects to my uncle who was killed in the Second World

1 War on 23 June 1944, after D-Day. I have met a couple  
2 of other family members, but importantly I've found out  
3 that I have a half-sister.

4 Q. I think you found out that your mother did marry and she  
5 had a daughter.

6 A. She had married a man. I am aware that my sister's life  
7 was not a happy one. She got married and her husband  
8 was a philanderer and they divorced and she got married  
9 again. I first met her in 2005, but since then the  
10 relationship has broken down and I don't have any  
11 contact. I think I'm partially to blame. I think  
12 [REDACTED] husband also bears some of that blame too  
13 because he didn't really like me.

14 Q. You tell us that you were in the United Kingdom when the  
15 then Prime Minister made the apology.

16 A. Yes, Gordon Brown.

17 Q. Were you present at the --

18 A. I was.

19 I was present for when Kevin Rudd, the Australian  
20 Prime Minister, made the apology. That one was ... We  
21 child migrants felt as if we were just an addendum to  
22 that because it was always "the forgotten Australians  
23 and child migrants". We thought that it was more  
24 appropriate if the child migrants were separated and  
25 apologised there because it was the Australian

1 Government that instigated the migration scheme after  
2 the Second World War. Arthur Cornwell went to the UK,  
3 came here, it was 1947 or 1948, something like that, and  
4 asked for "the good white stock", as he called it,  
5 because of the White Australia policy, and we were part  
6 of that.

7 Then we got to Australia and it was: over to you,  
8 Victorian Government, Western Australian Government, or  
9 whatever government, up to you now. So we were made  
10 wards of the state. Once that happened, they turned  
11 around and said, "Okay, over to you, churches, we know  
12 you can't do any wrong", and so we were handed over to  
13 the churches. The churches couldn't do any wrong  
14 because they didn't know what they were doing.

15 Q. I think you have campaigned on behalf of child migrants  
16 in order to raise awareness, particularly in Australia;  
17 is that right?

18 A. Yes. I firmly believe that the situation that  
19 child migrants found themselves in was controlled by the  
20 British and Australian Governments, the British  
21 Government by agreeing to sending us to Australia. To  
22 my knowledge, the massive majority of them came without  
23 a passport or a birth certificate. I know I'm one of  
24 them that didn't. We didn't have personal documents.  
25 We came on someone else's passport.

1 Q. Do you now have Australian nationality?

2 A. I have taken it out now, yes.

3 Q. Do you have British nationality?

4 A. No -- sorry, yes, it's available to me because we do  
5 have dual citizenship rights, but I don't have a British  
6 passport.

7 Q. Can I then, Hugh, because you've been in that chair for  
8 a rather long time today, take you to your final  
9 thoughts in your statement. That's at paragraph 200  
10 onwards.

11 The first point you make at paragraph 200 is  
12 in relation to children, that there must be audit  
13 controls of the needs of children who are in care.  
14 That's the first point you make. Is that correct?

15 A. There are three ways to care for children outside  
16 a family. The most important one is adoption: you've  
17 done this, you've taken this child into your family  
18 because you want them there, you want to care for this  
19 child, you want to be the fosterer of this child's  
20 development and welfare.

21 The second one is fostering. Fostering to me is the  
22 one that is most unlikely to be properly controlled  
23 because the people who foster the child are getting paid  
24 to do it. I don't think that should be a motive for  
25 maintaining a child and being responsible for their

1 welfare.

2 The third one is institutionalisation. I am not  
3 against institutionalisation. I think that there are  
4 times when institutionalisation is an appropriate way.  
5 However, if it was ever to be like what it was when  
6 we were children, it's no, you cannot do that. The  
7 people who were responsible for us as children who were  
8 not in a family situation were -- they were vulnerable.  
9 To put us in the situation that we were in only added  
10 remarkably to that vulnerability. If we're going to  
11 have people looking after -- caring for children in an  
12 institutional setting, they have to be, I think,  
13 academically qualified, but I also think that they have  
14 to have the emotional fortitude to care for them, to  
15 look after the child, not to just have them obey the  
16 rules because they're never to be broken. It was  
17 a terrible way to look after children.

18 I really -- I'm sure that the governments are now  
19 aware of that and are doing that or getting up to that  
20 stage where they can properly care for a child and  
21 nurture that child. Not so much sympathy, but try  
22 empathy. Be empathetic to the child, be what the child  
23 requires. The biggest thing is love.

24 Q. And that's what I think you've already told us was  
25 missing in particular for you.

1 A. Absolutely.

2 Q. Can I ask you then, just in that connection, Hugh, to  
3 read out to the inquiry the penultimate paragraph,  
4 paragraph 202, of your statement, which you'll see on  
5 the screen in front of you.

6 A. "I don't have a fundamental problem that children in  
7 need are looked after in children's homes, but I would  
8 have a major problem if these children are being looked  
9 after in the same way as I and others were. I hope we  
10 suffered so that in future these organisations  
11 understand what not to do."

12 Q. And that's the message that you've been trying to  
13 convey, you have been conveying over the last little  
14 while?

15 A. I hope so.

16 MR MacAULAY: Well, Hugh, thank you for engaging with the  
17 inquiry and leaving us with that message and for coming  
18 here to Scotland to deliver the message.

19 My Lady, I think in putting the questions I have put  
20 to Hugh, I have covered the questions that have been  
21 submitted to me.

22 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Can I check whether there are any  
23 outstanding applications for questions? No.

24 Hugh, that does complete all the questions we have  
25 for you. Thank you so much for everything you have done

1 in engaging with us, both in terms of your statement,  
2 coming here today, answering all the questions and the  
3 probing that you've been subjected to.

4 Please make no mistake about how valuable your  
5 evidence is to this inquiry. It has helped me  
6 enormously in improving my understanding. I'm now glad  
7 to be able to let you go and I hope the rest of your  
8 trip to Europe goes well, without any more dreadful  
9 weather -- with a bit of luck, that's the worst of it  
10 over. Thank you.

11 A. I want to publicly say thank you to this woman  
12 (indicating). Without her, I'd have nothing, and I love  
13 her so much. It was all through her that I have now --  
14 I'm happier than I ever have been.

15 LADY SMITH: Good.

16 A. It's all because of [REDACTED]

17 LADY SMITH: Good.

18 A. Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. I'm  
19 very, very grateful, and I wish the inquiry well.  
20 I hope that the government listens to you because that's  
21 what's not happening in Australia.

22 LADY SMITH: That is part of our mission, Hugh; I remember  
23 it each day.

24 I'm going to just rise briefly now because we've got  
25 some things to re-organise anyway, and then you and [REDACTED]

1           can take your time getting out and making your way back  
2           to the witness area.

3           Thank you.

4       A. Thank you, my Lady.

5       (3.37 pm)

6                               (A short break).

7       (3.42 pm)

8       LADY SMITH: Ms Rattray, I gather we're ready for a read-in  
9           of a statement, is that right?

10                   Witness statement of "MARGARET" (read)

11       MS RATTRAY: Yes, my Lady.

12                   This is a statement of an applicant who wishes to  
13           remain anonymous and has chosen the pseudonym  
14           "Margaret". Her statement can be found at  
15           WIT.001.002.6401:

16                   "My name is Margaret. I was born in 1940. My  
17           contact details are known to the inquiry.

18                   "Before going into care I didn't even know that  
19           I had a mother until just before I left to go to  
20           Australia when I was 15. Through my records I have  
21           fount out that I was born in Southport, England.

22                   "My father died when he was 47. I don't remember  
23           anything about him or what he looked like. It might  
24           have been that he was working in the Southport area and  
25           that was why we stayed there. After my father died the



1 family moved to Scotland where I was brought up.

2 "I have a brother and a sister who's three years  
3 younger than me. I didn't know I had a sister until she  
4 came into the children's home at North Berwick. I never  
5 knew about my brother until I traced my family. He's  
6 younger than me but older than my sister.

7 "Apparently, my mother had a lot of debt. This was  
8 the reason why I was put into care. I found out when  
9 I was an adult that my mother was supposed to come and  
10 take me out of Barnardo's once she had sorted things  
11 out. However, she never did.

12 "When I was 4, I was put into a baby home at  
13 Comlongon Castle, Dumfries. I don't have any memories  
14 of being there. I wasn't there very long. I just know  
15 I was there before going to Glasclune at North Berwick.  
16 It must have been before I was 5 as you went to  
17 Glasclune prior to going to primary school.

18 "My earliest memories of childhood are being in the  
19 Barnardo's home at Glasclune in North Berwick. I don't  
20 remember how I ended up at Glasclune in North Berwick.  
21 I think I was still about 5 years old when I arrived.  
22 I stayed at the home until I was 15."

23 My Lady, Barnardo's records state that Margaret was  
24 admitted to Glasclune in [REDACTED] 1946 and migrated to  
25 Australia on [REDACTED] 1956. This can be found at

1 BAR.001.005.0947:

2 "It was boys and girls at the home. They were all  
3 different ages. I don't know how many children were  
4 there in total. BDO/SPO are the only people  
5 that I remember running the home when I was there.  
6 There might have been others, but I don't know they  
7 were. They had children who I was friendly with. There  
8 were other staff members who worked there and I called  
9 them 'aunties'. The home was very strict but I didn't  
10 mind. I thought this was okay.

11 "When I was at Glasclune I never knew what a normal  
12 family life was. I just thought the home was what my  
13 life was. I didn't think of anything else. I would say  
14 in general I was treated well there.

15 "Once day I was told my sister was coming to stay  
16 with me. At that time I didn't even know what a sister  
17 was. I'm not sure what age I was when she came in.  
18 I put sweets on her pillow for her coming.

19 "At first I remember that I slept in a big  
20 dormitory. It was all girls the same age as me. As you  
21 got older, you went to a different floor. It was  
22 smaller bedrooms there that slept one or two people.

23 "Every morning you had to strip your bed and fold it  
24 at the bottom. You would then do your prayers before  
25 breakfast. It was Church of England but I think that

1           there were some Catholic children there as well.

2           "I couldn't complain about the food. We were fed  
3           quite well. You were given a cooked breakfast. I can't  
4           remember what we had for tea.

5           "I used to be sick and faint when I ate some of the  
6           food. When I was in Australia I was diagnosed as having  
7           coeliac disease. This was never diagnosed at the home.

8           "I was provided with a school uniform. I changed  
9           into different clothes after school. These were called  
10          our 'play clothes'. After school we had to polish our  
11          school shoes for the next day. We also had a Sunday  
12          best outfit for going to church. There was a cupboard  
13          in the home that you would pick a pair of shoes from.  
14          When you were older you were taken to the shops and you  
15          were bought a pair.

16          "I had a friend at school. Sometimes I would go to  
17          her house after school. I still keep in touch with her  
18          now and have been to visit her in Scotland. I payed  
19          tennis and went swimming in my spare time. I was also  
20          in the Girl Guides and the Sea Rangers.

21          "One night after the Sea Rangers, a boy walked me  
22          home. As we got to the gates at Glasclune he gave me  
23          a kiss. BDO went past in his car at the same time  
24          this happened. He told me later that I could get  
25          pregnant if I kissed a boy. After this, if any boy

1       tried to kiss me I would freak out. That was my sex  
2       education. No one explained to me what it was like  
3       growing up as a girl and the changes that happen to you.

4       "During the holidays people would come to the home  
5       and take you to stay with them. My sister and I went  
6       with Mr and Mrs McDowell. They lived on a farm.  
7       Although they weren't any relation to us, we would call  
8       them 'auntie and uncle'. Mrs McDowell was a lovely  
9       woman. I remember going there once or twice a year.

10       "The home would take us on trips. We went to the  
11       pantomime in Edinburgh, we went to the Tattoo at  
12       Edinburgh castle.

13       "I went to primary school in North Berwick.  
14       I enjoyed it there. At the school we were called  
15       'banana skins'. I think this was because the other kids  
16       knew we were from Dr Barnardo's. At school we were  
17       provided with a cooked lunch.

18       "When I was older I moved up to North Berwick High  
19       School. I did Highland dancing at the high school.

20       "My birthday was never celebrated at the home.  
21       There was never any affection, no cuddles or anything  
22       like that. At Christmas we had a Christmas dinner and  
23       were given little presents. They would ask you what you  
24       wanted. There was also a service at the church.

25       "The last Christmas I was at Glasclune I was given

1 a pair of fur gloves as a present. I loved them. When  
2 I went to Australia I wasn't allowed to take the gloves  
3 with me. This really upset me.

4 "We were normally given toys for Christmas presents.  
5 All the time I was at Glasclune I never had a doll.

6 "When it was Guy Fawkes Night the home would put on  
7 a fireworks display.

8 "There were never any visits from any of my family  
9 members while I was in the home. A lot of the other  
10 children would have visits from their families. At that  
11 time I never knew I had a family that could visit me.

12 "One of the girls was from Edinburgh. Her father  
13 would come and visit her. Sometimes he would take her  
14 to Edinburgh for a few days. Once when this happened  
15 she asked me to go with her. When I arrived in  
16 Edinburgh, I was frightened. I didn't like it. It was  
17 just because I wasn't used to it. I didn't even stay  
18 one night. The girl's father had to drive me all the  
19 way back to North Berwick.

20 "If you did something wrong you would have to line  
21 up outside BDO office. I know from speaking to  
22 some of the other girls that BDO would smack their  
23 bottoms as a punishment. This never happened to me.  
24 I never actually saw this happening; it was just what  
25 I was told.

1           BDO           would sometimes put his arm around you and  
2 place his hand near your breast. I also saw him doing  
3 this with some of the other older girls. It wasn't  
4 a normal cuddle. Nobody ever spoke about this.

5           "On one occasion when we were at Mr and  
6 Mrs McDowell's,           who we called BDU  
7 took myself and my sister for a walk. He sat us on a  
8 wall and kissed me on the lips, putting his tongue in my  
9 mouth. He then put his hand right up my skirt. I was  
10 about 12 years old when this happened. I don't know if  
11 he did the same to my sister. I started to get upset  
12 and asked him to take us back home. I never told anyone  
13 about this. I wouldn't have known who to speak to about  
14 it even if I did want to say.

15           BDU           full name was BDU           . I don't know  
16 how old he was at this time. It's hard to judge  
17 someone's age when you're so young.

18           "When I was 15 I went to Australia. I only found  
19 out that I would be going the day before we left. One  
20 of the staff at the home told me something about  
21 kangaroos and Aborigines with boomerangs. It was quite  
22 a strange experience to be told all this. I found out  
23 later that Barnardo's had to ask my mother's permission  
24 for me to go to Australia.

25           "I did not receive a medical before I left Glasclune



1           to go to Australia. I don't think it was normal for  
2           someone my age to be sent to Australia. My sister was  
3           going so I think it was decided that we would go  
4           together. I was happy where I was. I didn't really  
5           want to go. I never realised it was going to be such  
6           a long way to Australia.

7                 "There were two or three of us from Glasclune that  
8           were going to Australia. We travelled by train from  
9           North Berwick to another home at Barkingside in England.  
10          I think that there was a group leader with us but  
11          I didn't know her name.

12                "At Barkingside we were taken to a shop where they  
13          bought clothes for us. I had a little suitcase for my  
14          clothes. I think we were there a couple of days. The  
15          comedian Tommy Trinder was at Barkingside when we left  
16          to go to the docks. We had our photograph taken with  
17          him. I'm not sure what date we set off for Australia  
18          from Tilbury Docks. The ship was called the Orontes.  
19          I still felt like we were going on an adventure.

20                "I had my photograph taken with the other children  
21          when we were going on to the ship.

22                "Looking back now, I really didn't want to go to  
23          Australia, but I had to. I didn't think I had anyone  
24          else apart from my sister. I thought my mother was  
25          dead.

1           "I shared a cabin on the ship with some other girls.  
2           I don't remember if my sister was in the cabin with me.  
3           I think there were about 12 of us on the ship from  
4           different Barnardo homes. There were also two adults,  
5           a man and a woman, who looked after us on the ship  
6           I think the woman was called Mrs Bickmore and I think  
7           the man's name was Mr Brady.

8           "The weather was pretty rough on parts of the  
9           journey. I was seasick a lot. When I was sick I was  
10          always well looked after.

11          "The journey lasted about six weeks in total.  
12          I think we stopped off in Greece. There might have been  
13          other places but I don't remember.

14          "We arrived in Fremantle, Western Australia, and  
15          disembarked for a little while. I think some of the  
16          other children stayed there. The ones that weren't  
17          staying on in Fremantle had lunch, then went back on the  
18          ship. After this, we sailed on to Sydney.

19          "I think we arrived at Sydney on [REDACTED] 1956. In  
20          Sydney we were picked up and taken by bus to a place  
21          called Burwood Girls' Home. I still had no idea  
22          what was happening.

23          "Burwood was a big home on three storeys. There  
24          were dormitories just the same as Glasclune. I was only  
25          at Burwood for two or three days. One of the other



1 girls who had been on the ship with me had a job to go  
2 to. She was going to work for a lady. They also wanted  
3 someone to work for her son. I was told that I was to  
4 go there to work for this family. My sister stayed  
5 at the home. I wouldn't see her for a long time after  
6 I left.

7 "The family I went to work for stayed at Edgecliff.  
8 This was on the other side of Sydney from where the home  
9 was. I lived in with the family. I had to look after  
10 the little girl and do work in the house. I was paid £4  
11 a week.

12 "In my Barnardo's reports it always said that I was  
13 good working with children. I was treated okay by this  
14 family.

15 "There was one occasion when another girl and I were  
16 on our way to church. We met some boys who asked us to  
17 go on a boat with them. The motor on the boat broke  
18 down and I was late home. When the family found out  
19 where I'd been, I was told that they were disgusted with  
20 me. They asked a doctor to come and examine me. It was  
21 an awful experience.

22 "I still kept in touch with Barnardo's in Sydney.  
23 At that time I looked on Barnardo's as my life and  
24 family. They told me that I should go and visit my  
25 sister who was still at Burwood. It was a long train

1 journey from where I was saying so I didn't go.

2 "It was lonely where I was working as I didn't have  
3 anyone to talk to, so I joined a church group.  
4 Barnardo's were quite good at keeping in touch with  
5 whoever I was working with. I probably didn't keep in  
6 touch with them as often as I should have.

7 "I was with the family for about two years.  
8 I actually got the sack from there. I had a sweet tooth  
9 and every time I went past the cupboard in the kitchen,  
10 I would take a marshmallow until there were none left.  
11 When the woman I worked for found this out, she called  
12 me a thief. I was told I had to leave.

13 "After I left, I was given a job as a cook at the  
14 Barnardo's home in Greenwood. I was now about 16 or 17.  
15 I hadn't been given any training as a cook. I wasn't  
16 there that long.

17 "I think that I was still being looked after by  
18 Barnardo's at this time. I have seen some of my records  
19 and they were still providing reports right up until  
20 I was engaged to my husband.

21 "After I left Greenwood, there was a woman,  
22 Mrs Tankard, from Barnardo's who would come and visit  
23 me. At this time I was in a boarding house for young  
24 girls. It wasn't a Barnardo's home.

25 "Mrs Tankard was a nasty woman. She would always

1 comment on my weight. She would also say that I was  
2 jealous of my sister because I wouldn't visit her.

3 "Before this, no one from Barnardo's had ever come  
4 to visit me in person to see how I was getting on at my  
5 work placements.

6 "Once I moved on from Barnardo's I started to do  
7 different jobs. I did some nursing jobs. I worked as  
8 an assistant nurse in a children's hospital. I also  
9 worked in a chemist shop for about 10 years. I was  
10 doing a bit of waitressing as well at nights. It was at  
11 this time that I met my husband.

12 "I think I might have found out about the Child  
13 Migrants Trust through the Barnardo's newsletter that  
14 I received. I might have got in touch with them after  
15 that. The Child Migrants Trust paid for us to go to  
16 England twice.

17 "I asked the Salvation Army to help me trace my  
18 family. I knew that they were good at doing this sort  
19 of work. However, they came back and said they couldn't  
20 find where my mother was living.

21 "I spoke with Margaret Humphreys from the Child  
22 Migrants Trust and asked if she could help me. I don't  
23 know how she went about tracing people but she was able  
24 to trace my mother. I don't know why but at first  
25 Margaret said to me that I should maybe consider not

1           contacting my mother. However, I decided I would  
2           physically go and see her.

3           "When I arrived in Australia, Barnardo's gave me my  
4           mother's address so that I could write to her. It was  
5           quite a novelty having this and for me now to have  
6           a mother for the first time in my life. I would write  
7           to her and sent her Mother's Day cards.

8           "Any time that I asked her about why I had been put  
9           in care there was no response. She wouldn't discuss it.  
10          I kept in touch with my mother up until I was married.  
11          One of my friends was going to England and took my  
12          mother a wedding photograph. After this I stopped  
13          writing to her and I didn't know if she still stayed  
14          in the same place or not. That was why I had to ask for  
15          help tracing her when I wanted to get back in touch with  
16          her.

17          "A few years ago my husband and myself went on  
18          a tour of Europe. We paid for this ourselves; it wasn't  
19          through the Child Migrants Trust. We finished up our  
20          tour in England and I decided I wanted to visit my  
21          mother in Wolverhampton, where she was now living. My  
22          mother was not expecting us when my husband and I turned  
23          up at the house.

24          "When we arrived at my mother's house it was pouring  
25          with rain. My mother answered the door. As soon as she

1 saw me, she recognised me from the wedding photograph.  
2 She held my face in her hands and said my name. She  
3 then said that her other daughter was there and she  
4 didn't know about me. This was my half-sister.

5 "We went into the house to dry off. I said to my  
6 half-sister that I was a friend of a friend from  
7 Australia. She gave me her address in case we didn't  
8 have anywhere to stay that night. I thought this was  
9 very nice of her to do that.

10 "When I returned to Australia, I wrote to my  
11 half-sister and told her who I was. She told me later  
12 that my mother denied this when she first spoke to her  
13 about it. She also told me about my brother.

14 "I spoke to my sister about our mother and  
15 half-sister. She was amazed. When I found out about my  
16 brother, my mother wouldn't tell me where he stayed or  
17 how to contact him.

18 "A girl that I went to school with at North Berwick  
19 who I kept in touch with said she would put an advert  
20 in the local paper in Scotland to try and trace him.  
21 Someone told my brother about the advert in the paper  
22 and we finally managed to get in touch with him. When  
23 he found out about my sister and myself, he spoke about  
24 it to my mother. Again she denied this at first. He  
25 never knew anything about my sister and I.

1           "I have visited my brother in Scotland. We don't  
2 always see eye to eye. I think my sister gets on better  
3 with him.

4           "Once my mother admitted who my sister and I were to  
5 the family things were okay. I would say that I had  
6 a good relationship with my mother after this. She died  
7 when she was 99. That was how old she was the last time  
8 I saw her.

9           "I do still see myself as Scottish. I don't regret  
10 ending up in Australia. I would say it was the best  
11 thing that ever happened to me. I have had a good life  
12 and been married for 52 years.

13           "I didn't have a passport when I came to Australia.  
14 We had a group certificate that all our details were on.  
15 I applied for a British passport and initially travelled  
16 on this. I then got myself an Australian passport.  
17 There was no problems obtaining either of these.

18           "Barnardo's was always a very positive experience  
19 for me. It was my family that I was disappointed in.

20           "When we were sent to Australia there wasn't any  
21 choice, we just had to go. I look on us as a stolen  
22 generation.

23           "The lack of choice I had when I was in care has  
24 stayed with me. I think it was a bit degrading.  
25 I didn't have any choices when I came to Australia. It

1 was just accepted as I was living in a home. It was  
2 difficult for me when I saw other kids with their  
3 parents.

4 "I think that my time in care was good for me. It  
5 was disciplined and strict, but I don't think that this  
6 was a bad thing. Apart from what BDO did, I was  
7 never mistreated.

8 "I have watched the film 'Oranges and Sunshine'.  
9 I felt that it was very accurate. When I saw it, I was  
10 very emotional.

11 "Barnardo's have all my records from my time in  
12 care. About 20 years ago, they provided me with a copy  
13 of them. I still haven't read them all. It was quite  
14 upsetting reading them over. Barnardo's offered me  
15 counselling if I wanted.

16 "Reading my records, I don't think that my mother  
17 and father were married when they had me. This might be  
18 another reason for my sister and I being put into care.

19 "I also found out from my records that my mother  
20 owed money to Barnardo's when I was in care and hadn't  
21 paid this back. Barnardo's were able to provide me with  
22 a lot of photographs from my time in care with them.

23 "I have no objection to my witness statement being  
24 published as part of the evidence to the inquiry.  
25 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are

1 true."

2 The statement was signed by Margaret on 1 June 2019.

3 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

4 MS RATTRAY: My Lady, I think this concludes the evidence  
5 for today, and tomorrow we start at 10.00 and we have  
6 two oral witnesses and further read-ins.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much indeed. I'll rise for  
8 today and sit again at 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

9 (4.02 pm)

10 (The inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am on  
11 Friday, 28 February 2020)

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## I N D E X

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