

1 Monday, 21 January 2019

2 (8.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning. Welcome to, for us, quite an
4 early morning video link, but I think it's evening
5 at the other end of the video link. Mr MacAulay,
6 I think you're going to introduce this witness; is that
7 right?

8 MR MacAULAY: Yes. Good morning, my Lady. This witness is
9 an applicant and she wants to remain anonymous and use
10 the name Maryanne.

11 LADY SMITH: Maryanne, good morning, or good evening, to
12 you. Can you hear me?

13 A. Yes, my Lady.

14 LADY SMITH: Let me explain. I'm Lady Smith, I chair this
15 inquiry, I'm very grateful to you for being prepared to
16 talk to us from Australia. Before I ask Mr MacAulay to
17 start his questions with you, I would like you to take
18 an oath. That means you raise your right hand. Can you
19 see me raising my right hand? Just like that,
20 thank you.

21 "MARYANNE" (sworn)

22 Questions from MR MacAULAY

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

24 I'm going to pass you over to Mr MacAulay in
25 a moment. Could I just assure you, Maryanne, if at any

1 time you have any questions or you want a break or you
2 think the link isn't working comfortably for you, please
3 let us know and we'll take it up from there. It's
4 important that you feel comfortable about giving your
5 evidence this way. Do you understand?

6 A. Yes.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Mr MacAulay.

8 MR MacAULAY: My Lady.

9 Maryanne, I will be asking you questions, really
10 based on the statement that you provided to the inquiry.
11 Do you have a copy of the statement in front of you?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Can you confirm to me that you have signed the
14 statement?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Do you say in the very last paragraph, that's
17 paragraph 135, that you have no objection to your
18 witness statement being published as part of the
19 evidence to the inquiry; is that correct?

20 A. Absolutely none.

21 Q. And you also say that you believe the facts stated in
22 this witness statement are true.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Maryanne, I don't want your date of birth, but can
25 I confirm with you that you were born in 1933?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. You're now aged 85, I think; is that correct?
- 3 A. That's right, yes.
- 4 Q. As we know, you're living in Australia.
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. Today, you're in an office in Perth in Australia; is
7 that right?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. I understand that you left for Australia, to go to
10 Australia, when you were aged 14; is that right?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. I think we know the date was [REDACTED] 1947.
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. Australia became your home, is that right?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. But before you went to Australia, were you living in
17 Scotland?
- 18 A. Yes, in the Home of the Good Shepherd in Colinton.
- 19 Q. Can I just take you back a bit? Before you went into
20 care in Scotland, and we know you went into care in
21 Scotland, did you live with your family?
- 22 A. With my dad.
- 23 Q. I think you had a sister; is that correct?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. And a brother?

1 A. And a brother.

2 Q. Did there come a time when you and your sister went to
3 Nazareth House in Kilmarnock?

4 A. That's right, yes.

5 Q. Can you remember what age you were at that time?

6 A. I thought I was six and a half, but apparently I was
7 seven, according to the records -- what's in there, yes.
8 They must have checked it up.

9 Q. I think we've seen a record and I think this may have
10 been shown to you when your statement was taken.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. That you went into Nazareth House Kilmarnock on
13 [REDACTED] 1941.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And you've seen that record?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. At that time were you in the care of the Sisters of
18 Nazareth?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Did your sister go with you into care?

21 A. Yes. We were both sent there.

22 Q. What about your brother? Do you know what happened to
23 your brother?

24 A. He was sent up north to Spean Bridge, a boys' home.

25 Q. I want to ask you a little bit about your time at

1 Nazareth House in Kilmarnock. I think you were there
2 for just under three years; is that right?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Can you remember much about your time there? What sort
5 of experience did you have there?

6 A. Oh, not very good.

7 Q. Why do you say that?

8 A. Because it was -- I was very scared all the time, you
9 know, and I got into a bit of trouble for talking.
10 We weren't allowed to speak [REDACTED] and
11 I wasn't allowed to have my birthday on [REDACTED]
12 [REDACTED]
13 [REDACTED] and in the meantime
14 I spoke out of turn and got into big trouble.

15 Q. When you got into big trouble, what happened?

16 A. Well, they bruised all my arms, they hit me with
17 a stick, and my sister was very upset and she wrote to
18 my dad and told him, and he came up to the convent and
19 took us out of there.

20 Q. Before I go on to that, can I ask you a little bit about
21 certain aspects of the routine. Did you from time to
22 time wet the bed?

23 A. Oh yes.

24 Q. Did anything happen --

25 A. A lot.

1 Q. -- when you wet the bed?

2 A. Yes. Well, if your bed was wet, you had to stand in the
3 corner with a wet sheet on your head. There was a few
4 of us that did the same.

5 Q. Were you a regular bed-wetter at that time?

6 A. Yes. Nerves. I think I was very nervous.

7 Q. In any event, you have told us, Maryanne, that your
8 father came to take you out of Nazareth House; is that
9 right?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And you have given us the background to that. We know
12 from the records that it has been recorded that you left
13 on [REDACTED] 1943.

14 A. It could be, I can't remember. I remember leaving
15 there, but I couldn't remember the dates. But my sister
16 put me in the picture when she came over here. She told
17 us about all that, how she had written, and she already
18 wrote to people, and my dad was quite abusive,
19 apparently, to the nuns in Kilmarnock at the time.

20 Q. In your statement, you talk about a letter that changed
21 your life.

22 A. That was a long time later. I came home from Kilmarnock
23 and we stayed with my dad for a while and then my
24 brother and I got a -- we saw a letter from Uncle [REDACTED],
25 my dad's brother, and it was a love letter, and we

1 opened it and we got in big trouble.

2 Q. What then happened? What did your father do?

3 A. Well, I was very naughty. My dad bought us a couple of
4 dresses and I wanted the red one. My sister got it and
5 I got a razor blade and cut down the middle of her
6 dress. She told my granny about the letter and she told
7 my dad and that's when I got the thrashing, my brother
8 and I.

9 Q. Was that the background to you going back into care?

10 A. Yes. Well, to go to -- we went to Colinton, Home of the
11 Good Shepherd, which, when I got over here I was
12 surprised to know it was for bad women, so I must have
13 been -- I think I was 10 and I was quoted as a bad
14 woman, apparently. But anyway ...

15 Q. We know from the records that you were admitted to the
16 Good Shepherd Home in Colinton on [REDACTED] 1946.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Would that be about right?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. I've already taken from you that you left for Australia
21 on [REDACTED] 1947. So you were in the Good Shepherd
22 Home for about one year?

23 A. (inaudible) the school.

24 Q. Sorry?

25 A. Because we were young, they let us go to school in

1 Edinburgh, in St Thomas Aquinas. Someone came round and
2 said, "Who would like to go to Australia?" and I put my
3 hand up because I didn't know where Australia was, but
4 they said it was going to be much better than what I'd
5 had. Therefore I accepted and my dad signed ...

6 Q. I'll come to that in a moment, but so far as your
7 experience in the Good Shepherd Home was concerned, what
8 sort of experience was that?

9 A. It was much better than Kilmarnock, yes.

10 Q. And you mentioned that you went to school in Edinburgh;
11 is that right?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Did you enjoy school?

14 A. Yes, very much, yes.

15 Q. How were you getting on at school?

16 A. Very well. I had a great report card. I think I was
17 teacher's pet because I was from a home, you know.

18 Q. You mentioned how it came to be that you volunteered to
19 go to Australia. Can I just ask you about that? Was
20 the question asked when you were at school or was it
21 at the home itself?

22 A. No, at school.

23 Q. Can you just explain what happened?

24 A. They just came in and said, "We're going to have
25 a talk", and they told us -- it was just a gentleman

1 came in, a gentleman and a lady, and they said, "Who
2 would like to go to Australia?" I didn't know where
3 Australia was, but I thought it must be better than what
4 I've had so far, so I put my hand up.

5 Q. Were there other children there as well who put their
6 hands up?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Were the children children who were at the home or were
9 they other children?

10 A. This one? There was only the two of us in this class.
11 She put her hand up as well and she came over with me.

12 Q. What then happened? After you put your hand up, what
13 were the arrangements for you to go to Australia?
14 Can you tell me about that?

15 A. Well, I don't remember much about it. We went back to
16 the convent and they did all the arrangements from
17 there. The next thing, we were going on a ship. We
18 caught the train in Edinburgh, then we were going to
19 London and then on to Tilbury on to the ship.

20 Q. I think when you gave your statement, Maryanne, you were
21 shown migration forms. Do you remember being shown
22 these documents?

23 A. I don't. I don't remember that. I think my dad would
24 have had to have done that, would he not?

25 Q. What I'm asking you is when the inquiry saw you last

1 year and took your statement --

2 A. I see.

3 Q. I think you were shown some documents in relation to
4 your migration. Do you remember?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. I'm going to put this document on the screen for the
7 inquiry. If you just bear with me. It's
8 NAA.001.001.0930.

9 A. What does that mean?

10 LADY SMITH: Don't you worry about the code number, it's for
11 our code system, Maryanne. Hang on a minute and you
12 should see the document coming up on the screen.

13 MR MacAULAY: I don't think Maryanne will see the document.

14 LADY SMITH: Sorry, you won't.

15 MR MacAULAY: Your Ladyship should see it.

16 LADY SMITH: Forgive me. This is a document you have seen
17 and it should be coming up on my screen here in
18 a moment. (Pause).

19 I've got the document in front of me now and I think
20 Mr MacAulay will now ask you some questions about it
21 since you should know what this is all about and
22 I don't.

23 Mr MacAulay.

24 MR MacAULAY: We're looking at a document that's headed
25 "Commonwealth of Australia", Department of Immigration,

1 Australia House, London. It has your name on it. It
2 says that your address is the Good Shepherd Convent and
3 it bears to be signed by your father. I think you tell
4 us in your statement that your father could not read or
5 write --

6 A. No.

7 Q. -- is that correct? Do you remember being shown
8 a document with what bears to be your father's signature
9 on it?

10 A. Yes, he couldn't read or write. His father got killed
11 in France in the First World War and [REDACTED]
12 [REDACTED] and he had to bring up the other
13 siblings, so he didn't have a chance to read or -- he
14 didn't go to school.

15 Q. So do you know how --

16 A. I think his brother must have done it. Apparently, he's
17 the instigator of all this, his young brother [REDACTED].

18 Q. Could he read and write?

19 A. Oh yes. He was in the Army, yes. He's the one that
20 instigated me coming over here, apparently.

21 Q. Why do you say that?

22 A. Well, I didn't know that, but my brother, when he came
23 over, he said Uncle [REDACTED] had told dad that it would be
24 a good idea to send me to Australia, according to my
25 brother. I'm getting that from him.

1 Q. Can I just ask you about the preparations for going to
2 Australia? What were you told about what the position
3 would be when you got to Australia?

4 A. Well, we were told it was going to be a much better
5 life, you know, and we were very disappointed to know
6 that I was going to an orphanage. That really upset me,
7 all of us, because we didn't think it was going to be
8 like that.

9 Q. What were you led to believe as to what the position
10 would be when you got to Australia?

11 A. They just said it would be a better life, and I was
12 thinking that -- because when I was a little kid,
13 I remember going, standing out in Kilmarnock, people
14 would come round and adopt us, and I thought it was
15 going to be something like that, that we'd go to
16 different homes.

17 Q. Were you told that you would be going to a home,
18 a different home?

19 A. No. We didn't have any idea we were going to a home.
20 We didn't have any idea.

21 Q. What I'm asking you is: was it your understanding that
22 you'd be going to a home with a family?

23 A. Well, yes. I thought that would be it. Some of the
24 girls said that's what they understood too. They said
25 they were told that. That's what we all thought would

1 be the same thing. But of course, a lot of them had
2 brothers and sisters and they got separated.

3 Q. Did you discuss with your father at all the fact that
4 you were going to Australia?

5 A. No. No, never.

6 Q. What's your understanding as to --

7 A. He didn't come and see me at the Home of the
8 Good Shepherd, so I didn't discuss it with him at all.
9 He obviously went through his brother and that's why
10 I came to Australia, apparently.

11 Q. Before you left for Australia, did you receive some
12 gifts from your friends at school?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Can you tell me about that?

15 A. Well, my teacher was very nice. She liked me a lot,
16 I think, and that's why I got a good report, I think.
17 Anyway, she used to send me on messages and she would
18 talk about us going to Australia and she organised a big
19 party and I got all these lovely gifts, which I never,
20 ever saw again when I got to Australia.

21 Q. When you were getting ready for Australia, would
22 you have a suitcase with your possessions in the
23 suitcase?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. What sort of things did you have in the suitcase?

- 1 A. Oh, just clothes and jewellery and presents. I got
2 beautiful slippers from my grandmother. My sister gave
3 me something as well. There were lots of things there
4 that I never got to see again.
- 5 Q. You took the suitcase with you to Australia; is that
6 right?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. And what happened?
- 9 A. When we went to the orphanage, that was it. They put us
10 in these other clothes and we weren't allowed to wear
11 shoes.
- 12 Q. Did you ever see your possessions again?
- 13 A. Never. I wrote to my dad and said that we weren't
14 allowed to wear shoes, so he sent me a pair of fur-lined
15 boots. I got them when I left and they were far too
16 small. That was the only thing I got when I left there.
- 17 Q. I'll come to your life in the orphanage in a moment or
18 two, but just to confirm, when you were there, you did
19 not wear shoes?
- 20 A. No, except for when we had visitors coming round, where
21 they gave us shoes and socks to wear to make it look
22 good.
- 23 Q. Can I just go back to when you left for Australia?
24 I think you said you left from Southampton; is that
25 right?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And that was on [REDACTED] 1947?

3 A. That's right.

4 Q. So you'd be 14 by then?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And you were on the SS Ormonde, the ship?

7 A. That's right.

8 Q. We have a photograph of that, which I can put on the
9 screen.

10 A. There's a photo of it in the book.

11 Q. When you talk about the book, I'll perhaps discuss this
12 with you now. A book has been written about the letter
13 that changed your life; is that right?

14 A. Mm-hm. Yes.

15 Q. Can you tell me about that? We're jumping ahead a bit.
16 Did you yourself --

17 A. Well, my brother, this letter came and he decided -- he
18 said, "Shall we open it?" Of course I went along with
19 him, you know. We sealed it again, but we told my
20 sister about it and she told granny and granny told dad.
21 That was why I was put away, my brother and I, both put
22 away.

23 Q. I'll put this on the screen for the inquiry and
24 her Ladyship. If you just bear with me, this is at
25 WIT.003.001.5629.

1 So we're looking at the cover of a book with the
2 title [REDACTED]. That's a book
3 about you; is that right, Maryanne?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. I just want to understand how the book was created. Did
6 you yourself write out notes for the book?

7 A. I wrote it in longhand and he put it in the book. What
8 happened was he used to work with my husband at the
9 public works, they were both accountants, and when
10 I lost my husband, I came back to Perth, and he and his
11 wife were just wonderful to me. I just don't think
12 I would have survived. His mother used to be in that
13 orphanage, in St Joseph's in Australia, and he said to
14 me, "Where did you go to when you came to Australia?"
15 and I told him, and he kept asking me about it and he
16 said, "You should write a book". I said, "No, I don't
17 want to go into it", but he begged and anyway he
18 finished up doing it for me.

19 Q. You provided him with the information?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And what is set out in the book, is that a true account
22 of your life?

23 A. Absolutely, yes.

24 Q. Can I take you to the trip itself. You were on the
25 SS Ormonde and we have a picture of that. It's at

1 INQ.001.004.0350. That was quite a large ship.

2 A. Yes, it was great fun.

3 Q. You enjoyed that trip?

4 A. It was freedom at last, yes.

5 Q. How many children left from the Good Shepherd Home,

6 can you remember?

7 A. Five, I think.

8 Q. All girls?

9 A. All girls, yes. It was only a girls' place, yes.

10 Q. Were you of a similar age or were the ages different?

11 A. Well, the others were a bit younger, two were younger,

12 and one was a little bit older than me. There was only

13 five of us.

14 Q. So far as the trip was concerned on the ship, was there

15 somebody there to look after you?

16 A. Yes. We had a chaperone in the cabin. She was going

17 over to Moonee Ponds to get married and then she fell in

18 love with someone on the ship, one of the stewards. She

19 used to go off every night and we used to just jump out

20 of bed and run around the ship.

21 Q. And there were many children on the ship?

22 A. Oh yes, yes. There was English, Irish, Scottish, Welsh.

23 Everything, yes.

24 Q. Again --

25 A. We all became friends.

- 1 Q. I'll put this on the screen -- I'm sorry?
- 2 A. I said, we all became very good friends from being
3 at the orphanage together.
- 4 Q. I'll put this on the screen again just for the benefit
5 of the inquiry. It's NAA.001.001.0991. This is taken
6 from the West Australian newspaper, dated [REDACTED],
7 1947. I think that was the date that the Ormonde docked
8 at Fremantle; is that right?
- 9 A. That's right, yes.
- 10 Q. It's a short article, just saying that the Steamship
11 Ormonde, with 102 immigrants for Western Australia, will
12 berth at Fremantle today at about 9 am. It goes on to
13 say that there are over 1,000 passengers on the ship.
14 So there are a lot of people on the ship.
- 15 A. Oh, packed, yes.
- 16 Q. I think you touched upon this already, Maryanne. When
17 you arrived at Fremantle, were some children sent to
18 different places?
- 19 A. Yes. Some were went to Castledare, Clontarf, Bindoon.
- 20 Q. And in particular, do you know if families were split
21 up?
- 22 A. Apparently, yes. I'm only finding out from the girls
23 who were at the orphanage now. I didn't know them. It
24 depended on the ages, I think.
- 25 Q. But you went to St Joseph's Orphanage, is that right, in

1 Subaico?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And is that in Perth?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. How did you travel to Subaico?

6 A. The nuns picked us up in a bus. The nuns were at the
7 ship and they put us on a bus and we all went out there.

8 Q. How many were in your group that travelled with you to
9 Subaico? How many children?

10 A. Oh ... There was a bus load. I can't remember. About
11 50, 60, maybe.

12 Q. The children that had come from the Good Shepherd Home,
13 were they with you as well?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. You've touched upon this already, Maryanne, and you tell
16 us about this in your autobiography, in the book. What
17 you say is that when you arrived at the home, you
18 realised that you'd been told, what you say in the book,
19 describe in the book, as "a massive lie". What is the
20 lie?

21 A. Well, it was something that we didn't believe, that
22 we were going to another home. That wasn't explained to
23 us that we were going to be -- especially an orphanage.
24 And when I got to the orphanage, the girls used to say,
25 "How come you've got a mum and dad and you're in an

1 orphanage?". Because a lot of them didn't have parents,
2 didn't know their parents.

3 Q. Were there Australian children in the orphanage as well?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. So there were children who were migrants and also
6 children who were from Australia?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Can you say how many children were at the orphanage?

9 A. At least 80, I think. At least 80.

10 Q. And the premises, can you describe the place for us?

11 A. Well, it wasn't very -- they were building, they were
12 trying to get it renovated for us coming over, but they
13 were in the midst of doing it, so it wasn't very nice
14 when we first got there because we had to -- we didn't
15 have any shoes and we had to go along these boards,
16 which weren't very nice. After having shoes and socks,
17 you know, and then we had to have bare feet, which upset
18 us, you know.

19 Q. Was it an orphanage -- was it girls or were there boys
20 as well?

21 A. All girls.

22 Q. Who cared for you? Who looked after you?

23 A. The nuns.

24 Q. Was that the Sisters of Mercy?

25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. Were there any lay staff at the orphanage?
- 2 A. A few, yes, not very many, just some that had been
3 there, Australian girls that had been there before we
4 got there.
- 5 Q. When you got there, Maryanne, what were you told as to
6 what you'd have to do?
- 7 A. I was hoping to go back to school, but I didn't get
8 a chance. They put me in the kitchen.
- 9 Q. Why did they do that?
- 10 A. I don't know, because I was 14, I guess. There were
11 other girls that were 14 who were allowed to go to
12 school, which upset me a bit, because I had to go and
13 work in the kitchen.
- 14 Q. I'll come and ask you about that in a moment. The fact
15 that you weren't allowed to continue with your
16 schooling, is that something that really has upset you
17 over your life?
- 18 A. Yes. Yes, because I had a really good report card from
19 Edinburgh, which I never ever saw again.
- 20 Q. And do you think if you had been allowed to carry on
21 with your schooling, that would have had a good impact
22 on your life?
- 23 A. Absolutely, yes. Yes.
- 24 Q. Can I ask you then about the work you had to do in the
25 kitchen. Can you describe that to us, please?

- 1 A. It was very hard. First of all, we were in the
2 scullery, we had to do all the veggies and cut up sheep
3 and all that sort of thing. Then you got promoted to
4 the kitchen where you'd have to do the cooking, you
5 know, cook all the meals for the nuns and the priests.
- 6 Q. What time in the morning would you start your work?
7 When would you start?
- 8 A. 5 o'clock.
- 9 Q. Would you be working throughout the day in the kitchen?
- 10 A. Until about half past 1.
- 11 Q. Then what would the routine be after that?
- 12 A. Well, you were left to your own devices, you know.
13 I used to go off and shower and do all the things that
14 girls do, and then we used to play in the playground for
15 a while.
- 16 Q. So far as the work in the kitchen was concerned, was
17 that heavy work?
- 18 A. Very heavy, yes.
- 19 Q. Were you paid for any of that?
- 20 A. I'd never done anything like that. I had to chop wood
21 and clean grease traps and things like that that I'd
22 never, ever done before, you know, which was a bit hard.
- 23 Q. Were you paid?
- 24 A. Oh no, no.
- 25 Q. So far as the routine at the orphanage was concerned,

1 let's look at bed-wetting, for example. You have told
2 us about the position in Nazareth House.

3 A. I didn't do it here. I'd got over it by then.

4 Q. Did you see if children did wet beds?

5 A. Yes, and there was the same routine over here. They
6 stood with their sheets on their heads, which surprised
7 me, because I didn't think it would go on here as well.
8 But I was lucky, I was over that by then.

9 Q. So far as the food was concerned, you, of course, were
10 involved in the work in the kitchen. Were you able to
11 see what food was cooked for the nuns and the priests
12 and the food that was provided to the children?

13 A. Yes. I cooked it, most of it.

14 Q. What can you tell us about the food?

15 A. We'd get up at 5 o'clock and light the fire and put the
16 porridge on, things like, that. Then we'd get bread and
17 jam, or bread and dripping, as it was. I was used to
18 that in Scotland.

19 Q. That was for the children?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. What about the nuns and the priests, what sort of food
22 did they have?

23 A. We cooked roast dinners for them and good meals, yes.

24 Q. Can you tell me generally, Maryanne, how you were
25 treated by the nuns at the orphanage?

1 A. Well, I got into quite a bit of trouble for -- I think
2 it's in my book -- where I had to take a jug of tea down
3 to the men in the workshop and someone closed the door
4 and they couldn't find me. They did it for a lark,
5 I guess, being lads. I got into trouble, I got knocked
6 around really bad by LYB, who was the head
7 nun.

8 Q. That's one occasion when you got knocked around. When
9 you talk about getting knocked around, what did she do?

10 A. Slapped me across the face, back and forth, which was
11 pretty horrible. Then we had another nun who -- you'd
12 have to line up for meals and she had a stick and if you
13 got out of line or you talked, she'd poke you in the arm
14 with this, so they were quite cruel.

15 Q. Did you see that sort of cruelty being inflicted on
16 other children?

17 A. Oh yes. Oh definitely, yes. Yes.

18 Q. As far as leisure was concerned, were there any books
19 there for you to read?

20 A. No, not really.

21 Q. Were there any toys for children?

22 A. No. We were allowed to have -- also in the book. When
23 the people came round to have a look at the place,
24 they'd have these beautiful dolls on our beds, and when
25 the people had gone, they were all taken off again.

1 Same with the shoes and socks.

2 Q. Again, I think you provide a photograph in your book of
3 the beds.

4 A. Yes. With the dolls.

5 Q. I can put that on the screen for the inquiry. It's
6 INQ.001.003.0350. We're looking at a photograph and
7 we're seeing nicely prepared beds with a little doll
8 sitting on each of the beds. Can you tell me, was this
9 something that was done when visitors came to the
10 orphanage?

11 A. That's all. Only when visitors came, yes.

12 Q. What happened to the dolls after that?

13 A. We don't know. They were all taken off and then, when
14 they'd come again, they'd put them back on again. It
15 was quite a ritual, really.

16 LADY SMITH: Maryanne, I see from the photograph that the
17 beds have all got nice bedspreads on them with fringes
18 around the edges. Did you always have those bedspreads?

19 A. No.

20 LADY SMITH: Were they just for the visitors as well?

21 A. Yes. Definitely, yes.

22 LADY SMITH: I can also see there seem to be a lot of beds
23 in one dormitory, double banked. Is that how it was,
24 all the beds quite close together?

25 A. Yes.

1 LADY SMITH: Not much space between each bed.

2 A. Oh, none at all, no, no. And you had to turn the bed
3 down every day and make your bed, turn the sheets down
4 and tuck it in, and it had to be really neat every
5 morning. It had to be aired every day.

6 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

7 MR MacAULAY: What about Christmas? Was Christmas
8 celebrated in any way?

9 A. Well, we used to go -- we'd go to bed and then they
10 would wake us up for Midnight Mass. When we got back,
11 there would be all these presents on our beds, which was
12 lovely, but we never saw them again, they were all
13 collected. They were only clothes, there weren't toys
14 or anything, just clothes, but we were thrilled to get
15 them. Then we never saw them again.

16 Q. What happened to them?

17 A. Some of them we would wear, you know, special occasions,
18 but not everyday clothes.

19 Q. So what was the point in this particular practice? Do
20 you know what the point was?

21 A. No, no. But I mean, we've talked about it, every time
22 we get together we talk about it and we just have
23 a laugh about it because they can all vouch for the same
24 things.

25 Q. Was your birthday celebrated in any way?

1 A. I couldn't wait for my birthday. [REDACTED]
2 [REDACTED]
3 [REDACTED]
4 [REDACTED]
5 [REDACTED], I was able
6 to have my birthday on that day and what you did on your
7 birthday -- I couldn't wait for my birthday. We used to
8 go and see the old people and get bread and jam, which
9 we really looked forward to. We'd never had that.

10 Q. Did you have any presents?

11 A. No.

12 Q. During your time at St Joseph's, did you receive any
13 visitors?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Were there children there who did have visitors?

16 A. Oh yes. The Australian girls, yes.

17 Q. Were you aware whether or not there were any inspections
18 carried out?

19 A. Well, these people used to come round. We don't know
20 what they did. They used to show them around.

21 Q. Did these people ever speak to the children?

22 A. No.

23 Q. You mentioned, I think, a [REDACTED] LYB [REDACTED], and you think
24 she was the sister in charge during your time; is that
25 correct?

- 1 A. LYB yes.
- 2 Q. Do you remember the names of any other sisters?
- 3 A. The sister in the kitchen was Sister Ursula, who was
4 lovely. She was really good to me. She was very nice.
5 Then there was a LYC, who was very cruel.
6 No one liked her very much. She was in the dormitory.
- 7 Q. So far as the dormitory was concerned, were there
8 children of different ages in the dormitory?
- 9 A. Oh yes, yes.
- 10 Q. One thing you do tell us in your statement is that you
11 were taught to sew by the sisters.
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. Was that something that was beneficial to you?
- 14 A. Oh yes. Yes. I still like to sew, yes. And they
15 taught us to -- we had a teacher in to teach us cake
16 decorating, which I did a lot before I got married and
17 afterwards, which I enjoyed.
- 18 Q. What about preparing you for life outside the convent?
19 For example, were you taught anything about sex
20 education?
- 21 A. Nothing. We had to go to see the priest and we were
22 shocked when he said, "Whatever you do, don't let a man
23 put his hands under your clothes", and we thought, why
24 would they want to do that? Well, we found out,
25 definitely, yes. But that's all. We didn't have any

1 sex education whatsoever, nothing. That was my worst
2 time, all -- as when I left the orphanage. That was the
3 worst, I was very depressed.

4 Q. Can you explain why that was the case?

5 A. Because I was on my own and we didn't know how to use
6 a telephone or anything like that. All the girls had
7 gone to different parts of Perth, which, you know --
8 until we had to ... We finally found some and kept in
9 touch. But we didn't get any sex education whatsoever.

10 Q. When you had your periods, how did you cope with that?

11 A. Oh, it was terrible. We used to tear up -- we'd go and
12 pinch some sheets and tear them up and use them and have
13 to wash them. Then you put them on the line and someone
14 would steal them. It was terrible. That was a shocking
15 time.

16 Q. Just looking at emotional support, what emotional
17 support did you have when you were in the orphanage?

18 A. None. None.

19 Q. If you had a problem, was there anybody you could go and
20 talk to about it?

21 A. Well, Sister Ursula, when LYB hit me so badly,
22 she took me in the kitchen and was giving me a big
23 cuddle. She was very sweet, really. So she was about
24 the best there, really. But as far as sex went, we
25 didn't know anything at all.

1 Q. You've told us about your work in the kitchen, Maryanne.
2 Did there come a point in time when you went to work in
3 Perth itself in the city?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. What age were you then?

6 A. 16, I think. 17, maybe. They got me a job in a belt
7 factory, which I hated because I wanted to do something
8 better than that because I was a good sewer. But
9 anyway, I eventually left and went, with the help of
10 some friends, went into the public works and I was
11 a telephonist at the public works.

12 Q. Before that, when you were working initially outside the
13 orphanage, were you still living in the orphanage?

14 A. Yes, for a while, yes. Then I met a girl that I worked
15 with and she said, "Come and live with me". I was only
16 there for a few months and then her sister didn't like
17 the idea, so her mother's brother decided that he would
18 take me to live with them, him and his wife and the
19 three kids, and he had other ideas, yes. He exposed
20 himself to me and I left.

21 Q. I think he sexually abused you; is that correct? He
22 exposed himself?

23 A. It didn't go any further. He exposed himself, yes.
24 That was it. I got frightened and took off. I left
25 there.

1 Q. When you were working and still living in the orphanage,
2 what happened to your pay?

3 A. I think we just -- we'd give the nuns our envelopes and
4 they gave us so much for our fares and things like that.
5 That was all.

6 Q. I think you tell us in your autobiography that you think
7 you left the orphanage finally in early 1952.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. When you came to leave, what did you take with you?

10 A. Not much, just a case of clothes. That was it. They
11 said we were going on ... Just your clothes. Nothing
12 else.

13 Q. Was there any sort of discharge procedure, were you
14 given any advice?

15 A. No. No, not at all.

16 Q. Is that when you went to live with the friend you
17 mentioned before?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. In Perth?

20 A. In south Perth, yes. South of Perth.

21 Q. You tell us in your statement, Maryanne, that through
22 your work, you met your husband; is that right?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. I think you say you got married in 1956; is that right?

25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. Were you still living in Perth at that time?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. I think you also tell us that you have children?
- 4 A. Two girls and two boys, yes.
- 5 Q. You also say that you did return to Scotland.
- 6 A. Yes, in 1976 my husband paid for my fare to go back to
- 7 Scotland and see my mum and dad, but I had to take my
- 8 young son because he was only 9 at the time, and my
- 9 husband couldn't look after him because he was working.
- 10 The girls were both working.
- 11 Q. That was the first time you'd seen your mother and
- 12 father for many years?
- 13 A. Oh yes, many years. When I was 14, I was -- in 1976
- 14 I was 42.
- 15 Q. So many, many years had passed. How were things between
- 16 yourself and your father? Let's look at that.
- 17 A. There was nothing there. Nothing there. Or my mother.
- 18 I didn't have any feelings at all for either of them.
- 19 Q. There was no bond at all?
- 20 A. No bond, nothing.
- 21 Q. What about your --
- 22 A. Because of my dad, I had more to do with my dad,
- 23 naturally. I was hoping that I would feel something,
- 24 but there wasn't anything there at all.
- 25 Q. You have already mentioned your sister. Did you meet

1 your sister when you came back to Scotland?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. How was that relationship?

4 A. Oh, very good, yes. We were never really close as kids
5 because there was three years' difference and I think,
6 because she stayed with granny a lot, and my brother and
7 I stayed with my dad, so there wasn't that sort of bond,
8 but we became firm friends when I went back.

9 Q. And your brother, did you meet up with your brother
10 again?

11 A. Yes. He was sent to Spean Bridge when I got put in the
12 Home of the Good Shepherd and he ran away and put his
13 age up and went into the Army. He was over in India and
14 he was very upset when he came home and I wasn't there.

15 Q. Did you meet him again when you got back to Scotland?

16 A. Yes, he's been over here and he stayed for 12 months.
17 I wanted him to stay for the wedding, but he wasn't
18 allowed because he was on a ship, so I didn't have
19 anyone here for the wedding.

20 Q. That was your own wedding in 1956?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. So you obviously met up with your brother before you
23 came back to Scotland in 1976?

24 A. Yes, that's right.

25 Q. Did you have a good relationship with your brother once

1 you met up again?

2 A. Yes. We were super close because we were street kids
3 together. We used to run in the streets.

4 Q. You've been back to Scotland several times, I think,
5 Maryanne; is that right?

6 A. Yes. I've had two trips from the government, yes.

7 Q. I think the last time you were over here was in 2010?

8 A. Yes. Then my brother (inaudible) 2011 [sic], but with
9 the 7/11 [sic] business, he had to cancel, so I never
10 got to see him again.

11 Q. You tell us in your statement that you're aware that
12 there have been apologies made to the child migrants,
13 both in Australia and the UK.

14 A. Absolutely, yes, both.

15 Q. Are you happy that these apologies have been made?

16 A. Yes. Yes, definitely.

17 Q. I don't want to take you to the detail of it, but
18 I think you have provided us with a statement that you
19 provided to the Western Australia redress scheme;
20 is that right?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Is what you say in that statement true?

23 A. Of course, yes.

24 Q. When you're looking at the impact on your life that
25 being sent to Australia has had, I think the one

1 thing -- and you've mentioned this already -- that
2 really concerns you is the fact that when you went to
3 Australia, your education came to an end; is that right?

4 A. That's right, yes.

5 Q. Is that one thing that makes you feel unhappy?

6 A. Yes, the main thing, yes.

7 Q. Anything else you'd like to tell us about what impact
8 you think being sent to Australia has had on you?

9 A. Well, I was so disappointed because I hadn't had much of
10 a life in Scotland and I thought it was going to be
11 altogether different. I don't know why. They just
12 said, "You're going to Australia for a much better
13 life", and it wasn't much better, really.

14 Q. You tell us in your statement about what you call "the
15 sentimental journey".

16 A. Oh, that was wonderful.

17 Q. Can you tell us about that?

18 A. Well, I felt sorry for the people on the plane because
19 we hadn't seen each other since we left the orphanage
20 and all the girls got together and they were singing.
21 Oh, the noise on the plane was horrendous. But it was
22 a wonderful trip for all of us. We really enjoyed it.
23 It was lovely catching up.

24 Q. Where was the trip to? Where did you go?

25 A. Scotland. Some of them went to Ireland, some of them

1 went to Wales. They all went to see -- if they had
2 parents, some of them had parents, some had one parent.
3 That was a wonderful trip.

4 Q. Was that with other children who had been with you
5 at the orphanage?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. When was that? What year was that?

8 A. 1979, I think. I think so. It's in my book.

9 Q. You tell us in your statement that you have become an
10 Australian citizen?

11 A. Oh yes. My husband, when he found out he had cancer,
12 because he was only 59, he said, "Before I die, I want
13 you to become an Australian". We were living
14 in Augusta, we went up to Margaret River in the country,
15 and I became an Australian. Since then, the government
16 has given the other people that hadn't been
17 Australians -- they let them have it free.

18 Q. I think you have in front of you a copy of your
19 statement, Maryanne; is that right?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Can I ask you to turn to paragraph 134?

22 A. "All too late. What can be done now?"

23 Q. Yes. This is the final thought in your statement and
24 what you say is:

25 "I think it's all now too late for a lot of the

1 child migrants. What can be done now?"

2 Would you agree that notwithstanding what you say
3 there, that it is important that your story is told?

4 A. Yes. I gave one of my friends that works here my book
5 for Christmas and she said -- she was so thrilled with
6 it, she said it was the best present she got, and now
7 she wants to write a book about her life at the
8 orphanage and in Wales because she's Welsh.

9 Q. At least we can say that it hasn't been too late for you
10 to tell this inquiry what life was like for you when you
11 went to Australia.

12 A. No, no, not at all.

13 MR MacAULAY: Well, thank you for that, Maryanne. Those are
14 all the questions I have for you this morning. No one
15 has submitted questions to be put.

16 LADY SMITH: Are there any outstanding applications for
17 questions of this witness?

18 Maryanne, those are all the questions we have for
19 you from here in Edinburgh. It just remains for me to
20 thank you again very much for engaging with the inquiry
21 as you have done, both by providing your written
22 statement, which we have and is of itself evidence
23 before us, but it has been enormously helpful for me to
24 see you today and hear what you have to explain yourself
25 orally over the video link. So thank you very much for

1 that, and thank you to Tuart Place, who have supported
2 you in being able to give this evidence. They're doing
3 wonderful work and it's very reassuring to us to hear
4 that. So thank you for helping us do our work here,
5 Maryanne. That's really, really good.

6 A. Thank you, my Lady.

7 LADY SMITH: I'm now able to let you go.

8 A. Thank you.

9 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, that's all the evidence for today.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

11 MR MacAULAY: I think we're back to normal hours tomorrow.

12 LADY SMITH: Yes.

13 MR MacAULAY: Again, we're back to this time on Wednesday
14 morning.

15 LADY SMITH: Yes. That's another witness from, I think,
16 Western Australia again. So it's the same time change
17 for them. Thank you.

18 I'm going to rise now until tomorrow morning at
19 10.00 when I go back to the evidence in the Quarriers,
20 Aberlour and Barnardo's case study, as we explained on
21 Friday. I think Tom Shaw is going to be giving evidence
22 tomorrow. Thank you.

23 (9.08 am)

24 (The inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am
25 on Tuesday, 22 January 2019)

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