

1 Friday, 6 December 2019

2 (8.30 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning.

4 Mr MacAulay, the next video link, I think?

5 MR MacAULAY: Yes, good morning, my Lady. The next witness
6 is an applicant, he wants to remain anonymous and to use
7 the name "Jok" in giving evidence.

8 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

9 Jok, good morning from here in Edinburgh.

10 THE WITNESS: Good morning.

11 LADY SMITH: I think it's good afternoon to you in
12 Melbourne; is that right?

13 A. Early evening.

14 LADY SMITH: It's early evening, of course.

15 Let me introduce myself: I'm Lady Smith and I chair
16 the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry here in Edinburgh and
17 I'm very grateful to you for agreeing to talk to us
18 about your evidence over the video link this morning,
19 for us.

20 Could I begin by putting you on oath, and that means
21 you raise your right hand, like this.

22 "JOK" (sworn)

23 LADY SMITH: Jok, we're finding these links are working very
24 well but if you have any difficulty with the link at
25 all, whether in terms of seeing us or hearing us, please

1 let us know. If at any time you just want to have
2 a break, please tell me. It's quite all right; it's
3 important that we go at your pace and in a way that
4 enables you to give your evidence as best as you can.
5 Is that all right?

6 A. Certainly.

7 LADY SMITH: If you're ready, Jok, I'll hand over to
8 Mr MacAulay and he'll take it from there. All right?

9 A. Thank you, my Lady.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

11 Mr MacAulay.

12 Questions from MR MacAULAY

13 MR MacAULAY: Hello, Jok.

14 A. Hi, Colin.

15 Q. The first thing I want to do is for you to confirm that
16 you've signed your witness statement. I'll give the
17 reference for the transcript: WIT.001.002.1873. Can you
18 confirm you have signed it?

19 A. I have signed it, yes.

20 Q. Are you quite happy that it forms part of the evidence
21 to this inquiry?

22 A. It is, yes.

23 Q. And is what you say in the witness statement true?

24 A. True.

25 Q. I don't need your date of birth, but to get a time

1 frame, can you confirm the year of your birth to be
2 1947?

3 A. I can, yes.

4 Q. I think the position, Jok, is that as a very young
5 child, a baby in fact, you were put into care; is that
6 right?

7 A. Correct.

8 Q. Was that Quarriers you went to?

9 A. Correct.

10 Q. Clearly, you'll have no recollection of what happened at
11 that time, but since have you managed to piece together
12 some information about the background?

13 A. I have.

14 Q. What's your understanding?

15 A. Well, when I left Quarriers I knew nothing about my
16 upbringing. My mother told me nothing. I asked her,
17 did I have any other family, and she said, no, there's
18 nobody else. I think she's thinking I'm asking about
19 brothers and sisters, of which there is none, but
20 (inaudible: distorted) whether I had any cousins and
21 nieces and nephews, which was only, like I said, after
22 she passed.

23 I went to Quarriers in 2005 after arranging with
24 Ms Josie Bell, who was one of the administrators there,
25 and she organised for me to meet up with her and hand

1 over all the personal paperwork that they had on me at
2 Quarriers.

3 Between that visit and the visit to meet up with my
4 cousins in Aberdeen, they gave me a lot more information
5 about my mother and the family history from Scotland in
6 2005, a volume of paperwork going back to the early --
7 the 1780s, 1820s, the original families, birth, deaths,
8 marriages and banns, as I've already indicated.

9 Q. Can you confirm for me, under reference to the records
10 from Quarriers, that you were admitted actually to
11 Quarriers on [REDACTED] 1948 when you were about 8 or
12 9 months old?

13 A. Correct, yes.

14 Q. According to the Quarriers records, you left to go to
15 Australia on [REDACTED] 1961.

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. At that time you'd be aged 13; is that right?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. In your statement, Jok, you tell us about your life at
20 Quarriers and in particular you were in a cottage that
21 was run by a housemother by the name of Miss QES [REDACTED];
22 is that right?

23 A. That's correct, yes.

24 Q. I think before we came on air, I did say to you that
25 we've already had regard to this evidence and it will

1 form part of the study into Quarriers, so I don't plan
2 to dwell on that part of your statement for too long.

3 You did point out to me there's one or two
4 corrections which I've taken into account, but is it the
5 case that when you were at Quarriers, you were the
6 victim of sexual abuse by a particular individual?

7 A. I was, yes.

8 Q. What you did want to clarify with me before we came on
9 air is that the way in which you told Miss QES
10 that you had been sexually abused. Can you just explain
11 that to me again?

12 A. Yes. There were two things in my memory -- other than
13 getting married and seeing my children born, there's two
14 things in my mind that have stuck forever. One was
15 telling Miss QES that I had been sexually abused
16 and the other one was my Australian stepfather, who gave
17 me a home in Australia -- he had a big orchard, that
18 I was explaining about, and every year we had fruit
19 pickers come down from Queensland, about 12 pickers, and
20 [REDACTED], as I called him, he was asked on
21 Christmas Eve by the pickers, "[REDACTED], are we working
22 tomorrow?" And I'll never forget it, he said, "The
23 apricots don't know it's Christmas Day tomorrow; if
24 they're ripe, we pick them", and I've never forgotten
25 that.

1 Q. In relation to dealing with Miss QES [REDACTED] after you had
2 been sexually abused, what is your recollection of that?

3 A. She just kept walking. I got the usual, a wave of the
4 hand (indicating) and (inaudible: distorted), "He
5 wouldn't have done that", or words to that effect, and
6 just kept walking down the stairs and left me standing
7 there and that was the end of the conversation.

8 Q. And you have a clear recollection of that still?

9 A. Yes, to this day.

10 Q. During your time at Quarriers, did your mother visit you
11 on a regular basis?

12 A. Yes, once a month. It might have been the first
13 Saturday of every month. It was once a month anyhow
14 and. As I've said in my statement, if mother didn't
15 come, her husband, who would have been my stepfather,
16 [REDACTED], arrived. He was a lot older than my mother, just
17 by looking at their age, anyhow, which is how I sort of
18 worked that out.

19 Q. At that time did your mother ever tell you anything
20 about your father, for example?

21 A. No, we never mentioned my father at all.

22 Q. Did you ask --

23 A. Not once.

24 Q. Did you ask her about your father?

25 A. No. I just asked -- as I said before, the only thing

1 I can remember asking her was, was there any other
2 family, and I'm guessing she said, thinking I was
3 referring to brothers and sisters, and she said, no,
4 there's no other family, and that was the end of that
5 conversation .

6 Q. Did you ever discuss with your mother why it was that
7 you were in Quarriers?

8 A. No, because talking to the other boys there, (inaudible:
9 distorted) getting older, they're all there because of
10 broken families or the mother couldn't afford to look
11 after them, and we just discussed, as kids of 9, 10, 11,
12 12, we just talked about what was going on around us.
13 I never asked my mother why was I there, but I found out
14 afterwards that she wasn't a very big wage earner.

15 Q. Can I just look then to the background of you going to
16 Australia, Jok. When did you first become aware that
17 going to Australia was a possibility for you?

18 A. Well, I came out here in 1961. I think in 1959, there
19 was a group of boys from Quarriers come over to
20 Australia, it might have been -- there were only five in
21 my group. The group before, there was 10 or 15 of them,
22 something around that number and I knew them and when
23 I heard that they were sending more boys to Australia,
24 I asked my mother could I be going to Australia, if
25 I could go to Australia, and she took that on board that

1 I was asking, because she had to write a letter to
2 Quarriers to get her permission that I could go, which
3 I've submitted as evidence.

4 Q. Did you tell your mother that you were keen to go to
5 Australia?

6 A. I did, yes, because of what the boys had said.

7 Q. Was she happy that you should go to Australia?

8 A. Well, she said in her letter that she thought Scotland
9 wasn't going to be productive in my life as far as
10 working and there was a better chance because Australia
11 was a new country, a new opening, and there was a better
12 chance of me getting a better life out here in
13 Australia.

14 Q. I think the letter you're referring to is a letter she
15 sent to Quarriers to consent to you going to Australia.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Do I take it then from what you're saying that you
18 really, as it were, volunteered to go to Australia? You
19 wanted to go?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. What information were you given by Quarriers as to what
22 the position would be once you were in Australia?

23 A. I don't recall ever getting anything other than other
24 boys had gone there and they were looked after in
25 a church home by the Presbyterian Church of Scotland in

1 Australia. That was the only thing I knew.

2 Q. I think then it is the case that you left Quarriers,
3 I think, as you mentioned earlier, in [REDACTED] 1961 to
4 go to Australia. What did you take with you when you
5 left Quarriers?

6 A. Quarriers provided me with a trunk of clothes, which was
7 just some -- for me to use on the ship, and it contained
8 all different clothing types, some winter clothes,
9 towels, underwear, a full set of clothing for all
10 conditions.

11 Q. And in preparation for leaving, do you remember if you
12 had a medical examination?

13 A. I remember the medical because I failed the first one.
14 I thought, well, I'm not going, and the doctor said, no,
15 we'll do another test next week. So I did the medical
16 test again the following week and I still -- I've read
17 anyhow that the first time I did the blood pressure
18 test, my blood pressure was high, and I did it the
19 second time, it was back to normal, and they said, oh,
20 you'll just be excited that I was being tested to go to
21 Australia.

22 Q. And do you remember if there was any psychological
23 assessment to see if you were the sort of person who
24 might be suitable for life in Australia?

25 A. I don't remember that.

1 Q. You've mentioned that you were in a group of five boys;
2 is that correct?

3 A. Correct, yes.

4 Q. Were these boys of a similar age to you or were there
5 differences?

6 A. They would all be the same age, approximately. We were
7 13. If there was any difference -- because I met up
8 with one late last year, [REDACTED] -- I think he is
9 one of the names I've put in there. He lives between
10 Queensland and South Australia with his jobs. We're all
11 the same age. He's about a year younger than me. So
12 they'd all be around 70, 71, 72 or thereabouts now.

13 Q. Did anybody leave with you, and by that I mean an adult,
14 from Quarriers to take care of you on the trip?

15 A. There was definitely one nurse who was my chaperone.
16 She looked after our passports and that and there was
17 another lady came with her, so we had two ladies looking
18 after the five of us on the ship.

19 Q. Do you remember if there was a lady by the name of
20 Miss Henry who had been in charge of the baby and
21 toddler homes at Quarriers?

22 A. No idea. Never heard of that name.

23 Q. In any event, did you then, when you set off, travel via
24 London to Southampton?

25 A. Mm-hm.

1 Q. And at Southampton did you join a larger group of
2 children who were also going to Australia?

3 A. No, not that I know of. We were in our own little
4 group, just the five of us and two ladies.

5 LADY SMITH: Just going back to information you were given,
6 you were 13, nearly 14, by the time you were going out
7 to Australia, which was at that time getting very close
8 to the school leaving age in Scotland. Did anyone talk
9 to you about how long you would be in the Church of
10 Scotland home and what would happen to you after that?

11 A. I don't recall that ever being discussed about how long
12 I'd be in school in Australia because the schooling --
13 I didn't know what it was until I got there. It was --
14 when I was talking to the other boys, the leaving age in
15 Australia at the time was 16.

16 LADY SMITH: Right.

17 A. I think it went to year 10, but now it goes to year 12.

18 LADY SMITH: I see. But you as a 13-year-old didn't,
19 I suppose, give much thought to what you were going to
20 do or who was going to look out for you or how you were
21 going to survive once your time in the home came to an
22 end, did you?

23 A. That's exactly right. I had no idea. I think I've said
24 that: when I left Dhurringile, I was thinking, "I'm on
25 my own", but I've also noted in my statement that the

1 [REDACTED] family, who gave me a home in Australia, that is
2 still my home today, 50 years later. I still talk to
3 the family. I go down there every year.

4 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

5 MR MacAULAY: You mentioned Dhurringile and that's, I think,
6 where you went. When did you first learn the name of
7 the place that you were going to go to?

8 A. Um ... I don't know if it was before I left Scotland or
9 it was when we first arrived. It must have been when
10 we were leaving Scotland. We were told we were going to
11 a training farm run by the Church of Scotland. Whether
12 the name Dhurringile was mentioned there, that'd be the
13 first time I heard of it. I don't even think I could
14 pronounce it. When I looked at the name, it's spelt DH,
15 I wouldn't have known how to pronounce DH in a word.

16 Q. I think then the position is that you left from
17 Southampton on the ship, which I think was the Orion;
18 is that correct?

19 A. The SS Orion, yes.

20 Q. How was the trip?

21 A. It was fine, yes. I enjoyed it.

22 Q. Did you stay together with your group, the five of you?

23 A. I did, yes. We did. I think four boys were in one
24 cabin and the two ladies were in another cabin and
25 another -- I don't know if it was two or it might have

1 been five in the cabin, I forget now. I know we were
2 all together anyhow.

3 Q. I think the trip would take you first of all to
4 Fremantle and then on to Melbourne.

5 A. Yes, we went through the Suez Canal, stopping at Aden,
6 I think it was, and Colombo and then Fremantle and
7 Melbourne.

8 Q. Did you arrive in Dhurringile on [REDACTED] 1961?

9 A. Mm-hm, yes. Picked up by the housemaster.

10 Q. Perhaps I can ask you about him. What was his name?

11 A. Mr ^{AIO} [REDACTED] A short, stocky man. He was -- what would you
12 say -- a tough taskmaster. He was strict, but we just
13 took it in our stride, what we had to expect while we
14 were there.

15 Q. And I think you left Dhurringile, as you've perhaps
16 mentioned already, in [REDACTED] 1964 after you turned 16;
17 is that correct?

18 A. I left, yes, and joined the Australian Navy.

19 Q. I'll come on to that in a moment. Dhurringile, let's
20 just look at the place. Can you just describe the place
21 for me, the layout of the place?

22 A. Yes. It was a huge building, I think it was two
23 storeys, but it had a tower, which was another two
24 storeys, but it was only -- the building would have
25 been, say, in round figures, around 50 metres or

1 40 metres long and 20 metres high, but then the next two
2 storeys of the tower was another two storeys which would
3 have taken it up to 40, 50 metres high.

4 Originally, from what we were told, the builder of
5 the home owned the land, north, south, east and west --
6 from the top of the tower he could look north, south,
7 east and west and all the land in that area, he owned,
8 which was hundreds and thousands of acres of land, which
9 was finally broken down and sub-divided into farm lots.

10 It was a nice place. It was used as a German
11 officer prisoner of water camp during the war because
12 there were dungeons underneath, underground, and I think
13 there were three big dormitory bedrooms upstairs, a big
14 dining room downstairs, playroom. I don't remember
15 a television -- television came to Australia in 1956 for
16 the Olympics, but I don't remember if we had a TV there
17 when I first arrived in 1961. I don't remember. It was
18 a big place, it had its own boiler room, kitchen,
19 et cetera, et cetera.

20 Q. Was there a farm attached?

21 A. Yes, it had a farm attached to it, yes. It was cows and
22 pigs and the orchard part. It was sort of three sorts
23 of income.

24 Q. And is the locality known Tatura?

25 A. Tatura is a village that I used to drive over -- I got

1 a job there in the foundry making big troughs and blue
2 metal troughs for the farming industry. To me, it was
3 only a 5, 10 -- say, 6 kilometres, 2 or 3 miles down the
4 road. But Tatura is a town in one direction and in the
5 opposite direction there is another little town called
6 Murchison, and Dhurringile was in the middle of them.
7 It was just a farm on its own.

8 Q. When you arrived, did you meet up with other boys who
9 had been at Quarriers?

10 A. Yes, we did, yes. Names, I can't remember. I can
11 remember a couple of the names --

12 Q. I don't want to ask about names, but you recognised
13 these boys as boys who had been at Quarriers?

14 A. I did, yes.

15 Q. Can you tell me how many children were at Dhurringile
16 when you were there?

17 A. I think about 16 altogether, from rough memory, 16.

18 Q. Did that number change at all during the two and a half
19 years or so that you were at Dhurringile?

20 A. Yes, the older boys would leave once they got to 16, 17,
21 18, they'd go and get jobs and find somewhere else to
22 live after that. There was never any -- when I say
23 older boys, I can't remember anybody there being older
24 than 17, 18. I can't remember anybody older than that
25 there.

1 Q. You're talking about quite a small number of children in
2 this fairly large establishment; is that right?

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

4 Q. What about the staff? How many staff did you have?

5 A. None. There was the farming family that were the
6 Robbins family. I think the wife -- I forget the
7 father's name, but the son, [REDACTED] we used to play
8 cricket with him, on a cricket team. I remember [REDACTED]
9 and I think his wife or his mother, [REDACTED] mother,
10 helped with the cooking in the house and her husband was
11 the head farmer. The boys helped in the farm, with
12 milking the cows and cleaning out the pigsties at
13 weekends. That was the only staff.

14 Q. You mentioned Mr. [REDACTED] AIO

15 A. He was [REDACTED]

16 Q. He was [REDACTED] Was his wife there with him?

17 A. He never had a wife.

18 Q. So Mr. [REDACTED] AIO was [REDACTED] and you've mentioned one or two
19 other names. Who did you consider was looking after the
20 children?

21 A. Mr. [REDACTED] AIO

22 Q. When I say children, it was all boys; is that right?

23 A. All boys, yes, no girls.

24 Q. I think you were 13 coming on 14 when you arrived there.

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. What was the age range?

2 A. The boys that I came with were all 13, 14 or 12, 13, 14.

3 It would have been up to 16, maybe 17. That'd be it.

4 I'm only guessing now, but that's ... The kids were all

5 roughly the same age. We all went to school together

6 and we were all in (inaudible: distorted) grades.

7 Q. Do I take it from what you said, you were in the younger
8 group?

9 A. Yes. We were the younger brigade, yes.

10 Q. So far as the running of the home is concerned, you
11 mentioned the Church of Scotland. Do you understand it
12 was actually run by the Presbyterian Church of Victoria?

13 A. Yes, that's what I was led to believe, yes.

14 Q. You've mentioned the dormitories already. Can I just
15 understand what the sleeping arrangements were?

16 A. Yes. I think from memory there was ... I think there
17 was three dormitories and it was just beds with
18 a cupboard beside each bed, down each side, and four
19 beds or two beds and two beds, and cupboards between
20 them. And then the next dormitory was the same set-up.

21 Q. So if you're talking about 16 boys and three
22 dormitories, would that give us an idea as to how many
23 boys might have been in each dormitory?

24 A. Yes. Say, six. Three sixes are 18, so that's about
25 right, yes.

1 Q. When you arrived there, did the boys from Quarriers who
2 had been there already tell you anything about what life
3 was like at Dhurringile?

4 A. Yes, they said it was -- life was good because they were
5 on a farm, there was a lot of space. When I say space,
6 it's huge. And to go to school was, like I said,
7 20 kilometres, 15 or 16 miles, whatever it is.

8 Then the day we arrived, we were in the little van
9 that Mr AIO picked us up in and I was thinking, when
10 are we going to get there, when are we going to get
11 there, because it was just so far from Melbourne.
12 You're 160, 120 miles from Melbourne to the home and we
13 just kept driving forever, I thought.

14 Q. I think we can hear the dog in the background.

15 A. He's out in the back yard. I can't shut him up, sorry
16 about that. Apologies.

17 Q. Don't worry about that.

18 Just looking at some aspects of the routine: the
19 food, how would you describe the food?

20 A. I learned to eat a lot of different food from Scotland.
21 The thing I was thinking about the other day but
22 I didn't write it down, in Scotland I hated beetroot,
23 but it was one of the staple foods of Australians, so
24 I learned to eat beetroot. Olives, I learned to eat
25 olives. Fruit. Fruit was coming from England. Out in

1 Australia they were growing some of it and we were
2 buying some of it.

3 The food in Australia was presented well, presented
4 edible, because we grew our own fruit and vegetables and
5 we had animals and the farmer would kill what we needed
6 to kill, whether it was sheep or cattle or whatever.
7 I don't know how the other supplies got there because
8 I was never involved in any of that.

9 Q. You have mentioned the school already and I think from
10 what you have said, the school was quite some distance
11 from the home; is that correct?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Would you be taken to school by bus or how did that work
14 out?

15 A. Yes. It was a school bus picked us up. Well, we walked
16 down to the driveway to the main road and the bus would
17 pick us up on the main road.

18 Q. You've mentioned the farm already. Did you work on the
19 farm during your time there?

20 A. Yes, we all worked on the farm. We all had a rotating
21 roster. One week I'd be doing the cows, milking in the
22 morning, then showering and having breakfast and go to
23 school. And the next week I'd be doing something else
24 and then someone else would be doing the milking. There
25 were two milkings, there was one morning and one at

1 night, and we'd also sort of -- one lot of us would do
2 one lot in the morning and the other in the afternoon,
3 and at the weekends you'd do the pigsties and the
4 following weekend, someone else would do it, some of the
5 other boys would do it.

6 Q. And during your time at Dhurringile, was your birthday
7 recognised?

8 A. I can't remember that. Um ... I don't think so, now
9 I think of it.

10 Q. Christmas then. I think you tell us about Christmas.
11 This is where the [REDACTED] family, I think, who you've
12 mentioned already, come on the scene.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Can you tell me about that?

15 A. Every year the home would put a broadcast on the local
16 radio station, which is 3SO, which is Radio Shepparton.
17 Shepparton is the main town in Goulburn Valley, which is
18 where Dhurringile is. Every year they'd put a broadcast
19 on for volunteers to take the kids from Dhurringile to
20 the homes for Christmas. Christmas holidays in
21 Australia are six weeks, but even if they took them for
22 two weeks or three weeks, whatever, that was enough to
23 get [REDACTED] who was a World War I veteran -- he
24 (inaudible: distorted) a land allotment after the First
25 World War, which he turned into a 120-hectare orchard.

1 And it was very viable in those days. At one stage --
2 I don't know if you've ever heard of [REDACTED]
3 (inaudible: distorted), the [REDACTED] orchard was the
4 second largest supplier of apricots, 66 acres of
5 apricots. We produced hundreds of tonnes of apricots
6 and it was all picked by hand.

7 Q. I think what you're saying is that at Christmastime, you
8 actually went to stay with the [REDACTED] family?

9 A. Yes. I had a home there and other boys did the same.
10 My male friend I mentioned before, his family in
11 Shepparton, he still goes to see them, and that's what
12 happened every year. Every Christmas holiday I'd go to
13 the [REDACTED] for Christmas.

14 Q. I think what you're saying is that proved to be a happy
15 experience for you?

16 A. Yes. Sure.

17 Q. And you're still in contact with that --

18 A. Still in contact today with Mrs [REDACTED]

19 Q. You also tell us in your statement, Jok, that you did
20 write to your mother when you were at Dhurringile;
21 is that correct?

22 A. Correct, yes.

23 Q. How regularly did you write to her?

24 A. I think I said to her, I'll try and write every week,
25 but that stretched out to a month, and I never really

1 recall ever getting a reply. And that sort of ... It
2 sort of ... What's the word I'm looking for? It sort
3 of put in my mind that I really wasn't wanted because,
4 as I've said in my statement, when I got hold of my
5 cousin [REDACTED] in Aberdeen, she gave me all these birth
6 certificates, marriage certificates and photo albums.
7 And there's photos of mum and [REDACTED] on holidays in Europe
8 and where was I? I was stuck in a home and they went on
9 holiday. That's probably another reason why I never got
10 replies to the letters I wrote.

11 Q. Did you have any visits from anyone when you were at
12 Dhurringile?

13 A. No, never.

14 Q. What about --

15 A. No social workers, nothing like that, no.

16 Q. What about anybody in connection with the welfare
17 department? Do you have any recollection of --

18 A. No, I don't remember getting anybody other than Mr [REDACTED] AIO

19 LADY SMITH: Jok, if I can just ask you to go back a moment
20 to the matter of you writing to your mother: do you know
21 if your letters reached her?

22 A. Well, I only had the one address, [REDACTED],
23 that's the only address I had. So whether she got them,
24 I'll never know.

25 LADY SMITH: When you wrote a letter, was it on an

1 aerogramme form, these very light paper forms?

2 A. Yes, exactly, yes.

3 LADY SMITH: What did you do with it?

4 A. It was supplied by the home. I asked Mr ^{AIO} or
5 Mr ^{AIP} or Mr ^{AIQ}.

6 LADY SMITH: What did you do with your letters once you'd
7 written them? Did you hand them to Mr ^{AIO} post them
8 yourself, or what?

9 A. No, Mr ^{AIO} because I couldn't get to a post office, so
10 he would -- I think we used to get our mail delivered to
11 what they call a roadside mailbox, so letters
12 (inaudible: distorted) would be stuck in there. I think
13 if we were sending letters we would put them in the box
14 by a certain time in the morning, so that when the
15 mailman drove past, he would pick up the mail in the box
16 and leave the mail that was being delivered. That's how
17 it was working from memory.

18 LADY SMITH: Jok, could you move your head a little further
19 back from the microphone? Sometimes at this end the
20 sound of your voice is fuzzing.

21 A. Yes, I'm dry.

22 LADY SMITH: Do you have a glass of water?

23 (Pause)

24 Thanks.

25 Mr MacAulay, I'm sorry, I interjected when you were

1 exploring a different matter.

2 MR MacAULAY: I think you indicated, Jok, that you did not
3 receive any visits from, for example, anybody from the
4 welfare department. Did you have any contact at all
5 from anybody from Quarriers in Scotland?

6 A. Never. Not one call. Not one jot of anything, no.

7 Q. You've already indicated to us that you left Dhurringile
8 in [REDACTED] 1964, so you had been there for two and
9 a half years. Could you perhaps just describe to us
10 what the experience there was like for you?

11 A. It was good, as far as being tough, because you sort of
12 had to, what they call, rough it. If you couldn't get
13 something done in one way, the boys were sort of
14 inclined to say, well, if we can't do it this way, we'll
15 do it that way. We ended up knowing how to fix fences
16 because Mr Robbins would say, we can't bend a wire this
17 way, we'll stretch the wire that way to fix the fence to
18 keep the cattle in.

19 And the same with the other boys. We all sport of
20 learned to milk cows -- I'd never milked a cow in my
21 life. Pick fruit. I couldn't even tell an apple from
22 an orange. Pears. Apples, oranges -- no oranges --
23 apples and pears and peaches were the main fruit on the
24 orchard. And you learned how to pick the fruit because
25 it was your day job.

1 You learned how to milk cows, you learned how to
2 look after pigs, and with the milk situation, you
3 learned how to separate the milk, because we got money
4 for the big drums of cream.

5 Some of that milk also went to the factory as well.
6 So we learned how to survive off the land.

7 Q. Is what you're saying, Jok, that from your perspective
8 you see your time there as being a positive one for you?

9 A. Oh yeah, for sure. Because it wasn't easy because when
10 it gets hot, I mean hot -- there are regular days of
11 40-plus degrees temperature common in Dhurringile or in
12 Victoria, and the same on the orchard. I would go and
13 pick fruit with the pickers and you're working in 40,
14 44-degree temperatures, and you've got a big bush hat on
15 and you're in the shade of trees and you're still
16 working. That's the way it was done. I think that's
17 what made me tough because you had to work to survive
18 and all the pickers were the same. They would go from
19 one orchard to the next for each fruit season to make
20 money to live from year to year and that's how they did
21 it in Australia.

22 Q. How was discipline managed in the home?

23 A. Well, it's strange, but I can't remember any blues,
24 fights as we call them -- we call them blues here, but
25 fights in Scotland. The guys all seemed to gel all

1 right. I think because we were originally from
2 Quarriers and we'd moved to another part of the world,
3 we all knew what it was like in a home and we just
4 carried on under a different lifestyle, but the same
5 routines.

6 As I said in my statement, the routine was get up
7 in the morning, if you were milking the cows or
8 whatever, you did that, had a shower, had breakfast, and
9 the other guys did the reverse. So we had a job to do,
10 go to school, come home, got another job to do, and if
11 you didn't have anything to do then you played football,
12 played cricket or whatever.

13 Q. When you left Dhurringile, you have told us that you,
14 I think -- did you join the navy; is that right?

15 A. Yes. The Australian Navy, yes.

16 Q. How long did you spend in the navy?

17 A. 12 years.

18 Q. What you say in your statement, and I think you do want
19 to qualify this, is that when you left, your
20 understanding was, "That was me, I was on my own".

21 A. Exactly.

22 Q. Did you have any communication from anybody in
23 connection with Dhurringile after you left?

24 A. None. Nothing.

25 Q. I think you have told us that the one thing that

1 remained in your life was your contact with the [REDACTED]
2 family; is that correct?

3 A. Yes, that's exactly right, yes.

4 Q. You go on to tell us in your statement about your life
5 after you'd been in Dhurringile. You joined the navy,
6 you met your wife, and you got married and you have,
7 I think, three children; is that right?

8 A. Yes, three sons, yes.

9 Q. And also that in due course you worked with your
10 brother-in-law and then you ran your own restaurant for
11 a period of time.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And you're now retired?

14 A. I am. It's busier now than it's ever been.

15 Q. I think you may have covered this already, but you do
16 say at paragraph 77 of your statement, and I'll quote
17 this to you:

18 "The biggest mistake by Quarriers was not
19 communicating to me about my extended family. I think
20 that this is something they could have done."

21 Perhaps you can just fully explain what you mean by
22 that.

23 A. Well, they had my history from what Josie gave me,
24 Josie Bell, when I arrived in 2005. They had a history
25 of me that I didn't know anything about and she gave me

1 my papers, admission papers and everything, the papers
2 from my mother being interviewed by the directors of the
3 home to say that they had investigated her lifestyle,
4 she was a poor lady being looked after by her sister or
5 her sister's mother or some relative of the family
6 because she couldn't afford to live in her own house,
7 couldn't afford to look after her son (inaudible:
8 distorted) and I found all that out when I went back to
9 Quarriers in 2005. But they knew about it, but I was
10 never told, even after I left.

11 Q. I think you did in due course find out who your father
12 was.

13 A. I found that out in her office, yes.

14 Q. Did you ever see your mother again after you had gone to
15 Australia?

16 A. Never, no.

17 Q. And did you have any contact with her apart from the
18 letters you wrote?

19 A. Only the letters and then I think the first year I was
20 there, I rang my mother from the [REDACTED] house in
21 Shepparton and they said it was very funny, me talking
22 to her in Scotland and then -- because the same that
23 happened in Scotland in 2005, my son was with me and
24 wife was with me, talking to my cousins in Scotland.
25 Half an hour later, I'm talking to Scottish people and

1 my son couldn't understand what I was saying.

2 It was the same when I was talking to my mother at
3 the [REDACTED] house, they were asking me what was I talking
4 about because I was talking so fast to my mother and
5 they couldn't understand what I'd said.

6 Q. But at least you did speak to your mother on that
7 occasion?

8 A. I did speak to her on that one occasion, yes. I think
9 it was only the one time, yes.

10 Q. I think you now have an Australian passport; is that
11 right?

12 A. Correct, yes.

13 Q. But what you tell us at the end of your statement
14 is that you still see yourself as Scottish.

15 A. Yes. I love Scotland. I love going back. I was hoping
16 to go back next year.

17 MR MacAULAY: On that happy note, Jok, if I may say, I've
18 finished my questions that I have for you today.
19 Thank you for giving your evidence as you have done and
20 for answering all of my questions.

21 My Lady, I have also, as I have gone on, put
22 questions that have been put to me to put to Jok.

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

24 Are there any outstanding applications for questions
25 of Jok? No.

1 Jok, I can confirm that that does complete all the
2 questions we have for you this evening. It simply
3 remains for me to thank you both for engaging with us to
4 get the written statement that we have from you, which
5 is part of your evidence, and for talking to us today
6 over the video link. That has been so helpful to me in
7 helping me understand what life was like for you as
8 a child going to Dhurringile and afterwards.

9 If you're coming back to Scotland next year, do
10 remember to pick the time of year carefully! You need
11 to aim at somewhere in what we call -- hopefully call --
12 summer, but sometimes doesn't even prove that. Not
13 summers as Australians would recognise it. I hope
14 you're able to keep those links going and enjoy them.

15 A. My Lady, it'll be at the British Open golf time.

16 LADY SMITH: That sounds like a very good idea. Thank you
17 very much, Jok. I can let you go now.

18 A. Thank you, my Lady. Thank you.

19 (The video link was terminated)

20 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, it might be useful to have an
21 adjournment until about 9.30. There are particular
22 reasons for that, but the next task will be a read-in.

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much. We'll do that just now
24 and adjourn to 9.30 or so.

25 (9.16 am)

1 (A short break)

2 (9.30 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Ms MacLeod, are we ready for a read-on of the
4 next statement?

5 Witness statement of FRANCIS MALONEY MORRISON (read)

6 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, this is a read-in of the statement of
7 an applicant who waived his right to anonymity. It's
8 the statement of Francis Maloney Morrison and it can be
9 found at WIT.001.003.1012:

10 "My name is Francis Morrison, although I prefer to
11 be called Frank. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1942.
12 My contact details are known to the inquiry.

13 "I was born out of wedlock in Aberdeen. My father
14 was an Argentinian soldier but was killed before I was
15 born. I was the second sibling of three. I have
16 a brother who is nine years older than me. He was
17 brought up by my grandparents. I also have a younger
18 sister who is three years younger than me. We all have
19 a different father.

20 "My mother couldn't afford to keep me so she put me
21 into the care of Nazareth House in Aberdeen.

22 "When my sister was born, my mother looked after
23 her."

24 The records from Nazareth House Aberdeen, my Lady,
25 show the witness being admitted on [REDACTED] 1947, a few

1 days before he turned five, and being discharged on
2 [REDACTED] 1952 when he was aged 9 and eight months. It's
3 noted that he went to Australia at that time:

4 "Nazareth House was run by the nuns. I never had
5 any problems with them. There was also lay staff who
6 worked at the home. They lived in the home as well.

7 "I had friends at the home. We stuck together and
8 were great mates. We were all abused at Nazareth House.

9 "The food wasn't too bad. We all went to the big
10 dining room and the food was dished up on your plate.

11 "Bedtime was around 8.30 pm each night. I slept in
12 a big dormitory. It was all boys. There were about
13 80 beds in the dormitory. The nuns had young blokes who
14 were employed as lay staff. They looked after us at
15 night and supervised us during the day.

16 "There was a great big room with showers in it where
17 we washed. The lay staff would supervise. We were all
18 naked and they would stand watch and study us. It was
19 shocking.

20 "I had a couple of shirts and some shorts along with
21 my shoes. These were given to me by the home.

22 "I was never taken on any trips or had any holidays.

23 "My earliest memory of Nazareth House was going to
24 school. We had to walk to there. At that time I had
25 a bad stutter, so I had to go to a special school.

1 "I never went to a doctor or dentist. I didn't even
2 have a toothbrush to clean my teeth. My teeth were so
3 bad because of this I had to get them all taken out when
4 I was 25.

5 "At the home it was all about the church. I had to
6 go there every day.

7 "I never knew what a birthday was. It was the same
8 with Christmas. Neither of these things were ever
9 celebrated.

10 "I had no visits from any official people such as
11 the church or social work.

12 "My mother came to visit me twice when I was in the
13 home. The first time I was about 8 or 9 years old.
14 There was a young girl with my mother. I was told that
15 this was my sister. This was when I first knew that
16 I had a sister.

17 "The second time my mother came she took me out for
18 the day to the cinema. That was the last time that
19 I saw her.

20 "I used to wet the bed. If you had wet the bed then
21 you had to put your sheets and mattress over the
22 veranda. You then had to wash your own sheets.

23 "At night I dreaded going to sleep. The boys who
24 were looking after us would come into the dormitory with
25 little torches. The same ones would come to my bed

1 every night. They would interfere sexually with me.
2 I also had to do things to them that were inappropriate.
3 This happened from when I was about 6 or 7 until I was
4 10. It happened to all the other boys as well.
5 We would talk about it in the morning. We knew it was
6 wrong, but really didn't know anything different.
7 I don't remember the names of any of the blokes who came
8 to my bed. I think that they will all be dead by now.

9 "About 11 every night, the guys who looked after us
10 would take you to the toilet if you were a bed-wetter.
11 Once you had been they would take you back to bed and
12 then sexually abuse you.

13 "One day the sisters came into the big auditorium at
14 Nazareth House. They asked who wanted to go to
15 Australia. Everyone put their hands up. We were told
16 you would go to school on a horse and the pavements were
17 lined with silver and gold. They told us it was a big
18 country and the weather was beautiful.

19 "There were eight boys from Nazareth House picked to
20 go. Me and some of my friends were part of the eight.

21 "When I was older, I found out from my sister that
22 my mother had known I was going to Australia. Before
23 leaving for Australia, I was given a medical and various
24 inoculation jags. I now know that the parents of all
25 the children who went to Australia had to sign a piece

1 of paper to allow them to go. My mother must have done
2 this as well."

3 The consent form in relation to this witness is
4 available to the inquiry at NAA.001.001.0449:

5 "I left for Australia in May 1952. The ship was the
6 SS Ormonde. It sailed from Aberdeen. I don't remember
7 travelling on a train or a bus, so it must have sailed
8 from Aberdeen. I was given brand new shirts, trousers,
9 shoes and a tie when I was on the ship."

10 From records available to the inquiry, it appears
11 that the ship sailed on 30 May 1952 and Frank's name is
12 included on the passenger manifest. It's noted that
13 he was bound for Catholic Immigration, Hobart, Tasmania.
14 That's at NAA.001.001.1210:

15 "The lay staff who looked after us at Nazareth House
16 also went on the ship with us. The abuse I had suffered
17 continued in the same way on the ship. I never told
18 anyone about this. If we had told the
19 Christian Brothers on the ship we would have been called
20 liars and been given a slap on the face.

21 "The journey was okay. We visited a lot of places
22 on the way to Australia. I remember we stopped at
23 Port Said.

24 "There was about 80 boys altogether on the ship.
25 The other kids were from different homes in England and

1 Wales.

2 "The ship arrived in Fremantle. We all got off the
3 ship here. There were 12 of us going to Tasmania.
4 I don't know where the rest of the children went to.

5 "After this, the 12 of us sailed to Tasmania on the
6 Spirit of Tasmania. I was still with my friends from
7 Nazareth House.

8 "When we arrived in Tasmania, we were taken to
9 St John Bosco Boys' School at Hobart.

10 "Tasmania was like Scotland. It was all green.
11 There were about 300 kids in the home. It was all
12 orphans. There were eight Salesian priests in charge
13 and four lay brothers who assisted. In the main we were
14 treated reasonably well by the brothers. Father **LHE**
15 was the rector and in overall charge of the home.

16 "I made friends with some of the boys who were
17 already there. The six of us from Scotland and three
18 who were already in the home were to stick together
19 through thick and thin.

20 "I slept in a dormitory. I was still with my
21 friends. We were all in the same dormitory.

22 "The school was within the grounds of the home.
23 I never learned much at school. My grades suffered
24 a lot at St John Bosco's. We went to church every day.

25 "I was still wetting the bed. Father **LHE** was very

1 intolerant of bed-wetters. I found this very
2 humiliating. You would be punished for wetting the bed.

3 "If you did something wrong, then you were given the
4 strap on the backside. This happened to me. The
5 brothers would put a hacksaw blade inside the belt so
6 that it was firmer. Punishments were normally for
7 things like talking in class.

8 "I was at Tom Bosco's for three years when I was
9 moved. Some of us had stolen eggs from the coop. All
10 of a sudden we were seen as ratbags and we had to leave.
11 We were told that we were going to Western Australia to
12 a large farm.

13 "There were eight of us in total. This included my
14 friends from Nazareth House. Father [REDACTED] LHE took us to the
15 airport. We flew with Father [REDACTED] LHE from Tasmania to
16 Melbourne. After this, we went on our own from
17 Melbourne to Perth. It was then a 230-kilometre bus
18 journey to Tardun. We were still in our suits that we
19 were given while we were at Tom Bosco.

20 "By this time I had forgotten about the abuse at
21 Nazareth House. It was still in the back of my mind,
22 but I thought it was in the past now after everything
23 had been okay at Tom Bosco's.

24 "I arrived at St Mary's, Tardun, Western Australia,
25 on [REDACTED] 1955. I remember this because it was a few

1 days before my birthday. Tardun was to be the most
2 dangerous place of my life. My life was condemned to
3 the daily, physical and sexual assaults of the evil
4 Christian Brothers.

5 "It is hard to imagine a more desolate place than
6 St Mary's. It was in the middle of nowhere. There were
7 24 Christian Brothers at Tardun. They all had their own
8 rooms in the home. Some of the brothers worked on the
9 farm; the others looked after the boys.

10 "You had to call the Christian Brothers 'sir'. The
11 brothers had total control over you. One of the
12 brothers who looked after the boys was Brother AOC

13 AOC. The other brothers whose names
14 I remember were Brother AOE, Brother AOF and
15 Brother AOJ. Brothers AOC and AOJ, I would find
16 out, were the main sexual predators.

17 "The food wasn't very good. You were never fed
18 properly.

19 "We were put into dormitories, I slept in the same
20 dormitory as my friends.

21 "When the boys were washing in the communal showers,
22 the brothers would all gather. They would stand and
23 watch you whilst you were naked. It was degrading.
24 They would comment on the size of your penis.

25 "The Catholic Church had failed me in my education.

1 By the time I arrived at Tardun, I could barely read.
2 Brother AOC was a teacher at the school although
3 I doubt that he was qualified. On the pretext of
4 helping me with my reading, he would take me to the
5 front of the class and tell me to stand next to him at
6 his desk. Brother AOC had built plywood around his
7 desk so that no one could see under it. He would
8 shamelessly molest me at his desk. He would play with
9 himself while fondling my genitals.

10 "The other boys thought I was AOC pet. As if
11 to dispel this notion, he would punish me by giving me
12 the belt. He would raise the belt above his head and
13 bring it down on my body without mercy.

14 "There was never any effort made with me in the
15 class. They gave up on me and by the time I was 15
16 I was put out to work in the bakery.

17 "Every hour you had to stop and say a specific
18 prayer. This stayed with me even after I left and
19 started working. I would stop to say a prayer and my
20 workmates would ask what I was doing.

21 "One of the biggest hypocrisies was when the
22 brothers were doing their Catholic teaching to you.
23 They would warn you about sinning and the consequences
24 of doing so. We would be shown images of wicked sinners
25 burning in hell. All the time these paedophiles were

1 picking us off one by one.

2 "The home had its own bakery. I left school when I
3 was 15 and I went to work there. I was given £4/10
4 wages. I had to pay the Christian Brothers £4 a week
5 for board.

6 "At the bakery I made bread for the school. I liked
7 working there. As we weren't being fed properly,
8 we would steal eggs and bread from the bakery. This was
9 until a brother walked in and caught us. Before we knew
10 it, there were four brothers on us. They all leathered
11 us with their belts as a punishment.

12 "Brother AOC was about 30 or 40 years old when
13 I was at Tardun. He was very strong and very violent.
14 Not long after I arrived it was my birthday.
15 Brother AOC invited me to his room. He gave me a bag
16 of sweets. He started to cuddle me. This was the
17 beginning of the abuse. He then made me have oral sex
18 with him. I wasn't the only one that he did this to.
19 This would happen every couple of nights. He also raped
20 me a number of times.

21 "Brother AOC would come to my dormitory three or
22 four times a week. He would shine his torch in my face
23 and motion for me to follow him. In his room he would
24 offer me sweets and treats. He would then carry out
25 sexual acts on me. He would also force me to do sexual

1 acts on him. Brother AOC took what he wanted from me
2 whenever he wanted to.

3 "When I was around 15 or 16, Brother AOC called
4 me to his room. I couldn't take it anymore. I told him
5 that I was going to report him to the principal. He
6 grabbed me by the throat and threatened to kill me. He
7 said to me that there were three boys buried in the
8 cemetery and if I didn't want to be the fourth, I would
9 keep my mouth shut. I held his eye and he let me go.
10 After this, he didn't come near me again.

11 "Brother AOJ was a less frequent abuser than
12 AOC. He was also violent. It was terrifying when he
13 lost his temper. When I was around 13 or 14, he would
14 come into my dormitory. He would take me to his room
15 where he would masturbate me. He never raped me.
16 I think he knew I was Brother AOC pet. I would
17 just try to imagine that I wasn't there.

18 "The Christian Brothers from Perth would come to
19 Tardun for a week for their retreat. There would be
20 about 50 of them. We had to give up our beds for them
21 and sleep on the floor. Even then the abuse would
22 continue. The brothers from Perth who I remember
23 sexually abusing me were Brother MHZ, Brother MDI,
24 Brother AQA and Brother AQB. This abuse
25 happened every year from when I was 13.

1 "When I was 17 I left the home. I was given
2 a suitcase full of clothes. The brothers got me a job
3 at a bakery in Geraldton. I didn't like it. It was too
4 claustrophobic. I only lasted two weeks before I was
5 given the sack.

6 "At the same time I started playing with a local
7 pipe band. I knew when I lost my job I would be sent
8 back to the orphanage. When I went to band practice,
9 the guy in charge could see I was upset. I told him it
10 was because I had to go back to Tardun. He told me not
11 to worry and made a phone call. When he came off the
12 phone, he said that he'd managed to get me a job at
13 another bakery. It was to be a five-year
14 apprenticeship.

15 "When the boss of the other bakery saw what I could
16 do, he decided I could start as a third year apprentice.
17 This was because I had the experience from the bakery at
18 the home.

19 "One day Brother AQC came to the bakery. He told
20 me to come to the door. All the boys working at the
21 bakery were looking at him. He asked me why I had
22 stopped going to church then slapped me hard across the
23 face. One of my workmates, who I was friends with, went
24 over to the brother and warned him off. My boss then
25 came and told the brother to leave.

1 "The whole thing was very embarrassing for me but
2 I felt good because my friends had stood by me. After
3 this, I was finished with the Catholic Church. I had
4 still been paying 20 shillings a week to the church.
5 When I stopped paying this the church sent me a bill
6 a few weeks later. I never paid it.

7 "I worked in the same bakery for 45 years.

8 "In 1964 I met my wife at the dancing. When I first
9 met my wife I took her to the pictures. She held my
10 hand but I didn't like it. I didn't know what to do.
11 I had to ask my workmates at the bakery. I had never
12 been shown any affection while I was in care. I didn't
13 know what it was. I married her six months later. We
14 had three children, two boys and one girl.

15 "I got on really well with my wife's mother. She
16 was like the mum that I never had.

17 "My wife died three years ago after suffering from
18 cancer. I never told her what had happened to me when
19 I was in care.

20 "I told my family what had happened to me after my
21 wife passed away. We were having dinner at my house.
22 There was something on the television about child abuse.
23 My daughter asked me if I had something to tell them.
24 I became very upset and started to cry. After this,
25 I told them the whole story. They wished I had told

1 them before as they would have helped me. It was all
2 very difficult for me. The thing was I never knew if
3 anyone would believe me when I told them what had
4 happened.

5 "One of my friends found out where Brother AOC
6 was staying in Adelaide. We thought about going to see
7 him, but we didn't. I know that AOC is now dead.

8 "My friend took the Christian Brothers to court in
9 Tasmania. I was contacted by the court and asked to be
10 a witness. I think that the two brothers on trial were
11 sent to prison.

12 "After the court case, two Christian Brothers came
13 to see us. I told them I was there to support my mate.
14 After we spoke with the brothers, they offered my friend
15 \$58,000 in compensation, which he accepted.

16 "The Child Migrants Trust in Australia found me.
17 They contacted me and told me about the redress process.
18 The first time the trust paid for me to go back to
19 Scotland was 1991. My wife came with me. I have had
20 four trips paid for by the trust. I have been told that
21 I can do one more trip but I won't be going.

22 "I receive a monthly newsletter from the Child
23 Migrants Trust. This keeps me up to date with what is
24 going on.

25 "I recently tried to commit suicide. My son found

1 me in time. I went to see my doctor. I think this made
2 me realise that I had a lot to live for with the family
3 that I have.

4 "I was referred to a psychiatrist by my doctor.
5 After the first session, I didn't want to go back.
6 I was then made an appointment with a psychologist.
7 I told him everything. The first five sessions were
8 very hard and I felt bad after the sessions. It has
9 helped me. I'm a lot better now.

10 "In 1978 I got in touch with the Child Migrants
11 Trust to try and find out about my family in Scotland.
12 They gave me the address for my auntie. I wrote to her
13 and she was able to give me an address for my mother.
14 I sent a letter to her with a photo. My mother replied
15 back to me. She never explained anything about my time
16 in care. It was a bland response. Eventually, my
17 mother stopped writing back to me.

18 "A few years later, my sister saw the photo at my
19 mum's. She asked my mother who it was. My mother told
20 her it was just the son of a friend. She didn't tell my
21 sister that it was her brother.

22 "Another auntie told my sister about me and my
23 brother. Until then my sister had thought my brother
24 was her uncle. My sister went to Scotland to see my
25 brother and they decided to try and trace me. They knew

1 I was in Australia. That was all. My sister found my
2 telephone number by going through all the Morrisons
3 in the Australian phone directory.

4 "For years I was a nobody until the day in 1986 when
5 I received a call from my sister. I knew about her from
6 when she visited me at the orphanage in Aberdeen with my
7 mother, but I had no contact since then. When I heard
8 her voice, it was such a positive experience for me.

9 "My sister told me that I also had a brother.
10 I didn't believe her at first. She gave me his phone
11 number to call him. I saved up for three years so that
12 I could visit my extended family in Scotland.

13 "In 1989 I went back to Scotland. I went with my
14 wife, sister and brother to visit Nazareth House in
15 Aberdeen. I spoke with one of the sisters and told her
16 who I was. We were invited in. The sister was pleased
17 to see me and showed me a large photograph album. I was
18 in some of the photographs with my friends. I really
19 enjoyed being back there.

20 "When I was visiting my family, we were out walking
21 and passed a cemetery. My sister told me that my mother
22 was buried there. She said that it was just a plot with
23 no headstone and asked if I wanted to see it. I said
24 no. I didn't know my mother. Why would I want to see
25 her grave? It could have been anyone.

1 "Two years later, my sister contacted me. She asked
2 if I wanted to contribute towards a tombstone for my
3 mother's grave; again I said no.

4 "In 1992 I went back to Scotland. My sister paid
5 for me and my brother to go away for a few days to try
6 and reconnect. I asked him why he had been brought up
7 by my grandparents. He wouldn't talk about it.

8 "I knew now that the whole time I had been in
9 Australia, I had been a secret. All my aunties and
10 uncles knew I had gone there.

11 "I contacted the Christian Brothers in Australia and
12 was able to obtain my birth certificate. They also had
13 a record of when I left Aberdeen and arrived in
14 Australia.

15 "My sister went to Nazareth House in Aberdeen on my
16 behalf. She was able to get my records from them. The
17 nuns were very good. There weren't any issues. I think
18 they had been quite taken when I had visited with my
19 family.

20 "From my records I have found out that I left
21 Scotland on 1 May 1952 and arrived in Fremantle,
22 Australia, on 5 June 1952.

23 "I have always felt Scottish although I am now an
24 Australian national and have an Australian passport.
25 I have never considered getting a British passport.

1 It's not something that has bothered me.

2 "In 2012 I went to Tasmania for a school reunion.
3 That was paid for by the government. We were flown
4 there and looked after when we arrived. I did go back
5 to Tardun for an old boys' reunion. There was a statue
6 and my name was still there where I had carved into the
7 wood. I was with my wife and kids. I stayed for
8 a couple of hours but I really couldn't get away quick
9 enough. There were too many bad memories.

10 "When I first moved to Albany, I used to see some of
11 the brothers from Tardun when they were there for
12 a holiday: Brother **AKR**, Brother **LHG** and Brother
13 Acari(?). They were the good brothers and I would lunch
14 with them.

15 "I always think about my time in care. In my head
16 I know that what happened to me was not my fault, but
17 I cannot get rid of the overwhelming feeling of shame.
18 I have nightmares every night. What happened to me at
19 Tardun I kept to myself for 65 years. I was so ashamed.
20 I never told my wife about it. My wife used to say to
21 me that I had no love in me. I used to think: how could
22 I have love after what has happened to me?

23 "The last 60 years I have had the demons from my
24 childhood. I don't sleep well. I wake up through the
25 night and have visions of the brothers being there and

1 in my face. One of my sons still stays with me. He
2 hears me through the night when I wake up screaming.
3 I just tell him it's a bad dream.

4 "Although I wouldn't say the care provided by the
5 nuns in Scotland was bad, it did lead me to being sent
6 to Australia. The Sisters of Nazareth stripped me of my
7 identity and family by doing this. Losing the chance to
8 know my mother, having no family identity and being
9 alone was every bit as damaging as the sexual abuse
10 I suffered at the hands of the Christian Brothers.

11 "I don't think what happened to me as a child could
12 happen again. Everything was swept under the carpet
13 then. It would be difficult to do that now.

14 "I think that because the Christian Brothers were
15 celibate, it led to problems. They had to do something
16 and they took it out on us boys.

17 "The Catholic Church are realising now that they
18 have to compensate people for what happened to them as
19 children. For a lot of people it's too late.

20 "It is right they should provide compensation but it
21 doesn't make things better.

22 "I have no objection to my witness statement being
23 published as part of the evidence to the inquiry.
24 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
25 true."

1 The statement was signed by Frank yesterday, in
2 fact, on 5 December 2019.

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

4 MS MACLEOD: I will now hand over to Ms Rattray for the next
5 read-in.

6 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

7 Witness statement of "ANNE" (read)

8 MS RATTRAY: My Lady, this is a statement of an applicant
9 who wishes to remain anonymous and has chosen the
10 pseudonym "Anne".

11 Anne is speaking about her brother, her late
12 brother's experiences, as a child migrant and her
13 brother has a pseudonym, "Tom".

14 The statement can be found at WIT.001.002.5979:

15 "My name is Anne. I was born in 1956. My contact
16 details are known to the inquiry.

17 "I am providing a statement in relation to my
18 brother's experiences as a child migrant. His name was
19 Tom. Tom died in 2015.

20 "My mum married my dad in 1947. My sister and
21 I have the same mother and the same father. I was born
22 and brought up in West Lothian.

23 "Tom has the same mum as me but I do not know about
24 his father. His parents were not married. I don't have
25 a copy of Tom's birth certificate, but he was born in

1 1942.

2 "My mum came from Alloa. As far as I know, my mum
3 was staying in a bedsit in Glasgow when Tom was born.
4 He was born in Stobhill Hospital in Glasgow. When he
5 was an adult, Tom went to visit the hospital when he was
6 in Scotland. I know that he was baptised at
7 St Theresa's Church in Possilpark, Glasgow.

8 "Mum had Tom, then along came his half-brother in
9 1944. My mum was engaged to his half-brother's dad, but
10 I think he was a soldier and he got killed.

11 "I think my mum was having trouble paying the rent.
12 She was told to leave, so she turned to the
13 Catholic Church. She put Tom into an orphanage,
14 Nazareth House in Carlisle. I have a photograph of Tom
15 taken in Glasgow around that time.

16 "Tom's half-brother had a floppy arm and something
17 wrong with his leg. He dragged his leg. I wondered if
18 he had polio but I don't think he did. I think that is
19 why he didn't go into care because they wouldn't take
20 him. He remained with my mum.

21 "I have been shown by the inquiry a copy of
22 a register entry from the Sisters of Nazareth,
23 indicating that Tom was admitted to Nazareth House in
24 [REDACTED] 1945. That is my understanding, that he was
25 3 years old at the time.

1 "My mum was still staying in Glasgow at the time.
2 I don't know why Tom ended up in Carlisle. Maybe the
3 Catholic Church took him there. My mum used to go and
4 visit Tom at the orphanage, back and forwards. My mum
5 told me that she used to go to Carlisle with Tom's
6 half-brother. She said she couldn't have kept the two
7 of them.

8 "Tom never mentioned Nazareth House in Carlisle.
9 The records obtained by the inquiry indicate that my
10 mother promised to pay 5 shillings a week for his care.
11 She did tell me that she sent money to the home. I see
12 that these records also say that my mother gave
13 permission for Tom to go to Australia.

14 "My mum met my dad and they got married in 1947. My
15 dad had already been married. His wife had died and he
16 had a big family. My mum told my dad about Tom. As far
17 as I know, my dad was quite upset about it. He was
18 upset about him being in a home. He told my mum that he
19 would go to Carlisle to get Tom. My mum and dad went
20 through to Nazareth House. My mum told me that they
21 asked for Tom and the nuns told them that he was away.
22 They asked where he had gone and they said he was away
23 to Australia. I think that was in 1948.

24 "My mum tried to find out where Tom had gone in
25 Australia. The Sisters of Nazareth wouldn't give her

1 anymore information. They told her that he was away
2 over to Australia to get adopted for a better life.

3 "All my mum knew was that Tom was in Australia. She
4 didn't know where. They told her if she wanted him back
5 in Scotland, she'd have to pay for his fare back. My
6 mum didn't have the money. They were out of contact for
7 over 40 years.

8 "My mum kept going back to the Catholic Church to
9 try and get some feedback from them about Tom. She did
10 write a letter to him once to say that I had been born.
11 I think she handed the letter over to the sisters at the
12 Catholic Church. They said they'd make sure that he got
13 the letter. I found out years later that Tom got the
14 letter the day he left the orphanage. I was about one
15 year old at the time.

16 "My mum also went to the Salvation Army and said her
17 son had been sent over to Australia. She asked if they
18 would be able to help her find him. They wouldn't help
19 her.

20 "The register entry I have been shown by the inquiry
21 indicates that Tom was discharged from Nazareth House in
22 [REDACTED] 1947. That accords with my understanding, that
23 he was migrated when he was about 5 years old. He
24 didn't see any family members before he left.

25 "I have a copy of the migration form. It looks like

1 whoever filled out the form made a mistake and started
2 by inserting my mum's details instead of Tom's. The
3 address which has been scored out must have been my
4 mum's address. My mum was born in 1917, which they have
5 written on the form.

6 "In the section about parent or guardian consent it
7 states my mum's name. My mum saw this document, which
8 appears to record her consent for Tom to go to
9 Australia. She said she never filled in any forms or
10 anything like that. She said she didn't sign anything
11 to say that Tom could migrate. That is not my mum's
12 writing. We know that. My mum squiggled. She would
13 have made spelling mistakes. That's not my mum's
14 signature. It's too neat.

15 "Tom told me that he remembered going on to the
16 ship. He said that the children were told they were
17 going on a journey and that they were going on a big
18 ship. He said the nuns spoke to him and said he was
19 going on an adventure. They said he'd love it and he'd
20 get ice cream. He told me he didn't want to go and that
21 he was wanting his mum. It was all a mystery to him.

22 "He told me that all the children going to Australia
23 saw a doctor and had their tonsils taken out. He told
24 me about the bus journey to the ship, which he said was
25 quite long. I know that the ship sailed from

1 Southampton. He remembered having a wee suitcase with
2 some clothes in it.

3 "He sailed to Australia on the ship, the Asturias,
4 I have a photograph of the ship. Tom had the photograph
5 presented to him by the Australian Government. The
6 sisters accompanied the children. He was kept below
7 deck for the whole journey. Tom's group were all below
8 deck. They weren't allowed to go up and play on the
9 deck in case they fell overboard.

10 "One of Tom's friends was also a child migrant.
11 He was a wee big older than Tom. He died two years ago.
12 He was allowed to play on the deck. He told me that the
13 ball they were playing with was forever going over the
14 side. He told me that some kids did fall overboard on
15 the journey. They didn't get rescued. They were
16 child migrants as well.

17 "Tom was friends with another child migrant who
18 travelled with him on the Asturias. He was Irish.
19 I met up with him in Australia when I went out to visit
20 Tom, but he died a few years ago. They were the only
21 two from the ship that Tom spoke about. They took Tom
22 under their wing.

23 "Tom told me he had a touch of seasickness on the
24 journey. He remembered being sick quite a lot. The
25 older boys had to look after the younger ones. Some of

1 the older boys bullied Tom because he was being sick and
2 crying for his mum. I remember him telling me that they
3 got as much food as they wanted on the ship. That was
4 a good memory for him.

5 "When they arrived, Tom told me that they
6 disembarked from the ship and were separated into age
7 groups. I think they were met by one of the
8 Christian Brothers, Father MDJ. Tom was then taken
9 to the orphanage. I think he went to Castledare first
10 and then later moved to Clontarf.

11 "Castledare was more or less in Perth. I think Tom
12 told me that Castledare was mixed with boys and girls
13 living there. It was staffed by the Christian Brothers.
14 He told me that they stayed in dormitories there and it
15 was a way out in the countryside.

16 "Tom did have distinct memories of Clontarf because
17 I think he spent most of his time there. When I visited
18 Tom in Australia in 1994, he took me to visit both
19 Castledare and Clontarf.

20 "Tom told me that they'd be up at 6 o'clock in the
21 morning. They would go and do a bit of work. They then
22 came back for breakfast.

23 "Tom told me that he used to sleep outside at
24 Clontarf. Even in the wintertime, he used to sleep
25 outside on a veranda.

1 "Tom told me that breakfast entailed porridge that
2 looked like slops. They also got pigs' teats to eat.
3 Tom told me they didn't get fed again until 6 o'clock at
4 night, when it was slops again. If they didn't eat the
5 food he told me they got a slap about the head.

6 "Tom spoke about a big washroom where they all went
7 to get washed.

8 "All Tom had to wear was a pair of khaki shorts and
9 a vest. He never had any shoes.

10 "I think the children had some leisure time after
11 6 o'clock at night when they had finished whatever work
12 they had to do. I remember Tom telling me that they got
13 to play on a Sunday after church. He told me they would
14 go swimming, try to steal food and try to escape. Tom's
15 friend was with him at Castledare and Clontarf.

16 "Tom told me that he got some schooling, maybe
17 two hours a day. The children were mostly used for work
18 with very little schooling. Tom needed glasses. He
19 couldn't see. He was a teenager before he actually got
20 glasses, which was wrong as well. They should have been
21 seeing to his eyesight, but all through his time there
22 he needed glasses. That affected his education. Tom
23 couldn't read or write properly when he left the
24 Christian Brothers.

25 "Tom said that they had to go to church on a Sunday.

1 They had to be smartly dressed but they only had khaki
2 shorts and a vest, so it was a clean pair of khaki
3 shorts and a vest on a Sunday.

4 Tom described doing labouring work at Castledare.
5 He would build things. At Clontarf Tom was hired out to
6 people to work. He wasn't paid for the work. He told
7 me he was sent to a farm once. He had to work there.
8 He told me that he thought he was going out there to be
9 sized up for being adopted but he was sent out there to
10 work. Because he didn't do what he was meant to do he
11 got a beating from the owner. He then got another
12 beating when he went back to the orphanage.

13 "Tom told me that he never celebrated a birthday at
14 Castledare and Clontarf. There was only one person who
15 was brought up at Christmas and that was God.

16 "Tom remembered visitors would come to both homes to
17 view the children for adoption. The children would be
18 told to go away and get themselves spruced up. But Tom
19 was never picked. He didn't mention anything about
20 inspections taking place.

21 "He had no contact with his family at home. Tom was
22 told that his mother was dead and he had no living
23 relations. The Christian Brothers told him his mother
24 was a whore and she was dead and that was why he had
25 been shipped over to Australia.

1 "I think Tom tried to run away from Clontarf
2 a couple of times, but they always got him and he went
3 back to the home. Once he and his friend ran away
4 together. I think there were quite a few others with
5 them. They planned to run away and made their escape
6 during the night. They walked and walked and walked.
7 He told me they were feeling hungry. They came to some
8 place and asked for something to eat. The boys were
9 given some food to eat, the person asked where they were
10 heading and they said they were trying to get into the
11 city. The children went on their way and the
12 Christian Brothers came to get them. The person must
13 have known where they were from because of their
14 clothing and told the Christian Brothers. The children
15 were taken back and they got a beating for it. Tom's
16 friend told me that the Chief of Police in
17 Western Australia was friendly with the
18 Christian Brothers. The police were corrupt and knew
19 what was going on at the orphanages but they just took
20 the boys back.

21 "Tom spoke about a boy falling off a cart. The cart
22 ran over the top of him and he died. He took me to the
23 boy's grave. Tom was at the orphanage at Castledare
24 when that happened. After Tom died, I spoke to his
25 friend about that. He remembered that too.

1 "There were quite a few graves at the orphanage at
2 Castledare. Some of the children died through illness.
3 I'm not saying they were all murdered, but they were
4 really in my eyes. They didn't get medical attention if
5 they were ill, they were beaten and malnourished. No
6 doctors were called and they were just left to get on
7 with it. I don't think they were ever taken to
8 hospital. They weren't properly looked after and they
9 were beaten and in my eyes that's murder.

10 "Tom told me that the brothers maintained discipline
11 with a stick. He told me they could be beaten for
12 anything, for example not doing their work properly, not
13 making their beds, or talking. It was very strict.
14 There was no love at either place. They never got any
15 praise. They never had any dignity. He remembered the
16 brothers who hit him with a stick. He named them but
17 I can't remember their names.

18 "He took me to Castledare when I visited him in
19 1994. An old man was in the field, weeding it with
20 a hoe. He was stooped over. It was one of the
21 Christian Brothers. Tom told me that he was one of the
22 abusers. I told Tom I was going down to see him but he
23 told me not to and that I'd get into big trouble.

24 "Tom told me that he had been raped, often, by
25 a Christian Brother at Castledare. It was really

1 upsetting for him. I was totally shocked. He didn't
2 say what age he was when that happened. He did name who
3 it was, but I can't remember who the person was.

4 "He told me that he was sexually abused and beaten
5 at Clontarf as well. He didn't go into more detail than
6 that, but he said it was on a regular basis. He said it
7 went on quite a lot with other children as well.

8 "At Clontarf he showed me a pulley in a room with
9 lockers. It was about 6 feet off the floor. He said
10 the Christian Brothers would lie the boys on the pulley
11 up high. The Christian Brothers would let the pulley go
12 and it would stop just above the floor. That was one of
13 the punishments. I don't know whether Tom was put on
14 the pulley but he said he saw it happen to others.

15 "There was nobody for Tom to speak to at Castledare
16 or Clontarf. If he complained about anything, he told
17 me he just got a beating. I asked Tom if he told
18 anybody at the time. He said that he did, but he just
19 got a beating for it. He told another
20 Christian Brother, who he thought he could speak to and
21 trust. He learned to keep his mouth closed. He never
22 mentioned telling anybody else about it.

23 "I think Tom left Clontarf in 1957 when he would
24 have been 15 or 16. He didn't get any support or help
25 from the Christian Brothers after he left. He worked as

1 an apprentice jockey. Tom had been working at the place
2 whilst he was still at the home. He was hired out and
3 worked with the horses, which is where his love for
4 horses grew. He hadn't been turning up and the master
5 had contacted the home to tell the Christian Brothers.
6 When he went back to the home, he got a beating.

7 "After he left, he still went back to that same
8 person and got a job. He became an apprentice jockey
9 after he left. It was somewhere in Western Australia.
10 I've got a photograph of him on a horse, winning a race.
11 But after that, he had an accident -- I think he had
12 a head injury -- and he couldn't ride the horses again
13 after that. He loved horses.

14 "Tom was also in the army for two years. I think it
15 was his national service. He told me that he was
16 discharged because he tried [REDACTED]. The
17 person had made sexual advances towards Tom, so he
18 retaliated.

19 "After he had to stop being a jockey, Tom did the
20 odd labouring job. Then he became a truck driver with
21 Western Power in Australia, which he did until he
22 retired. He loved it. He travelled all over
23 Western Australia. He retired when he was 60 years old.

24 "Tom got married in 1980. They had never met
25 before. He was in a pub and got talking to a barmaid.

1 She told him he would get on with her mum and gave him
2 the address. Tom started writing to her. They first
3 met one another on the day they were married. They got
4 divorced in 2010.

5 "Tom got Australian citizenship eventually in 1996.
6 I think he had to apply for it. I have the actual
7 certificate. When he came to visit me, Tom had
8 a British passport. He was able to get his pension in
9 Australia.

10 "I know that Tom went to the Child Migrants Trust
11 around 1989. They were meeting up in a hotel in Perth.
12 I think there was a great big queue right out the door.
13 Tom went there and he told Margaret Humphreys his story.
14 He gave them what details he had. He knew my mum's name
15 and he knew that she was married again. He knew about
16 me because of the letter telling him that I had been
17 born. It all snowballed from there.

18 "Until the Child Migrants Trust found his family,
19 Tom knew about me and our half-brother, but he didn't
20 know about my sister or my dad's children. Tom was
21 ecstatic. At last he had a family. He felt like he was
22 somebody. He knew where he came from. He knew he had
23 a mum and he had sisters and a brother.

24 "Around 1990, the Child Migrants Trust phoned my
25 brother and asked if he knew my mum. My mum didn't have

1 a phone at the time. My brother said he couldn't
2 remember her address but gave them my phone number.
3 They phoned me. They told me they were looking for my
4 mum. I told them she didn't have a phone, but I gave
5 them her address in Edinburgh. I don't think I even
6 asked who it was who was calling.

7 "The phone call was on my mind for the next couple
8 of nights at work. I was talking to my line manager and
9 he said he fancied going out to Australia. He asked if
10 I'd ever been and I said I hadn't. He asked if I had
11 anybody in Australia and I said I had a brother. He
12 asked where he stayed and I said he didn't know. He
13 asked whether I would like to find him and I said
14 I would love to find him, but I didn't know how to go
15 about it. Tom was on my mind and I wondered if that
16 phone call had been about him.

17 "Two weeks later, my mum phoned me. She told me the
18 Child Migrants Trust had found Tom. Tom then wrote to
19 my mum and my sister. He didn't have my address.

20 "The Child Migrants Trust brought Tom over to meet
21 his family in 1992. Although the Child Migrants Trust
22 found Tom's family, the restoration fund hadn't been set
23 up at that time. Tom got a bank loan to come over to
24 Scotland and meet his family.

25 "Tom met my mother first, then my sister and then

1 me. Seemingly, he came into the house with
2 Margaret Humphreys and another social worker. Tom went
3 to give my mum a cuddle and she pushed him away. He
4 told me that she had just pushed him away. I told him
5 she wasn't a loving person and that I never got cuddles
6 or anything from her. I said to him that she was
7 probably scared of him, I thought my mum might be scared
8 that Tom would think she had sent him to Australia. Tom
9 didn't blame my mum for what had happened to him.

10 "He met my sister after my mum, but I wasn't there
11 to witness that. Then he met me. He said, 'You're
12 Anne, you're the baby.' He gave me a big hug and I gave
13 him a hug back.

14 "My sister didn't like Tom. She was all for Tom
15 before he came. She would tell me that they had had a
16 letter from Tom and he was looking forward to meeting
17 us. When she met him, she didn't like him. I think it
18 was because he wasn't educated, he was rugged. Tom just
19 spoke his mind, he was straight to the point. He didn't
20 beat about the bush. You had to take the way he was
21 brought up into consideration. You had to keep
22 reminding yourself of that.

23 "The first time he came to Scotland, Tom met me, my
24 mum and other family members. My mum used to say she
25 had a son in Australia. Tom had a wee box when he lived

1 with my mum in Glasgow. He played with it when he was
2 little. My mum had kept the box. When Tom came over to
3 Scotland, he recognised the box."

4 My Lady, from paragraphs 60 to 63, Anne describes
5 Tom's visit when he met relatives in Scotland. She
6 describes that there was some friction in the reunion
7 due to Tom's drinking and nightmares he suffered about
8 what had happened to him whilst he had been in care.
9 Moving to paragraph 64 at page 5992:

10 "When Tom was leaving, he told me that I'd need to
11 come over to Australia. I told him I'd love that but
12 it would take me about a year to save up. I told him
13 I didn't know how he had managed to come across and he
14 told me he had taken out a bank loan. I told him that
15 was a silly thing to do but he said he was desperate and
16 that he wanted to see his mum. He said he'd been told
17 she was dead and he wanted to see her.

18 "I kept in touch with Tom after he went back to
19 Australia. We would phone and write letters to one
20 another until I went back to visit him. I went to
21 Australia at Christmastime in 1993. I was there for
22 about four weeks. I stayed with Tom the whole time,
23 which was a big mistake.

24 "Tom stayed at [REDACTED] at that time, which was
25 just down the road from the Child Migrants Trust in

1 Perth. I eventually learned the boundaries, what to
2 say, what to do, what not to do. I met Tom's friends.
3 I met a lot of child migrant people. We had a party.

4 "I went with Tom on his truck to Carnarvon. We went
5 with another truck driver who was driving. It would
6 have been Tom's way of letting me see Australia without
7 having to pay. It was a 12-hour ride in this truck.
8 We were out in the middle of nowhere.

9 "Tom wanted to show me where he had lived. He took
10 me to Castledare and Clontarf. He said, 'This was my
11 home.' I said, 'This wasn't home, this was a prison
12 camp.' He told me that the children built this and the
13 children built that. He pointed out brick walls and
14 buildings. It was shocking. He pointed out a picture
15 of Father MDJ. His canvas painting was in the foyer
16 at Castledare. I asked Tom why it was there like he was
17 some kind of God. We weren't there for long.

18 "Tom took me out places but we had to be back for
19 3 o'clock every day. That was time for drinking. He'd
20 have a couple of drinks in the afternoon, then he would
21 have a sleep. He would get up, have his dinner, and
22 then he would start drinking again.

23 "His wife would make digs at me. She would ask how
24 my mother could have signed those papers for Tom to come
25 over to Australia. I told her my mother would not have

1 done that. I said she wasn't a mother to Tom and she
2 wasn't a mother to me either, but she'd never send her
3 son over to Australia."

4 From paragraphs 70 to 87 Anne describes Tom's visit
5 to Scotland in 2000. Once again there was some discord
6 resulting in an absence of contact for the next 10 years
7 or so. During that time, Anne was ill and Tom's mother
8 died in 2009.

9 Anne then decided to renew contact and did so
10 through the Child Migrants Trust. After that, Anne and
11 Tom kept in regular touch by phone and Skype. Anne
12 understood that Tom's drinking was the only way he could
13 blank things out. Tom visited Scotland again in 2012
14 and Anne and her son visited Tom in Australia in 2013.

15 These visits were funded through a Child Migrants
16 Trust fund and the family restoration fund. Anne and
17 her son were planning another visit in 2015, but in
18 [REDACTED] 2015 Tom died. Anne and her son travelled to
19 Australia for Tom's funeral.

20 Moving now to paragraph 88 on page 5997:

21 "When we were planning to visit in 2015, I had told
22 my husband I was going to ask Tom to come back to
23 Scotland to stay. It wasn't to be. I brought Tom's
24 ashes back to Scotland. I miss Tom.

25 "Tom's time in Castledare and Clontarf did affect

1 him. Things that we take for granted like personal
2 hygiene and eating were difficult for Tom. A sparrow
3 ate more than Tom. That was because he never got the
4 food while he was in the orphanages. He told me he
5 couldn't have children. I understood that was because
6 of the sexual abuse at the orphanages.

7 "Tom had nightmares about his time in the
8 orphanages. Most of the time it was the alcohol that
9 blocked it out. I think he did attend counselling to
10 talk about his drinking but other than that, I don't
11 know.

12 "Tom didn't really have any education at the
13 orphanages. I think he did well for himself, he worked
14 right up to his retirement. I don't think he knew the
15 value of money. He didn't want to be left without
16 anything. He wanted to make sure he could have food and
17 a roof over his head.

18 "It's not easy. It's not easy for the person who
19 was sent to another country. They've got to come back
20 over here. Our way of life is different from Australia.
21 The climate is different. When Tom came over and stayed
22 in the bed and breakfast in 2012, I asked him to move
23 back to Scotland. He said he'd love to but he couldn't
24 stand the cold.

25 "I don't know whether Tom ever reported the abuse he

1 experienced to the police in later life. I know my mum
2 phoned the police. When Tom first came to Scotland, he
3 stayed with my mum for the first week. My mum was
4 always getting on to Tom, telling him he shouldn't be
5 drinking. He said it was the only way he could blunt
6 things out of his mind and block out what happened to
7 him.

8 "My mum asked what had happened and he told her
9 he had been sexually abused. My mum phoned the police.
10 They came to the house. The police phoned the Child
11 Migrants Trust and spoke to somebody to verify what Tom
12 was saying. I didn't know about that until after Tom
13 had died. The Child Migrants Trust told me that my mum
14 had phoned the police.

15 "As far as I know, Tom was just glad to be shot of
16 Castledare and Clontarf and have his freedom. I know
17 that Tom gave a statement in evidence at the Child
18 Migrants Trust. He did get compensation but it wasn't
19 that much. What it was, I don't know. He did get
20 compensation in the March before he died. I think it
21 was from the Catholic Church.

22 "The Child Migrants Trust helped Tom to recover some
23 records, including the migration form. I brought his
24 papers back to Scotland. I have provided copies of
25 these to the inquiry. One is an acknowledgement of

1 receipt of his records signed by Tom in 1990. There is
2 an extract of the baptism register of St Theresa's
3 Church. There were also letters form the Child Welfare
4 Department in 1958 and 1959. Tom also had a copy of
5 a letter dated in 1999 asking to obtain an original copy
6 of his birth certificate, which he sent to the Catholic
7 Migration Centre in Perth.

8 "When I first found out about child migrants, I was
9 shocked. Tom told me it had been going on for years and
10 years, and not just to Australia but to Canada and
11 Africa too. He said people thought it was good and that
12 the nuns would look after them and bring them up. He
13 said that wasn't the case, it didn't work like that.
14 I told him I knew that it didn't work like that. That
15 was the only thing he ever really said.

16 "Tom did tell me that there was only one thing
17 he was glad about and that was that I was never sent
18 over to Australia. He said I probably would have been
19 next. He was right. If it hadn't been for my brother
20 taking me in when I was little, it would have been me.
21 Child migration was still going on when I was born in
22 1956.

23 "When Gordon Brown apologised in 2010, Tom said
24 'That pommy Prime Minister was a bit bloody late with
25 his apology.' He was quite foul mouthed about and

1 Kevin Rudd's, the Australian Prime Minister, apology.
2 He said half the child migrants were already dead or
3 they'd been murdered. I think he meant that a lot of
4 the children had been neglected, beaten and malnourished
5 and hadn't survived.

6 "A lot of them had become alcoholics as adults and
7 hadn't survived. If they got married, 90% of the
8 marriages didn't last.

9 "I don't know what will happen through this inquiry.
10 What I would like to see is that nothing like this ever
11 happens again to children. Children are innocent
12 people. They have a right to be brought up with their
13 families. It's too late for most of the child migrants,
14 this being brought to light.

15 "Although Tom got compensation, that wasn't enough.
16 He was too late on in life getting compensation. It was
17 too late for him to enjoy a bit of money. If he'd had
18 a good education, he'd have been able to work for his
19 money and get what he could afford. Tom never had that.
20 He struggled all his life. I was proud of him though
21 for what he had achieved in his life.

22 "My mum never got any compensation. She was in
23 poverty for most of her life. She never got any
24 compensation for them stealing her son because that's
25 what they did. They stole children to build up another

1 country with slave labour. It's shocking.

2 "I have no objection to my witness statement being
3 published as part of the evidence to the inquiry.
4 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
5 true."

6 Anne signed her statement on 16 May 2019.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you, Ms Rattray.

8 How long is the next statement likely to take?

9 MS RATTRAY: It's a relatively short statement. It's
10 ten pages long.

11 Witness statement of "DARBY" (read)

12 MS MACLEOD: The final statement for today is from an
13 applicant who wishes to remain anonymous and to use the
14 name "Darby". The statement can be found at
15 WIT.001.002.4289:

16 "My name is Darby. I was born in 1937. My contact
17 details are known to the inquiry. My earliest memory of
18 my childhood is living in the Falkirk area of Scotland.
19 I stayed with my mother, father and three older sisters.

20 "When I was around 4 years old, I was out with my
21 mother and she was knocked down and killed by a bus.
22 I was in hospital afterwards. I remember this very
23 clearly.

24 "My father took care of us after the accident. My
25 sister would also help when dad was at his work. My dad

1 died when I was 7 years old. He had gone for an
2 operation for a perforated bowel and he died during the
3 operation.

4 "After my dad died, our uncle moved in and looked
5 after us. I don't even know if he was our real uncle.
6 I can't remember knowing him before he came to our
7 house.

8 "Before I went into care, I had attended a primary
9 school.

10 "It was about a year after my father died that
11 myself and my sister were taken away. One of my aunties
12 took in my two older sisters.

13 "I was put into a children's home in Bathgate.
14 However, I was very young and I don't know the name of
15 this place.

16 "The orphanage at Bathgate was a big building like
17 a mansion. It was a mixed home for boys and girls.
18 I was moved to a different school when I went to the
19 orphanage. I was sad about this because I had liked the
20 school I had previously been at.

21 "At some point I was moved to Weedingshall
22 Children's Home in Polmont. I don't know when this was.
23 I was still with my sister, she was there as well.

24 "The home was run by a matron and nurses. There
25 were dormitories in the orphanage and I recall there

1 were five or six of us in each dormitory. I had no
2 contact with my other sisters.

3 "The home was very regimental. You had to line up
4 for your meals. The food was okay. You would get
5 a whack on the back if you didn't sit up straight at
6 mealtimes. It would be the matron or one of the nurses
7 that would do this.

8 "No one from the social work ever visited us.

9 "When I was 11 years old, I was moved to
10 Levenhall Home for Boys in Musselburgh. My sister
11 didn't come with me. I would find out later that my
12 auntie wanted to take care of my sister and me. She
13 wasn't allowed to because she already had too many
14 children.

15 "I think that the Presbyterian Church ran the
16 orphanage at Levenhall Home for Boys. It was all boys
17 there. There were four or five staff. I can't remember
18 who was in charge.

19 "The meals were okay at Levenhall. I remember there
20 being plenty of porridge. I don't remember there being
21 any issues with bathing and we were given regular baths.

22 "Every morning one of the staff would ask two or
23 three of us to go to the beach. This was to collect
24 coal for the home. I think that the coal was washed up
25 on the beach after falling from passing ships. If you

1 didn't behave, then you would be clipped around the ear
2 by the staff.

3 "I had no contact with the social work or my family.
4 I never had any visits at Levenhall.

5 "I was asked by one of the staff at Levenhall if
6 I wanted to go to Australia. There was no presentation
7 or anything like that. I thought that it was to go on
8 holiday. It never occurred to me that I wouldn't be
9 coming back.

10 "There were two of us from the home that went at the
11 same time, myself and another boy. I didn't have
12 a medical examination prior to leaving. I don't
13 remember any visits to the doctor or dentist at any of
14 the homes I was in before leaving to go to Australia.

15 "I was given some clothes in a small suitcase.
16 I can't remember who it was that gave me this.

17 "We left from Glasgow on the train. It was
18 [REDACTED] 1950. There were other kids on the train
19 from different homes. One of the boys was with his
20 mother. I remember some of the names of the boys.

21 "All the boys who were with me on the ship went to
22 Dhurringile. There were also some other adults with us
23 on the journey, but I don't know their names or what
24 their roles were.

25 "We travelled by train from Glasgow to Liverpool.

1 I think it was on [REDACTED] 1950 that the ship departed
2 from Liverpool. The ship was called the NV Cheshire.
3 I had never been on a ship before.

4 "There were a couple of blokes in charge of us on
5 the ship. I shared a cabin with four or five other
6 boys. There were bunks in the room.

7 "When we sailed through the Bay of Biscay I remember
8 I was very seasick. I was well looked after when I was
9 sick and after a couple of days, I was fine. There were
10 activities on the ship and I remember that there were
11 games for us to play with.

12 "When I was on the ship, I recall that was given an
13 inoculation for smallpox.

14 The ship stopped at Aden but we didn't get off
15 there. We were able to get off the ship when it arrived
16 at Colombo in Ceylon, as it was known then. It was the
17 worst experience of my life. There were children there
18 who had leprosy and parts of their arms were missing.
19 It was very frightening as a child to see these shocking
20 things.

21 "The first port we arrived at in Australia was
22 Fremantle in Western Australia. We were taken off the
23 ship and went on a bus to have a tour of the local area.
24 I remember it being extremely hot. No one said if this
25 was our final destination.

1 "The bus took us back to the ship and we then sailed
2 on to Melbourne in Victoria. Melbourne was to be our
3 final destination.

4 "We arrived in Melbourne on [REDACTED]. It was
5 extremely hot as well. There were 29 of us put on to
6 a bus with no air conditioning. We were taken on
7 a journey of 120 miles. We were told that we were going
8 to a place called Dhurringile, but that was all I knew.

9 "Dhurringile Training Farm had been
10 a prisoner-of-war camp during the Second World War. It
11 was now owned by the Presbyterian Church. The farm was
12 in the middle of nowhere and it was all boys on the
13 farm.

14 "We were the first children to arrive there. There
15 was a superintendent in charge of the facility. There
16 were also four or five staff. The staff would do things
17 like the cooking. The only names of staff that
18 I remember were Mr Anstie and his wife and another woman
19 called Hannah. All the staff who worked at Dhurringile
20 were Australian.

21 "I remember some of the boys who were arriving at
22 the same time as me. I stayed in a dormitory. It was
23 made clear to us that we had to keep this clean. We had
24 to make our own beds and we also had to polish the
25 floors.

1 "It was very difficult to sleep at night because of
2 the terrible heat. We also had to put up with every
3 type of insect.

4 "The food was cooked by the staff and it was okay.
5 We had to wash the dishes after our meals.

6 "When I arrived at Dhurringile, it was the summer in
7 Australia. The school I would be going to was closed
8 for the holidays. This meant that I was missing out on
9 a lot of the schoolwork I had been doing at Levenhall.
10 The school was about 42 miles away from the farm. It
11 took about an hour on the bus to get there. The bus was
12 old and there was no air conditioning. It was boiling
13 hot on the bus. It was a completely different world.

14 "I got on all right at school. There was never any
15 homework to do, though. Most of the work was done
16 at the school. There was no encouragement from the
17 staff to do any homework at the farm.

18 "As the institution was run by the
19 Presbyterian Church we had to go to church every Sunday.
20 We were taken as a group on the back of a truck to
21 church. It was about 6 miles away from the farm.

22 "All the boys at the home worked on the farm. There
23 was a set daily routine. Some of the boys would do
24 something one week, then other boys would do this the
25 next week. Our chores included such things as feeding

1 the pigs and milking the cows.

2 "There was a bit of freedom for the boys, but most
3 of the time it was like living in a prison.

4 "I think that when I was around 15 or 16, I got my
5 first proper job which was not on the farm. It was at
6 a local knitting mill. The skills I had learned at
7 Dhurringile had helped me to get the job. Once
8 I started working and being paid I had to start paying
9 for my board on the farm.

10 "There seemed to be a steady stream of boys coming
11 and going at the farm. After I arrived at Dhurringile
12 there were a few more boys arrived and there were still
13 boys arriving when I left the farm.

14 "Once I decided to leave Dhurringile I was
15 completely on my own. There was no preparation for life
16 beyond, you just left. I had not been taught any life
17 skills for managing money or paying bills.

18 "When I left Dhurringile, I started working on
19 a number of different farms as a labourer. It was
20 mainly dairy farms. You would be provided with
21 accommodation on those farms when you were working
22 there, but it was basic. Some had cold baths and on
23 another farm I had to sleep on the veranda.

24 "It was very hard work. Sometimes I would work for
25 14 hours, each day, often in extreme heat, for about £2

1 a week.

2 "I was on my own a lot of the time. This was when
3 I started to wish someone would come and take me home to
4 Scotland. I continued to work on the farms until I was
5 about 25.

6 "When I was older, my sister managed to get in touch
7 with me. I don't remember how old I was at that time,
8 but it was after the last farm I worked on, so I would
9 have been older than 25. She had tracked me down
10 through the Salvation Army. I think she had found out
11 that I was in Australia.

12 "I received a letter from a lawyer. I was told that
13 when my father had died, he had left me £17 in his will.
14 A cheque was eventually sent to me for that amount. I
15 wrote to my sister a few times after this, but I wasn't
16 much of a letter writer.

17 "Two of my sisters are dead now. It's only one
18 who's still alive and she lives in Scotland.

19 "I first found out about the Child Migrants Trust
20 when I saw an advert. This was either on television or
21 in a newspaper. I realised then I could apply for money
22 from them to let me visit Scotland. I think that the
23 funding came from either the British or Australian
24 Government.

25 "I had never managed to get hold of my records.

1 I never really tried to get these.

2 "In the late 1980s I went to Scotland to see my
3 sister. It was my niece who arranged most of it. She
4 met us at the airport. It was very emotional seeing my
5 sister and her daughter. I also visited my other
6 sisters, but one of them didn't recognise me. The house
7 was horrible.

8 "When I saw one of my sisters, she told me that she
9 had the opinion that I was in some way responsible for
10 my mother's death. She also blamed my mother for it
11 happening when it did. She said our mother shouldn't
12 have been in the place where she was knocked down in the
13 accident. This relationship and my sister's opinions
14 were all very traumatic for me.

15 "I wouldn't go back to Scotland to live. There is
16 nothing there for me now.

17 "I still have my original birth certificate so
18 I must have sailed with it. I think it must have been
19 handed to me when I got off the ship. I don't remember
20 who handed it to me though.

21 "After I was married and had children, I started
22 travelling a bit. I didn't have any problems getting an
23 Australian passport. I still feel that I am half
24 Australian and half Scottish.

25 "In one way I didn't like coming to Australia. Life

1 on the farms was very hard. I had to travel a lot to go
2 to work. In another way, Australia has been good for me
3 up to now.

4 "None of the homes I was in showed me any love or
5 care in the way my mum would have. When you were moving
6 from home to home, no one ever explained to me what was
7 happening. It was like cattle being moved from one
8 place to another.

9 "I don't think that the authorities had the right to
10 send me to Australia. I thought I was going there on
11 holiday. I had no idea that I was going to stay.

12 "I have no objection to my witness statement being
13 published as part of the evidence to the inquiry.
14 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
15 true."

16 The statement was signed by Darby on
17 4 February 2019.

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

19 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, that completes the evidence for this
20 week, and indeed for this year. The plan is to resume
21 evidence in this case study in February 2020.

22 Housekeeping

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

24 Before I rise for the day, there are one or two
25 things I want to mention. First of all, thanks to all

1 of you who have attended for the early starts this week.
2 I know it's not easy to do so, particularly in December,
3 but it has been very helpful that you've all been here
4 and been here in good time.

5 So far as resuming the child migration hearings is
6 concerned, we will be resuming these hearings on
7 Tuesday, 25 February 2020. As Mr MacAulay indicated on
8 Tuesday, we expect them to continue into April.

9 Moving on in 2020, we plan the next hearings after
10 that to be a resumption of the evidence of three expert
11 witnesses that we've heard from already,
12 Professors Levitt, Kendrick and Lynn Abrams, who have
13 further reports that they've prepared that they will be
14 speaking to in evidence.

15 The dates will be confirmed as soon as we can, but
16 as I say, the current plan is that that tranche of
17 evidence will be in the next set of hearings after the
18 child migration case study is completed in April.

19 As to where we go after that, the plan is that
20 we will move to Scottish Government evidence in relation
21 to governmental knowledge of and response to the abuse
22 of children in residential care. What I have in mind in
23 particular, so far as that is concerned, is evidence
24 in relation to a report that the Scottish Government
25 have prepared in relation to the period 2002 to 2014.

1 Various witnesses will be speaking about the matters
2 covered in that report.

3 The current plan is for that to be at some point
4 during May 2020, and again we'll confirm that as soon as
5 we're able to firm up on the dates.

6 After that, the next case study will be the case
7 study into boarding school provision in Scotland. The
8 current plan is that we will have some evidence in July,
9 then a break, and we will resume the boarding school
10 evidence in September 2020 and the case study will run
11 for some weeks after that.

12 After that, we move to case study hearings
13 in relation to foster care. That will, of course,
14 include children who were boarded out.

15 After foster care, we expect to be able to move on
16 to a case study into the provision of secure
17 accommodation for children, including List D schools and
18 similar institutions.

19 So I hope that gives people an indication of our
20 current thinking of where we will be progressing and
21 when in the next stages of the inquiry hearings.

22 Let me turn now to case study findings. My findings
23 in relation to our composite case study into Quarriers,
24 Aberlour and Barnardo's are ready. Since they cover
25 a number of institutions run by three separate

1 providers, they are lengthy and they contain much
2 detail, including details of a wide range of cruel abuse
3 that was meted out to many vulnerable children.

4 I appreciate that there are those who are anxious to
5 read them and that my stated policy has thus far been to
6 publish my findings in fact in relation to each case
7 study just as soon as I can do so.

8 However, Christmas is not an easy time for some
9 people, particularly those who are vulnerable, and for
10 those who wish to, or are required to, read these
11 findings, the stresses and strains of the forthcoming
12 run-up to Christmas could make the task of doing so
13 doubly difficult.

14 This has not been an easy decision for me to make,
15 but I have decided that now does not appear to be the
16 right time to publicise these findings. I have
17 therefore decided they will not be published until the
18 week of 6 January, at which time they will be available
19 in the usual way. I do hope that those affected will
20 understand my reasons for doing so.

21 The other mention I should make of case study
22 findings is in relation to male religious orders,
23 because of course we completed three case studies
24 looking into provision by three male religious orders in
25 Scotland before we started the current run of child

1 migration hearings.

2 The findings are a work in progress and I promise
3 you the work on those is also underway, and I will keep
4 you posted as to when they are likely to be published.

5 So other than that, can I wish you all a happy
6 Christmas and good wishes for the New Year.

7 In the usual way, in the meantime you know where
8 we are. You know we never stop working and we're
9 available for any queries or suchlike at any time if you
10 wish to be in touch with us.

11 So I'll now rise until Tuesday, 25 February 2020.

12 (10.50 am)

13 (The hearing adjourned until Tuesday, 25 February 2020)

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