

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

MPD
[REDACTED]

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is ^{MPD} [REDACTED] My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1945. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. I can't remember much about my life before going into care. My mum used to work for [REDACTED] She worked for him when she fell pregnant with me. She was young, around fourteen or fifteen. I can't remember her, I only remember the smell of her perfume. I think my mum decided to put me into care but I don't know really know why. I think she was frightened.

Life in care - Scotland

Nazareth House, Aberdeen

General

3. I was put into Nazareth House in Aberdeen when I was about four years old. I can't remember a lot about my time there but it was brutal. They were very strict. I just remember getting a hiding or a flogging off of one of the nuns. She was a little fat nun who seemed to be in charge. I had [REDACTED] and could [REDACTED]. I'd get flogged for it. I used to keep my head down. I was in there for two years.

Migration

Leaving Scotland

4. I came to Australia with one thousand other kids in 1951. I was six. I left on the Ormond ship. The nuns told us we were going to have a good life somewhere else. I wasn't asked if I wanted to go. It was to do with the British Government. I can't recall my mum being there to put me on the boat. I had a little suit on and had a small suitcase.

5. I can remember the journey, especially going through the Suez Canal. I saw lots of funny looking blokes there in boats with ropes and baskets. I was looked after by someone on the journey but I can't remember who it was. We were in cabins, about five or six of us. I had heaps of friends but I can't remember any of their names. We all had nick names. I was sea sick on the journey. The people on the boat just said "you'll be alright". There were quite a few of us who were sick because we were rocking and rolling all over the place. We were just told to get on with it and we would be alright. The journey took about eight weeks. I enjoyed it, it was like an adventure.

Life in care – Australia

Castledare Junior Orphanage, Western Australia

General

6. We got off the boat at Fremantle and the Christian Brothers were waiting on us. They selected the boys based on age. The younger ones went to Castledare from age five to ten. The older ones went to Clontarf at ten onwards. Some of the others went to Bindoon Boys Town and Tardun. I think it depended on where you were from too because if you were from Scotland, you seemed to go together.

7. One of the brothers took us on the back of a truck. That was the way they used to carry us. We were like cattle but we actually enjoyed it, it was good. There were

about twenty of us. It took us about half an hour to get there. It wasn't far down the road.

First day at institution

8. When we arrived at Castledare, we were met by Brother ^{AKL} a farm brother. I can remember thinking "bloody hell, where am I?" because it was so big. It was a farm, of about four hundred acres. It was self-sufficient. There was a piggery, chickens, a market garden and a dairy.
9. We were in big dormitories. There were at least thirty or forty kids in one dormitory. I cried my eyes out because the brothers took my clothes off me. They put them in a heap and burned them. They said that we weren't going to wear those clothes now. That's when I got frightened. I didn't like that. I was given grey, light cotton trousers for the hot weather. It was the summer because it was stinking hot. We called them "Bombay bloomers".

Mornings

10. There were four or five Brothers there. Some of them good but the others weren't. They were frustrated men. I can only really remember Brother ^{MDF} and Brother ^{AKL}. There was a Brother ^{MXB} too. Brother ^{AKL} was good. Brother ^{MDF} was a rotten one. He was a big bloke, about six foot four. I can remember looking up at him. He used to make us sit around and preen his hair and cut his finger nails. He would pick about half a dozen kids out and make them sit on his bed.
11. There were one hundred and fifty kids there. I think there were thirty or forty in one dormitory. We were all about the same age. Brother ^{MDF} got us up in the morning. The dorms were named after different saints. I can't remember any of the names. It didn't do us much good.
12. We had to get up and do our chores at seven. We had to get ready and make our own beds. If you were late, you missed breakfast. It was run like a military camp. It

was tough. A couple of weeks after we settled in, we were given chores. You might have to sweep the dormitory or clean the showers.

Mealtimes

13. We were always hungry but we didn't starve. There was a big dining room with six or seven kids to each table. We got eggs and toast. The food was pretty good. We had boiled lollies on a saint's day. The food was okay.

Bedtime

14. We always went to bed at half past seven. If you were late getting to bed, you were flogged by one of the Brothers. They were all heavy. Brother MXB used to have a big bunch of keys and he hit you on the back of the hand with them. Some of the brothers would read you a story.

Bedwetting

15. A lot of kids wet their beds because of the pressure. We were young and it was very demanding. There was a certain area for kids who wet their beds called the "wetly bed dorm". If any kids wet their bed they would tell them to go to the "wetly bed dorm". They had a rubber mat.

Washing and bathing/Hygiene

16. There were a few showers. Each dormitory had a shower and six or seven toilets. They made us have a shower every day because we were dirty. They would pick you out to check and if you hadn't washed you would get a hiding.

Schooling

17. I wasn't good at school. I was useless. The Brothers were in charge of the school. I used to knick down to the farm and play with the horses in the paddocks. The cows and horses were down there. I used to like it because I wasn't good at school. I

snuck around there and I'd be found later by one of the brothers. I got flogged for going there. I'd get a kicking and belted with the straps. I would rather have had a hiding than be at school because I enjoyed it there. They all had a strap apart from Brother^{AKL} [REDACTED]. He was a gentleman.

18. We finished school at half past three. We would sometimes have some broken biscuits and crumbs and get to play in the playground. We played football and cricket. We just ran around. There was a loud siren at six o'clock for us to come in and have a shower before tea. It sounded like the siren in concentration camps during the war.

Leisure time

19. We used to have concerts and the brothers would dress us up. The concerts were for people outside who used to come in and donate food.
20. In the early days the brothers took us to the river and taught us to swim. One brother would be in the river and one of the others brothers would throw you in. You swallowed the water and had to doggy paddle. It was shallow water so no one drowned.
21. We had movies at the weekends, but if you got into trouble you had to do work instead and didn't get to watch the movie.

Healthcare

22. One of the brothers acted as a nurse. I had a few bruises over the years. I can't remember having a dentist.

Religious instruction

23. We had Benediction. We had to go to church every couple of nights for prayers and went to mass every Sunday. We prayed before bed and thanked the good lord before every meal. It was very religious.

Work

24. We had work clothes and school clothes. I can't remember having shoes. I used to have to weed the veggie garden. We didn't know what we were pulling out half the time. They had a full time dairy and made their own butter and cream. I can remember they used the send the cream to Watson's and come back with butter. We used to nip down there and pinch the cream. We would come back with cream all over our faces and get a wallop.

Christmas and Birthdays

25. At Christmas time people donated wooden toys so I used to run around the quadrangle with them. I think we had a Christmas dinner. They didn't celebrate our birthdays.

Visitors

26. I can't remember anyone coming to visit me from the welfare department. Someone from the big headquarters used to come over every now and then to inspect the place but they didn't talk to any of the boys.

Personal Possessions

27. I can't recall having anything of my own. We used to pinch each other's things.

Discipline

28. We got a lot of floggings. It was rough. In the three years I was there I was belted at least sixty times. It was always for minor things, like, if you hadn't had a shower or if you didn't do your chores. I was as thick as two short planks and I [REDACTED]. I

[REDACTED]. I used to get belted for that. It took me years to get over that.

29. You would be belted with a strap. Each time it would be a good half a dozen beltings. The straps were thin and flexible straps about two feet long. If they didn't have a strap, they'd use a bit of wood. Looking back, they were all frustrated men and they had to rule it like a barracks. They had to be in control. We were naughty little kids but a lot of it was excessive which satisfied them because they were frustrated.

St Vincent's Orphanage Clontarf, Western Australia

30. I left Castledare when I was ten. You could only stay there until then. I had to go to Clontarf. Brother^{MDI} [REDACTED] was just taking over from Brother^{MXC} [REDACTED] when I first went there. We used to call Brother^{MXC} [REDACTED] "MXC [REDACTED]" because he was always [REDACTED]. I started at Clontarf during the Christmas holidays.
31. During my first week there, I was given stew with a row of pig's nipples in it. I couldn't eat it so I grabbed some and hid it in my trouser pockets. They checked you as you were leaving after lunch and cleaning up. Brother^{MXC} [REDACTED] asked why I hadn't eaten it, I told him it was full of pig nipples and fat, he then asked what was in my pocket and on my pants, they were all stained. He put it back on the plate and tried to make me eat it. I couldn't so he cracked the plate over my head. I always remember him for that. I had nothing more to do with him after that because he left and Brother^{MDI} [REDACTED] came.

Brothers

32. There were six or so Christian Brothers looking after 280 kids. Brother^{MDI} [REDACTED] was in the charge. There was Brother^{MXD} [REDACTED] who we used to call ^{MXD} [REDACTED]. He wasn't a bad man, he used to lift you up by the ears but he wasn't a violent man. There was Brother^{MDG} [REDACTED] he was called ^{MDG} [REDACTED]. He used to give us elocution lessons. There was also Brother^{MPQ} [REDACTED] Brother^{MHZ} [REDACTED], Brother^{LZL} [REDACTED] Brother^{MPR} [REDACTED] and Brother^{MYK} [REDACTED] Brother^{MYK} [REDACTED] was a gentleman. I could hardly [REDACTED] and still [REDACTED] a lot so I couldn't [REDACTED] properly.

33. Brother ^{MHY} [REDACTED] was a cruel man. If you did something wrong, he would pick on you for the next six months. Brother Isaac was there too. Brother ^{MXI} [REDACTED] was a big man, he had [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] so we used to call him ^{MXI} [REDACTED]. When he died he left his watch to me. I must have been associated with him. I was twelve or thirteen.

General

34. Each Brother had a different dormitory. I was in Saint Xavier. Brother ^{MPQ} [REDACTED] and Brother ^{MPR} [REDACTED] were there. They would swap around depending on what other duties they had to do. There were thirty kids in my dorm. At Castledare the dormitories had little cubicles but here they were all open.
35. During the war, six Polish nuns came to Clontarf. They did the washing and laundry. One of them was a nurse. They had their own nunnery at the top of the place. They didn't speak very good English apart from the one who was in charge of the nunnery. They were strict too but we didn't have much to do with them.
36. We had a shower every day. If you missed it, you were flogged. They knew if you hadn't had a shower. The younger kids were at one end and the older ones were at the other end. There would be one brother at each end. There were about forty showers in a big room, two taps, one hot and one cold. If one of the Christian Brothers' teams had lost, East Fremantle, West Fremantle or West Perth, you had a cold shower at night time. They controlled it. They would say that we had embarrassed them. I didn't like football and I didn't have a clue.

Mornings

37. In the mornings, you had chores to do, like sweeping floors in the dormitories. They were big. It was like a military camp. You would get up, washed, clothed, do your chores and breakfast. Then it was school time.
38. A lot of the kids wet the bed. There was a big dormitory on one side for them. The kids would be made to stand out on the veranda on the orchard side. The wind

would blow the smell of urine in. They tried electric shock treatment on some of them. They put a prod on their genitals so if they wet their bed it would give them an electric shock. They tried it on the kids in the orphanage first but it didn't work so they didn't do it in the hospitals. It was if, we were orphans, who gives a bugger?

Mealtimes

39. The meals were good but we were always hungry and used to raid the bins. The brothers used to have a slop truck. There were exactly 32 bins on the truck. They went into the city to pick up all the swill from hotels. We called it the 'swill run' to feed the pigs. Two Christian Brothers would drive the truck and take two boys with them. I used to go with them occasionally.
40. We used to hear the truck coming back in after the run. It used to be left at the back of the kitchen. The brothers would go inside and we would raid the bins. We used to eat the apples and other bits and pieces from the bins. The rest would go down to the piggery and be boiled up for the pigs. We used to drink a little cup of it. It was alright, none of us died. We used to grab the tea leaves and eat them to fill us up.
41. At meal times, we sat like twelve apostles at the table. We had porridge for breakfast. We got a loaf of bread. We used to like the "stunner". It was the end of the piece of bread, the hard bit. We used to grab it, spit on it and say "that's mine". Some of them would scrap that off and pinch it off you anyway. There were twelve sinks so there were twelve kids washing up, twelve kids drying and twelve sweeping up. It was done in a quarter of an hour. It was industrial. If we were having a stew or hot meal at night time, the kids had to peel the spuds in the morning, out them in the kitchen and go for breakfast.
42. They didn't have a lot of labour in terms of people, it was just us. They had two cooks who lived there. There were only two of them and they cooked for all of us. The brothers paid them. We had all sorts of meals but you couldn't eat a lot of them.

Bedtime

43. On Sunday nights, in the dormitory, we listened to a programme called 'The Ghost'. At quarter to eight, we used to curl up in bed and listen to it. We used to be scared but we liked it. The lights would go out and then the ghost stories would come on. I always remember that.

Work

44. There was a lot of work and labour. We built wooden hand ball courts, sports ovals and a swimming pool. We built a grotto near the church too. It was hard work after school. We had to dig the hole in the ground by hand. The swimming pool was almost an Olympic sized swimming pool, it was 35 metres with eight lanes it. We had to do that ourselves. There were forty to fifty kids mixing the sand. It took a few weeks, each day after school. The brothers put the walls up.
45. We would go on the truck to collect bags of sand at the river. There would be twenty kids with shovels loading sand onto the truck. They waited there and another ten kids would hop on the truck to drop it off at the oval. We had dig drains which were about twenty feet apart and we would cart all the rocks in so they wouldn't flood.
46. After that we built the jetty over the Swan River, it was about one hundred metres long. We worked on it every day after school until six. People from outside used to bring truck-loads of rocks and old bricks. We used to have to chip away at the bricks so they could use them for the handball courts. There were six of them at the bottom and six at the top. We all had chores to do. The bigger boys would be on concrete, mixing it and the little ones would be on different things. The work was on and off. It depended on what activity you had been given.
47. There were orange trees and loquat trees next to the church. They would tell us to climb up the trees and get as much as we could. Each class would spend a quarter of an hour up the trees picking oranges and loquats. You would cut yourself on loquats. They were good times, we fell out the trees a lot.

Holidays/trips

48. We used to leave Perth for Christmas holidays, the brothers put you on the back of a truck and dropped you off at all different places, country towns, right down to Albany. When the holiday was finished they would pick you up and bring you back.
49. I went to the Ratcliffes in Dardanup once during the holidays. They were good people. I stayed with an Italian family called the Maltonis too. They had a dairy farm with spuds and pigs. They worked me like a dog. They were good but tough times. It was good to get away from Clontarf.
50. We were in a bus accident when I was ten. We were going on our holidays to Dardanup. The bus crashed going over a bridge. Some of the boys lost their legs. There were limbs and boys lying at the side of the road. One boy, [REDACTED] was killed. He was the same age as me. After the accident, I can remember Brother [MDI] saying "you big sook son, get down to the playground". We were just told to get on with it. We weren't given counselling. The badly hurt kids were taken away and we were just left at the side of the road until we were picked up by people who took us back to Clontarf. You never forget it. I still have nightmares now.

Running Away

51. I ran away with five other kids on horseback when I was fourteen. We got down to Pinjarra. We didn't take anyone's money, we were just wild kids. We were away for a week. We went to people's houses and pinched food. We didn't steal any money or jewels, we weren't interested, we were just hungry. We camped in the bush. We only had rope for halters. It was an adventure. In those days that was big because it was far away and there was a lot of bush. The cops caught us in a barn. We were flogged off them and the Christian Brothers.

Schooling

52. Brother [LZL] taught us, we called him [LZL]. He was a tough one. I had a couple of mice in matchboxes and would play with them in my desk all the time. Brother [LZL] would catch me and lift the lid of my desk and smash it off my head. They weren't light desks, they were jarrah wood. He used to get his fist and hit you

on the temple, right on the side. It bloody hurt. He would say say "blessed Turks son" and "you'll never get to heaven, you scum".

53. I had a friend called [REDACTED] in the orphanage. One day when we were building a brick wall out of granite rocks, [REDACTED] went to pick a rock up, Brother [REDACTED] L^{ZL} said "you bloody slack bugger [REDACTED] pick that bigger one up!" and as he went to pick it up [REDACTED] L^{ZL} kicked him in the eye with his boot. I grabbed him to pull him away and he got me in the side of the head.
54. I used to nip down to the farm. I wasn't interested in school, I didn't have the brains, all I wanted to do was farm and play around. In hindsight, that was my forte.

Clothing

55. We had a singlet, undies, work shirt, work pants and one towel. My number was [REDACTED] it was on the back of all of my clothes. Brother [REDACTED] M^{DI} would check our clothes on a Saturday morning. You put undies in one heap and work shirt in another pile. He would stand and tick them off. If you couldn't find your singlet, he would tell you to go and find them, if you came back without it, you would get a flogging. He'd whack you with the strap.

Leisure time

56. We had a bit of leisure time at the weekends. The brothers were tired by then. Sometimes we worked on the ovals on Saturday afternoons. We used to use the singlets on the Swan River. We'd tie the two ends in a knot, get two sticks and use them to scoop prawns out of the river. We used to rip their heads off and eat them raw. We used to fish for mola and make "kylies", which was a bent piece of metal. We would throw it, hit five or six fish and they would float to the top. We designed it ourselves.
57. We used to steal tin off the roof to make canoes and go across the Swan River. We stole all the Aquinas boy's bikes and took all the spokes out of them to make hoops. We used to steal their bikes and make our fun with them. The brothers found out and

we got belted. They used to pick ten boys from Clontarf to send there every year. They were bright boys, I wasn't one of them.

58. We used to make boiled lollies and throw them off the tower for a scramble. They would break on the ground. We made our own butter, by shaking the milk and salt in the bottle. We used to go down to the farm and dig a big hole to make our own coke to warm the pigs and chickens up. We burned it for a day or so. The brothers taught us.
59. We used to swap things with each other. We weren't possessive over our things. You were lucky to find your things as kids would pinch them all the time. We just pinched each other's stuff.
60. Brother MYK used to take us on picnics to Riverton Park. He would drive the truck and the kids sat on the back. Brother MYK used to drive the truck. Sometimes kids would fall off the back as we turned a corner. Some would break their legs but we thought it was good fun.
61. They used to teach us horse riding by putting us on the horse and leaving us. We used to put marble in our socks and chase each other on horseback. We had a lot of fun with the horses.
62. We would make our own wooden scooters too. We stole the bolts out of doors in the quadrangle to make scooters. The brothers took them off us because we were breaking the concrete in the quadrangle.

Healthcare

63. They had a surgery. If you got really injured you went up there to see the nun from Poland. The Christian Brothers were good with the animals if they were sick. We didn't have a doctor. There weren't very bad injuries apart from kids running around breaking their arms and legs.

64. My friend [REDACTED] dived off the Canon Ware once and he cut all his head. He got a tetanus injection after eleven days. I had to go and visit him in Royal Perth Hospital, he was in a chamber. They gave him snake venom from South Africa, it was the first time they had used it. It was the [REDACTED] they had tried it. It was a case of him being an orphan so they tried it as who cares if he dies. It worked.

Religion

65. It was the same routine as Castledare. We had Sunday mass. We got dressed up in suits and shoes on a Sunday morning. The Christian Brother motto for us was "be a man". We were just little kids, we couldn't be men. They used to sing in Latin at high masses on special occasions. I enjoyed listening to the singing but I didn't understand anything.

Christmas/birthdays

66. As I got older, I stayed there at Christmas with Brother MYK [REDACTED] and mucked around with the cattle and sheep. I only stayed there for a couple of Christmases. Birthdays weren't celebrated. It was just another day.

Visits

67. We used to have a 'field day' once a year when all the football teams from East Perth, West Perth and Fremantle, used to come. It was always on a Sunday. About 30,000 people used to come. All the big football players used to come and do the chocolate wheels. I had the horses there. People would spend money and it would keep the orphanage going. It was a big deal. I don't know of any welfare visits.

Discipline

68. The discipline was brutal. There were lots of floggings. They would be done in the quadrangle. They would gather everyone together and say this kid had done this or that. They would be done for things like; not being in school, not being in the

dormitory, not doing your chores and being disrespectful. They would all beat us, apart from Brother ^{MYK} [REDACTED]. They rest of them would give you a flogging.

69. They used "A Class V" belts from their black habits and it would be "lash, lash, lash". You would be bruised. If you were in trouble, sometimes they would catch you as soon as you came out of the shower and give you a lashing. You would still be cold and it would nick you.
70. They used to use straps too. The strap was two feet long. They used to get [REDACTED] [REDACTED] to make the straps, he used to put a steel ruler in the leather and it stitched around and they would belt the shit out of you. It was all the time and it happened to anyone. I would have bruises on my body.
71. Brother ^{MDI} [REDACTED] used to belt you. He was a tough brother, an ex-policeman before he became a Christian brother.
72. Brother ^{LZL} [REDACTED] used to punch you and slam the desk lid on your head if I was playing with the mice or I wasn't listening to him. He used to throw the wooden duster at your head. I was hit all the time. I was hit with it about fifty or sixty times. My head was hit on and off the desk around thirty to forty times over the years. I wasn't interested so I would be put down to the back of the class all the time.
73. I was in class with [REDACTED], one of the boys there. He was a bit funny and no one liked him. He had a lot of problems. One day ^{LZL} [REDACTED] gave us a hiding each. Then he whacked [REDACTED] on the head with a broom and knocked him out. We thought he'd killed him.
74. We were clearing land and trees on the bottom of the oval on the Swan River. We cut the roots around huge trees which were 150 feet tall. One boy would climb up with a skinny rope. He held the rope until he got half way to the top and dropped the other half down on the ground. The boys would then tie the main rope which would have been a heavier rope. They would attach the skinny rope to the heavier rope and pull it back up the tree. They would tie the heavy rope around the tree three quarters of the way up. About one hundred boys would be down on the ground and

they would be pulling on the rope to pull the tree over and drag it away. The Christian Brothers would be walking up and down and if you did not pull hard enough, they would give you a whack.

75. We used to ride horses every Sunday at the river. They had all the horses down there. One of the horses was called Bomber. He was called that due to his constant farting. The brothers didn't like him farting so they shot him and fed him to the pigs. I asked the brothers where Bomber was and they told me they'd shot him.
76. A few months later, on a Sunday afternoon, the brothers shot a draft horse him, hung him up and made boys cut a piece of him to cook and eat. I saw the horse hung up on the tree. I didn't eat it. They killed the horse to feed about 130 to 140 kids. A lot of them didn't eat it.
77. It was only a few brothers looking after a heap of kids from the age of ten years old to sixteen and we were little shits. We weren't always innocent. We stole things, we went down to the dairy, we tipped the petrol out and pinched rope to make rafts to across the Swan River. I think sometimes we deserved a hiding for the things we used to get up to. If you'd done things like that in a normal family, you'd have got a hiding in those days. That was my time at the orphanage.

Abuse at Clontarf

78. Brother **MPQ** abused me for five years on and off. He used to come in to the dorm and fiddle with me. He would touch my penis and make me touch him. He used to trade with me and wouldn't let me see the horse if I didn't fiddle with him or let him fiddle me. He used to lock the room up so that I couldn't get the bridle. It would sometimes happen when I was down at the horses. Brother **MPR** was in charge of the dorm and he would come in and do things to me. He was a very skilful man, a carpenter. Other times, it would be Brother **MHZ**. I would go to and sleep in the piggery sometimes. I used to think about shooting them because Brother **MYK** had a gun.

79. Those weren't good times. I sailed over here for a new life and all I got was messed up. I was bashed, flogged and molested. It went on until I left the orphanage. I haven't really had a good life. I still go to bed now sometimes and feel scared. It's with me all the time.

Leaving Clontarf

80. I left when I was sixteen. Brother ^{MDI} told me I was leaving to go to stay with people and that I wouldn't be coming back. It was case of you turned sixteen and the money they were getting for looking after you stopped. It was a case of "you're going son, we don't want you here anymore". I left a week later. It was one of the saddest parts of my life, never mind the molesting, because I was just pulled away quick. It was my life, all the kids and the farm.
81. I went to work on a farm in Katanning. The famer was called ^{MSB}. He put me in a shed and told me that I wasn't worth the air I breathed, the clothes on my back and the food they fed me as I was an orphan. He worked me seven days a week and treated me like rubbish. The welfare department closed their eyes because they used to check that you were being looked after properly but they used to hide a lot from then.
82. One time I didn't fix a fence properly and a sheep got out, he tried to hit me so I flogged him and ran away. I'd been there for two years. I worked as a sheep shearer for about a year and then I became a horseman.

Life after being in care

83. I moved to ^{MSB} in South Western Australia 43 years ago. I run horse training camps for kids. I've had over three thousand horses over the years. I was married and had four kids. I didn't know who I was, if I was gay or not. I didn't have a lot of affection. I had a lot of affection for the kids but I couldn't give it to them. I didn't want to get too close.

84. I have had four children. My first daughter, [REDACTED] is now 46 years old and almost died in 2013 from a brain haemorrhage on my birthday. She survived. My second daughter, [REDACTED] died at the age of forty from a brain haemorrhage in 2013 whilst on holiday in Phuket. My last words to her were, "up yours [REDACTED]" and she said, "up yours dad and we'll have a horse ride later when I come back." My third child, [REDACTED] is 34 years old. He is a pilot in the Airforce in Adelaide. My fourth child, [REDACTED] is now 23 years old and living close to me.
85. My other daughter rang me and asked me to go and visit her one day. She collapsed later that day in the paddock and was taken to hospital.

Reporting of abuse

86. I haven't reported any of the abuse to the police. It would have been useless. I told Brother ^{MYK} [REDACTED] about some of the abuse years later but he didn't believe me. I told one of the brothers that Brother ^{MPS} [REDACTED] was molesting kids. The first time I spoke about the abuse was when I told Philippa White at Turat Place about the abuse in 2009.
87. I hid a lot. I didn't go into details about it with my wife. I didn't think she would believe that these things happened because it was so bad. I think you had to be there to understand. It does happen today in families but nothing like that.

Records and family tracing

88. I went back to the UK ten years ago to find my mum but she was dead. She had died two years before. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] found me and told me a lot about her. She was an eccentric lady apparently. I was doing a camp when I got a phone call, it was Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] I hung up then about two hours later she called again so, I spoke to her. She told me what she knew about my mum and that they had been looking for me for sixteen years. They said they wanted to see me. I wasn't allowed to tell the media that they were coming.
89. [REDACTED]'s son and his wife came to the farm for lunch. They told me a lot about my mum that I didn't know. I found out that I was born in the back of [REDACTED]

██████████'s car. I was told they kept me living at their estate four years. I was spent my time backwards and forwards to castles. They were very down to earth people and we got on well. She still sends me Christmas cards and we sometimes talk to each other. ██████████ died about six or seven months ago.

90. I have some records from the welfare department from when I was sent away. It's written down that they sent me off with one tie, one shirt, and two pairs of socks in my little case. It came to 21 guineas. I don't have any records of my time at Castledare or Clontarf.

Other matters for relating to migration

91. I have a British passport. I received a commonwealth pension. I applied for redress in 2010. I received 45,000 Australian Dollars in redress. It was the maximum payment, which had been reduced from 80,000 but it wasn't anything for what I've been through. It wouldn't even cover my horses' feed for a year. I have been contacted by several lawyers who want to represent me. I told them it's too late.

Impact


92. I have flashbacks about the abuse, lying in bed thinking they're going to come and get me all the time. I think about the cruelty, I feel like I'm getting belted and bruised but I'm not, it's all in the imagination. I'm too far gone for counselling. If I could read and write better I would have become a politician, I like politics. I fucked up my education.
93. It has taken its toll. There is a whole lot more that went on but I don't like talking about it. I had to stay strong about the whole thing, otherwise I'd have gone nuts or done myself in. That's how bad it was. I'm 74 now so I can't do myself in. I'll let the good lord take me when he's ready in another ten years. Despite all of that, if I had my time again, I would go back to an orphanage, instead of living with a mum and dad and two kids. It sounds crazy but we had everything there, six hundred acres of land. That would be my choice.

Lessons to be learned

- 94. As far as priests go, they should let them marry. It would solve a lot of problems. A lot of the brothers were skilled but had no training in kids. They should go through school before they are allowed to teach kids. If the modern generation want to be priests they should have come out of a good, loving family. They shouldn't if they've come out of a family with a lot of problems because they will bring that with them.

Final thoughts

- 95. It's too late because a lot of the perpetrators are dead but it's not too late to fix it. As I said, if Christian Brothers and priests want to work in institutions, it is important that they are trained differently and educated. They taught everything at school. I couldn't learn because I didn't have the brains. I used to take the blame for what happened to me but I don't anymore. I try to take life as it comes.
- 96. I have no objection to my witness statement being published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry. I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed..... 

Dated..... 31st May 2019