

1 Tuesday, 10 March 2020

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning and welcome to the start of
4 another week of the hearings in the child migration case
5 study.

6 Mr MacAulay, we have a witness ready, do we?

7 MR MacAULAY: Good morning. We do, my Lady: the next
8 witness is Norman Johnston.

9 NORMAN JOHNSTON (affirmed)

10 LADY SMITH: Please do sit down. How would you like me to
11 address you, Mr Johnston or Norman? Whichever works for
12 you, I'm happy with.

13 A. Whatever is easiest, my Lady.

14 LADY SMITH: Norman?

15 A. Norman is fine.

16 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

17 Mr MacAulay, when you're ready, I think you'll
18 explain to Norman what happens next.

19 Questions from MR MacAULAY

20 MR MacAULAY: Yes. Good morning, Norman.

21 A. Good morning.

22 Q. In the red folder in front of you, you'll find the joint
23 statement that you and two of your colleagues have
24 prepared for the inquiry. I'll give the reference of
25 that for the transcript and that's WIT.001.002.9967.

1 If you could turn to the final page of the document,
2 that's page 23, your signature has been blanked out
3 there but can you confirm that you have signed the
4 statement?

5 A. I have.

6 Q. And your two colleagues who are also mentioned there
7 have also --

8 A. That's correct.

9 Q. Can you confirm for me that you were born on
10 [REDACTED] 1942?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. If we go to the front part of the statement, do you tell
13 us that you are the president of the International
14 Association of Former Child Migrants?

15 A. That is correct.

16 Q. And throughout, can we refer to that organisation as
17 "the association" for short?

18 A. Thank you, yes.

19 Q. Your two colleagues that have signed the statement, are
20 they also committee members of the association?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. So far as the association is concerned, can you tell me
23 what the background to the formation of the association
24 was?

25 A. It is a long story. I'll try and keep it as brief as

1 I possibly can.

2 For a number of years, actually decades, former
3 child migrants were out in the wilderness, there was
4 just no way of us getting back together again as
5 a unified group to be able to sort out what was allowed
6 to happen to us as children.

7 It wasn't until --

8 Q. Can I just stop you there. It's the use of the word
9 "us" that triggered the question I should have asked and
10 that was for you to confirm that you are also a former
11 child migrant.

12 A. I am, yes.

13 Q. Sorry, I interrupted you.

14 A. In 1987 we got wind that a lady from Nottingham had
15 arrived in Australia, not believing initially that such
16 a thing happened to so many British children, until she
17 did her own private investigation and found that there
18 were not just one or two, there were actually thousands
19 of British children, all over the country. It was from
20 that time on, we were able to -- she was able to pull us
21 all together and we became -- a group of us became an
22 advisory group to what then became the Child Migrants
23 Trust, put together by Margaret Humphreys as the
24 director of that trust.

25 Over the years, we became an association. However,

1 the administrative requirements of running
2 an association were taking up a terrific amount of our
3 time and we wanted to focus on the core problems
4 associated with the child migrant issues, and they were
5 many and varied. To that extent we ceased membership of
6 the association and became again a committee focused on
7 assisting and guiding the Child Migrants Trust about the
8 needs of what this group of child migrants was
9 requiring.

10 Q. When did that happen?

11 A. That was about 1991, 1990, pretty close to there.

12 I became the president, in fact, in December 1989.

13 Q. And did you succeed a former president?

14 A. I succeeded a former president that had been in the job
15 for 2 years.

16 Q. You mentioned the Child Migrants Trust and
17 Margaret Humphreys. Do I take it from what you've said
18 that, certainly in the initial stages at least, there
19 was a close association between your group and this
20 Child Migrants Trust?

21 A. Very much so. The Child Migrants Trust we've always
22 seen as the political arm, so to speak, for our cause.
23 They were the ones that gave us the confidence to come
24 out of the woodwork, come together, and start, over
25 a lengthy period of time, to tell our sordid stories

1 that were disbelieved in the decades before.

2 It was a travesty of injustice that happened to all
3 former child migrants with the way we were left to fend
4 for ourselves. There was no background, there was no
5 organisation set up to assist us after leaving the
6 institutions, et cetera. So when the trust came on
7 board in 1987, we were like bees to a honeypot because
8 we were just seeking to be believed, we were seeking to
9 be -- someone that was prepared to listen to us.

10 It's very difficult to explain, but it was a relief
11 and a joy at the same time that someone not only
12 listened to us but believed what we were saying.

13 Q. And again, just looking at 1987, when you use the
14 reference to "us", was there a group of you at that time
15 even in existence?

16 A. No, not specifically, not until the trust came on board.
17 The assistance we tried to get prior to the trust
18 arriving in Australia was through the Salvation Army and
19 other philanthropic organisations like that. But the
20 minute they learned we were child migrants and we were
21 wiped and they said, no, we can't do it.

22 Q. When you say "we" in that context, is that yourself and
23 a number of other former child migrants?

24 A. That was every child migrant that was -- I can only
25 speak of Western Australia because that's where I was,

1 but the ones that we have spoken to over the years who
2 have said they went to this organisation, to that one,
3 even to the likes of the Christian Brothers, once it was
4 found that we were British child migrants, that was the
5 end of the research or help that we could count on.

6 Q. Looking to the association as it is now, you've talked
7 about there being a committee and you're the president
8 and we know there are committee members. How many
9 committee members are there of the association?

10 A. At the moment there are five.

11 Q. And just looking at the structure, do you have regular
12 meetings as a group? What's the position?

13 A. We regularly meet with the trust. Remember we are
14 co-located with the trust as well and this is done to
15 alleviate our costs as far as administration goes. It's
16 been a big help to us to be able to wax in, for want of
17 a better word, with the Child Migrants Trust. In fact,
18 their three offices, one in Nottingham, one in
19 Melbourne, one in Perth, we have an office within those
20 three headquarters and we advise the trust of
21 information and news that we receive from former
22 child migrants who phone in and speak to us, and we get
23 to meet quite regularly at those three venues.

24 Q. And do you have a membership as such then in --

25 A. We did many, many years ago, but it was taking up too

1 much of our time. The administrative requirements of
2 running an organisation -- we just had too many major
3 problems, one being because of the disposition of many
4 of the child migrants and their lack of employment,
5 their lack of opportunities and what have you, because
6 of virtually no education in a lot of cases, the likes
7 of membership fees were just not -- some could pay, some
8 could give you half, some could give you a couple ...
9 They all tried to help, but in the final analysis
10 keeping tabs and keeping the administrative needs of
11 the association per se became -- was taking too much of
12 our time.

13 We were spending more time each day doing the
14 administrative tasks instead of getting on with the core
15 job of helping the Child Migrants Trust find the
16 families of former child migrants. To me that was the
17 be-all and end-all.

18 Q. At present then how do you generate funds? If you
19 require funds for your activities, how would you raise
20 money?

21 A. We didn't raise money, we bludged off the Child Migrants
22 Trust to some degree until the Federal Government of
23 Australia then -- I can't remember what year it was, the
24 Federal Government then allocated a grant of \$25,000
25 a year to the association to cover our postage, petties

1 and phone calls and what have you, a tremendous relief.

2 Q. Can I then --

3 LADY SMITH: Sorry, just to get this clear in my mind before
4 Mr MacAulay moves on: you got to the stage, and I can
5 well understand this, that you felt you couldn't deal
6 with looking after a membership properly as well as deal
7 with the work you were doing in conjunction with the
8 trust.

9 A. Yes, my Lady.

10 LADY SMITH: So did you cease accepting members at that
11 stage or what?

12 A. We let the child migrant community know that we were
13 available for all child migrants, all child migrants
14 were automatically encompassed in the new set-up that we
15 devised.

16 LADY SMITH: Right, okay. So when you talk about
17 the association, as at today, is that essentially you
18 and the committee members?

19 A. That's correct, ma'am.

20 LADY SMITH: And then you work closely with the CMT --

21 A. We became an advisory panel to the CMT and it's worked
22 wonderfully well.

23 LADY SMITH: Are you a charity separately from CMT?

24 A. No, the CMT is the charity, but we come under the
25 umbrella.

1 LADY SMITH: Right, thank you.

2 MR MacAULAY: Can I then for a moment look at what you see
3 your principal objectives to be as an association? You
4 set some of those out in paragraph 7 of the statement.
5 Can you tell me what the principal objectives of
6 the association are?

7 A. There are just so many of them. We're hoping this
8 inquiry will play a big part in our major concern, and
9 that is that we have genuinely believed, since we began
10 our campaign in 1988, that a judicial inquiry was
11 required to cover the extent of the damage done to
12 thousands of British children that were abandoned in
13 other countries.

14 For me today, that still remains the greatest thing:
15 we cannot just cover a portion, we cannot understand why
16 only a portion of the abuse that happened to us has been
17 reviewed by different inquiries. A judicial inquiry
18 would have encompassed the entirety and a judicial
19 inquiry into the deportation or migration of
20 child migrants from Great Britain was needed because of
21 the amount of trauma and the expanse and the damage that
22 was done to thousands of British children was so great
23 that it became an unbelievable thing in the public eye
24 that this could never have happened.

25 Q. Do I understand that, notwithstanding the fact that

1 there's been a module looking at child migrants in
2 Northern Ireland, a case study in the England and Wales
3 inquiry and indeed this case study in the Scottish
4 inquiry, that notwithstanding these inquiries you are
5 still hoping to have a judicial inquiry focused solely
6 on child migration? Do I understand that correctly?

7 A. Preferably a Commonwealth inquiry. I say that because
8 it took the British and Australian governments to send
9 us away to deport us, and if they could get together to
10 do that without too much trouble -- it seemed to be an
11 easy thing -- why can't they get together to fix the
12 problem they created?

13 Q. So that's one objective. Can you help me with the other
14 objectives?

15 A. Yes. We've learned recently that the fund that was set
16 up to reunite families, the Family Restoration Fund, set
17 up by the British Government, as a consequence of the
18 apology and the then Prime Minister Gordon Brown --
19 we have learned that that is to close this month. To
20 me, I'm just shattered by that.

21 The one opportunity -- please keep in mind, child
22 migrants don't have the whereby all to be able to fly to
23 England and back, willy-nilly.

24 Q. Can you backtrack a little bit and provide some
25 background as to what the function of the restoration

1 fund was or is?

2 A. The restoration fund was a fund set up to allow
3 child migrants to be reunited with whatever family the
4 Child Migrants Trust could trace. A major part of the
5 core work of the Child Migrants Trust was researching
6 and locating families of former child migrants and
7 they've done this on actually thousands of occasions.

8 The problem associated with the finding of the
9 families was that many of the child migrants didn't have
10 the whereby all to go and meet their families for the
11 first time. You know, we're talking people that had
12 been away from the country for 40, 50 years and suddenly
13 the trust has found their mother or their father or
14 a brother or sister or whatever. It was just an
15 incredulous situation because we were all led to
16 believe, "You're abandoned, your family abandoned you,
17 your parents are dead", all the terrible things that
18 were said to us.

19 On the other side, those families that went back to
20 get their children were also told some terrible,
21 terrible lies about what happened to us. The FRF
22 allowed child migrants to be able to go back for a first
23 and second and even maybe a third time to meet because
24 you cannot establish a bond after 50 years of separation
25 in one trip. We certainly could never afford to do the

1 flights across to England and back at the rate that
2 maybe was necessary to develop a relationship. That's
3 because of the background, because of what we were
4 subjected to and what we were not protected from,
5 essentially.

6 Q. Then the fund itself, was that set up after the apology
7 in 2010?

8 A. It was. There was a previous -- there were two previous
9 funds, an Australian fund, a travel fund, which had much
10 the same rules but however was restricted to the
11 immediate family, mother, father, brother, sister, etc.
12 Whereas a lot of child migrants, their families had
13 already passed on, but they were never to know that
14 there were still uncles, aunties, cousins, nephews,
15 whatever, still living in Great Britain and what they
16 were -- they didn't qualify but under the new one, the
17 FRF currently, they can be brought over.

18 Q. You mentioned there were two previous funds. You have
19 mentioned the Australian fund; was there a British fund?

20 A. And a previous £1 million British fund. That was the
21 first of them.

22 Q. So far as then the Family Restoration Fund is concerned,
23 I think the figure you mention in your statement is that
24 of £6 million; is that right?

25 A. That's correct.

1 Q. So that was the fund that was provided for that purpose
2 by the UK Government?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Just so I understand the present position then, you
5 mentioned earlier that the fund will cease some time
6 this month; is that your understanding?

7 A. That's my understanding and it's going to be an absolute
8 travesty if it does because we still have child migrants
9 that have not been able to get back to meet their
10 families or what's left of their families to date.

11 Q. But had the fund been set up for a particular period of
12 time?

13 A. No. It was actually due to close in 2017 and, after
14 much lobbying -- it came into effect in 2010 and in 2017
15 it was going to shut down, but after considerable
16 lobbying it was extended and is due to run out in March,
17 in this month.

18 Q. But do I take it that there will be some representations
19 being made --

20 A. Colin, this is a lifeline to us. It's very hard to
21 describe the need or the urgency that this fund must
22 continue. It has to continue because child migrants
23 have a right to be reunited with their families,
24 whatever level the family is at at that time. Whether
25 it's an auntie or a cousin or a niece or nephew, it

1 doesn't matter. They need to have a finality, they need
2 to complete the circuit of life, call it what you will.

3 But right now, they've got nothing. You've got the
4 trust working overtime trying hard to locate as many as
5 possible, to get them back, and now that's all going to
6 come to a grinding halt.

7 I don't know the numbers that are currently waiting
8 to be brought over, but there are a number that will be
9 immediately affected by the closure. There's also
10 a very large number still being researched by the trust
11 in due course and undoubtedly something will be found
12 for them -- well, that's what they're pinning their
13 hopes on.

14 If this stops they're going to go to their graves
15 not even having the right or the ability to come and see
16 or visit whatever family may be left for them.

17 Q. But do you know if representations are being made for
18 the fund to be continued?

19 A. You can be assured, Colin, we have made every possible
20 representation, but we've had no positive feedback yet
21 from the government, relevant government departments.

22 LADY SMITH: Norman, can I just explore one thing with you?

23 I think I understand why you talk about the right to
24 meet family, to see whatever family they have. Some
25 might say, oh well, it may be that you meet them and

1 actually you don't build any long-term relationship with
2 them, but am I right in thinking your answer would be
3 that that's not the point, it's the right simply to know
4 who you are related to?

5 A. Thank you, my Lady.

6 LADY SMITH: And you can then choose what you do with that
7 relationship?

8 A. That is precisely -- that is giving us our rights back.
9 Our rights to a family, our rights to re-unification,
10 our rights to belong, whether we take advantage to
11 that -- and there were some that probably didn't, but
12 there were many that did and have had a great, later in
13 life, feeling about themselves. It's just a wonderful,
14 wonderful feeling to know that you're not the island
15 that you've been for the last 60 years through no fault
16 of your own and no explanation as to why it happened.

17 LADY SMITH: I suppose it's also the immense, if not
18 inestimable, value of truth, knowing who you are.

19 A. Identity has always been a major ... My Lady, keeping
20 in mind a lot of our names were altered --

21 LADY SMITH: Oh, I know.

22 A. -- when we were sent across, a lot of our dates of birth
23 were changed. We felt, in our own innocent way, it was
24 done deliberately to avoid us getting back and being
25 able to retrace our families. Be that as it may,

1 we have a right to assume that because nothing positive
2 was done to help us in any way, shape form in those
3 earlier years, those formative years.

4 LADY SMITH: Yes.

5 MR MacAULAY: As I understand it then, Norman, one of your
6 objectives, as you set out in the statement, is for
7 there to be a Family Restoration Fund with no arbitrary
8 end, that's your objective?

9 A. I apologise, could you say that again?

10 Q. I'm just looking at your statement at paragraph 7. The
11 third bullet point that you can see on the screen
12 is that:

13 "One of [your] principal objectives is to have
14 a Family Restoration Fund with no arbitrary end date."

15 A. Oh, most assuredly, yes. How can you arbitrarily just
16 cut it off when there are people, child migrants, that
17 have not had the opportunity to meet any living
18 relative? Even if they were to come back to visit
19 a grave, I mean, to them, that would be enough. God
20 knows that they've suffered enough in the 60-odd years
21 that have gone before then.

22 Let them come back. You sent them out there: get
23 them back and let them meet the family, let the family
24 see them. It's as cathartic for the family as it is for
25 the child migrant to know: there's my son. So many

1 mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, have already
2 deceased before a child migrant has been able to get
3 back.

4 The crime of it all -- and I label it as a crime --
5 was the abhorrent level of funding that was given to the
6 trust during the years where it was just so crucial to
7 get the maximum number back to meet their parents. I'd
8 say a huge number of the parents that were available to
9 be found in that period -- and we're talking the
10 1990s -- are no longer there, they've passed on. The
11 sad thing is we are now at an age where we're the ones
12 passing one and we're going to leave an unfulfilled
13 legacy for our children.

14 Q. Another principal objective that you mention in this
15 section of your statement is reparation, including
16 adequate redress. I'll come back to that because you do
17 develop that in the statement.

18 The final bullet point in this list is that you see
19 as one of your objectives the creation of a memorial
20 in the United Kingdom; is that correct? Can you develop
21 that?

22 A. To us, we need to have some identifiable point. We have
23 a memorial in Fremantle in Australia, we have a memorial
24 in Nottinghamshire, but we do not have a national
25 memorial here in Great Britain.

1 It's a shrine that former child migrants, their
2 families, their friends, British people can visit and
3 know that this happened and it's a belief that it can
4 never happen again. There needs to be a central point
5 that can be identified as a memorial to what happened to
6 thousands of British kids.

7 LADY SMITH: Norman, what form does the memorial that's in
8 Fremantle take?

9 A. It takes the form of an adult with two children by his
10 side, a bronze, carrying little cases. It's as
11 popular -- I mean, even children come over and put their
12 arms around it, the children, on the plinth.

13 LADY SMITH: What about the one in Nottinghamshire?

14 A. It's a living tree. It's a tree that's been planted
15 specifically in memory of the child migrant issue.

16 LADY SMITH: Right. There's also, of course, a memorial
17 stone for the British Home Children at Pier 21 in
18 Halifax in Nova Scotia.

19 A. I wasn't aware of that, my Lady. But I think to us
20 it is a necessity, it's a reminder: this did happen,
21 don't let it happen again, for God's sake.

22 MR MacAULAY: The Fremantle memorial, as you've described
23 it, and we can see it online, is quite a striking
24 memorial in many respects.

25 A. It is. It was officially opened by government and

1 a number of child migrants attended, and as I say, it's
2 a popular spot. A lot of people traipse through that
3 area, stop and wonder what it is, and when they read the
4 inscriptions, they go: oh, that's what it's all about.

5 That's what's needed here. We need people to know
6 that whilst this did happen in the 1950s and 1960s, over
7 the last century, which is really modern times, let's
8 make sure it doesn't happen again.

9 Q. As I understand it, Norman, in your capacity as
10 president, and indeed simply because of your association
11 with child migrants, you've spoken to many
12 child migrants over the years; is that right?

13 A. Hundreds, yes.

14 Q. And you've obtained from them their accounts of what
15 life was like for them as child migrants?

16 A. Certainly most, if not all, of the child migrants have
17 got a very bitter and angry story to tell or account --
18 I don't know that we like it being referred to as
19 a story because it's not a very pleasant story if it is
20 a story. I like to refer to it as being their account
21 of what happened to them.

22 It's not a competitive thing, but it seems they've
23 all got much the same account to tell. There's very
24 little variation between what happened at Bindoon to
25 what happened at Clontarf to what happened at Castledare

1 to what happened at Tardun. All very familiar, all much
2 the same cruelty, brutality, abuse, lack of education,
3 nothing in place for after their departure from the
4 institutions, so many fell foul of the law because their
5 jobs ran out, they weren't able to be identified because
6 they had no papers, they were not granted Australian
7 citizenships, they didn't even -- they weren't even
8 granted residency status. Just a terrible situation
9 where nobody owns you. You were a nobody and you had to
10 survive in that environment.

11 In a lot of cases, it was just too much for many of
12 the child migrants.

13 Q. And the accounts that you have just summarised, are many
14 of these given to you by child migrants who are now
15 dead?

16 A. Very much so. Mind you, I didn't need much convincing
17 because I was familiar with many of the trials and
18 tribulations that occurred with these other
19 child migrants.

20 Q. You mention in your statement, Norman, the New Orleans
21 International Congress On Child Migration, which I think
22 took place in 2002.

23 A. That's correct.

24 Q. Can you just provide me with some background to that
25 congress?

1 A. We weren't progressing very well back in Australia as to
2 the support requirements for the trust and the
3 association to implement changes, implement some means
4 of redress, implement some means of identifying
5 a problem, a major problem. So the congress was purely
6 a collaboration to bring the rest of the world on
7 a world stage because it was a world stage.

8 We were able to come before this gathering of
9 intellects and let them know and confirm what had
10 happened. I think a lot more of this issue may be
11 covered by your next interview but from our perspective
12 we were happy to play our part in the presentations at
13 that congress.

14 Q. Can I move on to some parts of your statement, Norman,
15 and just focus a little bit more on the association's
16 work. You begin looking at that aspect of what you have
17 to say in paragraph 15 onwards in your statement.

18 Overall, you say:

19 "[Your] primary focus has always been to achieve
20 justice and truth for all former child migrants."

21 So that's your essential reason for being?

22 A. That's correct.

23 Q. You say you've been involved in the major and key
24 inquiries that have taken place over the years; is that
25 right?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And in what way have you been involved?

3 A. Being able to communicate with the wider audience of
4 child migrants was very crucial to what we needed to
5 develop. Being able to correspond with them through
6 mailouts, through the Child Migrants Trust newsletter,
7 we were able to get a consensus in a lot of areas on how
8 we should move forward in regards to our plan to get
9 recognition for what happened to us.

10 Q. But in relation to the major inquiries, for example the
11 England and Wales inquiry, did you give evidence to that
12 inquiry?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And the Northern Ireland inquiry, did you give evidence?

15 A. The Northern Ireland inquiry -- yes, evidence was given
16 to them as well, as was the Royal Commission in
17 Australia and also the various other inquiries that were
18 carried out. Each state -- this is the terrible legacy
19 of why we are here today. Each state actually carried
20 out its own inquiry and all came up with the same
21 answers, that this abuse did happen.

22 Then we had two national -- or we had a state or
23 a national inquiry through the Senate, then we had
24 a Royal Commission inquiry covering exactly the same
25 grounds, and then we had the all-party English inquiry,

1 which was given the same evidence, followed by IICSA,
2 followed by Northern Ireland, or Northern Ireland and
3 then IICSA, and now here.

4 In 1991 or 1992, we put forward a proposal that
5 a Commonwealth judicial inquiry should have been put in
6 place. Had that been done, we wouldn't have had to go
7 through this myriad of regurgitating and reliving what
8 happened to us as children. It's just been one error
9 after another and one fob-off or one ... We got very
10 little comfort from most of them.

11 LADY SMITH: Norman, it may be you're going to go on to
12 this, and if so please park my question, but I'm
13 interested in what exactly you mean when you say a
14 Commonwealth judicial inquiry.

15 A. My Lady, the problem we've been experiencing for many,
16 many years is England says, "We cover what happened
17 here." In Australia, they're saying, "Well, our
18 responsibility doesn't start until you arrived." So
19 we've got the two, which have overlapped so much in
20 a lot of the trauma that's been created.

21 To join both, as I mentioned earlier, my Lady, the
22 Commonwealth was responsible for our deportation, the
23 Commonwealth should fix the problem. I don't know if
24 such a thing can happen, a combined judicial inquiry,
25 but we need to have it from cradle to grave. This

1 business of washing the hands -- a good example of that
2 would be your past Prime Minister, John Major, when it
3 was brought to his attention in 1993, I think it was.
4 When it was raised in the House of Commons that
5 children, British children, were being abused in
6 institutions throughout Australia, his response, which
7 is on record, was that children that are abused in
8 another country are the responsibility of that country.

9 But what he failed to accept is we were still
10 British children when that happened. We weren't
11 Australian citizens, we were British kids when the abuse
12 and the subsequent lifestyle that we were left to
13 follow, which was very, very poor -- very few of us
14 managed to achieve our potential because of the history
15 that we have submitted to these various inquiries.

16 I dread to think, my Lady, had a good number of
17 these children been given a fair go at a reasonable
18 education, reasonable prospects of reasonable work, how
19 their lives would have turned out. It's all supposition
20 for sure, but we never got that opportunity. That was
21 denied us. And it wasn't a nice thing to do.

22 We were relegated to the most basic of education,
23 we were clearly sent to Australia to work the farms and
24 what have you, which is what happened. Seventy-five to
25 80% of the children that went through those institutions

1 went into hard, physical labour jobs, and that was where
2 they were meant to stay.

3 LADY SMITH: Just going back for a moment to your idea of
4 a judicially led Commonwealth inquiry, am I to take it
5 that what you envisage is countries of the Commonwealth
6 collaborating to set up an inquiry somewhere in one of
7 their jurisdictions to look into the matter of child
8 migration? Is that the sort of thing that you're
9 envisaging?

10 A. My Lady, it can become a very convoluted and very
11 complicated process, I appreciate that. We would be
12 very, very happy to have a judicial inquiry of whatever
13 sort, something that's going to get to the nub of the
14 legality of the deportation of children from
15 Great Britain and then the washing of the hands and the
16 leaving them to their fate in a foreign land.

17 LADY SMITH: Well, take this inquiry, for example, because
18 it is judicially led: why is it you think that we're not
19 capable of looking into that?

20 A. It should have been looked into before today, my Lady.

21 LADY SMITH: All right.

22 A. Opportunities were there and it's just been, like
23 everything else, denied.

24 LADY SMITH: Okay, thank you very much.

25 A. I have a letter from Mr David Cameron, a personal letter

1 to me, explaining, "We've done enough. We don't need to
2 go any further."

3 LADY SMITH: Well, we're still here and we're still
4 listening and thinking, Norman.

5 A. We're relying on it, my Lady.

6 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

7 MR MacAULAY: You mentioned John Major and the section of
8 your statement dealing with that particular matter is on
9 the screen. It's paragraph 39. The way you put it is
10 that:

11 "In 1993 the former Prime Minister, John Major ..."
12 Was he Prime Minister at the time?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. "... expressed his indifference to the plight of former
15 child migrants and missed a vital opportunity for
16 positive, decisive leadership."

17 I think the context here was that of a Commons
18 debate where the MP for Wakefield called for an
19 independent public inquiry; is that right?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. So Mr Hinchcliffe was asking for that?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And Mr Major's response was the response you set out in
24 your statement; is that right?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And the quote you provide is:

2 "Any concern about the treatment of the children in
3 another country is essentially a matter for the
4 authorities in that country."

5 A. Completely sidestepping the fact that we were British
6 children in another country with no identity.

7 Q. I think it is right to say -- and I think we perhaps
8 will look at this a little bit more later -- that
9 Mr Hinchcliffe chaired the House of Commons Select
10 Committee Inquiry into Child Migration; is that right?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And I think you provided evidence to that?

13 A. We did, yes.

14 Q. If I go back to paragraph 28, you have a section headed
15 "Lobbying the British Government", and indeed the
16 John Major episode fits into that section.

17 You begin here by saying:

18 "[You were] able to give testimony to the England
19 and Wales inquiry only because of intense lobbying of
20 the former Prime Minister David Cameron."

21 Can you just help me with that point?

22 A. We were not even on the list of organisations to be
23 investigated by that committee. We got to the point
24 where it was inconceivable to us that an inquiry of this
25 nature involving child abuse of children would not also

1 include child migrants that were abused in Great Britain
2 prior to their departure to Australia. So we did do
3 a lot of lobbying, and then it was sort of a last-minute
4 agreement. We asked, in fact, to meet with
5 David Cameron to find out why we were not included or
6 why we could not have our own inquiry.

7 Q. By this time, had the government set up the England and
8 Wales inquiry? Had that been set up or not, by now?

9 A. Yes, I think it had been set up. The initial parameters
10 of the review were already established and we were not
11 part of that. However, we were given the opportunity to
12 speak with two ministers at the time -- Mr Cameron
13 anointed two visitors to meet with us to hear what we
14 had to say, and we confronted the two ministers. I must
15 say, and it's with great deference, that these two
16 ministers didn't really want to be there from the
17 response that we received. But that aside, we were able
18 to give our grievances to the ministers.

19 Bearing in mind that the inquiry was only to start
20 from 1970 onwards, isn't it a coincidence that that was
21 the last year of the arrival of child migrants from
22 Great Britain?

23 Q. And I think the position at that time was that the terms
24 of reference of the England and Wales inquiry limited
25 its remit to sexual abuse post 1970?

1 A. That's correct, yes.

2 Q. So that was something that you wanted to change?

3 A. Yes. We did so also with the -- we found with the
4 Australian Royal Commission and their terms of
5 reference, they incorporated sexual abuse of children
6 but they added a little bit extra to it "and related
7 matters". Now, that never carried on through any other
8 formal inquiry. It probably should have because you
9 cannot sexually abuse children without some form of
10 violence anyway.

11 Every child -- [REDACTED] and
12 [REDACTED], [REDACTED] Every
13 child was put in a position where they were groomed,
14 they were brutalised to the point where
15 a [REDACTED] just had to do that [clicks fingers]
16 and you did their bidding. Many escaped, many were not
17 required to go to the full extent of actually enduring
18 sexual abuse, but we were all in a position, every one
19 of us were in a position where that could have happened
20 at their behest. There was no protection from it, there
21 was no hiding from it.

22 [REDACTED]

23 [REDACTED]

24 [REDACTED]

25 [REDACTED]

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5 Q. I think what you're saying is you can't really separate
6 sexual abuse from abuse generally.

7 A. No. How on earth is the smashing of a kid into
8 submission not warranting any form of investigation?

9 Q. If I can come back then, Norman, to your impact on the
10 England and Wales remit. Were you successful in having
11 the remit broadened to cover child migration?

12 A. Well, it's an assumption on our part because, a few
13 weeks later, the cut-off date was moved back to 1945,
14 which encompassed all of us. So we can assume from that
15 that what we had to say to the two ministers had some
16 impact.

17 Q. In this section of your statement you go on to explain
18 that:

19 "There have been many failures and lost
20 opportunities along the way on the part of the British
21 Government in setting up an inquiry."

22 And we've looked at John Major's position already.

23 We do know that there was the House of Commons
24 inquiry that you participated in, chaired by
25 Mr Hinchcliffe; is that right?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And did you invite that particular inquiry to make
3 certain recommendations?

4 A. There were recommendations that we put to the inquiry.
5 I can't recall exactly what they were, I would need to
6 have the minutes of that inquiry available to me to take
7 it further. We've been to so many inquiries, one runs
8 into the next, you sort of lose track of where you're at
9 and what you've presented.

10 In the main, the crux of all presentations has been
11 the welfare and well-being of child migrants and our way
12 forward as to how we can best get justice served for
13 them.

14 To date, that fight and argument still goes. We are
15 still wanting to know the nitty-gritty of why it is we
16 cannot have this inquiry that will solve or give us
17 resolution to all the problems that we have.

18 Q. Insofar as the House of Commons inquiry was concerned,
19 do you know if it made a recommendation that there be
20 a public inquiry?

21 A. There was a recommendation -- my head's so full of
22 different things at the moment.

23 Q. It doesn't matter.

24 A. I would need to come back to you on that if I may.

25 Q. I think what you tell us in your statement is that the

1 full extent of what child migrants suffered was
2 appreciated because at paragraph 42, you quote the late
3 Audrey Wise, MP for Preston, who was a member of the
4 Health Select Committee, and her description of child
5 migration as "war crimes without the war"; do you see
6 that?

7 A. I do and I do remember that dear lady as well.
8 Audrey Wise was a very astute and very, very clever
9 individual that had a way of getting things out of us
10 that we were a bit dodgy about talking about. Things
11 were said to this inquiry that you couldn't say anywhere
12 else.

13 I mean, we don't like to talk about what happened to
14 us individually, let alone have to repeat and repeat and
15 repeat. It's our burden, we're carrying this, and
16 we have for 70 years now in my case. We can't let it go
17 because the issues have not been resolved and until they
18 are resolved we will take these issues to our graves.

19 The unfortunate thing about it is that so many
20 child migrants have already done that. Many of them, if
21 not most, never saw justice for what happened to them.

22 Q. You draw attention in your statement to a meeting you
23 had with the British High Commissioner at the time in
24 2005, and that was Baroness Helen Liddell; what was the
25 purpose of that meeting?

1 A. We were invited to meet with the British High
2 Commissioner in Canberra. My secretary, Harold Haig,
3 long time founding member of our association, and I went
4 along and we travelled to Canberra. We were invited
5 into the High Commissioner's parlour, and there was
6 already a great number of people in there who were all
7 ushered out.

8 So there were just the three of us left in the
9 High Commissioner's office. It was at that time -- I'll
10 say some things now that I haven't said before in
11 regards to this meeting. The first thing that was said
12 to us was, "Why should the British Government be
13 bothered about you lot?"

14 Q. Who said that, sorry?

15 A. Helen Liddell, the High Commissioner: "Why should the
16 British Government worry about you lot? They've got
17 hundreds of other organisations trying to get money off
18 the British Government." I mean, that put us
19 immediately with the intimidation that we were familiar
20 with.

21 Q. When you say "us" --

22 A. Myself and Harold, the secretary. Only the three of us
23 in that room. As we sat down, we tried desperately to
24 give a message to Helen Liddell and we succeeded in
25 passing the message on in why there was so much inaction

1 going on, so to speak.

2 We asked if she would take our message back to
3 Great Britain to the Parliament, at which point she just
4 blatantly stood up and said, "No, I won't do that. What
5 you can do is put it on paper, mail it to me and I'll
6 make sure it goes into the diplomatic bag." That's the
7 one, the diplomatic bag.

8 So I thought, okay, we didn't pursue that any
9 further and we were about to leave the embassy, and on
10 the way out it was remarked to us, "You do realise
11 you're going to be waiting a long, long time to get
12 a response from the British Government? They're just
13 waiting for you all to die." There maybe one or two
14 words out of plumb, but generally that was the message
15 given to us.

16 Q. Who gave you that message?

17 A. Helen Liddell. We wrote back a few days later advising
18 her that it wasn't necessary for us to write a letter to
19 her and we would do it our own way. We were
20 interviewed -- incidentally, we had a TV interview the
21 same day we came out of that interview.

22 Q. You also touch upon --

23 A. Could I add, that was the most truthful piece of
24 information that we'd ever received up to that point in
25 time, in the sense that what she told us was very true.

1 That was 19-whatever.

2 Q. I think you say it was 2005 in your statement.

3 A. 2005. Still, it was 15 years ago and we are still
4 trying to get justice for the community.

5 Q. I was moving on to ask you about a visit that the Queen
6 intended to make to Clontarf and you sought to make some
7 representations about that.

8 A. This coincided with the CHOGM meeting which was being
9 held in Western Australia at the time. We wanted to be
10 represented at CHOGM to be able to put our case forward.

11 However --

12 Q. When was this? Can you give me a time frame?

13 A. No, I'll get back to you if it does jump into my head.

14 Q. I think you suggest in the statement that it was soon
15 after the 2010 apology. That's at paragraph 53. What
16 you say is:

17 "Soon after the UK 2010 apology" --

18 A. Yes, I would say it was 2010.

19 Q. So what --

20 A. It was within a very short period of time. We'd learned
21 that the Queen was going to be taken to Clontarf and we
22 applied to the emissary, I'm not sure what the ... the
23 embassy officials that were involved in this. We
24 advised them not to send Her Majesty to that
25 institution. We didn't actually get a rebuff or we

1 didn't get a response to that request, and Her Majesty
2 was taken into that den of iniquity and I'm sure in my
3 own mind if she knew what went on in that place, she
4 would never, ever have set foot in there.

5 That's not to detract from the current work that's
6 being done there. It's now an Aboriginal school and it
7 was then at that time. But nonetheless, I'm sure
8 Her Majesty was not made aware of the history of that
9 school that caused so much pain in that one institution
10 for hundreds and hundreds of child migrants.

11 Q. You've touched upon this already in what you've been
12 saying to us today, Norman, and you develop this point
13 in paragraph 61 onwards and that's identity fraud.
14 I just want to fully understand what you include within
15 that description of identity fraud.

16 A. As mentioned earlier, many of us, not all, but many of
17 us had alterations to our names. We were not given
18 birth certificates or any other form of identification
19 to bring with us from Great Britain. We came out to
20 Australia and some had totally different names
21 altogether, but some just had little bits and pieces
22 removed from their names, middle names were dropped,
23 letters taken out of the surname, sufficient to change
24 the name completely.

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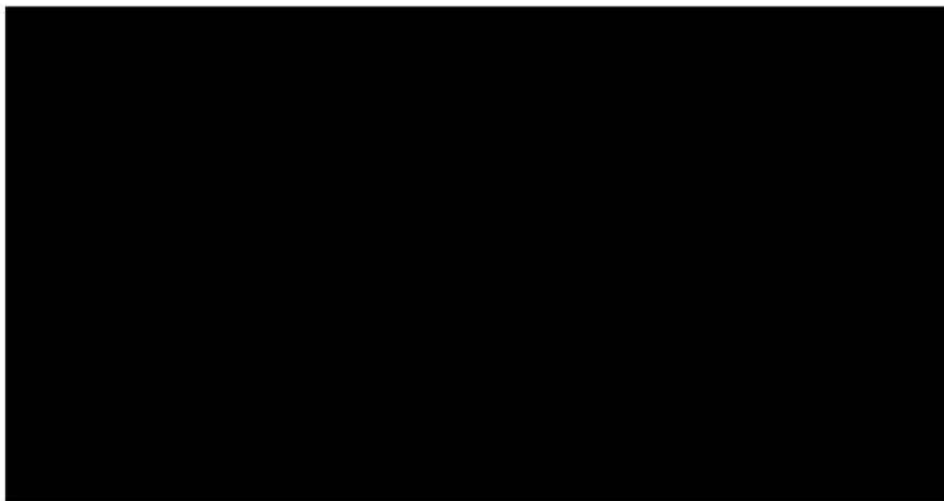
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. This was very common throughout the child migrant community.

Q. Are you saying that on the basis of the accounts that you yourself have received over the years from --

A. No, we've -- I know of many children that had their names altered.

Q. The other side of the coin is what parents might have been told in this country as to what was happening to the children. What have you learned in relation to that side of the coin on this issue of identity fraud?

A. We felt we couldn't feel the way we felt with our parents alive in England not feeling something similar. I mean, their loss was probably even more profound than ours in many cases.

In fact, there's a history of mothers and fathers going back to these institutions to retrieve their children to be told all sorts of things that weren't

1 true.

2 Q. I think in particular, for example, you tell us at
3 paragraph 65 that parents who were looking to get
4 children back were lied to and deceived by various
5 charitable institutions.

6 A. Many of the parents that did return were told things
7 like, "Your child doesn't want to see you anymore, go
8 away." Mothers were told their children had died, but
9 the majority, it seemed, were children that were adopted
10 to good British families, and that they weren't to
11 interfere for fear that the children's life would be
12 once again disrupted, words to that effect.

13 We get that from many child migrants, me included.

14 Q. You have a section in the statement, Norman, headed
15 "Child sexual abuse and child migrants". This begins at
16 paragraph 72. You begin this account by saying that
17 essentially children who were sexually abused suffered
18 in silence for years; is that your understanding?

19 A. Oh, without question, without question. There was
20 no one ... It wasn't something that we could just go up
21 to someone in the street and start chatting on about.
22 It was very personal, it was very deep, it was very
23 psychiatrically ingrained into our very lives, into our
24 souls, that it was such a dirty thing. We didn't want
25 to talk about it.

1 This was our feeling as kids: people don't want to
2 know what happened to you, and if they did, they would
3 shun you, they would think you were a dirty little
4 thing, go away. It was kids' thinking, but it grew with
5 us. It wasn't something that we were able to say, when
6 you turn 18, you are a man, therefore all those things
7 disappear; it became part of our make-up. We had to
8 adjust our lives to take that in and put the barriers in
9 place so we could still get on with some semblance of
10 life and some semblance of order, and that wasn't easy
11 to do for a lot of child migrants. A lot couldn't do
12 it.

13 A lot are still in bedsitters on their own, go out
14 shopping once a fortnight and that's it, they just stay
15 in. They cannot mix with society, they cannot meet with
16 people and they don't know where to fit. They can't
17 fit. They are misfits in every aspect of their lives.

18 To some extent I am, but luckily for me I got some
19 discipline [REDACTED] That's 90% of
20 the reason why I'm here today: no one else will do it,
21 they can't.

22 Q. You tell us in your statement that you pursued an action
23 before the European Court of Human Rights in the year
24 2000. Can you give me some background to that and what
25 happened to it?

1 A. We never learned a great deal about it other than we
2 were represented at this particular hearing. But the
3 ruling, as I understand it, came down that it was
4 a domestic problem, therefore because of that, the UN
5 could not rule one way or the other. It was
6 disappointing for us, but it wasn't the channel that we
7 needed to traverse through. But it was made available
8 to us at that time and, sadly, we expected a little bit
9 better than that response but we had to live with what
10 we got.

11 Q. In the next section of your statement, you have
12 a heading "Inquiries and redress". We've touched upon
13 inquiries already and in particular on the House of
14 Commons Select Committee inquiry. I think here this
15 might prod your memory: at paragraph 87 you suggest that
16 one of the nine recommendations was for there to be
17 a judicial inquiry, a national memorial and
18 a compensation scheme. Do you see that at paragraph 87?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. So does that remind you that one of the recommendations
21 of the House of Commons Select Committee was that there
22 be a judicial inquiry? This was in 1998/1999.

23 A. I have to agree with it because it was certainly one of
24 the issues -- the major issue that we put to that
25 inquiry. In fact, I can remember saying to the chairman

1 at the beginning of it, "I do hope that this committee
2 has the power to able to institute a judicial inquiry."
3 I said that very early in the piece at that particular
4 meeting, but it just goes to show the depth and the
5 length of time that we've spent trying to get a judicial
6 inquiry to uncover all aspects of what happened because
7 there were failures at every level. Each inquiry that
8 we've had since have addressed specific aspects of
9 things. We need it altogether. We need the full
10 picture to come out because it's not understandable.

11 People in the British community and the Australian
12 community still don't believe what happened to us
13 because they're not getting the proper picture of how
14 and why it happened. It's been fragmented, shut down,
15 it has been blocked, the media have been banned from
16 some aspects of it. We have not been able to get it out
17 there and I'm sure if it ever did there would be a hue
18 and cry as to why justice wasn't served to these people.

19 Q. Was it following upon this committee's report that there
20 was an agreement to establish what you referred to
21 earlier as the travel fund? Was it after this committee
22 report that the travel fund was set up? That's the
23 precursor to the Family Restoration Fund.

24 A. I'm trying to think of what the first ... there's so
25 many of them.

1 Q. If you look at paragraph 89 of the statement, I think
2 this follows from what you've been telling us about the
3 committee and you say:

4 "There was agreement to establish a £1 million
5 travel fund to help reunite families separated by child
6 migration and that lasted for 3 years."

7 A. That was a big ... That was a ... I'm still following
8 this.

9 (Pause)

10 Yes.

11 Q. I think that was ultimately superseded by the Family
12 Restoration Fund.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. That was set up after 2010?

15 A. That's correct. That was seen by us as being the
16 beginning of the lifeline and the opportunity for more
17 child migrants to be sent home or sent back to their
18 parents. Sadly, it wasn't enough and there were too
19 many restrictions, there were a lot of restrictions on
20 that particular fund that limited who could go and who
21 didn't need to go or who wasn't required to go.

22 The important issue here when we got to that point
23 was that the funding for the Child Migrants Trust was
24 forever being played around with. There were reductions
25 in it, there were threats it was going to close down.

1 During a crucial time when the trust, through
2 Margaret Humphreys, in fact, was imploring the
3 government to increase the funding, "Let's not miss this
4 opportunity, we've missed so many", but to no avail
5 essentially. A lots of mums and dads passed on, and as
6 I said earlier, a lot of our guys are passing on too.

7 Q. You tell us in paragraph 93 that you had called for what
8 you describe as "central archiving of our records" and
9 that was a call that was rejected. I just wanted to
10 understand what you were envisaging there.

11 A. We wanted the institutions, the agencies, both the
12 sending agencies and receiving agencies, to release the
13 files they had on child migrants. But we weren't heard
14 during that time because of the noise that was being
15 made by the paper cutters, the files that were being
16 shredded, and sadly a lot of information went once these
17 agencies realised that they may be required to hand in
18 all the files, which would have included abuse files,
19 and a lot of them started to disappear.

20 So they did the lobbying because we -- it was
21 important to us to learn a bit more about who we were,
22 how we performed at school, what medical interventions
23 took place with us, how we were treated generally. And
24 we could only get those from the institutions that
25 housed all this material and they wouldn't release it

1 for their own fear that they were going to be sued or
2 whatever other reason there is for it. Yet they were
3 powerful enough at that time to win the argument and
4 they still wield a lot of power today. That's been
5 a huge part of our problem.

6 Q. But you had invited the House of Commons committee to
7 make a recommendation that a central archive be created
8 and that did not happen?

9 A. No, it did not happen.

10 Q. One thing that would appear to have happened was the
11 creation of a database.

12 A. What a waste of money that was. The database ended up
13 telling us everything we already knew about ourselves.

14 Q. Can you give me some background as to how this database
15 was supposed to function?

16 A. Well, when it was first mooted we were of the view, wow,
17 that's a positive step forward, we're going to be able
18 to find out why we were sent to the institutions, why
19 we were abandoned in whatever case. The images that we
20 had of this proposal were stuff that was going to solve
21 the problem. But instead, it was just the official
22 records of our deportation, records that we already had,
23 that we knew. There was nothing new about our families,
24 where we came from, our trials and tribulations, nothing
25 at all.

1 Q. Where was the database to be housed?

2 A. I guess it was a cheap way out for the government.

3 Q. Where was it to be? Where was the database to be kept?

4 A. In government archives, I presume.

5 Q. You also tell us over a number of paragraphs, Norman,
6 about the different redress schemes that have been
7 created over the years in Australia and indeed also in
8 this country. In particular, for example, you tell us
9 that the Australian Royal Commission redress
10 recommendations in paragraph 103 were taken up by
11 government but the sums were not quite the sums that the
12 commission had envisaged. Is that --

13 A. That's happened on two occasions. It happened with the
14 Western Australia Government as well. The
15 Western Australia Government did an inquiry into child
16 abuse and came up with a figure of AU\$80,000. In the
17 meantime, a new government came into power before that
18 was finalised and immediately reduced it to AU\$45,000.
19 Just another kick in the guts, so to speak, for the
20 child migrant community. No explanation given other
21 than, yeah, that's it, that's all we can afford, or
22 words to that effect.

23 Similarly, with the Royal Commission, we were quite
24 surprised -- in fact we thought the Royal Commission's
25 findings with the evidence and level of evidence that

1 was given, this would be a true account or a reasonably
2 accurate account of what maybe redress should look like,
3 only to find by the time it transited from the
4 Royal Commission into the hands of the bureaucrats in
5 government, AU\$50,000 disappeared.

6 Why it disappeared, we do not know, there was no
7 explanation given. It was just, "That is what we're
8 going to give", and no further explanation required.

9 Whether we're not entitled to the explanation or not
10 is irrelevant. The thing is that Royal Commission was
11 held -- was called for for a specific purpose and they
12 came down with an answer, but that answer was arguable,
13 that answer was available to the government to alter,
14 which we found very strange and unnecessary.

15 Q. And looking at the United Kingdom position, in
16 particular following upon the recommendation by the
17 England and Wales inquiry, has a redress scheme now been
18 set up in the United Kingdom?

19 A. Yes. Every former child migrant received an amount of
20 £20,000 initially, without it taking away their right to
21 further remuneration should they decide to take their
22 individual cases further.

23 Q. And that would be in a civil litigation?

24 A. Well, part of the IICSA inquiry is still going and there
25 will be recommendations ultimately from that inquiry

1 involving the English and Welsh children. They will
2 fall into another category, we presume, at the end of
3 that inquiry, and whatever rights they may have in that
4 will determine what they may receive as a further
5 redress amount.

6 Q. Generally, what has the reaction been from your
7 association to the redress scheme that's been set up for
8 the United Kingdom?

9 A. It was a token gesture, I've no doubt about that.
10 £20,000 today, whilst it was good, we saw something even
11 better in that particular retort from that particular
12 investigation. For the first time the finger was
13 pointed directly at the British Government as them being
14 responsible for what happened to the children. It's the
15 first time any inquiry has ever incriminated the
16 British Government in its responsibility.

17 To us, that was -- well, to me anyway, that was the
18 more euphoric thing that came from that. At last we
19 could say, "See? We told you. We've been trying to
20 tell you for years but you wouldn't want to listen, you
21 don't want to listen, 'Problems in Australia belong in
22 Australia, no problems here, nothing to answer for.'"
23 But there were and there's an awful lot to come.

24 Q. I think it's right to say that the redress scheme in its
25 present form is managed by the Child Migrants Trust?

1 A. The Child Migrants Trust were charged with disseminating
2 the payments and from the responses we're getting from
3 the child migrant community, they are just so pleased
4 that it happened so quickly. I think the government
5 allowed up to 2 years for these payments to be made.
6 Well, 90 to 95% of it has been paid within 3 months
7 through the work of the Child Migrants Trust.

8 Q. And this is a scheme in relation to which the
9 child migrant doesn't require to establish any abuse;
10 it's simply the fact that the migrant was a migrant that
11 justifies the payment?

12 A. It was paid on the basis that all child migrants that
13 were sent from Great Britain were in fact put in harm's
14 way and that was what that payment was for. Not for the
15 physical, sexual and other abuses that happened to them,
16 within the institutions within Great Britain; this is
17 just the fact that the child migrants that were sent out
18 were knowingly sent into harm's way because the
19 government already knew there were paedophile rings
20 going on through these Australian institutions and still
21 continued to send British children to them.

22 Q. Can I then move on, Norman, to the section of your
23 statement where you address what you refer to as
24 "post-apology issues". This begins at paragraph 116.

25 You've already covered the role of the Family

1 Restoration Fund and indeed you describe there how it
2 has been a wonderfully positive initiative and has
3 funded over 1,300 reunion visits over the past number of
4 years; is that correct?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. You see that as a sound policy matter?

7 A. It has been a godsend to know that, if push comes to
8 shove and a family member becomes ill, even deceases,
9 the whereby all to get back and be part of whatever
10 remedial action is necessary has just been a relief. So
11 many of us had to sit there and get letters, like --

12 [REDACTED], "Mum's
13 died, we've had the funeral", [REDACTED]

14 [REDACTED].

15 Q. We've already taken your evidence about your concerns
16 about whether or not the fund will continue after March
17 and we'll see what happens in that connection.

18 One point you make in your statement -- and this is
19 going back to the beginning -- at paragraph 8 is that:

20 "Following upon the national apology in
21 February 2010, which meant so much to all of us, there
22 was a failure by the UK Government to develop [what you
23 describe as] a post-apology plan."

24 I just want to understand what you mean by that.

25 A. Sadly, what we gleaned from that situation was that

1 I could actually drive a bus and run over someone, but
2 as long as I got out of that bus and went over to him
3 and said, "Look, I'm sorry", that's the end of it. This
4 is what we achieved from that. An apology without some
5 level of restitution is not justice. An apology with
6 justice, or with remuneration, is justice.

7 The amount of remuneration depends on the level of
8 sincerity about that justice. So you know, it's ... I'm
9 trying not to make this too confusing. It's easy for
10 someone to say sorry and then believe they can just wash
11 their hands of it and that's the end of it. It's not
12 fair, it's not right. There needed to be follow-up from
13 the apology. As Gordon Brown said after his statement,
14 "We are going to look after you for the rest of your
15 lives." It didn't happen.

16 Q. Well, the Family Restoration Fund was part of that,
17 is that correct?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And depending on what happens with that, it's at least
20 in place at the moment?

21 A. It's wonderful, but restrictive. But nonetheless it's
22 there, it's a fallback, it's a relief. It's something
23 that child migrants look at: we're being remembered,
24 we are being looked after, someone is trying to help and
25 ease our situation, our circumstance.

1 [REDACTED]
2 [REDACTED]
3 [REDACTED]. As with 99% of the child migrant cases, it wasn't
4 their fault they were sent out. A lot of them want to
5 come back, not to live but to visit, and they can't
6 because of their predisposition in life, which was not
7 a very nice thing.

8 That was their lot, they had to suck it in and put
9 up with it and adjust their lives to the levels that
10 they had to live at. Had they received, as I mentioned
11 earlier, some reasonable level of education, which they
12 would have got had they remained, for example, in
13 Scotland -- I say that because from the institutions in
14 Scotland, the children were actually sent to public
15 schools whereas in Australia you were taught by people
16 that weren't teachers. [REDACTED]

17 [REDACTED]
18 [REDACTED]. So that might give some
19 concept of what we struggled with.

20 Then there was further controls put in place, only
21 so many from this class can go up to that class, whether
22 you passed or not, and you stayed back if the numbers
23 were too many. It wasn't controlled by your ability.
24 If you stood out anywhere, you were very quickly brought
25 back to the field. And similarly, if you lagged, you

1 were very quickly kicked up to the level that you should
2 be, and the level wasn't all that high.

3 Q. Then coming back to the issue of the post-apology plan
4 we've been discussing, clearly you see it being of
5 critical importance that the Family Restoration Fund
6 continues; is that right?

7 A. Yes, that was a crucial part of the post-apology plan.

8 Q. Although it has taken time for it to happen, there have
9 been three judicial inquiries, one in Northern Ireland,
10 England and Wales, and this one for Scotland?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. I suppose you would see that as part of the post-apology
13 plan, albeit some way down the line?

14 A. A decade, exactly. A decade later, certainly. What
15 will be the defining thing will be the recommendations
16 from this inquiry and how that is going to impact even
17 further our futures. There's probably -- I'm inclined
18 to get a little bit too personal with how I feel about
19 this because I'm trying to speak for a lot of
20 child migrants.

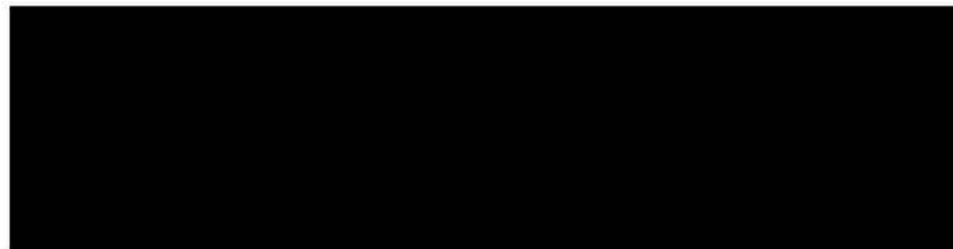
21 A lot of child migrants are so jaded, so angered
22 with the amount of times they've been required to expose
23 their personal laundry, I guess, for want of a better
24 word. It's humiliating for them, it's degrading. That
25 already happened to them and now they have to relive it

1 again because, really, no one's getting the concept of
2 the overall picture, they're only getting this bit and
3 that bit and then a bit more.

4 Put it together and you have got a devastating
5 situation where British children were placed in very
6 dangerous situations -- safety, for example, in these
7 institutions, it didn't exist. You didn't have safety.

8 We were pulling down huge, massive gum trees on top
9 of ourselves when there was a big tractor sitting there
10 in the middle of the oval doing nothing. Kids had to
11 climb the trees to the top with these huge ropes and
12 pull them down. We were in the swamp, up to our knees
13 in mud. These trees, if you weren't quick enough to get
14 out of the way -- that's the type of labour we were
15 involved with. A lot of kids got hurt, kids got broken
16 arms, broken legs trying to escape the fall of these.

17 We had to dig our own swimming pool. There was no
18 revetment down the sides of the pool. I mean, they
19 could have -- we're talking a 6-foot or 8-foot deep hole
20 and there were no revetments put in. The safety was
21 never a factor.



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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. In the winter it was quite the
opposite and -- no fans in the bedrooms, no air
conditioning, no fans in the classrooms, no heaters
in the bedrooms or the classrooms.

These levels of care, supposed care, were what we
had. That was us, that was our lot.

MR MacAULAY: My Lady, I see it's 11.30. I have nearly
finished but perhaps Norman would welcome a short break.

LADY SMITH: We'll take a break now, if that would work for
you, Norman, and come back in about 15 minutes.

(11.30 am)

(A short break)

(11.50 am)

LADY SMITH: Norman, are you ready if we carry on now?

A. Yes, thank you, my Lady.

LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

MR MacAULAY: Can I then take you to that part of your
statement, Norman, where you have a summary of a number
of points that you, I think, are quite anxious to make.
It's on the screen and I'll just pick up some of the
points that you make.

This has been a constant theme, I think, of your
evidence and it's a point you make at paragraph 133,
that:

1 "Time and time again opportunities for action have
2 been ignored or delayed."

3 Is that your view?

4 A. Sorry, which paragraph was that?

5 Q. 133. It's on the screen and it can be highlighted if it
6 helps.

7 (Pause)

8 A. Well, I think we've probably covered a lot of that
9 already.

10 Q. Yes.

11 A. The fact remains that time is very short for us. In
12 fact, my Lady, I'm actually closer to my maker today
13 than I am to my 80th birthday, such is the passage of
14 time. It's going so quickly and it's happening for me,
15 it's happening for all child migrants and existing
16 families that are still to be found in England.

17 I mean, a mother was found not that long ago aged 93
18 and there's a child migrant belonging to her in Sydney,
19 the first time they are going to get together.

20 The professional work of the trust has to be seen to
21 be believed with the work that goes on there, the
22 essential work that goes on there. I would love to have
23 had the trust negotiate on my part when I met my mother
24 for the first time. If they were there, I'm sure
25 it would have been a far more rewarding reunification

1 for me and for those that went before me and met their
2 parents.

3 Q. You talk about the trust again here in the summary. In
4 essence, you see the trust's work as absolutely vital to
5 the well-being of child migrants?

6 A. If the trust did not appear when they did, there
7 wouldn't be a child migrant left alive today. I have no
8 hesitation in saying that. I know it's not just the way
9 I feel: I've spoken to many child migrants and I know of
10 many child migrants who began living their life when the
11 Child Migrants Trust appeared. They actually began to
12 live a life.

13 Up to that time, they were vegetables, they weren't
14 mixing, they had nowhere to go, no one wanted to talk to
15 them, they were themselves bereft of any social graces
16 or standing. When the trust formed and got a
17 headquarters and they were able to come in and talk to
18 other child migrants, they began living a life.

19 Q. And the other person or thing that happened that you're
20 complimentary about is the Gordon Brown apology in 2010.
21 As you say at paragraph 137:

22 "The UK apology in 2010 was the day we had waited
23 for all our lives."

24 And that's your position, isn't it?

25 A. We heard exactly what we needed to hear: the fact that

1 the country accepts what happened to us. It was just
2 a lifelong unloading of a lot of weight we were carrying
3 for them to say, "We recognise, we know you, we'll look
4 after you." It was unreal. When we think about some of
5 the earlier apologies that were made, they were very
6 cold, very unmeaningful. Gordon Brown's one was not
7 only appropriate, it was very thoughtful, it was very
8 cathartic, it was very emotional, and we picked that
9 emotion up very, very quickly.

10 Even once it had been delivered, he then met with us
11 outside in another room and walked among us and talked
12 to us -- and to us this was Great Britain, this is home,
13 this is home welcoming us back after 60 years in
14 Neverland, so to speak.

15 So yes, his apology was recognition at long last and
16 a welcome home. But an apology on its own is not
17 justice.

18 Q. And you've covered that in your evidence and you
19 summarise it here for us again, that:

20 "There has to be support for uniting migrants with
21 families, there has to be [in your opinion] a memorial."

22 And you also have talked about the sort of judicial
23 inquiry that you would like to see. Is that correct,
24 have I summarised the essence of your position?

25 A. Yes. There are several things that we still need to

1 have put in place. And if I may read them?

2 Q. If that would help, please do.

3 A. "We need secure, long-term funding for the Child
4 Migrants Trust. They are the conduit that have kept us
5 alive. They are the conduit that have turned the lives
6 of so many forlorn, lonely individuals into having some
7 meaning.

8 "The Family Restoration Fund must continue. It
9 cannot just arbitrarily stop. We've got people in the
10 pipeline waiting to come back. Some have never been
11 here. Some are meeting family for the first time -- and
12 these are people that had no idea they had living
13 relatives in Great Britain.

14 "There needs to be a national memorial set up in an
15 appropriate place in England. We need to have our
16 testimonies filmed and archived for future events."

17 This, incidentally, is in addition to a judicial
18 inquiry of whatever level is seen to be appropriate.

19 Q. Well, thank you for these thoughts, Norman. Can I now
20 finally ask you to read the paragraph, paragraph 138,
21 which is on the next page of your statement? It'll come
22 up on the screen if that's helpful to you.

23 Paragraph 138. Could you read that as perhaps your
24 final thoughts for the inquiry?

25 A. "We were sent across the oceans as vulnerable children,

1 some only 3 years old, brothers and sisters separated on
2 the dockside. Seventy years later, we return as
3 witnesses. It has been far too long, but it is never
4 too late for truth and justice."

5 I also wish to add a very famous saying by a very
6 famous man named Nelson Mandela:

7 "The measure of a country's conscience is how well
8 it treats its children."

9 Thank you.

10 MR MacAULAY: Thank you, Norman. Thank you for engaging
11 with the inquiry and coming here today to give us your
12 thoughts as the president of the association.

13 My Lady, no questions have been submitted to me to
14 be put to Norman and I think that's the end of his
15 evidence.

16 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

17 Are there any outstanding applications for
18 questions? No.

19 Norman, that completes all the questions we have for
20 you. Thank you so much for engaging with us in your
21 role as president of the association. It's clear you
22 have worked tirelessly for the benefit of others and,
23 I have the impression quite selflessly, for the benefit
24 of others who found themselves in the same position as
25 so many people who were migrated as children.

1 You've obviously inspired your committee to keep
2 going and let me pay tribute to that. It's clearly
3 wonderful work you've been doing along with the Child
4 Migrants Trust. I hope there comes a time that you can
5 hand on and let somebody else do the hard work. It
6 sounds like you've been doing it for an awfully long
7 time.

8 Meanwhile can I let you go with my thanks and please
9 be assured that I've been listening very carefully to
10 everything you've been telling me.

11 A. Thank you, my Lady. I will reiterate that our work is
12 not done and we've still much more to go. Thank you.

13 (The witness withdrew)

14 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

15 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, the intention now is to play a short
16 film, about 30 minutes or so. It would be helpful to
17 have a short break to set that up.

18 (12.03 pm)

19 (A short break)

20 (12.10 pm)

21 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay, are we ready?

22 MR MacAULAY: We're ready to go, my Lady, yes.

23 (12.12 pm)

24 (BBC Frontline Scotland video played to the inquiry)

25 (12.42 pm)

1 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

2 Do we have a date for that programme, when it was
3 broadcast?

4 MR MacAULAY: It's 1998. We can maybe get the precise date
5 for that, but it's 1998.

6 My Lady, we probably have time for a short read-in
7 before 1.00.

8 LADY SMITH: Let's do that.

9 Ms Rattray, when you're ready.

10 Witness statement of "JAMES" (read)

11 MS RATTRAY: This is a statement of an applicant who wishes
12 to remain anonymous and has chosen the pseudonym
13 "James". The statement can be found at
14 WIT.001.002.1488.

15 "My name is James. I was born in 1940. My contact
16 details are known to the inquiry.

17 "I don't really remember family life before going
18 into care. All I know is that we stayed in Dumfries.
19 My mother died when I was an infant.

20 "I have three brothers. I also have a sister.
21 I have been told that I also had another two sisters,
22 but they died when they were very young.

23 "My father was an alcoholic. After my mother died
24 I can only imagine that he didn't have the ways or means
25 to look after us. I think that probably the local

1 authority stepped in and we were put into care.

2 "My sister went to one orphanage. My three brothers
3 and me went to Levenhall orphanage in Musselburgh.
4 I have within told that this is because my grandmother
5 was embarrassed. She didn't want us at a home in
6 Dumfries. I think I was either 2 or 3 years old when
7 I went into the orphanage. At that time my brothers
8 were aged 8, 5 and 4."

9 My Lady, the Church of Scotland records state that
10 James was admitted to Levenhall in Musselburgh on
11 [REDACTED] 1943 and that can be found at
12 COS.001.001.0870.

13 Correspondence between the Church of Scotland and
14 the Superintendent of Social Services in Melbourne,
15 Australia dated [REDACTED] 1955 states that James
16 migrated to Australia and was sailing on the Strathnaver
17 from Tilbury, London on [REDACTED] 1955.

18 There is also a letter from the State Immigration
19 Office in Australia of [REDACTED] 1955 which records
20 that he arrived in Melbourne on [REDACTED] 1955. That
21 correspondence is at WIT.003.001.3558 to 3559.

22 My Lady, we'll be examining Levenhall at another
23 future date and, in the circumstances, I will leave
24 paragraphs 5 to 67 where James describes his experiences
25 at Levenhall and now turn to paragraph 68.

1 LADY SMITH: Just to record a broad span of the relevant
2 ages here, he's about 3 years old when he went into
3 Levenhall and a little more than 15 when he was
4 migrated?

5 MS RATTRAY: Yes, my Lady.

6 Turning now to paragraph 68 on page 1498:

7 "I knew that I would have to leave Levenhall when
8 I was 15. I didn't know what I was going to do. There
9 was no guidance and no one had the answers to what would
10 happen to me.

11 "I think it was Mr MEE who first spoke to me about
12 going to Australia. I was around 13 years old when it
13 was first mentioned, although I didn't leave until I was
14 15. He asked me if I wanted to join my brother in
15 Australia and I said yes. He had already been there for
16 3 years. I don't recall anything about the time he left
17 other than saying goodbye to him. It was a very sad
18 time as that left me in the home on my own. I had no
19 contact with him after he went to Australia.

20 "I had no knowledge of Australia or where I was
21 going. I was aware I had to go there, work hard and
22 keep my head down.

23 "I don't remember being asked to sign any forms
24 about going to Australia. I believe that my father did
25 sign a consent form for me to go.

1 "I am assuming that I would have had a medical
2 before leaving. I don't remember this, it's just
3 something that I think would have happened.

4 "There was no preparation for leaving. The day
5 before I left I was told that I was going on a bus
6 in the morning. That night I stayed with my grandmother
7 and grandfather. My father came to see me. All
8 I remember was him singing 'Bye-bye Blackbird'. When
9 I left the home I had very few possessions. I had what
10 I was wearing and some other clothing in a small blue
11 suitcase. I knew that I was going to Australia to work
12 on a farm.

13 "I was given £10 and put on a bus to Edinburgh.
14 I then travelled on a train alone to London and went to
15 the YMCA. I have no idea how I managed to get there.

16 "At the YMCA there were 12 of us altogether waiting
17 to travel to Australia. I didn't know any of the others
18 but they were all Scottish.

19 "In the morning a minister of the church came and
20 took us all to Tilbury. I don't know the minister's
21 name. I don't remember having any papers with me or
22 handing these to anyone. It might have been that the
23 minister had these.

24 "We sailed from Tilbury to Australia on the
25 SS Strathnaver. After this, we never saw the minister

1 again. On the ship I became very sick due to a lack of
2 salt. I was in the ship's hospital for about a week and
3 given salt tablets. I think I recovered pretty quickly
4 and the rest of the journey was very good.

5 "We were given real food. We had absolute freedom
6 on the ship. We could run around and do what we wanted
7 to do. The ship docked in Perth and we were taken on
8 a trip by train to a national park for a visit.

9 "After this the ship travelled to Melbourne. I was
10 met by Superintendent AIP when I got off the ship.
11 I was the only one that went with Mr AIP. He took me
12 in a 4x4 car to Dhurringile Rural Training Farm in
13 Tatura, Victoria.

14 "I was only at Dhurringile for 7 or 8 days. When
15 I migrated, I was actually too old for the scheme.
16 I think I was allowed to go because my brother was
17 already there.

18 "Dhurringile was very good. You were very well fed.
19 There were proper meals. The staff were all good.
20 I don't have any complaints about that place.

21 "After Dhurringile, I moved to the Katandra area,
22 where I had to work on farms for the next 2 years. At
23 Katandra I worked on the farm. I would work from 6.30
24 in the morning until 10 at night. On a Sunday I had the
25 day off, although I still had to milk the cows in the

1 morning and at night.

2 "I was paid £6 per week and from that I paid £1 for
3 board. I was allowed to keep part for pocket money, and
4 the rest they banked for me. I still had access to this
5 money.

6 "All the farms I worked on were next to each other
7 on the same road. I think I worked on five farms
8 altogether. I was treated well at them all even though
9 I wasn't keen farming.

10 "After 2 years, I started to work on the roads
11 before joining the Australian Navy when I was 19. I now
12 know through using freedom of information that there
13 were people who had responsibility for me whilst I was
14 working on the farms. I didn't know this at the time.

15 "My brother in Australia didn't know where I was,
16 but I knew where he was. I was able to make contact
17 with him.

18 "When I was in Australia, I had difficulty speaking
19 with my other brother. I would ring him up but
20 I couldn't speak and hung up. This went on for years
21 until I was 60 years old. I think that this shows you
22 how much things at Levenhall had affected my head."

23 My Lady, he now speaks at paragraphs 88 and 89 about
24 the impact in respect of his experiences at Levenhall.
25 At paragraph 90 he states:

1 "I do think that in a way what I've been through has
2 helped me raise my family.

3 "I approached the church as an adult. When the
4 inquiry in England was about to start, I wrote a brief
5 note to Margaret Humphreys of the Child Migrants Trust
6 about what had happened to me. She was the one that who
7 had brought the child migrant topic up. I had no good
8 words to say. I have not raised it officially with any
9 other officials. I didn't receive any response to my
10 correspondence.

11 "I have never tried to recover my care records.
12 I did receive my records from my time as a child when
13 I arrived in Australia. This was through a freedom of
14 information request. I didn't have any problem
15 recovering these records. There were letters saying
16 that I was a good boy when I was working on the farm.
17 There were also letters from the Church of Scotland to
18 the authorities in Australia. I hadn't seen these
19 before.

20 "I have no knowledge of any health records from my
21 time at Levenhall."

22 At paragraphs 95 and 96 James speaks about lessons
23 to be learned in respect of his experience at Levenhall.
24 At 97 he says:

25 "I think as a child migrant we take comfort in what

1 we have and what we got.

2 "I'm not sure how I found out about the Family
3 Restoration Fund but I thought that I could use it,
4 which I have. I was called a Ten Pound Pom in
5 Australia, but I would retaliate with, 'Get the chains
6 off your leg.'.

7 "Since I was 18, I always voted in Australia,
8 although I didn't become an Australian citizen until
9 I was in my 50s. I have never held a British passport.

10 "There was an application process to become an
11 Australian citizen. This was pretty straightforward.

12 "I never had any problems with healthcare. I have
13 a gold card as a result of being in the navy. This
14 provides me with my healthcare.

15 "I have never been for counselling. I think it's
16 a bit late for that. I have all the support I need from
17 my family.

18 "I hope that as a result of what's been looked at it
19 will help children who are still in care. I'm glad that
20 I've had the chance to say what I have needed to say.
21 It has been good to have had an opportunity to tell my
22 story.

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

25 "I believe the facts stated in this witness

1 statement are true."

2 The statement was signed by James on

3 14 September 2018.

4 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

5 What's the plan now?

6 MS RATTRAY: That would conclude business for this morning,

7 but this afternoon there will be further read-ins.

8 LADY SMITH: That'd be very helpful, thank you very much.

9 I will rise now until 2 o'clock.

10 (12.52 pm)

11 (The lunch adjournment)

12 (2.00 pm)

13 LADY SMITH: Good afternoon. Ms MacLeod, what next?

14 Witness statement of "ROBERT" (read)

15 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, I will now turn to a read-in of an

16 applicant who wishes to remain anonymous and to use the

17 pseudonym "Robert". His statement can be found at

18 WIT.001.002.6899:

19 "My name is Robert. I was born in 1941. I am

20 presently 78 years of age. My contact details are known

21 to the inquiry.

22 "My mum died in [REDACTED] 1949 when she was 32 years

23 old. I had two brothers: one was 11 months older than

24 me and one who was 2 years younger. All have since

25 passed away. My older brother died in [REDACTED] 2000 when

1 he was 59 years old and my younger brother died
2 in [REDACTED] 2016 when he was 73 years old.

3 "I was born in Peebles because mum had been
4 evacuated there from Govan due to the bombing of the
5 Clyde at the time. We returned to Govan soon after
6 because I had an operation when I was 6 weeks old.
7 I learned from my auntie when I visited Scotland in 1992
8 that I had a pyloric stenosis, which was very serious
9 and I had to have a blood transfusion.

10 "We lived in Govan in what was known as
11 a single-ender, which consisted of one room and a coal
12 locker in an old tenement building. There was my mum,
13 dad and us three boys all in the one room and it was
14 pretty hard going. It was straight after the war and
15 nobody had any money.

16 "We were on the second floor and shared a toilet
17 with two other families. There were no showers and
18 baths were usually once a week. Otherwise we washed our
19 faces and hands in the sink with hot water from the
20 kettle. They were tough times and growing up wasn't
21 easy.

22 "Looking back, I wonder how mum managed living on
23 coupons with food being in such short supply just after
24 the war.

25 "We all went to [REDACTED] School and I can still

1 remember walking to school in snow up to our knees. It
2 was always good when you got to school because we had a
3 hot breakfast and a hot drink there.

4 "Mum had seven sisters and three brothers and quite
5 a few of our aunties lived nearby and in the same block.
6 All of them supported each other.

7 "Dad worked at the shipyards alongside my uncles and
8 I remember they used to knock off early on a Friday and
9 spend a lot of their money in the pub. I felt for my
10 mum and for my aunties too because they were the ones
11 that keep things going.

12 "Even as a little kid I can remember mum and dad and
13 my aunties were often fighting. It just seemed to be
14 part of normal life growing up in Glasgow at that time.

15 "Eventually we got a house at Pollok, which was an
16 upstairs and downstairs. I remember moving there and
17 actually travelling in the back of a furniture truck
18 with what furniture we had. There was great excitement.

19 "Mum had become very sick by then and spent a lot of
20 time in and out of hospital. In [REDACTED] 1949 she died
21 when she was just 32 years old. Mum never got to live
22 in the house in Pollok and I don't remember us living
23 there.

24 "After mum died, we all went to stay with different
25 aunties. My older brother went to one auntie, I went to

1 another, and my younger brother went to another.
2 I don't remember a lot about that, but as I understand
3 it now we lived with them for a short time.

4 "In recent years I have learned from some of my
5 cousins that there was a lot of friction between dad and
6 my aunties because of us. He wanted to be with us boys
7 but he wasn't getting any relationship with us.

8 "I believe there was a big advertising campaign
9 at the time about sending children overseas and dad took
10 us away from our aunties. I don't know a lot about that
11 time but we were living somewhere else that I think was
12 connected to the Presbyterian Church. I have no
13 recollection of where that was at all.

14 "Dad was really close to us and it must have been
15 a very traumatic experience for him having just lost his
16 wife. He wouldn't have done anything that would be
17 detrimental to our well-being, but before we knew it my
18 brothers and I were all on a train to Southampton.

19 "I'm not sure whether dad told us we were being sent
20 to Australia on the child migration scheme. I don't
21 really remember but I don't think he would have held it
22 from us. I think we all had an idea where we were
23 going, but I don't recall any of the lead-up to it and
24 I don't remember having any health checks or seeing
25 a doctor before we left.

1 "I have never seen my migration papers, although
2 I have since obtained some letters stating my brothers
3 and I were all sent over as child migrants. I'm not
4 sure whether dad travelled on the train so Southampton
5 with us, but I do remember it was a big thing going on
6 the train. We had never really been on public transport
7 before.

8 "I think we took the train from going to Edinburgh
9 and then from Edinburgh down to Southampton. I'm not
10 really sure now. I remember that we all had a little
11 brown cardboard case each that had some clothes in it,
12 but I don't remember where those clothes came from.
13 I don't know whether we had any identification papers
14 with us.

15 "We met a minister called the Reverend Andrew Boag
16 and his wife in Southampton. I think my dad must have
17 had talks with him beforehand and he must have set up
18 all the arrangements. We were just young boys and
19 hadn't been involved in any of the meetings before.

20 "When we arrived at Southampton, we met up with
21 27 other boys from Ireland, Scotland and England.
22 I remember us all being lined up ready to board the
23 ship.

24 "Years later I obtained a photograph that was taken
25 on the ship. It shows Reverend Boag and his wife along

1 with the two assistants they had as well as all of us
2 boys.

3 "We spent just over 6 weeks on the boat, which was
4 the MV Cheshire and to us it was a big adventure. Our
5 cabins were right down in the bottom and I remember the
6 crossing was pretty rough. We were all sick.

7 "The crew were West Indian and they were pretty
8 good. They used to put us up onto their shoulders and
9 take us on to the deck for some fresh air. After
10 a couple of days we got our sea legs and it wasn't so
11 bad.

12 "Reverend Boag was in charge of us, but I don't
13 remember seeing much of him. He tried to make us go to
14 school while we were on the ship but that was pretty
15 difficult. We weren't easy boys to handle, we were
16 pretty rough, but that was how we brought up.

17 "There were some good things that happened on the
18 ship as well. They set up a boxing tournament and all
19 of boys were weighed and went in the ring. I don't know
20 if it was a fund-raiser or what but the rest of the
21 passengers and captain and crew were watching us as we
22 got in the ring and belted one another about.

23 "I remember sitting in a deckchair next to the pool
24 as we crossed the equator. Someone was dressed up as
25 King Neptune and we got tipped in the pool even though

1 we couldn't swim; someone was there to pull us out.

2 "The meals were pretty good as well. We had
3 different stuff to the rest of the passengers, but there
4 were always a couple of special things on the menu. It
5 wasn't like a modern day cruise liner. I think the
6 Cheshire was originally a medical ship but it was all
7 right. It wasn't very flash but as boys we thought it
8 was impressive and we thought it was huge.

9 "The ship arrived in Fremantle first and we got off
10 and stayed there for a day or two before we travelled to
11 Melbourne, where we arrived on [REDACTED] 1950.

12 "I have been shown by the Scottish Child Abuse
13 Inquiry a copy of the ship's manifest which shows my
14 name and the names of my brothers. We are listed as
15 part of a Presbyterian party of boys and going to
16 Dhurringile."

17 That document is at WIT.003.001.0863:

18 "I also have a photograph that was taken when we
19 arrived in Australia. I have passed a copy of it to the
20 inquiry. It shows the captain of the ship, the
21 Reverend Andrew Boag and his wife, the couple who helped
22 look after us, and a lady called Mrs Muirhead. She was
23 from Glasgow and had her son with her. She also came to
24 the boys' home with us and she ended up being employed
25 there."

1 That photograph is at WIT.003.001.8052, and is part
2 of a wider selection of photographs provided by this
3 witness which can be found at WIT.003.001.8054 to 8063:"

4 "I can still name most of the boys in the photograph
5 because we all grew up as a family. There are boys from
6 around Glasgow, Edinburgh and Aberdeen, as well as
7 others from England and Ireland.

8 "When we arrived in Melbourne, I remember that the
9 heat was tremendous and that there was a group of people
10 from the church to meet us there.

11 "Before too long we were loaded on to the back of
12 a truck that was specifically built with an aluminium
13 frame covered by canvas. There were wooden plank seats
14 bolted to the floor and that's where we all sat on the
15 100-mile journey to Dhurringile. We thought we were
16 never going to get there.

17 "Dhurringile was set in the country, about
18 8 kilometres from Tatura, Victoria. It had 160 acres of
19 land with crops and dairy cows. The house itself was
20 a huge building, like a palace. It was really beautiful
21 and had about 72 rooms, a lovely set of stairs inside
22 and beautiful stained glass windows.

23 "It had been a prison previously and the prisoners
24 were locked up in cells in the dungeon. The home was
25 run by the governing body of the Presbyterian church

1 with six or seven staff. The person in charge was
2 a superintendent and over the years there were several.
3 The first one was Superintendent MOY and then another
4 man whose name I can't recall. Then there was
5 AIP and a man called AIO

6 "Among the staff there was a man whose name was
7 MOX, two nursing sisters named Sister George and
8 Sister Golding, a lady in the laundry and there was
9 Matron Harrison. In the kitchen was a cook and her
10 assistant and a Mr Fleming was the farm manager.

11 "It was all boys at Dhurringile ranging in age from
12 5 years old to 14 or 15. [REDACTED]
13 [REDACTED]. There were 30 of us and then
14 more kept coming in over the years. I think the highest
15 number of boys there would have been was about 45.
16 Normally the staff called each boy by their first name.

17 "I don't remember much about our first day at
18 Dhurringile except that there were committee members
19 from the church to meet us. One was a Bill Ponting who
20 also used to do maintenance work. It was just a couple
21 of weeks before Christmas and there was a big welcome
22 organised for us with a tree set up and gifts for us
23 all. It was amazing. They did a good thing there.

24 "We all slept in five or six dormitories that each
25 had six old wire-framed hospital beds in them. All the

1 dormitories had boys of different ages in them. My
2 brothers were in different dorms to me.

3 "We were always up by 6 o'clock in the morning and
4 everybody had to make their bed. After that we all had
5 to wash in the communal shower that had about eight
6 shower heads all in a row. Then we had to get ready for
7 school before going for breakfast and doing our morning
8 jobs.

9 "I can't remember what time we went to bed whether
10 it was 8 o'clock or 9. There was a curfew and that was
11 it, lights out.

12 "We were in bed early because we had to get up early
13 to do to our jobs in the morning. Bed-wetting was dealt
14 with very poorly. All the boys that wet their beds were
15 put into one room and my brother was one of them. The
16 rest of us boys used to call that room the stink room
17 because of the smell from the wet beds. The boys
18 in that room had to get up in the morning and take their
19 sheets down to the laundry and soak them.

20 "I have since found out when my brother told me that
21 the staff tried to think of ways of stopping the boys
22 from wetting the beds by waking them up before they did
23 so. They got this little electronic thing that they'd
24 put on the boys' penises so when the dampness came they
25 got a shock and woke up. It didn't really work but that

1 was the sort of thing they were doing and I think now it
2 was pretty cruel.

3 "The lady in the kitchen was a great cook. Meals
4 were quite good, except the porridge in the morning and
5 the sago and the tapioca, which I didn't like. When
6 I was in Glasgow we weren't very well fed; if we had
7 bread and dripping we were doing pretty well. Most
8 times we lived on coupons and a lot of money used to be
9 spent on beer by the men. As a result, I thought the
10 meals were pretty good at Dhurringile.

11 "We were getting roast lamb and beef and that sort
12 of thing. Lunch was usually sandwiches that I think the
13 boys made the night before. They were mostly Vegemite
14 though, which I hated at the time and I used to toss
15 most of mine. When we came home from school, especially
16 in winter, we would get a big cup of cocoa. That was
17 always welcome.

18 "Most of our clothes came from church stores and
19 donations from people on various organisations.
20 I remember always wearing shoes that were too small for
21 me and now my toes are all misshapen. The staff sorted
22 the donations out when they arrived and gave items to
23 each of us.

24 "There was a fairly big laundry which had its own
25 boiler system and a lady worked there and washed all our

1 clothes and bedding.

2 "We had our own Australian Rules Football team after
3 we had learnt a bit about the game. We were never any
4 good at it but we played other schools on a Saturday.
5 We also had our own cricket team and we were very much
6 involved in sports. We were a bit better at cricket
7 than football and we actually won the local competition
8 one year. My younger brother was a keen player in both
9 the cricket and football teams.

10 "A few years ago we had a 50-year reunion. A man
11 who played football against us said they knew that when
12 the Dhurringile truck arrived, they would win the game
13 but never the fights. We were a rough bunch.

14 "We also had our own pipe band. A couple of men
15 came in from Shepparton to teach us: Jock Lawrie, who
16 was the pipe major, and Jim Coach. They had a plumbing
17 business in Shepparton. They took us down into the
18 dungeons and they taught us how to play the chanter and
19 the drums. My older brother and I played the pipes and
20 my younger brother played the tenor drum.

21 "Eventually they got pipes and Highland dress from
22 somewhere and we went out and played at shows around the
23 countryside. Everywhere we went, we went in that truck.
24 We entered a couple of competitions and the year I was
25 in hospital, the band actually played at the Anzac march

1 in Melbourne. The Queen came out in 1954 on the train
2 and we played for her arriving at Tatura.

3 "We caught a bus to Murchison State School about
4 5 miles way. We would walk down the brae and the bus
5 would stop at the gates. There were maybe half a dozen
6 kids from other properties nearby and then we'd get on
7 and the bus would be full.

8 "We were not the best students, we were pretty
9 rough. We used to take the girls' basketball and kick
10 it around rather than play with the odd-shaped
11 Australian Rules football. We probably created a bit of
12 animosity among the other students at first. It took
13 a while for us to fit in and the principal Mr Milvain
14 actually gave the other kids a couple of days off so we
15 could be given an introduction into how things were
16 done. He took us through how they did things and we
17 actually ended up being very good friends with the other
18 kids.

19 "The education was really good and I have since
20 managed to obtain some of my reports that had been
21 completed by Mr Milvain. He recognised that I was good
22 in some subjects and not so good in others. There was
23 one comment that we seemed to be a bit backward in our
24 learning but it was a completely different system.

25 "We all went on to high school and I would have been

1 14 when I left. I did quite well at school, but I've
2 always liked to read a bit.

3 "Over the years at Dhurringile, we always went on
4 any trips in the back of the truck we had arrived in.
5 We were all at risk in the back of that truck and
6 sometimes we would get tossed about on the rough roads.
7 We were probably lucky to survive.

8 "During all of the school holidays we were billeted
9 out to different families. I went to stay with
10 [REDACTED] and his family at the time I was at
11 Dhurringile. They came and picked me up for the
12 Christmas holidays and I spent nearly 6 weeks at their
13 place. My brothers went to different families. It was
14 a wonderful experience for me because the [REDACTED] had
15 a lovely Jersey stock dairy farm. I worked beside [REDACTED]
16 [REDACTED] brother, [REDACTED] and they became like family to
17 me.

18 "In 1955, when I was 15, I was riding the horse back
19 to the farm when the horse slipped. I was riding
20 bareback and came right off and landed on a rock.
21 [REDACTED] came along on the tractor and told me to
22 jump up on the carry-all on the back of the tractor and
23 the pain was intense. When I got back to the house
24 I collapsed and later found out I had fractured two
25 lumbar vertebrae.

1 "One of the doctors that came to Dhurringile was
2 a Dr McKellar from Mooroopna, about 12 or 14 miles away.
3 He was a very fine doctor and used to come out once
4 a week or once a fortnight. He would examine us all and
5 I remember he would give us a teaspoon of yeast. It was
6 terrible stuff.

7 "We all had to have our tonsils taken out by the
8 doctor in Tatura, Dr Lowery. I think the theory at the
9 time was it was better to take kids' tonsils out than to
10 have them get infections. Dr Lowery was a bit of
11 a butcher. We went to the hospital, nine at a time, and
12 he just plucked out our tonsils and sent us home again.
13 The nursing sisters there, Sister George and
14 Sister Golding, set up one of the dormitories as
15 a sickbay and we spent a week in there being nursed by
16 them.

17 "After fracturing my lumbar vertebrae, I spent
18 11 months in Mooroopna Hospital and did a whole year's
19 schooling while I was in there. It was all arranged
20 through the public hospital system in Victoria, which
21 was free. My doctor's name was Dr Dickman, who was the
22 orthopaedic surgeon, and Dr McKellar used to come and
23 see me as well. The nurses were pretty good and an
24 occupational therapist came to see me every day. I did
25 all sorts of activities with the occupational therapist

1 and she taught me school lessons as well. As a result
2 I did quite well at school.

3 "After seven and a half months in bed I had to learn
4 to walk again and had weeks of physiotherapy and
5 rehabilitation. I was fitted with a special brace to
6 wear for another 5 months when I left the school. I was
7 a bit like a protected species when I went back because
8 they had to look after me.

9 "Every morning we had devotional time, where there
10 would be reading from a big Bible that was about
11 100 years old. Every Sunday we were all dressed up
12 a bit and taken to the church in Tatura in the truck.
13 They used to give us sixpence each for the collection.
14 We all sat in the two front rows of the church and took
15 turns in keeping 3 bob for cigarettes from the money
16 we were supposed to put in.

17 "Within a week of us arriving at Dhurringile,
18 we were put on a roster and everybody had a job. Every
19 Sunday night you had to go and look at the board and
20 check what your job for the week was. The jobs
21 consisted of cleaning the whole building and polishing
22 the floors on your hands and knees and also using a big
23 floor polisher. Another job was preparing all the
24 vegetables for about 40 people including staff.
25 Potatoes would have to be peeled, pumpkins prepared, and

1 all the vegetables done by whichever three boys were on
2 kitchen duty. There was also a roster for washing up
3 after each meal, and two or three boys would have to set
4 the tables for each meal and clean up afterwards.

5 "There were outside jobs too. Two or three boys
6 would be allocated to work in the dairy and feed the
7 pigs. One of the dirtiest jobs I can remember was
8 cleaning out the silage. The silage pit was probably
9 about 7 feet by 3 and there would be layers of greasy
10 stuff in it, which we would have to drain, put in
11 a wheelbarrow, and dump in a hole we had dug before.

12 "We all planted an orchard with several different
13 fruit trees and we grew tomatoes next to the house. We
14 boys actually cleaned up the old tennis courts as well
15 so that the staff mainly could use them.

16 "We never got any money for any of the work we did.
17 The only money we ever got was the sixpence for church
18 on a Sunday.

19 "Dhurringile used to advertise over the radio for
20 people willing to take boys for the Christmas holidays.
21 People were very good and we all went to stay with
22 someone. I was fortunate enough to go to the [REDACTED]
23 and my brothers went to other families. I didn't know
24 a lot about how they got on with those families.

25 "It was a normal Christmas with the [REDACTED]. They

1 had two daughters, who were like my sisters, and a baby
2 boy. We all got a few gifts from them and there was
3 a proper celebration. I got some sweets and clothes,
4 which I would take back to Dhurringile. The home itself
5 never provided any of these gifts.

6 "I don't remember birthdays being celebrated at all.

7 "Even though my brothers were my actual brothers,
8 all the boys at Dhurringile were like my brothers.
9 We were all very close.

10 "About a year and a half after we arrived in
11 Australia, dad came over as well. I found out many
12 years later from the archives that he tried to get us
13 out of Dhurringile but the welfare department didn't
14 treat him very well and he wasn't able to.

15 "The official opening of Dhurringile was in
16 June 1951. The Moderator of the Presbyterian Church was
17 there along with the Premier of Victoria, Mr McDonald,
18 a local member of government, and Superintendent MOY.

19 "I have since obtained some photographs that were
20 taken of the official opening showing a few of the
21 dignitaries and some of us boys sitting at tables.
22 There's also one with Superintendent MOY doing a Bible
23 reading to all of us. I've passed a copy of these
24 photographs to the inquiry."

25 These photographs are included in the series of

1 photographs at WIT.003.001.8052 to 8063:

2 "Once dad moved to Australia, he used to visit once
3 every three weeks or so. He would travel the 100 miles
4 from Melbourne on the bus. The bus would pull up
5 outside the gate and he'd walk up the brae and we would
6 have about 3 hours with him. He would always bring a
7 few lollies and things like that and he'd give us
8 2 shillings each to put in our bank. He was the only
9 visitor we had.

10 "I think dad was getting a bit fed up with the way
11 he was being treated by the welfare department, so after
12 a while he went back to Scotland. He didn't get on well
13 back in Scotland though because I think there was a bit
14 of animosity between him and my mother's brothers and
15 sisters. They weren't happy with him for sending us to
16 Australia.

17 "Apart from the official opening of Dhurringile,
18 I don't remember any formal visitors or inspectors
19 coming to Dhurringile, only the doctors.

20 "I wasn't one that misbehaved and I was always clean
21 and tidy and pretty upfront about things. However, the
22 lifestyle at Dhurringile was something that we boys just
23 had to grow up into and get used to. It was a strict
24 environment and there wasn't much we could have done to
25 change anything.

1 "I always thought that the discipline was a bit over
2 the top. We were pretty much drilled in what we had to
3 do and it had to be done. If it wasn't, we were
4 punished and they were a bit heavy-handed a lot of the
5 time. I never thought the punishment matched the
6 offence. We might have been out catching rabbits and
7 got home late and we'd be punished for that.

8 "One form of discipline was to get extra duties,
9 which I got from time to time over the years. Another
10 was to get the strap from the superintendent. He was
11 the only person that gave the strap. If any of the
12 staff thought you had done anything it would be reported
13 to the superintendent and he would take you into his
14 office and strap you.

15 "Although we hadn't been treated softly in Glasgow,
16 my brothers and I hadn't really been used to that sort
17 of treatment before. It was a very different
18 environment at Dhurringile and some of it was quite
19 brutal.

20 "Other than what I considered to be over the top
21 discipline, I was physically abused at Dhurringile.
22 I was not sexually abused, although I now know that my
23 younger brother was. Even at a young age I would never
24 have allowed anything like that to happen to me. I do
25 believe that we all suffered physical abuse while

1 we were there.

2 "I have since learned that most of the boys that wet
3 their beds were actually sexually abused. I think they
4 took advantage of boys that were a bit more timid and my
5 younger brother was one of them. He never talked much
6 about what happened to him and it was only much later in
7 1992, that I learned about it. I think a fair bit of
8 the sexual abuse that happened to him went on while
9 I was in hospital.

10 "I am now aware from what my brother told me of
11 nine boys who were sexually abused while they were at
12 Dhurringile. He told me that they went to the
13 Presbyterian minister in Tatura, the Reverend Collard,
14 and he said that he would look into it but he never did.

15 "At our 50th reunion a number of boys spoke of the
16 sexual abuse as well and many years later I read an
17 interview in the newspaper of a boy. I recognised his
18 name straightaway as one of the Irish boys that had been
19 at Dhurringile.

20 "The boy was talking about the sexual abuse he
21 suffered at Dhurringile, how he suffered mentally, and
22 how it had ripped his marriage apart. My younger
23 brother was there and I told him I had no idea anything
24 like that had happened. My brother broke down and told
25 me it had happened to him as well. That was the first

1 I knew about it.

2 "I later learned that my brother's abuser was
3 a member of staff called **MOW**. At first I couldn't
4 recollect anyone called **MOW** but I now do and
5 I remember him. My brother also mentioned another
6 member of staff called **MOX** who abused other boys,
7 although I am not sure if **MOX** abused him.

8 "I witnessed my older brother and another boy's
9 thrashing by the superintendent when they were only
10 about 12 years old. I think it might have been
11 Superintendent **MOY**, the first one at Dhurringile,
12 although if it wasn't **MOY**, it was the one after him
13 whose name I can't recall.

14 "My older brother and this boy had been late home
15 for some reason and so we were all lined up to witness a
16 thrashing. I think it was to warn us that if we didn't
17 do what we were supposed to, that is what we would get.
18 They were both belted on top of the light clothes they
19 were wearing, across the buttock area and the back, with
20 a shaving strap, which was leather and a few inches wide
21 with a handle.

22 "The superintendent had really lost it for some
23 reason and he took it out on the boys. I'm not sure how
24 long the thrashing went on, but it wouldn't take much
25 for such a big strap to do the damage it did to

1 a 12-year-old boy. My brother's back was bleeding and
2 that is something I will never forget. What sort of
3 a man would do that sort of thing?

4 "A couple of the elder boys who were about 16 at the
5 time intervened. They pulled the strap off the
6 superintendent and pushed him away. I think the
7 superintendent must have realised that he'd gone over
8 the top. I don't know what happened after that,
9 although I think my brother must have got some medical
10 attention because his back was bleeding.

11 "This was the only public thrashing I saw. Any
12 other stuff that went on was behind closed doors in the
13 superintendent's office.

14 "My younger brother later told me that at the time
15 he and the other boys had gone as a group to report
16 their abuse to the Presbyterian minister in Tatura, the
17 Reverend Collard. My brother said the response had been
18 that the minister found it hard to believe, but said he
19 would look into it. That's about as far as it went and
20 it was never looked into. As a result, the boys grew up
21 thinking that nobody would believe them.

22 "I don't believe the superintendent's public
23 thrashing of my older brother was ever reported to
24 anyone.

25 "I have since obtained archive material from

1 Dhurringile and there is certainly no mention of it in
2 there.

3 "My older brother left Dhurringile before me because
4 he was a bit older and moved to Shepparton where he
5 lived with a couple of other boys. By that time he was
6 starting to get into a bit of trouble. He had got into
7 bad company after he left and was involved with the
8 police.

9 "Eventually, dad came back to Australia in 1958 and
10 lived in Shepparton. We were still living in
11 Dhurringile at the time and working locally. I had
12 a job as an electrical apprentice until the guy I was
13 working for was made bankrupt. He got me a job with
14 another contractor, but I'd had enough. They pay was
15 not good and I saw other lads getting much more money
16 doing seasonal work.

17 "When I finished with the electrician, the home sent
18 me to work on a farm near Wangaratta on the border
19 between Victoria and New South Wales. I'd had a bit of
20 farm experience because I'd been with the [REDACTED]. By
21 that time I was 17 and that is when I left Dhurringile."

22 My Lady, between paragraphs 103 and 107, the witness
23 provides evidence in relation to his life after
24 Dhurringile and we can read that for ourselves in the
25 statement.

1 LADY SMITH: Yes.

2 MS MACLEOD: So I will move on to paragraph 128 on
3 page 6920:

4 "When the Australian Royal Commission was first set
5 up, my younger brother told me that he was going to
6 submit a statement. He was a very sick man by that time
7 and said that he just wanted to get some recognition.
8 He wanted people to know how it was for him. I helped
9 him to get through the initial processes and to
10 understand what the terms of reference were.

11 "He prepared a statement for the Royal Commission
12 with the help of the Child Migrants Trust and it was
13 submitted on [REDACTED] 2013. I have submitted a copy of
14 his statement to the inquiry."

15 That is at WIT.003.001.4372:

16 "Unfortunately, 3 years before the Royal Commission
17 out their report, my brother died. He wouldn't talk to
18 me directly about what had happened to him, but I read
19 his statement. In his statement, he also mentions
20 reporting his abuse much later on when he raised it
21 again with the Presbyterian Church.

22 "Around 2004 he wrote a letter to the Moderator of
23 the church, but never received a reply at the time. He
24 confirms in his statement that it was only later that he
25 discovered the church had in fact replied.

1 "One boy's account of his abuse at Dhurringile was
2 actually highlighted in the Royal Commission. He was
3 from Ireland. He was also there when I was and he gave
4 a very profound statement of how he was sexually abused
5 and it was published online. He and his brother came
6 out to Australia about 18 months after us and he too has
7 had a pretty miserable quality of life afterwards. That
8 boy's statement was very similar in lots of way to my
9 younger brother's and to that of they boy who did the
10 interview for the newspaper.

11 "My brother was very sick when he was involved with
12 the Royal Commission, so much so that he could hardly
13 walk, and yet appointments were made for him to go and
14 make a statement. Sometimes he couldn't make the
15 appointments and when he did, he could hardly speak.
16 The Commission didn't seem to recognise that he was
17 a really sick man.

18 "I have had some involvement over the years with the
19 Child Migrants Trust and still do. I am aware that the
20 UK Government has offered £20,000 to all former
21 child migrants, regardless of whether they had been
22 abused. That's pretty good.

23 "After the Royal Commission, I was actually invited
24 down to Canberra in October 2018 to hear an apology. My
25 wife, me and our daughter went into the Parliament and

1 listened to the direct responses from the Prime Minister
2 and from the Leader of the Opposition. A lot of people
3 were in tears and I was very emotional too.

4 "I thought they both did it very well, but the
5 apology was focused on sexual abuse and, to my way of
6 thinking, it should have been broader than that. It
7 should have been for emotional and physical abuse as
8 well. Many children were treated very badly, and
9 although they were not actually sexually abused, they,
10 including me and my two brothers, were physically
11 abused.

12 "I actually managed to speak to the Australian
13 Prime Minister during the luncheon that was held after
14 the apology. I wanted to talk to him about child
15 migration and I was pleased that he did seem to listen.

16 "My first response to the apologies that were made 9
17 or 10 years ago in relation to child migration by
18 Gordon Brown and Kevin Rudd was that they were a long
19 time overdue. The UK and Australian Governments had
20 initially disowned the whole thing and I thought that at
21 least now there was some recognition from the British
22 Government.

23 "An apology though is just about saying sorry. It
24 didn't do anything else at the time. It's only now that
25 they are starting to look at redress. The redress

1 scheme is long overdue and is moving far too slowly.
2 A lot of the people are now getting older and I know
3 that one much of the ministers here in Australia just
4 recently said that there needs to be some urgency to the
5 processes. They need to realise that this needs to be
6 dealt with and bureaucracy needs to be set aside. Firm
7 decisions need to be made on what needs to be done and
8 those decisions need to be carried out quickly.

9 "Unfortunately, my younger brother died before he
10 could claim any redress. He could have done with that
11 money. He never had any money and that hurts me a bit.
12 He had never had any real quality of life or happiness
13 and he had gone to the grave with no recognition of his
14 suffering.

15 "I was very angry for a time after he died and wrote
16 a letter to my local federal member. He was blown away
17 by what I had to tell him and I pointed out that the
18 terms of reference should have been much broader and
19 should have included emotional and physical abuse as
20 well. He wrote to the minister in charge of the redress
21 scheme, who in turn wrote back to me, but I just left it
22 at that.

23 "Neither my older brother nor I had an opportunity
24 to seek redress because there has not been anything
25 available for physical or emotional abuse.

1 "My older brother always had a bad back in later
2 years and I always blamed it on the time he was beaten.
3 When he left Australia and went back to Scotland, he
4 started to get a bit of a stoop.

5 "I am aware that my younger brother received some
6 counselling over the years when he was in contact with
7 the Royal Commission, but I certainly haven't had any
8 and I don't think my older brother did either.

9 "Around 1969, Matron Harrison, one of the staff at
10 Dhurringile, traced me when I was living in
11 North Queensland. She brought a number of original
12 photographs and the big Bible that we used to get
13 readings from. She told me she didn't think many of the
14 other boys would be interested and wanted me to have
15 them. I have provided copies of those photographs to
16 the inquiry."

17 These photographs are also in the collection of
18 photographs at WIT.003.002.8054 to 8063:

19 "I have asked the Child Migrants Trust to help me
20 get my records and I now have a number of documents. My
21 brothers never tried to obtain their records.

22 "The Child Migrants Trust and the social workers
23 have been very good helping me with my records and
24 I have obtained quite a lot of files but most of the
25 information on me is very brief. It was strange to read

1 about my life in the harsh language at times. I have
2 provided the inquiry with a copy of some of the records
3 I have managed to obtain."

4 That documentation is at WIT.003.002.1033 to 1092:

5 "There are also letters relating to dad's arrival in
6 Australia and his involvement with the child welfare
7 department. I found I became very emotional when I read
8 those letters. There are positive things said about my
9 dad, how he was when he visited, and mention of his
10 leaving money for my brothers and I and chocolate for
11 all the boys at Dhurringile. It is clear though that my
12 dad was treated very badly by the child welfare
13 department.

14 "Also within the records I have was a letter that
15 Mr [REDACTED], the farmer I worked with nearly Wangaratta,
16 had written to the Dhurringile Boys' Home. He explained
17 about my older brother coming to the farm and me going
18 back to Shepparton with them and never coming back. He
19 said that he had wages for me and some of my clothes and
20 said that he would send them all back to the home.

21 "It upset me a bit to read that because I don't do
22 that to people, but being young I had. I went back
23 years later long after Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] had died and
24 met their son so I could apologise to him. He told me
25 his parents had been really upset and he appreciated my

1 apologising. They were lovely people.

2 "There were a few health records in the documents
3 I recovered. On [REDACTED] 1999, I had an aortic valve
4 replacement and at the time the cardiologist told me
5 I must have had rheumatic fever when I was younger.
6 I was unable to confirm that because I didn't have any
7 records.

8 "I approached the Child Migrants Trust again and
9 they managed to get a copy of my mum's death
10 certificate, which I had never managed to find myself.
11 It was only then that I found out that mum had died of
12 rheumatic carditis in 1949 when she was 32 years old.
13 I discovered that I was actually a carrier.

14 "It was a long time before I made contact with my
15 family in Scotland and I have now visited four times
16 altogether. I paid for the first two trips myself and
17 the other two were funded by the Australian and
18 UK Governments who had set up family restoration funds.

19 "I first went back in 1992 with my wife and we
20 visited my older brothers and his family while we were
21 there. I made a few enquiries and met my auntie and
22 a few of my cousins and I eventually found my mother's
23 grave at Cardonald cemetery. It was a pauper's grave
24 and eventually I had a proper headstone erected.

25 "In 1998 my wife and I went back to Scotland to

1 visit my older brother and his family, which was after
2 he had a stroke. It was very sad to see him confined to
3 the wheelchair and not able to talk, although he could
4 acknowledge with his hand and smile. I spent a lot of
5 time taking him for walks around the town in the
6 wheelchair.

7 "After the apology that the Australian Government
8 made, they had a scheme to fund trips back for former
9 child migrants. My wife and I went back through that
10 scheme in 2005 and met the family and visited my older
11 brother's memorial grave.

12 "The last time my wife and I were in Scotland was
13 also funded by the restoration fund in 2015. However,
14 while we were touring New Zealand, I heard that my
15 cousin and her husband lived there. My cousin and her
16 husband were flying over from Scotland to have a family
17 reunion with them, so I notified the Child Migrants
18 Trust and they assisted me with the cost of our flight
19 and accommodation. I only met my cousin for the first
20 time when we were in Scotland in 1992.

21 "I got in touch with the Child Migrants Trust and
22 told them about the reunion and they helped me out with
23 that and actually reimbursed our fares through the
24 restoration fund, paid for our accommodation and gave us
25 money for a hire car. I thought that was just amazing.

1 "A lot of the boys at Dhurringile were orphans, but
2 some of those from Scotland did have family and it was
3 only later on that they found that out. Some of their
4 mothers had put them into a home in Scotland because
5 they couldn't afford to keep them. Some of them later
6 went on the home to get their children, only to be told
7 that their child had been adopted out.

8 "I am aware now that some of these children were
9 boys from Scotland who had been migrated to Australia.
10 I think it was a betrayal of the British Government to
11 do that to children and their families.

12 "I suppose I've always blamed my dad for us coming
13 out to Australia. I found out later from archives that
14 he was not allowed to live in the same state. However,
15 he never told us that at the time. It was such a shock
16 when I read that and I felt really upset.

17 "I remember reading about Australian citizenship
18 around 1982 and decided to apply. My understanding of
19 my citizenship previously had been that I was a British
20 subject living in Australia. I never had a passport
21 from either the UK or Australia prior to that. I didn't
22 realise until that time that there was a charge,
23 although I'm not sure if I paid a fee for my
24 citizenship.

25 "On [REDACTED] 1997, the Child Migrants Trust wrote

1 a letter on my behalf, which refers to the fee to be
2 waived for Australian citizenship. I have provided the
3 inquiry with a copy of that letter. I can't recall what
4 that was about as I had already become an Australian
5 citizen by then. I now have an Australian passport and
6 get a pension and other state benefits without
7 difficulty.

8 "I probably adjusted better to life after being
9 migrated than a lot of people did. If I talk about it,
10 it hurts, but I have put it behind me and I have come to
11 terms with it.

12 "I tend not to talk about being a child migrant, but
13 when I turned 60 I published my memoirs and some of my
14 friends read about it. A few mentioned it to me and
15 I discussed it briefly with them but then I quickly
16 moved on. All that I wrote in my memoirs is detailed in
17 this statement.

18 "I was annoyed when child migration was eventually
19 recognised by government but nobody wanted to claim
20 responsibility. Governments claimed it was years ago
21 and therefore they didn't know much about it, but
22 of course they did. It was only after the constant
23 pressure applied by Margaret Humphreys of the Child
24 Migrants Trust that they did start to acknowledge what
25 happened.

1 "I think the apologies were a good start as
2 a response, but they should be followed up by redress.
3 Some people are still really struggling and a bit of
4 financial support at the end of their lives would be
5 a boost for them. There is too much bureaucracy, too
6 much toing and froing and it is all taking too long.

7 "I feel that my brothers have been let down. They
8 have already passed away. They were physically and
9 sexually abused and during their lifetimes there was no
10 recognition of that. They passed on feeling that nobody
11 really cared. That hurts me. The issues of child
12 migration and child abuse should have been acknowledged
13 much sooner.

14 "Over many years I tried very hard, with some
15 success, to manage my emotional stress and that has not
16 always been easy, growing up on your own with no family
17 support. Through my married years at times my wife and
18 daughters were very understanding and were a great
19 support, but it was not easy for them either. They have
20 managed to come to terms with the situation over the
21 years but it has not been easy for them knowing that
22 I was a child migrant and that I was sent to a boys'
23 home in Australia in 1950.

24 "The apologies by governments and the Royal
25 Commission into child abuse has again caused much pain

1 and stress to us all. My wife and I and our daughter
2 attended the government's apology in Canberra last year
3 for children who had been sexually abused. That was
4 a very sad day for us, knowing that my younger brothers,
5 my daughters' uncle and my brother, had suffered all
6 those years and died without any recognition or being
7 believed. We have suffered physical and emotional abuse
8 since we arrived in Australia in 1950.

9 "The British Government's lack of recognition of the
10 fundamentally flawed nature of the historic child
11 migration programmes that occurred from the early 1940s
12 to the late 1960s and the failings that took place over
13 many years was a betrayal to many thousands of British
14 children. To my mind, child migration was a betrayal by
15 the British Government. It was terrible and it was
16 unforgivable.

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

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

21 The statement was signed by Robert on 20 June 2019.

22 I should say, my Lady, that Robert wrote a letter
23 directly to your Ladyship and that can be found at
24 WIT.003.001.4386. That is dated December 2019.

25 I have already, I think, referred to the quite

1 paragraph 8 on page 4785:

2 "In 1955, when I was 11 years old, I was sent to
3 Australia as a child migrant. My older brother was
4 never sent because he had had rheumatic fever and was
5 four years older. I think they wanted kids more of my
6 age that they would mould into some sort of upright
7 citizens.

8 "I have obtained some records from my childhood from
9 the Prince's Trust. They now hold my Fairbridge Society
10 records. Within them is a copy of my migration papers.
11 I can provide a copy to the inquiry if it is necessary.

12 "The migration form appears to have been signed by
13 my mother in April 1955, giving her permission for me to
14 go to Australia."

15 That consent form is at PRT.001.002.0713:

16 "I remember my mother asking me if I wanted to go to
17 Australia. I'd never heard Australia before and had no
18 idea what had involved. I have since found out from
19 mum's sisters, my aunts, that they had offered to look
20 after me instead of me going, but that never happened.

21 "I also recollect somebody, I don't know who, taking
22 me to Dundee in a little three-wheeler car. I assume
23 now it was for me to have interviews or whatever, but
24 I don't recall why. I have since found out that the
25 Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children were

1 involved in some way.

2 "I don't recall getting any health checks, but there
3 are references in my records to my getting them both
4 before I left and after I arrived in Australia. One
5 such letter mentions that I put on weight and I had more
6 colour.

7 "The records also contain papers relating to an
8 application process for me with the Fairbridge Society,
9 which arranged my migration and with the immigration
10 department. There is actually quite a lot of
11 documentation with the Fairbridge application.

12 "When it was time for me to leave on
13 [REDACTED] 1955, I recall my mother taking me to the
14 station and putting me on the train to England.
15 I believe my grandmother was supposed to have gone with
16 me on the train but for some reason that didn't happen.
17 I ended up being under the charge of the train guard.

18 "I remember getting on the train on my own and
19 that's about it. I've subsequently found out from my
20 records that when the train got to Newcastle, I joined
21 another party of children going from there. They had
22 a lady guardian with them and she supposedly looked
23 after me as well. I don't recall that.

24 "I travelled by train down to Knockholt in Kent, but
25 I don't remember much of the journey or of changing

1 trains. I ended up at a large stately home in Knockholt
2 that was called John Mitchell House. I later found out
3 it had been used during the Second World War for
4 children evacuated out of London. After the war it was
5 used as a meeting place for kids that were being sent to
6 Australia from all over the UK. I don't know who owned
7 is it or whether it belonged to the Fairbridge Society.

8 "According to my records, I spent 4 weeks at
9 Knockholt, although I always thought it was longer than
10 that. The house was a very impressive building with
11 a circular driveway and steps going up to the front
12 door. There was a big pine tree in the grounds round
13 the back, which I can remember climbing. I have vague
14 memories of going to school in Orpington, which is
15 nearby, during my time at Knockholt. That was the first
16 time I'd every experienced changing class for different
17 subjects.

18 "My records also say that we were taken to London
19 and outfitted for Australia and that I was given a new
20 suitcase. I recall that the clothing was totally
21 inappropriate. They dressed us in heavyweight clothes
22 more suitable for an English climate.

23 "The ship was travelled on was called the Otranto
24 and we sailed from Tilbury Docks in London on
25 [REDACTED] 1955. I had always been under the impression

1 it was supposed to be the Otranto's last cruise before
2 being scrapped although I'm not sure it was.

3 "There were probably about 12 to 14 Fairbridge kids,
4 boys and girls, in our party and a couple were employed
5 as guardians on the ship. I presume they were married,
6 a married couple that were migrating to Australia.
7 I was the only Scot to my knowledge.

8 "We were given tours of some parts of the ship and
9 got taken up to the bridge as well. We kids could play
10 games while we were sailing, hide and seek or whatever.
11 Playing hide and seek on an ocean liner meant nobody
12 would find you until you wanted to be found. I got into
13 a fight with another boy over one of the girls in the
14 party. I got a bleeding nose and actually ended up in
15 hospital in the ship for the last few days because the
16 bleeding wouldn't stop.

17 "The ship sailed through the Mediterranean and
18 I understand we were one of the last ships to go down
19 the Suez Canal before the troubles in Egypt. Excursions
20 were organised for us when we arrived at the various
21 ports on the journey. We got off in Naples and I recall
22 seeing Mount Vesuvius smoking in the background. Then
23 we sailed to Port Said, although we didn't get off there
24 because of the troubles starting. After going through
25 Suez, we stopped at Aden. I'm still able to close my

1 eyes and see all the beggars outside the harbour. There
2 were deformed kids and I recall someone saying they had
3 been purposely deformed by their parents to make them
4 better beggars.

5 "After Aden we went to Colombo, a port on an island
6 which in those days was called Ceylon. It was on the
7 excursion there that I saw a beach with palm trees on it
8 for the first time. After Colombo we sailed to
9 Fremantle, Western Australia.

10 "I have been shown a copy of the passenger list for
11 the Otranto, which shows that the ship arrived in
12 Fremantle on [REDACTED] 1955. The list records me as
13 'Master Gregs', aged 11, and I was 'care of Fairbridge
14 Farm School, Pinjarra, Western Australia.' That's
15 correct. I actually have a copy of the passenger list
16 as well."

17 My Lady, that passenger list is at NAA.001.001.0410:

18 "Half of the kids I'd travelled with went to
19 Fairbridge at Pinjarra, half went to Molong in the east
20 of Australia. I went to Pinjarra.

21 "When we arrived at Fremantle, we were picked up off
22 the ship by Tom Brayne, who was I think the vice
23 principal of Fairbridge at the time. The journey was
24 about 100 miles and I recall stopping somewhere for
25 a picnic lunch on the way.

1 "Fairbridge Farm School Pinjarra is in the
2 countryside, about 100 miles from Perth. I'm now aware
3 that the school was set up in 1913 at a school abandoned
4 orchard south of Pinjarra by Kingsley Fairbridge. By
5 the 1920s the Fairbridge Society had been established
6 and they had managed to procure the farm where I was
7 sent, which was north of Pinjarra, and was about
8 3,500 acres in size.

9 "By the time of my arrival, a village had been built
10 that included a primary school, a church and a number of
11 other buildings, which included the cottages where all
12 the kids stayed.

13 "The farm was well-established and grew cereal crops
14 and vegetables, kept livestock, and had an orchard.
15 There was one tarmac road running through the village;
16 the rest of the tracks were all gravel.

17 "Fairbridge was run by the principal, who was a chap
18 by the name of MIQ [REDACTED] when I first arrived. He left
19 and a guy called MIP [REDACTED] took over and he was
20 still principal when I left. There was also the vice
21 principal, Tom Brayne, two old ladies who worked in the
22 office, staff in the dining room, teachers, some of whom
23 lived on site, farm staff, the priest and a number of
24 cottage mothers.

25 "I have since established that the teachers were

1 actually supplied by the education department of
2 Western Australia. The rest of the staff were employed
3 by Fairbridge. There would have been between 250 and
4 350 children at Fairbridge. It varied over the years.

5 "There were a number of individual cottages, which
6 had, on average, about 12 kids in each of them. Each
7 cottage had a small garden around it. The kids in each
8 cottage were single sex and ranged in ages from about
9 3 years old up to 16. Boys were in single-storey
10 cottages and girls were in double-storey ones. All the
11 cottages were named after somebody significant, which
12 was supposedly to motivate us.

13 "There were only women looking after the children
14 in the various cottages, although there were male
15 schoolteachers and male staff elsewhere and on the farm.
16 One of the things I later discovered was that the
17 cottage mothers had absolutely no training or
18 qualifications. In the main they were either widows,
19 spinsters or, in a few cottages, they were unmarried
20 mothers. Looking back, I suppose it was just the time
21 and that was the way it was done.

22 "The cottage mothers were there almost full-time
23 every day of the week. They would do 3 months on and
24 have 2 weeks after when a relieving cottage mother was
25 brought in. It was great if the relieving cottage mum

1 was new because she didn't know the rules and we could
2 get away with murder.

3 "The cottage mother of the cottage I was allocated
4 was [REDACTED] and she was called MIO [REDACTED]. She was
5 a battle-axe. I found out in later life that her
6 husband had been killed in the war and she'd gone to
7 Australia as a refugee. She had a son who was a couple
8 of years younger than me and who had a very strong
9 accent.

10 "Mrs MIO [REDACTED] and her son slept in their own
11 quarters at the end of the cottage where they had a
12 bedroom, a bathroom and a sitting room. The son never
13 mixed with any of us.

14 "During the time I was at Fairbridge there were four
15 cottage mothers in charge of the cottage I stayed in.
16 Mrs MIO [REDACTED] was there until around 1958 when she moved
17 down south. I don't know why she left. After she left
18 the cottage mothers improved.

19 "We were called by our first names unless there was
20 another child with the same name. If there was, the kid
21 who arrived second had his name changed. Amongst
22 ourselves we gave each other nicknames.

23 "I would say now that life as a child at Fairbridge
24 was impersonal. There were no hugs or kisses as there
25 would be in a normal family. You had your place in the

1 cottage and depending on which age group you were, you
2 had certain duties to do.

3 "I spent the first 3 or 4 days in the hospital at
4 Fairbridge because my nose was still bleeding from the
5 fight on the ship. I eventually went to the cottage in
6 which I was to be staying, which was called [REDACTED].
7 I remained at [REDACTED] for the duration of my time at
8 Fairbridge.

9 "I remember a guy pulled up in a horse and cart
10 while I was in the hospital. He was one of the older
11 lads from [REDACTED] cottage. He asked me if I was the new
12 kid and give me a pile of comics.

13 "When I arrived at [REDACTED], the cottage mother
14 Mrs MIO [REDACTED] insisted I call her 'mum' as the other kids
15 did. Having just recently left my mother in Scotland,
16 I refused and so I got off to a bad start. I was
17 punished for it, however eventually it was decided that
18 we should call the cottage mothers 'auntie'.

19 "The cottage mother's quarters were at the end of
20 the cottage. Next to them was the main bedroom where
21 the youngest kids slept and there was a connecting door
22 into the cottage mother's quarters. As you grew older,
23 you moved into other bedrooms that were further away.
24 The bedroom at the end had three or four beds in it
25 where the bigger boys slept.

1 "We got up early in the morning. I'm not sure what
2 time. No matter what age you were, you had to make your
3 bed as soon as you got up. Everybody then went for
4 a cold shower before getting dressed and, depending on
5 your age, we would have various tasks to do.

6 "After that, we'd have breakfast and then head off
7 to school. When we came back from school, there would
8 be extra duties to do.

9 "Bedtimes were staggered throughout the evening,
10 with little kids going to bed first and the oldest last.

11 "There were two shower units in the bathroom, two
12 toilets and a bath. The showers were always cold water.
13 All 12 kids in the cottage would be in together while
14 the cottage mother watched, making sure everyone had
15 a shower. At the end of the day we all had a bath. We
16 had to bucket hot water in from outside to fill the bath
17 and then everybody had to bathe in the same water. The
18 little kids went in first because they went to bed
19 earlier, which meant that the oldest kid would be the
20 last in after everybody else.

21 "I don't recall having a toothbrush or ever cleaning
22 my teeth.

23 "There was a main dining room in a separate building
24 at Fairbridge and all the primary kids ate their lunch
25 and evening meal there during the school week. The

1 older kids ate lunch at the high school in Pinjarra and
2 then they too had their evening meal in the dining room.

3 "All the breakfasts as well as the evening meal on
4 a Saturday and all meals on a Sunday were had in the
5 cottage where all the cooking was done on wood-burning
6 stoves.

7 "Meals were very strict and regimented. We sat at
8 bench seats with our feet underneath and we weren't
9 allowed to talk at the table. The cottage mother would
10 be sitting at the end and we soon learned that
11 if we leant back and mouthed something, she wouldn't be
12 able to see. If you didn't eat your food it would be
13 sitting waiting for you at the next meal. The two
14 things I didn't like were cucumber and celery, but like
15 everyone else, I devised ways of getting rid of anything
16 like that from the table.

17 "All the clothes we'd brought from England
18 disappeared and we never saw them again. I don't know
19 what happened to them. The only thing we did see
20 afterwards was the suitcase which was kept in a storage
21 room.

22 "All year round we never wore shoes. It was
23 when I first arrived and I'd never walked barefoot
24 outside anywhere. I had to learn to walk on the gravel
25 tracks in my bare feet. When the weather was starting

1 to warm up and the ground was hot, all I could do was
2 hobble from shade to shade. You could always tell the
3 new kids because they would be doing the same and
4 because they would also be covered in mosquito bites.

5 "We were given two T-shirts and two pairs of black
6 shorts every Christmas and that had to do us the whole
7 year. We never got underpants until we were older. We
8 also had Sunday clothes, which in winter was a pair of
9 corduroy trousers and a collared shirt, although again
10 no shoes. When we were old enough to go to high school
11 we had a uniform to wear and that was the only time
12 we were given shoes.

13 "When I first arrived I went to the primary school
14 at Fairbridge. There were five classrooms. At morning
15 playtime we could go outside and play football or
16 marbles. At lunchtime all the kids, as well as the
17 cottage mothers, went down to the main dining room and
18 ate there. After lunch we were back to school until
19 3.30 before we returned to our cottages.

20 "I found the schooling at Pinjarra strange, although
21 generally I found it easy. I recall learning French as
22 a 10-year-old in Scotland, but much of what we were
23 taught at Fairbridge was on Australian history. That
24 was nowhere near as exciting as learning about the world
25 wars as we did in Scotland.

1 "For the last 3 years of my education, between 1958
2 and 1960, I got the bus to the high school at Pinjarra.
3 The bus usually had to make two trips as there were so
4 many kids. At the time I was there the school was known
5 at Pinjarra Agricultural High School. The idea was that
6 the kids would all be trained to work on the land.

7 "The high school then opened up what they called
8 a commercial branch, to train children for other
9 occupations. I went down that line, although I did
10 a certain amount of farm work during the school
11 holidays. The kids that went down the agricultural
12 route would have been given more farm work in the dairy
13 and that sort of thing.

14 "Most of the kids at high school didn't wear
15 a uniform, only the Fairbridge kids did. As a result,
16 we stood out and that encouraged an us-and-them
17 situation.

18 "Most of the sporting teams at high school consisted
19 of Fairbridge kids. We held our own. We had the
20 reputation that if someone picked on one Fairbridge kid,
21 they picked on the lot.

22 "I don't recall having much homework to do from
23 primary school, but we certainly did from high school.
24 We went to a building that was known as the club rooms
25 and did our homework in there. There would usually be

1 a member of staff, often the priest, supervising, but we
2 didn't get any help with homework.

3 "Every six months or so a report was sent back to
4 the Fairbridge Society in England by Fairbridge at
5 Pinjarra. I have copies of some of those reports from
6 the records I obtained should the inquiry wish them.

7 "There were comments on these reports from the
8 principal, the teachers and also from the cottage
9 mother, Mrs MIO. She would often comment that
10 I was uncooperative and that sort of thing. After
11 Mrs MIO left, the comments from the succeeding
12 cottage mothers were to the effect that I was a very
13 nice lad.

14 "My teachers in Scotland always knew that I wanted
15 to be a schoolteacher. The RSSPCC even knew that. When
16 I came to Fairbridge, my education finished after the
17 third year of high school when I was 16. The final year
18 exam was called the junior examination and about 20 of
19 us sat it at the same time. To get a pass you had to
20 get through five of the eight subjects and I got seven.

21 "In my records is a letter that says that only one
22 child could be sent on to further education for
23 financial reasons. As I didn't feel it necessary to
24 study all the time in order to pass my exams, it
25 probably looked like I wasn't really trying and

1 therefore I was not chosen to go on. To finance only
2 one child to go beyond high school was just wrong.

3 "Most of our free time was spent outside. After
4 we'd done whatever task we had been set after school, we
5 had a bit of free time when we tended just to play.
6 There was usually only about half an hour or so before
7 we had to go down to the dining room for our evening
8 meal. After the evening meal, we usually had about
9 an hour to play football or marbles, that sort of thing,
10 before we had to go back to the cottage.

11 "Each cottage had a small library and there was also
12 a bigger library in the club rooms where we did our
13 homework. We could take the cottage books there and
14 swap them over. There were also board games including
15 chess and the one I remember most, Cluedo. During the
16 evening in the cottage, after we'd had our baths, we
17 tended to sit about reading or playing board games.

18 "Weekends were different. After lunch we were
19 virtually free for the rest of the day and there was
20 a lot of sport organised. Oddly enough, we never played
21 soccer, but we did play Australian football, cricket and
22 hockey. We often played against some of the other
23 institutions like Clontarf and Bindoon and some of the
24 local teams. We were either taken there by bus or they
25 would come to Pinjarra.

1 "Despite the fact that most of the hockey field was
2 gravel, very few of us had football or hockey boots. We
3 played in our bare feet.

4 "We also went to the pictures on a Saturday night
5 and at certain times of the year we could go swimming.
6 Part of the river had been sectioned off for us to swim
7 in and we were issued with a bathing costume on
8 a certain day of the year. Prior to that, we weren't
9 supposed to go swimming but there was nothing to prevent
10 us going skinny-dipping in another part of the river.

11 "In the early years of my being at Fairbridge there
12 weren't very many days out. Later on, besides going to
13 play sports against other teams, they'd take a busload
14 of kids up to the Royal Show in Perth. On some
15 Saturdays, again in later years, a bus full of kids were
16 taken to the zoo or to one of the big department stores
17 in Perth. There would be just one bus, so different
18 cottages would go at different times. These trips
19 weren't very frequent because of that and I perhaps went
20 on two trips in 3 years.

21 "We used to go down to Mandurah camp for 2 weeks
22 after Christmas every year. Half the kids would go down
23 for the first fortnight and the rest for the second.
24 Some of the elder kids led me down the path of breaking
25 into cars and stealing money while we were at Mandurah.

1 I suppose I was forced to do so to some degree. If
2 I hadn't done it, I knew I would have got a beating.
3 We were eventually caught and it was dealt with by the
4 police.

5 "In the school holidays the older boys went to stay
6 with families outside Fairbridge for a week. I went to
7 stay with a family of one of the primary school
8 teachers, another time I stayed with a family in
9 Bayswater.

10 "There was a hospital at Fairbridge that had
11 a nursing sister. If there was anything wrong with you,
12 you were sent up to the nursing sister. A common
13 problem that new arrivals suffered was from bruising to
14 their feet from walking barefoot. We would be sent to
15 the hospital and the nursing sister would lance the
16 bruises.

17 "All my records show that when I left Scotland,
18 although I might have been pale and a bit underweight,
19 my general health was good. I went up to the nursing
20 sister on a few occasions with a black eye. I never
21 told the nurse how I got the black eye but I often would
22 have got it after upsetting an older boy in some way.

23 "Very shortly after I got to Fairbridge, I ended up
24 with perforated eardrums somehow. Whether that was from
25 getting slapped, I couldn't say.

1 "Within 6 months of my being in Australia, I was
2 admitted to the children's hospital in Perth to get an
3 operation on my left ear. I was in there for 4 or
4 5 weeks and I also spent a lot of time in Pinjarra
5 hospital with ear infections.

6 "We also had periodic eye checks and were given
7 injections for polio and other diseases.

8 "There was a church in the grounds of Pinjarra which
9 had been financed by Thomas Wall, the ice cream maker.
10 The religion was church of England and although there
11 were some Catholic children at Fairbridge we all had to
12 go.

13 "The [REDACTED] at Fairbridge was called MIS [REDACTED] and
14 he was very popular with the kids. He often organised
15 our sports and it wasn't unusual for him to be in the
16 training sessions.

17 "As we got older, we were all given what were called
18 task duties. Some boys would have to chop wood while
19 the older boys would be on breakfast duty, cooking the
20 porridge and making the toast. Other duties included
21 cleaning the bath and the showers after everybody had
22 been in. After dinner at night-time, some kids would
23 have to wash and dry all the dishes.

24 "We also had to maintain the garden, which included
25 mowing the lawn and weeding. Some of the gardening was

1 done after school but the majority was done after we'd
2 had breakfast on a Saturday morning.

3 "In the school holidays we all had to muck in on the
4 farm, collecting the hay and that sort of thing.

5 We were paid for some of the work. The boys who were at
6 high school were put on what were called semi-task
7 duties and got a certain amount for some of the duties
8 they did at night-time. Boys who were perhaps slower at
9 school left when they were 14 and did more tasks and so
10 got paid more.

11 "We got pocket money and the amount depended on how
12 old we were. At the age of 16 it was something like
13 a shilling. That pocket money was used to pay a penny
14 for the pictures on a Saturday night and a penny for the
15 church on Sunday morning. 5p of the 10 that were left
16 had to go in the bank and the rest could be spent in the
17 store on sweets.

18 "My birthday was in the middle of winter. The
19 custom was that you'd be woken up by everybody when it
20 was your birthday and thrown under a cold shower.
21 I don't recall any celebration organised by Fairbridge.
22 We might have got a couple of cards but I certainly
23 don't remember getting a present. If you were in the
24 cottage mother's favour she might have wished you
25 a happy birthday.

1 "At Christmas the principal and a couple of members
2 of staff used to load the horse and cart up with kit
3 bags full of presents. They would drive around
4 distributing them to all the cottages. The main present
5 consisted of two T-shirts, two shorts, a present from
6 Fairbridge, and anything that might have been sent from
7 overseas.

8 "Months before Christmas we had been given a choice
9 of gifts from Fairbridge. I can't remember what the
10 choice was, but it quite often consisted of comics or
11 books and that sort of thing, nothing big. I think
12 at the age of 16 the boys were given a Gillette safety
13 razor.

14 "We also had a Christmas dinner which most of the
15 time we kids would cook in the cottage. I wouldn't eat
16 chicken for years because one year I was given the job
17 of killing the chickens. When you had that job, you
18 ended up crawling with fleas and so I couldn't touch it.

19 "The Scottish kids at Pinjarra all had their
20 godparents allocated to them. These were people who had
21 taken an interest in the children. I don't believe the
22 English children had anyone. The godparents were
23 benefactors of the Fairbridge Society and had donated
24 money. I actually had two and I have a letter in my
25 records relating to a lady that had taken an interest in

1 me as well.

2 "One of my benefactors used to send me a book at
3 Christmas. I have information in my records that he
4 sent money out for me as well but that I hadn't
5 acknowledged receiving it. That makes me think that
6 I didn't know about the money. That money was put into
7 a trust account for me and I got 56 pounds, 5 shillings
8 and 5 pence when I was 21. I suppose at that time I was
9 appreciative of getting that money, but when I calculate
10 how much money I was given from my benefactors and how
11 much I saved from my pocket money and wages from when
12 I was working, the sums don't add up. I would think
13 I should have been given a lot more.

14 "I have several letters in my records that have been
15 sent to the principal from my benefactor querying why
16 I hadn't thanked them for the gifts.

17 "I never met my godparents but I had to write to
18 them every so often. One benefactor was quite
19 a traveller and he used to write back and send me photos
20 of him in different parts of the world.

21 "There were visitors to Fairbridge but I never knew
22 who they were. They may have been people who were
23 interested in donating to the society but they certainly
24 never came to see me. When they came we were virtually
25 hidden from them and had no interaction with them.

1 "I recall one time when we were skinny-dipping
2 in the river and a bus pulled up. A group of
3 visitors -- I don't know who they were -- got out and
4 saw us all swimming in the river there out of season.
5 Later we were punished for this.

6 "The principal or vice principal only came round the
7 cottages when there was trouble. I don't think they
8 came round regularly and they certainly never spoke to
9 the kids.

10 "I was never aware of any inspections, although
11 I have since read some of the history of Fairbridge,
12 which mentioned that some dignitaries did visit.

13 "I'm not aware of there being any review of my being
14 in care. There are the odd comments regarding my
15 progress in my records, for example in a half-yearly
16 report of June 1959, but nothing regarding a review.

17 "Every Saturday night we all had to sit down and
18 were made to write a letter to our families.
19 Occasionally I got some things from home. In 1956 my
20 gran sent me a book and my mother sent me the odd letter
21 and comic books.

22 "There was no emotional care or support whatsoever.
23 We were there with some Aboriginal kids and I recall
24 somebody saying that at least they could run away home.
25 We could never have done that.

1 "I did run away once for a couple of nights.
2 I think it was more an attempt to remove myself from
3 a bad situation than a real attempt to get away. I'd
4 had an argument with Mrs MIO, the cottage mother,
5 and as she was heading towards me to give me a beating
6 with a length of hosepipe, I took off.

7 "I slept for two nights in a haystack because I was
8 too scared to go back. When I did eventually return,
9 I didn't get hit with a hosepipe and I thought to
10 myself, I should have stayed out longer.

11 "Others ran away for lengthy periods of time. One
12 lad was away up north for an couple of years. Sometimes
13 the punishment for running away was a public thrashing
14 from the principal.

15 "Bed-wetting was a problem with some boys, including
16 me at one stage, and that in itself was a pretty
17 horrific experience. We were punished for bed-wetting
18 by getting a slap around the head or something similar.
19 We then had to strip our beds in front of everybody,
20 drag our mattresses out onto the veranda to dry, and
21 then wash our sheets. We had to rinse them through
22 in the cement trough sink in the laundry and hang them
23 out. At night-time we would have to take the sheets in
24 and make our beds.

25 "The older boys controlled the younger ones and one

1 of the biggest problems was deciding who to make happy.
2 I was always torn between whether to please the cottage
3 mother or the eldest boys; whichever one you upset would
4 give you a hiding.

5 "I participated in the Redress Western Australia
6 Scheme, which was a scheme to provide redress to those
7 who had been abused or neglected in the care of the
8 State of Western Australia. I completed a statement
9 which contains more detail of the abuse I suffered at
10 Fairbridge and it was submitted in 2017. I have
11 provided a copy of this statement to the inquiry.
12 I confirm that the facts the stated in it are true."

13 A copy of the redress application is at
14 WIT.003.001.2669:

15 "The favourite punishment of Mrs MIO, my
16 cottage mother, was to use a length of garden hosepipe.
17 No matter what you did, out would come that hosepipe and
18 she would hit you with it wherever she could reach.
19 I was hit with it on the legs, the backside, the head,
20 it didn't matter where. Quite often she would have
21 a hold of my hair as I was struggling to get away from
22 her hitting me.

23 "This punishment wasn't restricted to our cottage.
24 I have since spoken to some lads from other cottages and
25 the hosepipe was a common implement used by their

1 cottage mothers as well.

2 "Twice a week somebody would get a belting from
3 Mrs MIO with the hosepipe and that continued for
4 the whole time she was there.

5 "With me refusing to call Mrs MIO 'mother', she
6 made comments such as my mother didn't want me and that
7 was why I was sent there. She told other children that
8 their parents were dead only for them to find out later
9 in life that they were in fact still alive.

10 "When I was caught stealing while we were on a trip
11 to Mandurah, the principal, MIP, gave me
12 a public thrashing in the dining room in front of the
13 whole farm. I was made to bend over a table and hit
14 across the backside with a cane.

15 "I think the principal before MIP,
16 MIQ, used to do the same thing if kids had been
17 caught after running away or for other transgressions.
18 There would be an announcement made at the beginning of
19 the evening meal that after dinner there would be
20 a public punishment. The offender would be called up
21 and thrashed with the cane in front of everybody. That
22 probably happened to me about three times.

23 "In my cottage there was one particular older boy
24 who was an aggressive and violent bully and persistent
25 sexual abuser. He abused both myself and a couple of

1 the other kids physically and sexually over a period of
2 at least a year. My redress statement contains more
3 detail of that abuse. I was aware at the time that
4 he was abusing the other boys in a similar way.

5 "In addition to the sexual abuse, sometimes he would
6 assault me while I was asleep because I had the habit of
7 grinding my teeth. I would be sound asleep and he would
8 come up and punch me in the face.

9 "While I was at Fairbridge, the [REDACTED] MIS [REDACTED]
10 was given 24 hours to leave. I don't know the reason
11 why, although I have since heard stories that he had
12 been sexually abusing both boys and girls. The [REDACTED]
13 was very popular with the children and I never had
14 a problem with him at all. There was almost a riot
15 amongst the kids when it was announced he had left
16 because we weren't aware of the reason why.

17 "One of the things I wrote to my mother was about
18 Mrs MIO [REDACTED] hitting me with the hosepipe but nothing
19 came of that. I certainly had welts and bruises but
20 I don't recall ever going to the nursing sister because
21 of them.

22 "Perhaps around 1959 I ended up going to the nursing
23 sister with some visible signs of having been beaten by
24 the older boy. The housemaster came to see me and asked
25 what had happened and I think that was the only time any

1 of the staff had asked me about anything.

2 "The housemaster was a retired lieutenant commander
3 of the [REDACTED] Navy who was called MZC [REDACTED]; I can't
4 remember his first name. Previously, I had kept it all
5 to myself but this time, although I didn't go into
6 detail, I told MZC [REDACTED] about both the physical beatings
7 from the older boy and also about the sexual assaults.
8 I think as a result of the older boy was transferred out
9 of the cottage, but to my knowledge nothing more was
10 ever done about it. I was certainly not offered any
11 help or counselling.

12 "The managers of Fairbridge, Pinjarra and
13 Mrs MIO [REDACTED], my cottage mother, must have known the
14 influence of older boys and the violence that they often
15 inflicted. I believe Mrs MIO [REDACTED] must have been aware
16 of at least some of the abuse the older boy in
17 particular subjected me to. Certainly when I was woken
18 up during the night with him punching me in my sleep
19 I made a considerable noise. She would have heard the
20 noise, but I don't recall her ever coming into the room.

21 "A lot of the abuse from the older boy happened
22 either after dark or straight after dinner, during bath
23 time. The cottage mother would be tied up in the
24 dining room and it could be a little while before she
25 returned. She may not therefore have been aware of the

1 sexual abuse.

2 "Very rarely would I ever talk with any of the other
3 kids about what the older boy was doing to me and them.
4 It's not the sort of thing that boys or men discuss
5 easily. I knew anyway that if he found out that I'd
6 said anything to anybody, I would be in for it.

7 "I left Fairbridge in [REDACTED] 1961 when I was 16.
8 I was only told that I wasn't going to go on to further
9 education about a week before I left. Up to that time
10 I'd always had the dream of being a schoolteacher. When
11 I was told that they had got me a job with a company in
12 Perth, I was just wiped out.

13 "Initially I worked in the city at an engineering
14 spare parts company as a clerk. I have paperwork in my
15 records that said they had to send an urgent telegram to
16 a family in Bayswater, in the suburbs of Perth, asking
17 them to put me up. That was done about the day before
18 I was due to leave.

19 "I was taken to Bayswater to stay with this family
20 I didn't know. The train station was pointed out to me
21 and it was told that's where I could get the train to
22 Perth. Then I was taken to Perth, dumped there, and
23 told to find my way home afterwards.

24 "I have no recollection of anyone from Fairbridge
25 asking me how I was doing, although I did go back to

1 Pinjarra on the odd occasion. I did have friends there
2 still though and sometimes I would go there on my
3 pushbike for the weekend.

4 "It was a pretty horrific time and unfortunately
5 I didn't like the city and I couldn't settle down.

6 "After about 2 years I left that job as a clerk and
7 went to work on a farm. While I was at the farm, and
8 until I was 21 years old, I had to send half of the
9 money I earned back to Fairbridge.

10 "Supposedly, the money that had been saved over the
11 years was all given to me when I turned 21. When
12 I calculate now how much I had been given by my
13 godparents and how much I had saved over my years in
14 Fairbridge, the sums don't add up."

15 "When I was working on the farm I met a girl and
16 after 4 or 5 years I moved back to the city. At first
17 I worked in a department store and then I worked for
18 a wholesale company selling stationery equipment and
19 office supplies. I also got involved in running a
20 karate club with another Fairbridge lad on a Saturday
21 morning. By then I had managed to effectively tuck all
22 my bad experiences away in a box.

23 "I got married when I was about 23 and we had
24 two boys. The marriage broke down after about 3 years
25 and their mother disappeared. At the time she left, one

1 of my boys was 9 months old and the other was 22 months
2 old. I still had to hold down a full-time sales job
3 because there was no government assistance at that time
4 for a man with two children.

5 "Life was quite tough, but a couple of friends from
6 Fairbridge were there for me and they helped me out
7 a lot. One or two people did raise whether I could get
8 my two boys into care but there was no way in the world
9 that I was going to do that after the way that I'd grown
10 up.

11 "A friend of my was working for one of the local
12 councils and suggested I tried for a job too. I managed
13 to get a job with the parks department because of the
14 experience I had in agriculture and my first job was as
15 a greenkeeper. My plan had been that it would only be
16 a stopgap, but I remained doing that for about 9 years.

17 "In the meantime, I did some studying in
18 horticulture and also in management and I eventually
19 moved into the office as a field supervisor. I ended up
20 spending the last 30 years of my working life with
21 the council.

22 "In time I met a lovely lass who worked for the
23 immigration department in Perth and we married in 1996.
24 We are both now retired.

25 "I made some great and lifelong friends at

1 Fairbridge and those friendships have certainly helped
2 me over the years. There were some good times, it
3 wasn't all bad.

4 "I am a member of an organisation for former
5 residents which is called the Old Fairbridgians'
6 Association. As much as anything we support one
7 another.

8 "I joined the association in the late 1970s, early
9 1980s, and I'm now on the committee. There were two
10 groups of boys and girls, those who had been at
11 Fairbridge before the war and those who came after the
12 war. Prior to the war anybody that left Fairbridge was
13 automatically introduced to the association and made to
14 join up. That changed after the war and when I left
15 Fairbridge, although I knew of the association, I never
16 knew what it was about or was interested in it.

17 "I joined the association after my marriage broke
18 down and after I'd received support from friends I had
19 made at Fairbridge. After that my main objective became
20 to get the boys I'd been with to come in as well.
21 I used to organise get-togethers and spend time phoning
22 around trying to trace old boys. It grew so big we
23 actually had over 100 old boys plus their partners and
24 children coming to different events.

25 "Every week we have new people from my era joining

1 the association. Unfortunately, we are also regularly
2 losing some of the older ones. The way we look at it is
3 that we'll be the last members. Once we've gone, there
4 will be no such organisation.

5 "Our relationship with Fairbridge itself is very
6 tenuous. They tolerate us and that's about it. They
7 seem to forget that we are the history of the place and
8 that without us Fairbridge at Pinjarra wouldn't exist.

9 "I've never sought any professional support or
10 counselling. The support, counsel and comfort I get is
11 the other Fairbridge kids. It's always been my feeling
12 that I didn't want to sit down and discuss it with
13 anybody else. I have successfully compartmentalised
14 what happened to me and to do so would just be bringing
15 it all back out again.

16 "Probably for the best part of 50 years I have put
17 my past behind me. It's only in recent years that
18 I have revisited what happened to me during the course
19 of my participation in the different inquiries there
20 have been.

21 "Some things that happened to me at Fairbridge
22 I have only discussed with my friend and nobody else.
23 Even then I haven't told him everything, although he
24 does know more intimately what the place was like
25 because he was there. I have never discussed anything

1 with my wife or my two sons. If the subject of
2 Fairbridge is ever raised, all I respond with is that
3 there were things that happened that shouldn't have.
4 It's probably not the right thing to do, hiding my
5 experiences from my wife, but I haven't felt comfortable
6 discussing it. It's easier talking to strangers than
7 it is talking to someone close. When I wrote my
8 statement for the Child Migrants Trust in Australia, it
9 was just one on one with Ian Thwaites.

10 "I understand that the records relating to
11 Fairbridge have been held by the child welfare
12 department of Western Australia and they were all sent
13 to the Battye Library. I recovered mine 10 or 15 years
14 ago and found that they were mainly school and health
15 reports. There is mention of my having an aftercare
16 officer when I left Fairbridge but very little else.
17 I certainly have no recollection of seeing any aftercare
18 officer.

19 "Until recently, I had not tried to recover my
20 records from the Fairbridge Society itself. I did get
21 a file relating to my time in Fairbridge from the
22 Prince's Trust in England about a month ago. I was
23 supported in obtaining those records free of charge from
24 the Prince's Trust, but there was no counselling offered
25 by them.

1 "I sat on it for a while and I have mixed feelings
2 on it. The records paint a glossy picture that really
3 wasn't so. If it is considered necessary, I am prepared
4 to give the inquiry a copy of the records I have.

5 "The records I managed to obtain filled in a few
6 gaps but they also raised a few questions. It seemed to
7 be the case that Fairbridge at Pinjarra would write
8 every six months or so to Fairbridge Society in London,
9 who in turn would report to the RSSPCC. To me the
10 records are very general and I wonder about the
11 relevance and accuracy of some of the papers."

12 I'm now moving to paragraph 158 on page 4809:

13 "Most of the comments in my records are to the
14 effect that I get on well with other kids except for one
15 period. This was a black time in my life. The cottage
16 mother's reports and the school reports all indicate
17 that I was going off the rails. Looking back as an
18 adult, I wonder how nobody picked this up and delved
19 into it. There were things that happened during that
20 time that would have been obvious to a blind man and yet
21 nobody stopped to question what was going on.

22 "The impression I get now from reading some of
23 papers in my records is that the letters I wrote to my
24 mother were not sent directly home, but were sent
25 through the RSSPCC. They were obviously vetted because

1 I wrote about some of the things that had happened to me
2 in those letters to my mother. There's no reference to
3 that in any of the paperwork I received. It's almost
4 like Fairbridge was like a prison where all
5 correspondence is vetted when it comes in or before it
6 goes out.

7 "I don't think I've got all the records that relate
8 to me. There is absolutely no mention of any of the
9 trauma I suffered and yet there should have been.
10 I recall writing home about my refusal when I arrived to
11 call the cottage mother 'mum'. Later on, when the
12 bullying and abuse happened, I wrote home about that as
13 well.

14 "There is nothing in my records about that and there
15 was no correspondence back from my mother about it
16 either. There is also no mention in my records of the
17 time I went to the nursing sister and told the
18 housemaster about the physical and sexual assaults by
19 the older boy.

20 "The Child Migrants Trust got sums of money from the
21 Australian and UK Governments for child migrants to get
22 back and visit their families in the UK and I have been
23 back twice.

24 "I had lost touch with my family, more through my
25 own fault after my first marriage broke up, and

1 unfortunately I never did meet my mother again.

2 "In the early 1980s I got a phone call out of the
3 blue from my big brother. He was letting me know that
4 our mother had passed away and I made up my mind that
5 I was going to save up and go back for a holiday.
6 I went back in the mid-1980s and stayed with my brother.
7 It turned out that we got on like a house on fire.
8 I toured around a bit and met my two half-brothers and
9 had a great time.

10 "I also met my stepfather and he told me he still
11 had some of my letters that my mother had kept. He made
12 no mention of there being anything in those letters
13 about the abuse. I never asked him either.

14 "I went back to the UK in 1996 with my second wife
15 after we married. That trip had been funded by the
16 Australian Government through the Child Migrants Trust,
17 although I never claimed anything for my wife. She is
18 from the UK and therefore we spent some time meeting her
19 relatives, but we also met more of my own. Until quite
20 recently I never knew anything about my father, but the
21 Child Migrants Trust had managed to trace some cousins
22 on my father's side in Dundee and we went to visit
23 them."

24 Now to paragraph 169:

25 "I keep in touch with my brother and I brought him

1 out to Australia when my younger son got married. He
2 loved it out here. It's fortunate that we got on so
3 well and we still Skype each other fairly regularly.

4 "I took part in the Redress Western Australia Scheme
5 and I was paid \$45,000. To me the Redress
6 Western Australia Scheme was the biggest insult. The
7 scheme should have been about someone genuinely
8 recognising things happened that shouldn't have in
9 a time when people should have been aware. I consider
10 the apology offered by the Western Australian State
11 Premier Colin Barnett was a purely political gesture.

12 "At first it was announced that redress would be up
13 to the sum of \$80,000, but when it came time to pay out,
14 the state announced they couldn't afford that and it was
15 reduced to \$45,000. In addition, further conditions
16 were added that had to be satisfied before any redress
17 was granted.

18 "Around that time, the State Premier's son was
19 verbally abused and he was awarded \$28,000. In
20 comparison to that, to offer \$45,000 as redress was an
21 insult after what happened to some of the kids at
22 Fairbridge and Bindoon.

23 "Then the State Premier stood up in Parliament and
24 said this all happened a long time ago and it was time
25 these people got over it and moved on. After that

1 announcement, one of his ministers got drunk at
2 a wedding, drove his car home and crashed into a number
3 of other vehicles. The State Premier's response to that
4 was this man was under a lot of stress and should be
5 given a break.

6 "I feel that the National Redress Scheme lacks
7 genuine intentions and it has left a bad taste. It
8 keeps getting postponed, decisions are not made, and in
9 the meantime people who suffered are dying.

10 "I have not decided whether I will participate
11 in the Australian National Redress Scheme. I'm unsure
12 whether I want to go through it all again and get the
13 knife turned once more.

14 "I don't feel an apology from government changes
15 anything. I would be very sceptical that any such
16 apology was genuine.

17 "About two weeks ago, I received a letter giving me
18 notice that the current Prime Minister of Australia is
19 going to give a apology in Canberra. The letter invited
20 me to go on a ballot to be invited across to hear the
21 apology. This too is just insulting.

22 "There has never been an apology from Fairbridge,
23 despite them knowing before I even arrived that things
24 were happening. In 1930 there was a report into
25 what was happening at Fairbridge and after that there

1 was a fact-finding mission on behalf of the British
2 Government, led by a Mr LJ Ross. The Ross Report issued
3 a blacklist on which Fairbridge Pinjarra was number 9.
4 My friend has a copy of that blacklist.

5 "I am led to believe that this blacklist was buried,
6 but even if it was, they were aware what was happening
7 and they weren't doing anything to make sure it didn't
8 happen again. They allowed it all to continue.

9 "Robert Excell was an atrocious and notorious
10 paedophile who had been a boy at Fairbridge before me.
11 He was eventually deported back to Britain for his
12 crimes and has passed away now. I made mention of
13 Robert Excell in my redress statement in order to show
14 that there had been other incidents and that it is
15 impossible to believe that no adults at Fairbridge
16 perceived the risk posed by the older boy who abused me
17 to other children. Fairbridge knew this sort of abuse
18 had happened in the past and they should have been more
19 vigilant.

20 "I consider myself Australian because all my
21 formative years were spent here, but I feel great
22 loyalty to Scotland. I do feel, however, that I don't
23 have a true peg to hang my jacket on.

24 "I'm a naturalised Australian citizen and had always
25 been under the impression that that right was automatic.

1 What I have since found out is that the rules were
2 changed in 1949, after which you actually had to apply.
3 Someone may be a resident, but that didn't mean they
4 were an Australian citizen.

5 "I'm aware that some former Fairbridge kids went
6 back to the UK and stayed more than three years and
7 weren't allowed back into Australia because they hadn't
8 become naturalised.

9 "I became naturalised in 1996 when I got married.
10 My wife pointed out the facts and the disadvantages of
11 not doing so to me, so I applied and paid the required
12 fee.

13 "I now have an Australian passport and receive an
14 Australian pension. Similarly, I can access any social
15 welfare benefits should I so require.

16 "I don't know whether I blame the abuse for not
17 achieving my ambition to be a teacher, but I was so
18 angry when I left Fairbridge I wanted revenge. I felt
19 such aggression that while I was still 16 I developed
20 a plan for doing harm to the older boy who abused me.
21 I know for certain that had the opportunity arisen,
22 I would have gone through with it.

23 "Not long after I'd left, somebody obtained some
24 guns and by accident I shot another guy. Fortunately
25 enough, the guy was not seriously injured and it was all

1 dealt with by the police. There's reference in my
2 records to the incident. I was put on probation and had
3 to report regularly to the child welfare department.
4 I took up martial arts after that, which helped me deal
5 with the aggression.

6 "We were never taught social etiquette at Fairbridge
7 and received virtually no education in social skills.
8 We were never told what was correct. We were always the
9 outsiders from Fairbridge, looked on as second class
10 people. Even today I feel awkward or hugging other
11 people. To me, kissing somebody has sexual
12 connotations.

13 "About 20 years ago I had to get my right eardrum
14 replaced. Whether that was a consequence of the
15 perforated eardrums I had six months after I arrived at
16 Fairbridge I couldn't say. One of the causes of
17 perforated eardrums is being slapped and I certainly
18 never had a problem when I left Scotland.

19 "I do believe that my experiences have made me
20 rebellious and in some ways made me not go for the goals
21 I perhaps should have. The education we had was such
22 that I grew up without a great deal of confidence in
23 myself. For a time I would stay in the background and
24 be the quieter member of a group.

25 "I regret not being there when my grandmother died

1 or when my mother died. I had been up at granny's a lot
2 and had spent a lot of time with her.

3 "We all have to walk our own roads. We're all
4 different and we all handle things differently. I could
5 never tell anybody else what to do or how to cope with
6 their trauma. I have always been one who's kept things
7 bottled up. That's possibly not the right thing to do,
8 but it's what I've done to cope with the memories of the
9 abuse and that's what I've tended to do throughout my
10 life.

11 "I understand that it is possible that if you take
12 a cross-section of society, the same percentages of
13 abuse being committed will apply. Being aware and
14 putting safeguards in place to ensure it doesn't happen
15 is what is required.

16 "World history shows that abuse such as I suffered
17 is going to happen. Trained experts need to work out
18 how to speak to children and how to get information from
19 them. Children will often be reluctant to talk for fear
20 of reprisals from their abusers. It is not easy for
21 children to make the first move and to speak up.

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 Gregs on 22 March 2019.

2 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much, Ms Rattray.

3 I take it that's it for today then, is it?

4 MS RATTRAY: Yes, my Lady, that concludes the evidence for
5 today. Tomorrow morning we start at 8.00.

6 LADY SMITH: Yes.

7 MS RATTRAY: There will be three oral witnesses and, if time
8 allows, further read-ins. In addition to that, I think
9 the decision has been made not to sit on Friday.

10 LADY SMITH: That's right. We won't be sitting on Friday
11 because it looks as though we're going to have made
12 sufficient progress by the end of Thursday and we hadn't
13 lined up any definite oral witnesses for Friday, so that
14 all makes sense and I'm sure people will be glad to hear
15 that. It will be relayed to those who aren't here and
16 I think that will go on the website today.

17 Thank you. I'll adjourn until tomorrow morning at
18 8 o'clock.

19 (4.04 pm)

20 (The inquiry adjourned until 8.00 am
21 on Wednesday 11 March 2020)

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NORMAN JOHNSTON (affirmed)1

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