

Friday, 28 February 2020

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(10.00 am)

LADY SMITH: Good morning.

Ms MacLeod, I see our next witness is all ready and waiting.

MS MACLEOD: Good morning, my Lady, yes, she is.

The next witness is an applicant who wishes to remain anonymous and to use the pseudonym "Trish" during her evidence.

LADY SMITH: Trish, good morning. It has probably already been explained to you who I am: I'm Lady Smith and I chair the inquiry.

Before we move on to taking your evidence, what I'd like to do is have you take an oath to tell the truth.

"TRISH" (sworn)

LADY SMITH: That was also a good test for me of hearing you through the microphone. If you could carry on being in a good position for that microphone, it's a real help to us, to everybody in the room, including the stenographers who need to hear you through that sound system.

If you are ready, I'll hand over to Ms MacLeod and she'll explain to you what happens next. Is that all right with you?

A. Yes.

1 LADY SMITH: Ms MacLeod.

2 Questions from MS MacLEOD

3 MS MACLEOD: Good morning, Trish.

4 A. Good morning.

5 Q. I don't need your date of birth, but could you confirm
6 for me that you were born in 1943?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Are you now 76?

9 A. Sorry?

10 Q. Are you 76?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. You've provided a statement for the inquiry. There's
13 a copy of that statement in the red file in front of
14 you. It'll also come up on the screen in front of you.

15 Could you first of all turn to the very last page of
16 the statement? I think there may actually be two
17 documents in that folder. The statement is the first
18 document, so it's the last page of the first document.

19 (Pause)

20 Have you signed the statement?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. In the very last paragraph do you say that you have no
23 objection to the witness statement being published as
24 part of the evidence to the inquiry?

25 A. That's right.

1 Q. And do you go on to say that you believe the facts
2 you have told us in the statement are true?

3 A. Yes, they're true.

4 Q. Trish, you've travelled from Melbourne, Australia to be
5 with us today, is that right?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. You begin in your statement by giving us some
8 information about your family background and early life
9 and I'll just look at some of that with you, if that's
10 all right.

11 I think you tell us that you were born in your
12 mother's house in Dumfries --

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. -- and that you were one of three sisters.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. In particular, you tell us that you had a sister who was
17 around 15 months younger than you.

18 A. That's right, yes.

19 Q. And did there come a time when you and that younger
20 sister moved away from the family home?

21 A. We were taken away, yes.

22 Q. Do you remember how old you were Trish, when you were
23 taken away from the family home?

24 A. No, no.

25 Q. Do you remember who took you away?

1 A. No.

2 Q. I think you tell us that when you were first taken away
3 you went to an orphanage in Dumfries.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Do you remember being in an orphanage in Dumfries?

6 A. Not that well, no. I know the orphanage, it was [REDACTED]
7 [REDACTED] from where I was born.

8 Q. Something you mention is that I think you learnt from an
9 aunt of yours in later life that she recalls you and
10 your sister being taken away and at that time she heard
11 you saying that you didn't want to go.

12 A. That's right.

13 Q. Do you know how long you were in the orphanage in
14 Dumfries?

15 A. No, not really. I wasn't very old. A couple of years,
16 I think, yes.

17 Q. Did there come a time when you were moved from that
18 orphanage in Dumfries to a home called Nazareth House,
19 Kilmarnock?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Do you remember being moved to Nazareth House,
22 Kilmarnock?

23 A. Yes, I do.

24 Q. What do you remember about that, Trish?

25 A. Horrible. Not nice at all.

1 Q. Do you know how old you were when you moved to
2 Kilmarnock?

3 A. I was 6.

4 Q. The inquiry has been able to recover some records from
5 the Sisters of Nazareth which give a date where the
6 order has noted you and your sister going into the
7 Sisters of Nazareth. Do you think you could have been
8 a little younger than that?

9 A. Yes, because I was there a long time.

10 Q. In a document recovered from the Sisters of Nazareth,
11 which is at NAZ.001.006.3255 -- this is not available
12 for the screen -- whether the dates are accurate or not,
13 we can't be certain, but the order have you and your
14 sister noted as going to Kilmarnock on [REDACTED] 1946 when
15 you would have been about 2 and a half, I think.

16 They also have you and your sister noted as leaving
17 Kilmarnock on [REDACTED] 1954 when you would have been,
18 I think, just over 10 years old.

19 From that information, it looks like you may have
20 been there for about eight years.

21 A. Eight years, yes. It was a long time I was there, yes.

22 Q. What are your first memories of being in Kilmarnock?

23 A. It was an old place. Very horrible. I woke up one
24 night and there's ...

25 Q. We'll come to look at that in a moment, Trish. How many

1 children were in Kilmarnock?

2 A. I would not know because they went out to school. They
3 didn't have ...

4 Q. So some of the children who were there went out to
5 school?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Do you remember where you slept when you were there?
8 Were you in a dormitory?

9 A. Yes, a big dormitory it was, yes.

10 Q. Were you and your sister in the same dormitory?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. You tell us that it was nuns who were running Kilmarnock
13 at the time.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Do you remember how many nuns were there?

16 A. Oh, no, I wouldn't know that, no.

17 Q. Do you remember any of their names?

18 A. Not at Kilmarnock, no.

19 Q. Did you have any contact with your mother while you were
20 in Kilmarnock?

21 A. No.

22 Q. Do you remember if you had any visitors coming to see
23 you when you were there?

24 A. No.

25 Q. You've mentioned school in passing there. Did you go to

1 school while you were at Kilmarnock?

2 A. Well, you could ... you probably would say it was
3 school, but, you know, we didn't do much.

4 Q. Were the classes in the home or did you go outside
5 somewhere?

6 A. Some of us went outside. Others stayed in school in the
7 house.

8 Q. I think what you --

9 A. We didn't learn much.

10 Q. I see. I think what you tell us in your statement
11 is that you didn't learn anything but religion.

12 A. That's right. That's right.

13 Q. Was religion very important at Kilmarnock?

14 A. Definitely, yes.

15 Q. Did you go to church regularly when you were there?

16 A. Oh yes.

17 Q. Were there any boys when you were at Kilmarnock or was
18 it all girls?

19 A. It was all girls.

20 Q. What are your memories of the food there?

21 A. The food? I don't remember much about that; we just ate
22 what we were given.

23 Q. Did anything happen if you didn't eat your food?

24 A. Oh yes.

25 Q. What would happen?

1 A. It would be there for the next meal or you'd get a whack
2 over the head or made to eat.

3 Q. Did you have chores to do when you were there?

4 A. Not so much in Kilmarnock, no, because we were a bit
5 younger, so we didn't ...

6 Q. I think you mention that it was light cleaning that
7 you were to do in Kilmarnock.

8 A. Sorry?

9 Q. Was it light cleaning, I think you tell us, you did at
10 Kilmarnock?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Can you remember what kind of jobs you had to do?

13 A. Washing floors. It wasn't heavy work. We had to do
14 housework, the dishes and all that sort of stuff. It
15 wasn't that heavy work because there was a lot of
16 different age groups there.

17 Q. So were you amongst the younger children at Kilmarnock?

18 A. Sorry?

19 Q. Were you one of the younger girls?

20 A. Yes, yes.

21 Q. How did the nuns discipline children?

22 A. With the strap that they wore with their habits round
23 the waist, they came in handy for whacking. Or rulers.
24 They were the main items they used.

25 Q. What kind of situations would lead to a nun using

1 a strap on a girl?

2 A. Maybe fighting or not doing what she's told. Nothing
3 serious, but for them it was, you know.

4 Q. Were girls regularly hit with a strap or a ruler?

5 A. Oh yes. Oh yes.

6 Q. Did that happen to you?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. You tell us, Trish, in your statement about an occasion
9 when you remember waking up in the night and something
10 was happening. Could you tell me about that?

11 A. Yes. I felt one of the nuns on the bed and she was
12 pulling my nightie down and pulling the blankets down,
13 and I said, "Get off me", and I was yelling at her. She
14 said, "It doesn't matter, we all do it here." They were
15 her words. But then she left. I frightened her,
16 I think, and she left.

17 Q. Once she'd pulled the blankets down, was she touching
18 you?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Was she touching --

21 A. She was trying to get to the bottom of me.

22 Q. Was she touching your private parts?

23 A. No, just the breasts. I caught her before she got any
24 further and I was yelling, so that woke up some of the
25 other children, because it was a big dormitory, and

1 there was a big pole beside my bed, so I was sort of out
2 of everyone's sight. So I yelled and that scared her
3 off.

4 Q. I think you've told me that you don't remember the names
5 of the nuns. Can you remember anything about them?

6 A. I don't remember the names of any of the nuns at
7 Kilmarnock, no.

8 Q. Do you remember anything about this nun who did this to
9 you?

10 A. No, I don't remember the names. Because we were young,
11 we just went along with what we had to do.

12 Q. How old were you at the time of this incident?

13 A. I must have been about 7, 7 or 8.

14 Q. What were your thoughts at the time when this happened
15 to you?

16 A. I just went back to sleep. I thought it was all
17 finished and I went back to sleep and went back to
18 normal the next day.

19 Q. Did anything like that happen to you again at
20 Kilmarnock?

21 A. No, no. Not in Kilmarnock, no, no.

22 Q. You tell us in your statement that after that night you
23 started to wet the bed.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And that you continued to do that until you were about

1 14?

2 A. That's right, yes.

3 Q. And do you link that starting to the incident you've
4 just told me about?

5 A. Definitely, yes, yes.

6 Q. Would anything happen if you wet the bed in Kilmarnock?

7 A. Oh yes. We'd be put in the corner with a sheet over our
8 heads and then wash them yourself and put them on the
9 line. They didn't go in a laundry. But you'd have to
10 stand in a corner for a long time with them on your
11 head.

12 Q. So would a nun come round in the morning and discover
13 that you had wet the bed?

14 A. Yes, yes.

15 Q. And were there other girls in your dormitory who wet the
16 bed?

17 A. Oh yes, yes.

18 Q. Were they treated in the same way?

19 A. Yes, we were all treated like that.

20 Q. Could there be a number of girls then standing their
21 sheets over their heads?

22 A. Yes, in the same area, yes.

23 Q. Would the nuns say anything to you?

24 A. Oh, we were dirty girls and all that sort of rubbish,
25 you know, you shouldn't be wetting the bed at that age,

1 and all this.

2 Q. How did that make you feel at the time?

3 A. Worse. There was no sympathy.

4 Q. Were other children encouraged to say things to girls
5 who had wet the bed?

6 A. Oh yes, yes. They'd call you names.

7 Q. Was that encouraged by the nuns?

8 A. Oh yes. They encouraged it all right, yes.

9 Q. Overall, Trish, looking back to your time in Kilmarnock,
10 and I know you were very young, how do you think of the
11 experience? How would you describe it?

12 A. Describe it?

13 Q. Your time at Kilmarnock.

14 A. We just thought it was normal living. We didn't know
15 anything better. We just didn't ... we just went along
16 with the flow, sort of thing.

17 Q. Did there come a time when you and your sister were
18 asked to come into the Mother Superior's office?

19 A. Yes, I remember that one.

20 Q. And did she ask you something?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. What did she ask you?

23 A. She asked if we'd like to go for a long holiday on a big
24 ship. We were kids: oh yes, that'd be great. So they
25 fixed it all up and packed a suitcase and off we went.

1 We stayed in London at Hammersmith over night and
2 then we got the ship from there. That was the last
3 time -- well, I saw my mother years ago, but that's the
4 last time my sister saw our mother. She hadn't seen her
5 for a long time anyway, but I saw her before she died.

6 Q. Okay. We'll come to look at that shortly, Trish.

7 When the Mother Superior asked you if you wanted to
8 go on a long holiday, did you know where you would be
9 going?

10 A. No, no. They just said, plenty of fruit and plenty to
11 eat and drink, sunshine, and a nice holiday.

12 Q. Was Australia mentioned at that time?

13 A. No, I'd never heard of Australia.

14 Q. When did you first hear of Australia?

15 A. When we landed there, when we landed in Australia.

16 Q. So when you were asked if you wanted to go on this long
17 holiday on the big ship, you didn't know where you were
18 going to?

19 A. No, we didn't know where we were going.

20 Q. And at that time, Trish, I think you tell us that you
21 would have been about 9 or 10 and your sister was
22 15 months younger than you?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. I'm just going to put a document on the screen now,
25 Trish and that's at NAA.001.001.1424. It'll come on the

1 screen in front of you.

2 A. What is it?

3 Q. I think this is a document you may have seen before,
4 Trish. It's the consent form relating to your trip,
5 your migration to Australia.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. If we look to the foot of the page, section B, the
8 section that says:

9 "Parent's or guardian's consent."

10 We'll see that the consent part is signed by a:

11 "Sister Aloysius Magdalene (Mother Superior),
12 Nazareth House, Kilmarnock."

13 Do you see that?

14 A. I see it now, yes.

15 Q. The form is dated [REDACTED] 1953, so I think about
16 six months before you set sail.

17 A. Mm. I don't even know who she is, who she was.

18 Q. You don't recognise the name?

19 A. No, no, no.

20 LADY SMITH: You'll see it specifies that she was the
21 Mother Superior. If you look where it says:

22 "I, Sister Aloysius Magdalene (Mother Superior) ..."

23 That's the top line in handwriting there.

24 A. Yes.

25 LADY SMITH: And you remember that it was the

1 Mother Superior who spoke to you and your sister?

2 A. We didn't have much to do with the nuns at all,
3 especially not the Mother Superior.

4 LADY SMITH: But I think you told me a few moments ago you
5 do have a memory of being asked to go to see her when
6 she told you about going on a long holiday.

7 A. Yes, but I didn't know she was the Mother Superior,
8 I thought she was just one of the nuns.

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

10 MS MACLEOD: Do you know if your mother was consulted about
11 your going to Australia?

12 A. Well, I ... She didn't know that we had gone, but
13 whether she knew we were going, I don't know.

14 Q. When you say she didn't know that you had gone, is that
15 something you learned later in life?

16 A. She didn't know that we had left Hammersmith, but we
17 didn't see her before we left for Australia.

18 Q. Do you remember having a medical examination before
19 going on the ship?

20 A. No, I don't remember having a medical, no.

21 Q. Something you mention in your statement is that you
22 remember there was a girl who had [REDACTED] --

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. -- who you think shouldn't have been allowed to go, but
25 she was there without her callipers on the ship.

1 A. That's right, yes. I still see her, yes.

2 Q. Did any other girls from Kilmarnock go with you and your
3 sister down to Hammersmith?

4 A. No.

5 Q. How did you travel to Hammersmith from Kilmarnock, do
6 you remember?

7 A. Oh yes, I remember the ship. It wouldn't be standard
8 safety now, it was a real rundown ... I've got photos
9 at home of it. We enjoyed the trip.

10 Q. Is this the trip to Australia?

11 A. Yes, to Australia.

12 Q. Were you in a group of children on the ship?

13 A. Yes. There was a few of us, a lot of us, actually.

14 Q. Can you remember roughly how many children were with you
15 on the ship?

16 A. No, because we had the English and the Scottish and the
17 Irish. We'd all met up at the -- is it Tilbury Docks?
18 Something like that. We had a ball. We enjoyed it.

19 Q. Were there other Scottish children?

20 A. There were not many Scottish children. There was only,
21 I think, six of us who came out at that time. Yes, it
22 was about six of us.

23 Q. Were there girls and boys?

24 A. No, I think there were only girls.

25 Q. Did any adults travel with the group?

1 A. Yes. There was a priest and two nuns, I think, but they
2 had no control over us, we just ran wild on the ship.

3 Q. And in terms of when the ship left the United Kingdom,
4 we can see that the ship left on [REDACTED] 1954. That's at
5 NAZ.001.007.8753. The ship was called the Orontes;
6 is that right?

7 A. Yes, the SS Orontes.

8 Q. And it arrived in Fremantle on [REDACTED] 1954, is that
9 right?

10 A. That's right.

11 Q. And we can see that at NAA.001.001.0248. You and your
12 sister are listed there among the passengers on the
13 ship.

14 A. Yes, that's right.

15 Q. You tell us in fact in your statement that the priest
16 was called Father Tye; is that right?

17 A. Right.

18 Q. So could you tell me then a little bit more about the
19 journey on the ship? What was it like, was it
20 enjoyable?

21 A. It was enjoyable. There was no controlling us, you
22 know. They just let us do whatever we wanted to do.
23 Even the sailors and that, they were giving us fruit and
24 biscuits. It was really enjoyable. But of course it
25 had to come to an end.

1 Q. Did you make friends with some of the other children on
2 the ship?

3 A. We did, yes, from other countries, yes -- from other --
4 yeah, other countries.

5 Q. Do you remember where you slept on the ship?

6 A. We had these bunks, about three high, and that's where
7 we slept.

8 Q. I think you tell us in your statement that at that time
9 you didn't know what was ahead of you --

10 A. No, no.

11 Q. -- when you were going to arrive.

12 A. No, we didn't know. We still didn't know we were coming
13 to Australia.

14 Q. So when you arrived in Fremantle, Trish, what's your
15 memory of that? Can you remember the ship arriving in
16 Fremantle?

17 A. Yes. It arrived and there were a couple of buses and
18 they separated us from the country that we were -- like
19 the Scots were in one and the English in another.
20 That's how we got to Camberwell.

21 Q. So you travelled by bus from Fremantle?

22 A. Sorry?

23 Q. Did you travel by bus?

24 A. We travelled by bus, yes, or people carriers, you know,
25 those van things.

1 There was only six from Scotland and the buses were
2 waiting for us when we got off.

3 Q. Did the six from Scotland go together to Camberwell?

4 A. Yes. We stayed together.

5 Q. Was that the first you'd heard of Camberwell?

6 A. Yes. That's the first we knew where we were.

7 Q. Is Camberwell in Melbourne, Australia?

8 A. That's right, yes.

9 Q. Was it staff from Camberwell who transported you from
10 the ship?

11 A. Sorry?

12 Q. Did people from Camberwell come to collect you?

13 A. Yes. They had two workmen, handymen, that did the
14 gardens, that worked -- we didn't know who they were
15 at the time, but that's what they were. They came by
16 bus together and collected us and took us back to
17 Camberwell.

18 Q. Did you learn at that time that Camberwell was
19 a Nazareth House?

20 A. No. Until we arrived and we saw how big it was. It was
21 just like going back to where we had just come from, the
22 same sort of building as Hammersmith.

23 Q. The two people who had collected you and come with you
24 on the bus, I think you mention in your statement that
25 they made you feel uncomfortable on the bus.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Can you tell me about that? How did they make you feel
3 uncomfortable?

4 A. Oh, they'd be touching your legs, and just talking to
5 you in such a way that -- you know: oh, come and sit
6 here. We thought, oh, this is not going to be very
7 nice. But they settled down. They were okay in the
8 end. They didn't ...

9 Q. I think you mention that you found out later that there
10 were two handymen by the names of **LSZ** and

11 **LTC**

12 A. That's right, yes.

13 Q. Would it be okay if I put a photograph of the building
14 at Camberwell on the screen?

15 A. That's fine, yes.

16 Q. Could we look at WIT.003.001.8765.

17 A. That's the ship we came out on.

18 Q. Is that Camberwell there?

19 A. That's Nazareth House, Camberwell, yes.

20 Q. Is that the front of the building?

21 A. That's the front, yes.

22 Q. I'll just put another photograph on the screen.

23 INQ.152. Is that another photograph, this time in
24 colour, of the building?

25 A. Yes. That's the front.

1 Q. I think you tell us in your statement, Trish, that it
2 was a huge building.

3 A. Oh, very big. Very, very big, yes.

4 Q. And that there were about five floors to it.

5 A. Yes. You've got the three there, but there were
6 a couple round the back joined on.

7 Q. Was part of the building dedicated to those training to
8 be nuns?

9 A. Yes, they were on the top floor.

10 Q. Then was part of the building dedicated to elderly women
11 who were being cared for in Nazareth House?

12 A. Yes, that was the other side on the top floor.

13 Q. Were there elderly men and women?

14 A. Yes. The men were downstairs. They separated them,
15 they weren't together.

16 Q. And were there also children's bedrooms?

17 A. Yes. We were separated there too.

18 Q. Could we go back to the photograph, please?

19 A. You can't see the children's one because we were round
20 the back.

21 Q. Were there also classrooms in the building?

22 A. Yes. They were round the back, the children's group.

23 Q. And I think also you mention a kitchen, a dining room,
24 and a play area.

25 A. Yes. They were downstairs. That was another floor

1 downstairs.

2 Q. So this is the front of the building, but at the back
3 there are other floors we can't see and there was
4 a downstairs that we can't see?

5 A. Yes. There was a big concert hall and the play area for
6 the kids. That was out the backyard.

7 Q. We can take the photograph off now, thank you.

8 Were there girls and boys at Camberwell?

9 A. No boys. Just girls.

10 Q. Do you have any recollection of the number of girls that
11 were there?

12 A. There was 50.

13 Q. What was the age range?

14 A. The age range -- oh, we had one that was just 4, and it
15 went up to about 13 or 14 or 15, something like that,
16 in that age group.

17 Q. And were the girls organised in dormitories according to
18 their age?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. How many nuns were at Camberwell?

21 A. Oh gosh ... Well, there were three that looked after
22 the kids. Then they had -- some were in the parlour and
23 ones in the kitchen and ones that we didn't see; they
24 were in doing the office work and all that. Oh, there
25 must have been about 12, something like that.

1 Q. Were there any domestic staff like cleaning staff or
2 anything like that?

3 A. No cleaning staff.

4 Q. What do you remember about your first day at Camberwell?

5 A. We were shown the classrooms, which was a laugh. They
6 showed us the classrooms and the kids were -- there were
7 children there before we got there, before the Scots got
8 there, and they were running wild and, when we got there
9 with one of the nuns, the kids all ran into the
10 classrooms where they should have been. They'd been
11 mucking around.

12 Q. I think you tell us the children who were there before
13 you were from Ireland.

14 A. Yes. Yes, we had the Irish and the English and the
15 Scots. Not Welsh; just the Irish, English and Scots.

16 Q. Were there any children from Australia there?

17 A. No.

18 Q. You've mentioned the three nuns that were looking after
19 the children and you give us some information about them
20 in your statement. Can you remember their names?

21 A. Oh yes. There was Sister LSV [REDACTED]
22 Sister LSW [REDACTED] and Sister MEJ [REDACTED].

23 Q. Sister LSV [REDACTED], was she known as LSV [REDACTED]?

24 A. LSV [REDACTED] yes, and then LSW [REDACTED] was Sister LSW [REDACTED] and
25 Sister MEJ [REDACTED] was MEJ [REDACTED]. Not to her face.

1 Q. If we look at Sister LSV [REDACTED], first of all.

2 What was her role?

3 A. She was supposed to teach. The three of them were
4 supposed to teach, but they had no idea. She was good
5 with the strap and would send us out to do work rather
6 than be in the classroom.

7 But she was a brute, sorry. Excuse me, but she was
8 a nasty piece.

9 Q. In what way was she nasty?

10 A. With the way she treated you, belted you and -- oh yes.

11 Q. Did she carry a belt on her?

12 A. They wore it round the uniform or their habit, they
13 called it. They had these thick belts. They don't have
14 them anymore.

15 Q. You have said she was a teacher; was she also involved
16 in the dormitory set-up?

17 A. Yes. I don't think they were teachers, they were just
18 put there because they were nuns and they needed someone
19 to look after the children, because she also worked
20 in the evenings when we were going to bed and all that
21 sort of stuff.

22 Q. Was she in charge of your dormitory when you first
23 arrived?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. You've spoken about the belt she had. Did she use the

1 belt in the classroom on children?

2 A. Mainly the ruler on its edge, the ruler on the edge.

3 Q. On which part of the children would she use the ruler?

4 A. On the hand.

5 Q. Did you have the ruler used on you on the hand?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. What about in the dormitory area? What would she use to
8 discipline children?

9 A. Just her fists.

10 Q. So what did she do with her fists?

11 A. She'd punch you. If you were talking when you were
12 supposed to be going to sleep and she was on duty, you
13 know.

14 Q. Did she punch you?

15 A. Oh yes.

16 Q. On which part of your body?

17 A. The face, wherever she could get at.

18 Q. How old was [LSV]?

19 A. Oh ... She would have been in her 30s or 40s because we
20 thought she was quite old.

21 Q. What about Sister [LSW]?

22 A. I think she had a good teacher in [LSV] because she did
23 exactly the same. But if you were caught talking, you
24 had to get out of bed, downstairs to scrub that
25 building, scrub the passage all the way round, in the

1 middle of the night.

2 Q. So if you were caught talking in bed, you would be asked
3 to get up and go and clean the passageways, the
4 corridors?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Did you say it was Sister LSW who asked you to do
7 that?

8 A. Sorry?

9 Q. Which nuns would ask you to do that?

10 A. Oh, the two of them, the two of them, yeah, they were
11 just ... they were just vicious. It's awful to say, but
12 that's ...

13 Q. And were you asked to get up in the night and clean
14 floors?

15 A. I never did, no, I never did the scrubbing the floors;
16 I had other work to do.

17 Q. So were you asked to get up in the night and do other
18 work?

19 A. No, I did it during the day when I was supposed to be at
20 school.

21 Q. But in relation to children being asked to get up in the
22 night and go and scrub floors, do you remember that
23 happening to other children?

24 A. Oh yes, yes, it happened all the time. If they were
25 caught talking and that, you know -- because each of

1 those nuns had their own little cells -- we called them
2 cells, little rooms -- and that's where they slept.

3 Q. In the dormitory?

4 A. It had a little window with a curtain across it and they
5 could see who was talking.

6 Q. So the window from their cell looked into the dormitory?

7 A. There was a little room for the nuns to sleep, the one
8 looking after the children, and it had a window that you
9 could look out into the dormitory.

10 Q. What about Sister **MEJ** ? What was she like?

11 A. She was the better one, but she could be nasty too. But
12 she really ... She gave us some sympathy. When she was
13 looking after us on a Saturday, she always brought the
14 biscuit tin out for us. She was the better one of the
15 three.

16 Q. Did you form any impression as to whether one of them
17 was in charge of the others?

18 A. Sorry?

19 Q. Was one of the nuns in charge of the other nuns?

20 A. Yes, Sister **MEJ** was. She of
21 the whole worldwide nuns, so she was a nice person, but
22 she still had her bad ways too, with beating and she
23 loved the ruler or pulling the hair.

24 Q. When you say "pulling the hair", when would that happen?

25 A. Instead of whacking you, she'd pull your hair, take

1 clumps out of your hair.

2 Q. Did she do that to you?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Did you see it happen to others?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Did you see much of your sister at Camberwell?

7 A. No, I didn't. She was sort of in a different group,
8 even though she wasn't much younger than me. She was in
9 a younger group, a different class, so I didn't see an
10 awful lot of her.

11 Q. I think you tell us that you didn't get to know her
12 properly until after you left Camberwell.

13 A. That's it, yes. We didn't sort of get to know each
14 other until we left Camberwell.

15 Q. Did you make friends at Camberwell?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Do you still have friends today from Camberwell?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. What was the food like?

20 A. Average.

21 Q. Did you have to eat the food at Camberwell?

22 A. Oh yes, you couldn't -- you'd be in trouble if you left
23 it.

24 Q. What would happen if you left it?

25 A. If you put it on the floor and tried to hide it, you'd

1 have to pick it up and eat it, "That's waste."

2 Q. Would anybody be punished for not eating their food?

3 A. Oh yes. They'd have to sit at the table and just sit
4 there until they ate it.

5 Q. How often were you able to have a bath?

6 A. About once a week.

7 Q. And was the bathwater shared?

8 A. It was shared.

9 Q. I think you say that about four or five of the girls
10 would have a bath in the same water, one after the
11 other.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Who did the cleaning at Camberwell?

14 A. We all did.

15 Q. The children?

16 A. The children. They didn't have any outside cleaners.

17 Q. Did the nuns do any cleaning?

18 A. Oh hell, no, no.

19 Q. How was the cleaning organised then? Were you given
20 specific jobs to do?

21 A. We were given the jobs, yes, and that was your job to
22 do. Mine was -- I didn't do much of the cleaning
23 because I worked in the laundry.

24 Q. What was your job in the laundry?

25 A. I would stand and work the washing machine, a great big

1 washing machine, and then I had to use the rinse -- not
2 the rinser, the machine to dry them when they came out
3 of the washing machine. There was a great big
4 industrial -- and I had to use that.

5 Q. How old were you?

6 A. About 10.

7 Q. Was it hard work?

8 A. Oh, it was hard work yes, it was hard work.

9 Q. Did you have the job in the laundry for quite a number
10 of years?

11 A. I did, yes, a couple of years. Because I had other jobs
12 too, like cleaning windows in that big building.

13 Q. Did that include cleaning the windows on all the floors?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Can you tell me about that?

16 A. Inside and outside. They were those windows that you
17 pulled up and one girl had to sit on the ledge and push
18 her bottom out, and then you pulled the windowsill down
19 and she's hanging there, cleaning the window. And
20 someone else is supposed to be holding her legs, but it
21 didn't work that way. It's a wonder no one fell.

22 Q. Was it a dangerous job?

23 A. That was cleaning all the windows in that place.

24 Q. So young girls cleaning the windows in the way you've
25 described, was that dangerous?

1 A. Mm.

2 Q. Did the nuns supervise that?

3 A. No, no, they'd let the kids do it.

4 Q. Did the nuns check on the work that the girls were
5 doing?

6 A. Yes, especially the floors and the stairs. We had these
7 stairs to wash on our knees. If you were talking in the
8 middle of the night, you'd have to get up and go and
9 scrub the stairs or polish them. If they weren't done
10 properly, you'd have to go back and do them again.

11 Q. Did you have cleaning duties to do every day?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Did that last for your whole time at Camberwell?

14 A. It did, yes.

15 Q. You tell us about a particular memory you have of
16 watching the Olympic Games in 1956, do you remember
17 that, on television?

18 A. No.

19 Q. I think at paragraph 39 you mention that you remember
20 having a television in 1956. If you don't remember,
21 that's not a problem.

22 A. I can't see it on there. It's there, but I can't see
23 it, I can't read it.

24 LADY SMITH: Does that help? It's now highlighted.

25 A. No, it's my eyes.

1 MS MACLEOD: That's fine, not to worry.

2 Did there come a time when you went out to school
3 outside Camberwell?

4 A. A few of us did go to school outside and I happened to
5 be one of them, to college.

6 Q. Is that Kildara College?

7 A. Kildara College, yes. But we didn't do any primary
8 school. I was behind the eight ball, you know,
9 I couldn't do it, so I just left after two years.
10 I couldn't do the work.

11 Q. I think you say it was difficult for you because you
12 hadn't been to primary school and you were expected to
13 go to secondary school?

14 A. That's right, yes. There was only about eight of us
15 that went out to school. The rest all stayed in school
16 in Camberwell. It was hard. I just could not keep up
17 with the work, so I just said, no, I can't go back
18 there, it's silly.

19 Q. When you were in church, Trish, did you have to kneel on
20 your knees?

21 A. Oh yes.

22 Q. Did you have a boil on your knee at one time?

23 A. I did have, yes.

24 Q. Did you tell the nuns about that?

25 A. I did, yes.

1 Q. And how did they respond?

2 A. "Oh, it'll get better, don't worry about it."

3 Q. And were you told that you had to kneel down anyway?

4 A. Yes. I had to kneel down, yes. It didn't get better,
5 it got worse, so I had to go up to the infirmary, where
6 the old ladies were -- we used to call them old ladies,
7 it's aged care now, but we used to call them old ladies
8 and old men, that was the thing then.

9 Q. Was there a nurse who was up there?

10 A. There used to be one, but she left. This was a nun.
11 She left. So they didn't have a nurse and anyone did
12 whatever.

13 Q. The nun who was there who was a nurse, what was she
14 like?

15 A. She was lovely, she was really nice and she just left,
16 she couldn't take it.

17 Q. In what ways was she lovely? What are your memories of
18 her?

19 A. She was good to work with. She would never whack you or
20 anything like that, no.

21 Q. As well as the jobs you've been telling me about, Trish,
22 did you also have to work with the old women and the old
23 men?

24 A. I did, yes.

25 Q. How old were you when you started?

1 A. I didn't do the men, just the ladies.

2 Q. How old were you when you started working with the older
3 ladies?

4 A. About 13, 12 or 13.

5 Q. What was your job in that role? What were you to do?

6 A. At the time I was just helping to feed them and just
7 wash them, just their hands and face, that's it.

8 (Pause)

9 Q. Would you like to have a break, Trish?

10 LADY SMITH: Shall we take a break at this stage? Let's do
11 that, Trish. I'll leave the bench and you take your
12 time and [REDACTED] will help you out.

13 A. Thank you.

14 (11.03 am)

15 (A short break)

16 (11.25 am)

17 LADY SMITH: Trish, are you ready for us to carry on?

18 A. Yes.

19 LADY SMITH: We'll do that, but please don't hesitate to
20 tell me if you want to stop again. That's no problem.

21 All right?

22 A. All right, thank you.

23 MS MACLEOD: Trish, before the break we had started to speak
24 about your work with the older women in Nazareth House,
25 Camberwell.

1 I think you were going to tell us about one
2 particular occasion where Sister LSW came to your
3 dormitory in the night to ask you to do something
4 in relation to the elderly women; is that right?

5 A. That's right, yes.

6 Q. How old were you when Sister LSW came to ask you?

7 A. Probably about 13 or 14. I was one of the older ones
8 then.

9 Q. So were you asleep in bed?

10 A. Oh yes.

11 Q. What happened? What did Sister LSW say when she
12 came to your bed?

13 A. She just tapped me and said, "Come with me", and I went
14 with her to the old ladies -- I'm sorry but that's what
15 we used to call them, and she was -- this lady was dead
16 in bed.

17 She said, "Now, I want you to take her clothes off
18 and wash her", and I just thought, I'll just wash her
19 hands and face or something. I'd never touched a dead
20 body before. She said, "No, strip her off, take her
21 nightie off and you've got to wash her." LSW stood
22 there beside the bed, just watching me wash this lady,
23 and she said, "And you've got to turn her over and wash
24 her back, right down." I did it and she said, "No,
25 you've got to do it properly, you've got to wash her

1 bottom, front and back, and then dry her." She gave me
2 cotton wool and said, "You stick that in her bottom and
3 in her vagina and up her nose and her eyes, you do all
4 that, and then you dress her." And all this time
5 [LSW] was standing there watching me do it, not
6 helping me at all.

7 I had just been pulled out of a sleep and I had to
8 do all that, and that has stayed with me all my life.
9 Then she said, "Oh, you can go back to bed now";
10 of course, I couldn't sleep.

11 Q. Were you afraid?

12 A. Sorry?

13 Q. Were you scared?

14 A. Scared? I was scared. I hadn't touched a dead body and
15 I had to do this because you had to do what the nuns
16 told you to do, and this was just ...

17 Q. What was going through your head at the time? What were
18 your thoughts?

19 A. I honestly just did it like a zombie, you know. I just
20 did it because I had to do it. You don't say no to
21 them. So I did it and it was terrible, sticking these
22 cotton wool balls everywhere, the orifices, as they call
23 it, I think ... yes.

24 Q. Do you have flashbacks to that incident?

25 A. Oh yes. Bad ones.

1 Q. While you were at Camberwell, did you tell anybody how
2 you were being treated by the nuns?

3 A. Oh, you wouldn't tell anyone because you'd get in
4 trouble anyway. You don't tell them, you just have to
5 do what they tell you to do.

6 Q. If you had decided that you were going to tell somebody
7 what was happening to you, was there anybody that you
8 could have spoken to?

9 A. Probably ^{MEJ} [REDACTED] maybe, depending on the mood she was
10 in, maybe I could have ... But all the beatings we got
11 and that, you never would tell anyone, you just don't do
12 it. It's like they stick together, you know? You don't
13 do it.

14 Q. Were there any visitors or inspectors who came to the
15 home?

16 A. We never saw them.

17 Q. How old were you when you left Camberwell?

18 A. I was about 15 and I said I wanted to do nursing and
19 they said, "No, you're too young to go and do nursing",
20 but I said, "I'm not saying here, I'm old enough to
21 leave", so I left and I went to Broadmeadows Babies Home
22 and I did mothercraft nursing and then I did
23 kindergarten.

24 Q. When you did mothercraft nursing was that a training
25 course?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Did the nuns at Camberwell arrange that for you or was
3 that something you did yourself?

4 A. No, they arranged it for me, and I did my work
5 experience at St Vincent's Hospital and then I --

6 Q. And the course you did, what did that entail?

7 A. Sorry?

8 Q. What sort of things did you learn on the course?

9 A. Just how they had babies and feeding them and, you know,
10 just like a mother.

11 Q. Was that an organisation that looked after mothers and
12 babies?

13 A. Yes. We'd have the mothers and then they'd go to the
14 hospital and have the babies, then the babies would come
15 back, they'd bring the babies back to us, and we'd look
16 after them. Then I went on to kindergarten and worked
17 in a kindergarten.

18 Q. In your work in kindergarten, did you go to work at
19 Camberwell for a time?

20 A. I did and I couldn't cope. MEJ rang me and asked
21 if I'd like to work in the kindergarten there. It was
22 away from the nuns, I wouldn't see them at all, and
23 I said, "Oh, okay." Wrong. I could not cope.
24 I couldn't cope. So I left and then I married my
25 husband.

1 Q. How did you feel about going back to Camberwell?

2 A. Terrible. Terrible. I had to get them to ring my
3 husband to come and pick me up because I couldn't cope
4 after what we went through.

5 Q. And did you spend roughly about two years in the
6 kindergarten there? How long were you in the
7 kindergarten in Camberwell?

8 A. Only about four months or something.

9 Q. I think you tell us, Trish, that you then got married
10 and had your family and you had two boys.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. You say that after some years, you went back to work.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Did you do a course in dementia care?

15 A. I did, I did a course in dementia, and I worked in an
16 aged -- we called them aged care then. That was lovely.
17 I was in there for 15 years, then I had to give it up
18 when my [REDACTED] had his accident and had to look after
19 him, so I haven't been back to work since.

20 Q. Have you been able to get any records about your time in
21 Camberwell?

22 A. No. I don't really want -- I don't think I want to get
23 them. I think it's something I'd rather try and get out
24 of my head.

25 Q. We mentioned flashbacks a few moments ago; do you get

1 a lot of flashbacks to your time at Camberwell?

2 A. Yes. It depends on the moods I'm in. I have some bad
3 moods and I think it's all to do with Camberwell, but
4 I can't say because I'm not an expert. It's very hard
5 sometimes. I have been seeing a counsellor for years to
6 help me.

7 Q. At a point in your life, Trish, I think you discovered
8 that you had more siblings; is that right?

9 A. More siblings?

10 Q. Yes. Did you find your brother?

11 A. We've got four brothers and two sisters, all in
12 Dumfries.

13 Q. When did you find out about those siblings?

14 A. I looked into it because I knew one of them was in the
15 British Army, so I got through there, and he was in

16 [REDACTED] To my surprise, he wrote me a letter and then
17 we got in touch with them and it was good.

18 But since all this started, they don't want anything
19 to do with us.

20 Q. So when you say "all this", what do you mean?

21 A. When you say --

22 Q. When what started?

23 A. When we decided to go against the church and Camberwell.

24 Q. I see.

25 A. They didn't like that idea. I think they thought it was

1 going to be scattered all over the newspaper or
2 something like that and they didn't want to know.

3 But we have one brother that's coming up tomorrow to
4 see me because we were going to do down there for a few
5 days to Dumfries to see this brother, but the others
6 don't want to see me. And that's fine, if that's the
7 way they want it, so ...

8 LADY SMITH: When you say "we", do you mean you and your
9 sister?

10 A. Yes.

11 LADY SMITH: And when you say, "We decided to go against the
12 church and Camberwell", that was you and your sister?
13 Was that what you were talking about?

14 A. Sorry?

15 LADY SMITH: I'm not being clear enough for you, Trish.

16 I think you've explained to me that as
17 a child migrant you have made some sort of claim against
18 Camberwell, the church; am I right about that?

19 A. Yes.

20 LADY SMITH: Did the sister who went out to Australia with
21 you also make a claim?

22 A. Sorry, I can't ...

23 LADY SMITH: The sister who went to Australia with you, did
24 she also make a claim?

25 A. I don't think so.

1 LADY SMITH: Right, okay. So the "we" is you and your
2 immediate family deciding to do this, is it?

3 A. All the girls that came out.

4 LADY SMITH: Ah right, I see. So not just people related to
5 you?

6 A. Not just my sister and myself, no.

7 LADY SMITH: I'm following you now, thank you.

8 MS MACLEOD: When did you come back to Scotland for the
9 first time from Australia?

10 A. That's going back ...

11 (Pause)

12 It must be about 50 years.

13 Q. So were you in your 20s at the time?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And did you visit your mother?

16 A. I did, I saw her, yes, but she didn't talk much to me.

17 I don't know if she didn't want to or if she was
18 embarrassed or what, but she didn't say much. I took
19 her out for dinner, hoping that she would talk, but she
20 didn't talk.

21 Q. Was that the first time you'd seen her since you were
22 a very young child?

23 A. Since we went on the trip, the "holiday" to Australia.
24 But my sister didn't see her from that day that we were
25 told that we were coming to Australia -- well,

1 we weren't told we were going to Australia, we were told
2 we were going on a holiday. She never saw my mother.

3 Q. So had you seen your mother when you were in Kilmarnock?

4 A. No, no.

5 Q. So you hadn't seen your mother since you were taken to
6 the orphanage in Dumfries?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Did your sister ever see your mother again?

9 A. No, no.

10 Q. Did you ask your mother if she had known that you were
11 going to Australia?

12 A. I did. I asked her a lot of questions, you know: why
13 did we have to leave you, couldn't you have come and got
14 us, and all that. She just said there was no room in
15 the house because I think the grandmother lived there
16 too and it was only a two-bedroom house.

17 When I was born there, well, that was two of us,
18 babies, my eldest sister and myself. There was no room.
19 So she just put us with the nuns. Wrong.

20 Q. Did she say anything about your going to Australia?

21 A. No.

22 Q. Was that the only time you met your mother?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And I think you tell us that she passed away about
25 six years later? Did she pass away a few years later?

1 A. Yes, she did.

2 Q. Do you and your sister in Australia keep in touch and
3 see each other?

4 A. Oh yes, a lot, yes, we do a lot.

5 Q. Do you also keep in touch with some friends from
6 Camberwell?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Since that visit to Scotland in your 20s, have you been
9 back here again?

10 A. Oh yes, I've been back there three times, I think, yes.

11 Q. To visit family?

12 A. Yes. And they were fine at the start, as I say, but
13 then they fiddle off. They even -- a couple of the
14 brothers came out and stayed at my house, but now, no
15 way.

16 Q. Have you had some contact with the Child Migrants Trust?

17 A. I go to see them, yes.

18 Q. And did you prepare a statement at one time with their
19 assistance? Did they help you to prepare a statement?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. We don't need to put it on the screen, but you've
22 provided a copy of that to the inquiry so that we have
23 it. That's at WIT.003.001.2672.

24 Can I now ask you about the impact this has had on
25 your life, Trish. What impact has it had on you, having

1 been sent over to Australia at the age of 10?

2 A. I think at the beginning it was all fun and games.

3 I think when we got on the ship, it was, "Oh, this looks
4 good", and all that and that gradually got worse.

5 It's made a big difference to my life now, you know.

6 I'm a nervous wreck. You know, you worry about the
7 least little thing: are you doing this right, are you
8 doing it wrong? It is just little things, but they're
9 annoying things.

10 Q. What impact do you think your time at Camberwell has had
11 on you?

12 A. What it's had on me? The same. Made me a nervous
13 person. I think I want to please everyone, I think
14 that's what it is. I feel if we didn't please them at
15 Camberwell, you'd get whacked and all that, so I think
16 that's ...

17 Q. You also say that you think your education suffered as
18 a result?

19 A. Oh definitely, definitely.

20 Q. And that it takes you a while to get to know people?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. In terms of physical impact, has the work you had to do
23 at Camberwell had an impact on your physical health?

24 A. I would say yes.

25 Q. In what way?

1 A. Well, I'm nervous, I'm a nervous person. Yeah, I'm just
2 nervy and I want to help people, just to be on their
3 good side, I think.

4 Q. Do you still think of Scotland?

5 A. I do, yes, I do.

6 Q. Do you miss Scotland?

7 A. I do, but when I'm over there I want to come back to
8 Melbourne, I want to go back to Australia. That's the
9 hard bit, you know, you're in between. But Scotland is
10 a lovely country.

11 Q. I just want to read out a paragraph of the statement
12 you've provided us with at WIT.003.001.2672. It's the
13 final page of that. Trish, it's the very last page in
14 your folder. I'm going to read this out to you, Trish,
15 what you have said here. You say:

16 "I suffered a hard, harsh childhood under the
17 control of the Sisters of Nazareth. They never gave me
18 any information about my family or identity and made me
19 feel ashamed about my family origins, calling me names
20 and saying to us that we were nothing, our mothers
21 didn't want us. They were cruel to children who already
22 had nothing.

23 "I always missed Scotland, felt there was something
24 wrong with me, for me to be sent so far away like that.
25 Scotland still feels like home to me, although

1 relationships with family are not as strong as they
2 might have been if I had been able to grow up in my own
3 country."

4 A. Yes. So I'm caught in the middle, you know. I couldn't
5 live in Scotland permanently, but ... I like to come
6 visiting but I always like to go back to Australia.
7 I think that's what a lot of the girls think: there's
8 something missing.

9 Q. At the very end of your inquiry statement you provide
10 some thoughts about what your hopes are for the future
11 and I'm just going to read that out. You say:

12 "I would hope that children aren't treated like
13 slaves, that they have better food, schooling and just
14 better treatment overall. I hope they are not rushing
15 back from school and looking after old people.

16 "On behalf of all the other children that go through
17 it, someone has to speak out. I just hope that it comes
18 out that it has been worthwhile for us to speak out."

19 A. Yes.

20 MS MACLEOD: Well, thank you for those thoughts, Trish.

21 I don't have any further questions for you, so thank you
22 for answering my questions this morning.

23 My Lady, I think I've addressed all the questions
24 that have been submitted for Trish.

25 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Are there any outstanding

1 applications for questions? No.

2 Trish, that does complete all the questions we have
3 for you today. It just remains for me to thank you so
4 much for engaging with the inquiry in the way you have
5 done, both in providing your written statement to us and
6 letting us look at the statement the Child Migrants
7 Trust put together for you after they'd been talking to
8 you and, of course, for coming all this way to give oral
9 evidence here. I appreciate that must have been quite
10 an undertaking, particularly since we've brought you to
11 some pretty chilly weather here when it's much nicer in
12 Melbourne, but I'm very, very grateful to you for doing
13 that.

14 You have, as you have indicated, spoken about not
15 just your own experience but other people you were with,
16 both here and in Camberwell, and it's of enormous
17 assistance for me to have heard that.

18 I'm now able to let you go, but please do remember
19 our gratitude to you for engaging with us.

20 What I'm going to do is, as I did before, I'll leave
21 the bench just now and then you can take your time to go
22 back to the witness area. All right? Thank you.

23 (11.53 am)

24 (A short break)

25 (12.03 pm)

1 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

2 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, we have another witness. This
3 witness is also an applicant. She wants to remain
4 anonymous and to use the name "Alice" in giving
5 evidence.

6 "ALICE" (sworn)

7 LADY SMITH: Alice, please sit down and make yourself
8 comfortable. That looks like you're in a good position
9 there. I do need you to -- it's funny, the way the
10 sound goes, isn't it, and you suddenly think I'm
11 speaking from the other end of the room?

12 It has already been pointed out to you that the
13 microphone is in a good position and we need to hear you
14 through the microphone, please, so if you can try and
15 make sure that carries on happening.

16 If you're ready, I'll hand over to Mr MacAulay and
17 he'll explain to you what happens next. Is that all
18 right?

19 A. Mm-hm.

20 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

21 Questions from MR MacAULAY

22 MR MacAULAY: Good afternoon, Alice.

23 A. Good afternoon.

24 Q. In the red folder in front of you, you'll find your
25 statement. I'll provide the reference of it for the

1 transcript: WIT.001.002.7920. If I could ask you to
2 turn to the last page, that's at 7941. Can you confirm
3 that you have signed the statement?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Do you say in the final paragraph:

6 "I have no objection to my witness statement being
7 published as part of the evidence to the inquiry"?

8 Is that right?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Do you also go on to say:

11 "I believe the facts stated in this witness
12 statement are true"?

13 Is that correct?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Alice, because you want to be anonymous, I don't want
16 your date of birth, but can you confirm for me the year
17 of your birth so I can get a time frame? Can you
18 confirm that you were born in 1944?

19 A. 1944.

20 Q. And you are now, I think, 75?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. In your statement, you begin by providing some
23 information about your life before you went into care.

24 You went into care at a very young age and I want to
25 begin by putting some sort of time frame in place when

1 different things happened at different times.

2 I think you now know, and certainly the
3 documentation recovered by the inquiry suggests that
4 this was the case, that you were admitted to
5 Nazareth House, Aberdeen on [REDACTED] 1945; is that
6 right?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And you'd still be under the age of 1 at that time.

9 A. 18 months, I think I was, yes.

10 Q. Do I understand that you have very little recollection
11 of that?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. But you left Nazareth House, Aberdeen, according to the
14 records, on [REDACTED] 1954, is that right --

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. -- when you were aged 9?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And you sailed for Australia, the following day, on
19 [REDACTED] 1954; is that correct?

20 A. That's right.

21 Q. You arrived in the port at Fremantle on [REDACTED] 1954;
22 is that correct?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. So you were at sea for -- and I think you then had to
25 sail to Melbourne?

1 A. Yes, the boys went off to Fremantle.

2 Q. And you went to Melbourne. Your ultimate destination
3 was a house run by the Sisters of Nazareth in
4 Camberwell?

5 A. That's right.

6 Q. Can I go back a little bit? You have said you have no
7 recollection, for obvious reasons, of being put into
8 care but have you learnt since that you have family and
9 in particular you have sisters; is that right.

10 A. Yes, I have one sister and two brothers.

11 Q. So far as the sister is concerned, is she younger or
12 older?

13 A. Older.

14 Q. And the brothers?

15 A. Younger.

16 Q. But do I understand that, so far as going into care was
17 concerned, you were the only child of your mother's
18 relationship that went into care?

19 A. Yes, that's right.

20 Q. I think you did learn that your father was a Canadian
21 and I think, although you've tried to trace him,
22 you have had little success.

23 A. No luck, yes.

24 Q. We'll look at this later but did you manage to trace
25 your mother subsequent to the time you spent in

1 Australia?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Can I then look at your life in Nazareth House,
4 Aberdeen. Clearly, you went there at a very young age
5 and you left at the age of 9. So I take it that
6 although you may not have a recollection of the early
7 period, you have some recollection of what life was
8 like?

9 A. Oh yes, just before we left.

10 Q. One of the things you tell us in your statement is that,
11 from your perspective, Nazareth House, Aberdeen was
12 lovely.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Why do you say that?

15 A. Oh, it was just beautiful. A big grey building, that's
16 all I knew. It was my home, my friends.

17 Q. You have just mentioned friends; did you make some good
18 friendships when you were there?

19 A. Yes, there was one in particular, her name was

20 ██████████ We were always together.

21 Q. And I think as we'll look at later, leaving ██████████ as
22 you did, was something that --

23 A. Especially when she probably didn't know, you know. We
24 didn't know. We thought we'd be coming back later on in
25 the day.

1 Q. And that's something that was sad for you?

2 A. Oh yes, very.

3 Q. For many years I think?

4 A. Yes, many, many years.

5 Q. You also seem to suggest in the statement that you
6 enjoyed the religious side of Nazareth House and being
7 in church and so on --

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. -- and, in particular, the church services. Why did you
10 find that enjoyable?

11 A. It was just everything about the church and your
12 feelings for the church and ... yes, I loved it.

13 Q. You also mention the food. Do you have any recollection
14 at all of what the food was like?

15 A. Oh, not really, but I know I was sick all the time.
16 I was very, very sick with food.

17 Q. Did you discover later in life what the problem was?

18 A. Yes, I had coeliac, I'm a coeliac.

19 Q. Was that ever diagnosed during your time in care?

20 A. No, no, no. I'd be up in the middle of the night
21 vomiting, vomiting, and I'd say in the morning to the
22 sisters, you know, this is what happened and how I was
23 feeling. I thought my whole stomach was going to come
24 up, but you were cuffed and, "Back to bed."

25 Q. In relation to the sleeping arrangements, you tell us

1 there were dormitories in Aberdeen and you make mention
2 in particular of the big brown heaters.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Were the dormitories warm?

5 A. Yes, they were warm, they were up against the wall, flat
6 up against the wall. I remember them quite clearly.

7 When I went back, I asked the nun not to -- I took
8 my children with me and I asked the sister not to say
9 anything, that I would go up the stairs and tell her
10 what was around the corner, what was up here and what
11 was there, what statue was here ... and I was right.

12 Q. Did you go back to visit Nazareth House with your family
13 later on?

14 A. I have been twice, yes.

15 Q. As an adult?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. You also talk about your leisure time and in particular
18 your visits to Duthie Park in Aberdeen. You have fond
19 memories of that?

20 A. Yes, the crocuses. I can't grow them in Australia, too
21 hot.

22 Q. And the other thing you tell us is that, at paragraph 14
23 of your statement, that the nuns were like parents to
24 you.

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Could you elaborate upon that?

2 A. Well, the Scottish nuns were totally different, you
3 know. If you were hurt, you were hurt. There was
4 always a hug or she'd have lollies in her pocket and
5 that sufficed us, you know.

6 Q. What you're saying, I think, is that they were kind?

7 A. Much kinder, much, much kinder.

8 Q. Do you remember any particular names of the nuns in
9 Aberdeen?

10 A. In Aberdeen, yes. There was one in particular,
11 LRX her name was. She was the one
12 that took us on the train down to Kilmarnock to pick up
13 the other girls.

14 Q. And we'll look at that in a moment.

15 Insofar as discipline was concerned, how was
16 discipline dealt with in Aberdeen?

17 A. I think I was a good girl. I don't remember anything
18 like ... no.

19 Q. I think Aberdeen at that time had boys and girls, but
20 were the boys and girls kept separate?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. I now want to ask you about how it came to be that you
23 went to Australia. Can I just focus on that? Were you
24 asked -- how did you get to know that you were going to
25 be leaving Nazareth House?

1 A. We had to have a lot of doctor's appointments and we
2 asked why we were having the appointments and
3 injections. And they said, "You're going for a long
4 holiday", and we said, "Where to?" and they said,
5 "Australia." And of course that was it, we just
6 (inaudible) from our heads then.

7 Q. Were you actually asked if you wanted to go?

8 A. No, no, no. They just picked you. To this day, I don't
9 know why, it was just like, "You, Alice, that's where
10 you're going."

11 Q. Do I take it from what you've just said a moment ago
12 that you thought at the time it was for a long holiday?

13 A. Mm. We thought we'd be coming back.

14 Q. Was the word holiday mentioned?

15 A. No.

16 Q. You mentioned the medical appointments. Were these
17 medical appointments in Aberdeen?

18 A. Yes, it was the doctor that was telling us that we were
19 going to Australia and because you're going to
20 Australia, you have to have your inoculations and
21 everything like that.

22 Q. Were you told anything about Australia?

23 A. No, only that there were kangaroos and just little
24 things like that -- and it never rains, they said, never
25 rains.

1 Q. Was that the doctors who said that?

2 A. The doctors said it, yes.

3 Q. What about the nuns, what information if any --

4 A. No, we got none.

5 Q. Was there any particular nun that you dealt with in
6 connection with going to Australia?

7 A. LRX [REDACTED]

8 Q. What was her status, what was her position within the --

9 A. I think she was the Mother Superior.

10 Q. So far as you're aware at this time, you've mentioned
11 you going. Did you know that other girls were also to
12 be going to Australia?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Did there come a point in time when there was a group of
15 you selected?

16 A. Yes, we had to go down to pick up the cases; they were
17 all marked.

18 Q. And how many were in the group --

19 A. Four of us.

20 Q. -- altogether?

21 A. Mm-hm.

22 Q. You've mentioned your friend [REDACTED]. I think we
23 understand she wasn't one of the girls that was
24 selected.

25 A. No, no.

1 Q. But the other girls that were selected, were these girls
2 that you knew?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. At the time when this was happening, I think you were
5 aged 9; is that right?

6 A. Eight and I'd be 9 in the [REDACTED].

7 Q. In relation to the other girls who were going with you,
8 what were the ages?

9 A. The same age as me.

10 Q. I want to put a document on the screen. The screen is
11 in front of you. It's at NAA.001.001.1417. It's
12 documentation in connection with your being migrated to
13 Australia and we'll look at it in a moment.

14 You'll see there are blanked bits to protect
15 people's privacy. Towards the top we see that someone
16 has written the word "Orontes"; was that the name of the
17 ship you travelled on?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And there was also a date "[REDACTED] 1954". Below that can we
20 see the heading "Commonwealth of Australia" and then we
21 see "Child Migration".

22 In section A, your name's been blanked out but your
23 name is there in full, you can take that, and you will
24 see your address is given as Nazareth House, Aberdeen,
25 your age is given as 9. Then at number 5 it says:

1 "Furnish name and address of parent, guardian or
2 next of kin."

3 And can you see that the Mother Superior of
4 Nazareth House has been put in there.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Then at number 8 there's some questions about your
7 educational standard, and although you can't see this,
8 I do want to get this into the evidence, that this part
9 of the document has been signed by someone by the name
10 of William Flint. You can't see it, but take it from me
11 that's the signature. Can you see that he is signing
12 for and on behalf of the Catholic Child Welfare Council.
13 Do you see that?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Can you see below that that that is the name of what's
16 described as the sponsoring organisation. You'll see
17 that's what's on the form?

18 A. Mm-hm.

19 Q. There's a date for this part of the form given as
20 1954. You can see that?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. We've already established that the ship in fact left on
23 1954, so this is a number of months before you
24 actually left. Do you understand that?

25 A. Mm.

1 Q. Then in the bottom bit, section B, can you see this is
2 headed:

3 "Parent's or guardian's consent (father if living)."

4 Do you see that part?

5 A. Mm-hm.

6 Q. Can you see it reads then:

7 "I, Sister ^{LKC} [REDACTED], superior, Nazareth House
8 Aberdeen ..."

9 And then there's been scored out the "father" and
10 "mother", and then there is "guardian" and then your
11 name appears there again.

12 So can you see that the way this is set out is that
13 this particular sister is giving consent on your behalf,
14 as your guardian, to go to Australia? Do you
15 understand?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. The name Sister ^{LKC} [REDACTED], do you recognise that name
18 at all?

19 A. Well, it rings a bell.

20 Q. Just reading on, unfortunately this has also been
21 blanked out, but the date on this part of the form is
22 [REDACTED] 1953.

23 Do you see that Sister ^{LKC} [REDACTED] has again -- you
24 don't see that, but she has signed again?

25 If we move on to the second page of the document at

1 1418, this is headed section C. It's been signed by
2 William Flint and if you look towards the bottom of the
3 document, again just further down, there's handwriting.
4 It's upside down, I'll just read it, rather than get you
5 to strain your eyes and read it upside down.

6 I can tell you that it reads -- and someone has
7 obviously noted this:

8 "Very bright little child. Speaks with very
9 pronounced Scottish accent but good diction."

10 Did you have a very pronounced Scottish accent?

11 A. They said I did but I had [REDACTED]

12 [REDACTED]

13 Q. I think it says:

14 "Good writer."

15 I can't read the rest of it.

16 A. I've never seen anything like this.

17 Q. Was your writing quite good at that time?

18 A. I don't know.

19 LADY SMITH: Is it:

20 "Of good school standard for age"?

21 MR MacAULAY: I think that's what it says.

22 LADY SMITH: That's probably right, isn't it?

23 MR MacAULAY: And can we see that there's a stamp that has
24 within it:

25 "C of A, Department of Immigration, London."

1 And there's a signature and below that there's
2 a date.

3 A. Mm-hm.

4 Q. The final document I want you to look at is on the
5 following page, 1419. Can you see this is the report of
6 a medical examination? We needn't look at the detail of
7 it, but you can take it from me, Alice, that it does
8 relate to you?

9 A. Uh-huh.

10 Q. And towards the bottom, if we get the date, it's dated
11 ██████████ 1954; do you see that?

12 A. Mm-hm.

13 Q. So can we see from these documents that, over a period
14 of several months, preparations were being made for you
15 to be sent to Australia?

16 A. Mm.

17 Q. From what you've said to us in evidence so far, Alice,
18 am I to understand that you were happy in
19 Nazareth House, Aberdeen?

20 A. In Aberdeen, yes. Very happy.

21 Q. It was your full expectation that you'd be going back?

22 A. Yes, oh yes.

23 Q. You've mentioned that when you came to leave Aberdeen
24 there were four in your group and that LRX ██████████ was
25 also with you in the group?

1 A. Mm-hm.

2 Q. Where did you go when you left Aberdeen?

3 A. We got the train down to supposedly Dumfries or
4 Kilmarnock. They had another mother house there where
5 we were to pick up four other Scots and so there was
6 eight of us altogether before we went to Tilbury.

7 Q. Did that happen, did you stop at Kilmarnock and pick up
8 four other girls?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Were these girls that were with your group all the way
11 to Camberwell?

12 A. All the way, yes.

13 Q. Were you provided with a suitcase?

14 A. Yes, there was a suitcase.

15 Q. And was that in Aberdeen that you were given the
16 suitcase?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. What was in the case?

19 A. I know there was two dresses and they had a yellow one
20 and I don't like yellow. Yes, it was just a few clothes
21 put in there.

22 Q. When you arrived at Camberwell, what happened to the
23 suitcase?

24 A. Never saw it. We never saw it. Once we arrived at
25 Camberwell, the bus went and took the cases and we never

1 saw them again.

2 Q. Did the cases not come off the bus?

3 A. No -- well, we didn't see them come off.

4 Q. I think on the trip you stayed overnight in the
5 Nazareth House in Hammersmith.

6 A. Yes, that was a big place.

7 Q. And from there you went to Tilbury, I think.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And sailed to Fremantle and then on to Melbourne?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. What was the trip like?

12 A. It was long. We had to sit in the carriage with
13 LRX and we were just hoping that she would fall
14 asleep and we had to say the rosary, the rosary, the
15 rosary. And then when she did fall asleep and we wanted
16 to get out and run around outside the door. What do you
17 call it? The corridor.

18 Q. That's on the train?

19 A. On the train, yes.

20 Q. But on the ship itself, did LRX go with you?

21 A. No, she didn't go on the ship. We had three laypeople.
22 One of the lady's names was Mrs Laverty, and there was
23 a priest for the boys. There was ten boys.

24 Q. The 10 boys, do you know if they were Scottish or not?

25 A. No, I don't know.

1 Q. The priest, I think you did have some contact with the
2 priest?

3 A. Yes, Father Tye.

4 Q. Was he from Scotland or not?

5 A. I don't know.

6 Q. How did you get on with him?

7 A. Oh, he was brilliant, yes. Very good.

8 Q. But I think you also tell us in your statement that on
9 the trip you were sick.

10 A. Oh yes, yes.

11 Q. Was that seasickness or was it to do with your general
12 condition?

13 A. My general condition.

14 Q. Again, on the trip, were you given any further
15 information about what was going to happen and where you
16 were going to?

17 A. No. No, we weren't told anything.

18 Q. Did you know, for example, that you were going to be
19 going to a place where there were to be nuns looking
20 after you?

21 A. No.

22 Q. When the ship docked at Fremantle, did some of the
23 children on the ship leave the party at that point?

24 A. Only the boys. None of the girls did. There was
25 a brother of one of the girls and he had to go off the

1 ship and we thought that was really sad.

2 Q. So the brother left and the sister stayed on the ship?

3 A. Yes. Two sisters and the brother.

4 Q. So they were split up?

5 A. Split up, yes.

6 Q. So far as Father Tye is concerned, did he go off with
7 the boys?

8 A. He looked after the boys on the boat.

9 Q. And when the boys left the boat did he leave the boat
10 with them?

11 A. He left, yes.

12 Q. When you arrived in Melbourne, who met you?

13 A. Oh, so many nuns. So many nuns.

14 Q. How then were you taken from Melbourne to Camberwell?

15 A. There were three buses, because by the time we left
16 England we had all the -- poms, I call them, but the
17 English girls. There were a lot of them, about 101
18 altogether I think it was. So there was eight from
19 Ireland, eight from Scotland, and the rest were from
20 England.

21 Q. You do provide in your statement, I think, that very
22 precise figure of 101.

23 A. Mm.

24 Q. Where do you get that from?

25 A. Well, that was just in my mind all these years. I knew

1 there was a big crowd of us.

2 Q. So there required to be three buses to transport the --

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. When you arrived --

5 LADY SMITH: Sorry, did that figure of 101 include the boys?

6 A. No.

7 LADY SMITH: That was just the girls?

8 A. Yes, just the girls.

9 MR MacAULAY: When you arrived at Camberwell, what were your
10 first impressions?

11 A. Oh, it was a big, big place. A beautiful looking place.

12 A big school, like. You wondered what it was going to

13 be like, you know.

14 Q. Were photographs of you taken?

15 A. Oh yes. When we got off the boat, we all had to put our

16 hands on the hips of the one in front of us and go

17 around the ship like this (indicating) and they were

18 taking photos. We thought it was just great.

19 Q. What about when you got to Camberwell?

20 A. No, no photos at Camberwell.

21 Q. Would you mind if I put a photograph of Camberwell on

22 the screen in front of you?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. It's at INQ.152.

25 A. Yes, that's it.

1 Q. It's quite an impressive looking building.

2 A. Yes. It was a beautiful place and we kept it beautiful.

3 Q. Yes, I'll come on to that.

4 Of course, we're looking there at the front,
5 I think, of the building.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And is the main door into the building really under the
8 tower area?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. But at the back of the building, were there other parts
11 of the building that would be used as accommodation as
12 well?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. When you got to Camberwell, were you met by other
15 people, by nuns?

16 A. More nuns, yes.

17 Q. So far as your first day is concerned, what's your
18 recollection of your first day there?

19 A. Oh, got lost, running up and down the stairs and, you
20 know, it was good, had a good look around. They put us
21 out in the yard for a while.

22 Q. Were you shown, for example, where you'd be sleeping?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Can you describe the sleeping arrangements for me?

25 A. Very big dormitories, you know, going up to 30 children

1 in one, the younger ones, and there'd be 12, something
2 like that, you know.

3 Q. Were the children all girls?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. So far as the age range was concerned, can you just help
6 me with the age range? You were 9.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Were there children younger than you?

9 A. There was a lot younger. I think there was a little
10 2-year-old or a 4-year-old, if I remember rightly, and
11 yes, young -- 5 and 6s, there were a lot of 5 and 6.

12 Q. What about older children?

13 A. Older, like me, same age as me.

14 Q. And were there any young teenagers there?

15 A. No.

16 Q. What do you think the age of the oldest child was there
17 at that time?

18 A. Maybe 10, 11.

19 Q. You've mentioned that in your final group there was
20 about 101 girls. What about the population of the place
21 as a whole? How many children do you think were there
22 altogether?

23 A. There was only us. That's all I remember. Only us.
24 There were no other children when we went in there to
25 meet them.

1 Q. So were you the first group of children to arrive?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And that was in 1954?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Let's just focus on the nuns for a moment and the nuns
6 that you in particular had some dealings with. Can you
7 remember the names of nuns that you --

8 A. Yes. Sister Blandina, Sister Elizabeth, Sister [REDACTED] LSW

9 There was Sister [REDACTED] LSV who we used to call [REDACTED] LSV

10 Oh, she was ...

11 Q. So those were the ones you had dealings with?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Were there other nuns there as well?

14 A. Yes, [REDACTED] MEJ and you'd have the ones that had come
15 from the country and would always come down to us.

16 Q. You tell us in your statement, Alice, that in addition
17 to accommodating children, Camberwell also accommodated
18 elderly people.

19 A. Mm-hm, men and women.

20 Q. And I think, as we'll look at, you had some involvement
21 with that side of the place?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Insofar as the children were concerned then, you've told
24 us about the age range. Were the children divided up
25 into age groups?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Looking at the dormitories arrangements, in your
3 dormitory would you have children of approximately your
4 own age?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. One thing you do tell us in your statement is that after
7 you had arrived, your hair was -- can you tell me about
8 that?

9 A. Yes, sat in a chair, put a towel around, and cut all the
10 way around (indicating). I had long blue-black hair and
11 I just cried and cried.

12 Q. Did that happen to other girls?

13 A. Yes, anyone that had long hair, it had to be cut.

14 Q. Can I ask you now about some aspects of the routine and
15 let's focus on mealtimes first of all. How did you find
16 the food there?

17 A. I was sick, sick, sick. Yes, it was bland and not very
18 good.

19 Q. Being sick, though, is that something that --

20 A. I didn't know what was wrong with me, I just kept
21 getting sick and every time I would vomit, I would go
22 and tell one of the sisters, and you'd get your ear
23 cuffed and, "I don't want to hear about it."

24 Q. Did you ever get any sympathy for the sickness?

25 A. No. I never even saw a doctor about it.

- 1 Q. What about the food for the nuns? Did they have the
2 same food as you?
- 3 A. Oh no, no, they had their own ovens and those little
4 dumbwaiters that goes up -- you put the food in and the
5 food goes up on a lift to them. They had beautiful
6 food.
- 7 Q. Did they have that food where you were having your food?
- 8 A. Yes, they would have it.
- 9 Q. Was this in a dining room?
- 10 A. No, no, no the nuns would have it in their own upstairs.
11 They wouldn't be anywhere near us.
- 12 Q. So the children had their own separate dining room?
- 13 A. Yes, yes.
- 14 Q. And was that one dining room for all the children?
- 15 A. All the children, yes. Many, many tables in the
16 dining room.
- 17 Q. In relation to eating your food, did you have to eat
18 your food?
- 19 A. Yes, you had to eat it.
- 20 Q. What if you weren't able to?
- 21 A. No, you don't leave the dining room until you eat it.
- 22 Q. And what if you couldn't eat it, for whatever reason?
- 23 A. Well, whacked.
- 24 Q. How would you be whacked?
- 25 A. Your ear cuffed or ... most of the time.

1 Q. I think you mention that certain implements might have
2 been used when you were being hit.

3 A. Oh yes.

4 Q. Can you tell me about that? What would happen?

5 A. I don't remember much of the Christmases there, but
6 there used to be visiting fathers and they would come
7 and visit us and they would bring sports equipment,
8 because -- basketballs, cricket sets, things like that.
9 We never, ever saw the cricket sets. They were always
10 with the one nun in particular and she used that for
11 punishment if you did anything wrong. You might get six
12 cuts with it.

13 Q. What was it?

14 A. A cricket stump. You'd be hit with that.

15 Q. Who was this nun?

16 A. LSV LSV, Sister LSV.

17 Q. Can you give me an idea as to what sort of reasons she
18 would have to hit somebody with a cricket stump?

19 A. If somebody tripped somebody up purposely, kids' stuff,
20 and they were caught, so, "I'll get you after sort of
21 thing."

22 Q. What part of the body would she target?

23 A. Mainly with the cricket stump it was your hands. If she
24 said six, you got six.

25 Q. And did that ever happen to you?

1 A. Oh yes, many a time. Many a time I got the whistling
2 one. Sister ^{MEJ} [REDACTED], she liked the bamboo stick and
3 the way she would put your arm in her body and she
4 wanted to hear a whistle, and she just would bang it
5 down on your hand as hard as she could.

6 Q. Was that painful?

7 A. Oh, you couldn't feel your hand. Honestly, you couldn't
8 feel your hand. But you did something naughty and we
9 had to pay for it.

10 Q. This sort of treatment you've been describing to us, how
11 regular was that sort of treatment meted out to
12 children?

13 A. I suppose we all tried to keep out of trouble, but there
14 was a lot of -- especially with the English girls, the
15 Scots and the English, we'd be having a bit of a yack
16 and that might lead to a punch or pull of hair or
17 something like that. If you were caught doing it, you
18 were in trouble.

19 Q. And the nuns you have mentioned, Sister ^{MEJ} [REDACTED] and
20 Sister ^{LSV} [REDACTED], were they the main people?

21 A. Yes. They were the ones that used the sticks.

22 Q. Can I ask you then about schooling and education. What
23 were the arrangements when you got there in relation to
24 schooling?

25 A. There would have been about 15 in the classes that I was

1 in. It was all in age groups. There really wasn't
2 much. There was a lot of religion, which I didn't mind.
3 Then you had maths -- not much on maths -- English and
4 Bible study, reading the Bible.

5 Q. Was that within Camberwell itself?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Did that continue throughout your whole time at
8 Camberwell?

9 A. Yes, right through.

10 Q. So you didn't go to an external school at any time?

11 A. I did. I was fortunate enough to go to an outside
12 school, St Benedict's in Burwood.

13 Q. What age were you when that happened?

14 A. I was 13, I think I was.

15 Q. How did you find that?

16 A. Well, we walked to school -- and it was very difficult
17 because I went with a little girl, [REDACTED] and it was
18 hard. She'd see a dog and she'd be up the first tree,
19 so we were always late. But we never ever got in
20 trouble from the school nuns. They used to call us
21 after school was over into the office and we'd have
22 a cup of tea and scones. They were always very nice to
23 us.

24 Q. Was that school run by nuns?

25 A. It was, yes.

1 Q. Were they Sisters of Nazareth or a different order?

2 A. No, a different order.

3 Q. So how many children from Camberwell went to the outside
4 school?

5 A. There was only eight. Kildara was another one, but
6 I don't know the others. There was only eight girls.

7 Q. How were you selected then?

8 A. Well, they had monthly tests, you know, and if you did
9 well, it was a tick for you, sort of thing.

10 Q. So you'd obviously done well enough to benefit from
11 going to the external --

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Did you find that a benefit?

14 A. Yes, yes. It was good. Very good.

15 Q. How would you describe the education in-house, if you
16 like?

17 A. It was very poor. Religion, that was different, that
18 was their main thing.

19 Q. Was it the nuns who did the teaching?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. You've already indicated the problems you had with being
22 sick and that never being looked at. You also, I think,
23 say in your statement that you had difficulty with
24 chilblains.

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Can you help me with that?

2 A. The back of my legs and my hands would be all swollen.

3 It was mainly the back of my legs when I was walking to
4 school, so that was painful.

5 Q. And did you tell the --

6 A. Oh yes.

7 Q. -- the nuns about that?

8 A. Yes, but they didn't want to hear about it.

9 Q. Can I then focus on chores and the work you had to do.

10 Did you have to do work?

11 A. Oh ... work. It was work all the time. Yes, especially
12 on the weekends. And if you were naughty, you got
13 extra, extra work.

14 Q. Can you tell me what sort of work you were asked to do,
15 looking at the early period?

16 A. They had four, maybe four -- what do you call them?
17 Levels. So you had stairs going all the way down and
18 they'd be (indicating) about this deep.

19 Q. You're indicating perhaps about --

20 A. They all had to be scrubbed and they would go and check.
21 If it wasn't up to their standard, well, they'd get the
22 bucket, they'd throw it all over again and you'd have to
23 do the whole lot again. That was the stairs.

24 Then you had all the kitchen work, all the dirty
25 pots and your hands with chilblains trying to clean

1 those pots.

2 Q. Looking at the steps, I think you tell us in your
3 statement that if they weren't good enough, you'd have
4 to redo them?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And it could get quite dark by the time you had
7 finished?

8 A. Yes. They would say, "You can go after you've had your
9 tea", and that would have been about quarter past 5.
10 Then you headed straight down, but you had to rush.
11 We would make sure that we would rush because by the
12 time we got to the bottom, the old men were round the
13 corner and you could hear them shuffling along, along
14 the corridor, and then the steps where we were -- we
15 were at the steps and they were just coming around the
16 corner, coughing and ... oh, we were so frightened, so
17 frightened.

18 Q. But were there occasions when you were doing the
19 scrubbing of the steps and it was getting dark?

20 A. Yes, no lights on.

21 Q. You mentioned there the older men, elderly men. Are you
22 able to help me as to how the children and the elderly
23 men and women were kept separate?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Can you help me with that?

1 A. The men were the ground floor and the women were on the
2 second floor where our bedrooms were. We were only on
3 one level and the old ladies were through the door and
4 to the other side.

5 Q. So you're on the same level --

6 A. As the old ladies, yes.

7 Q. But separated from the older men?

8 A. Yes, because they were down in the basement.

9 Q. Would you come into contact with the elderly men and
10 women on a regular basis?

11 A. Oh yes, yes. It would be nothing for you to be poked in
12 the bed at night to get up and --

13 Q. I'll come to that. Generally on a daily basis --

14 A. No, you weren't allowed to go, no.

15 Q. Can I then take you on to your involvement with the
16 elderly, the old people. I think you tell us that at
17 a point in time, you became involved in feeding them.

18 A. Yes. I loved the old people. We had to go up and feed
19 them, mainly their evening meal, because the morning you
20 were busy with school, you had Mass first and then
21 breakfast and then --

22 Q. At what age do you think you were when you started doing
23 that sort of work?

24 A. I was 11 or 12. I was big for my age, my father being
25 a [REDACTED], so I was quite beefy.

1 Q. What was your attitude to that work?

2 A. Oh, I loved it, just to see the old people. It was
3 lovely. I wasn't angry at all about being put over
4 there.

5 Q. Were you dealing with men and women?

6 A. Men and women, yes.

7 Q. But one thing you also tell us is that in relation to
8 the bedridden older people, sometimes you'd have to move
9 them; is that right?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And another job I think you tell us was to deal with
12 their sheets.

13 A. Mm-hm.

14 Q. Can you tell me what you had to do there?

15 A. Well, they all had to be put in a huge bath and rinsed
16 off before they went down to be put into these big skips
17 or something, before they went down to the laundry.
18 That would take 3 or 4, hours, and you're bending over
19 to get them all done.

20 Q. Are these sheets that --

21 A. Yes, they're draw sheets that they urinated on.

22 Q. So these are urine-soaked sheets?

23 A. Yes, they had to be rinsed before they went down to the
24 laundry.

25 Q. And that was one of the chores you had to do?

1 A. That was one of the bad chores.

2 Q. Was that something you would --

3 A. Many times.

4 Q. Did you see other girls doing that as well?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. You were going to move on to tell me about being nudged
7 in the back in the middle of the night. Can you tell me
8 what happened on those occasions?

9 A. A nun would come in and poke you and say, "Be up and
10 dressed and be outside my cell in 5 minutes", so you did
11 it.

12 Q. Let's look at the first time that happened to you. What
13 age do you think you were?

14 A. I'd have to be 12.

15 Q. Can you tell me what happened then?

16 A. A man had passed away and she needed me to help her wash
17 him. She said, "Have you ever seen this before?" and
18 uncovered him. And when you wash them, she said, now
19 we're going to make him -- I'll get him over to me, you
20 wash his back. Then there were bowls of cotton wool
21 that had to be put into every orifice of his. I looked
22 at it and she said, "Put it in, put it in, get as much
23 in as you can." Petrified, absolutely petrified. I was
24 young -- as I said, I was tall and I was beefy, but that
25 was terrible.

1 Q. And who was telling you to do this?

2 A. The nun.

3 Q. Any particular nun?

4 A. Sister Elizabeth.

5 Q. Did that happen more than once?

6 A. Oh yes, many times. Even as I got older, it got more
7 and more. Sometimes it might be three a week and in the
8 wintertime it could be six.

9 Q. Are you looking here both at men and women?

10 A. Men and women, yes.

11 Q. Do you know if other children were doing the same sort
12 of --

13 A. Yes. Yes, there was one I was very pally with. It was
14 awful, you know. It was, it was terrible.

15 Q. I think you've told us that this might have started when
16 you were aged 12 and it continued for a number of years
17 after that?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. What did the nuns do? Did the nuns help in washing the
20 dead or not?

21 A. Well, if they could get a couple of the girls, four of
22 the girls or two of the girls, we would do it. There
23 might be two in a night and then, when you were
24 finished, you went back to bed.

25 Q. Was it usually in the night that --

1 A. Well, mostly in the night, yes. You'd hear them
2 coughing and growling and walking around, oh ... It
3 wasn't nice at all.

4 Q. One thing you tell us is that people did donate toys.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And other things at Christmas to the home; is that
7 right?

8 A. Mm-hm.

9 Q. And did you see what was being donated?

10 A. Yes. It was the Blessed Sacrament fathers. It was all
11 sorts of things, like rackets and toys for the little
12 ones, and like sometimes clothes. The clothes we had --
13 I think our panties were made out of butcher's aprons,
14 butcher material. It was always chafing.

15 Q. Were you permitted to get the gifts that were handed in?

16 A. Oh yes, yes.

17 Q. You got the gifts?

18 A. Yes, you wouldn't get like there and then, like through
19 the weeks and through the year, because you'd been
20 a good girl, you could have this sort of thing, you
21 know?

22 Q. And insofar as visitors were concerned, did you receive
23 visitors yourself while you were at Camberwell?

24 A. No, the only one that visited me was Father Tye.

25 Q. When did that happen?

1 A. I think it must have been about six or seven months
2 after, and one of the nuns came up to the children's
3 centre and said, "Where's Alice?" and said, "You have
4 a visitor", "Oh, I said, who is it?" She said, "I won't
5 tell you, come on, down you come", and there was
6 Father Tye in the parlour and I just ran into his arms.

7 Q. To see Father Tye, did you require to prepare yourself?
8 Were you dressed in the normal way or --

9 A. Yes, just what I had on.

10 Q. At that time, when you saw Father Tye, you had been then
11 at Camberwell for a number of months; is that right?

12 A. Mm-hm.

13 Q. Were you happy or unhappy at that time?

14 A. I was happy, yes.

15 Q. Were you --

16 A. Happy to see him.

17 Q. But what about life at Camberwell?

18 A. Oh ... no, no, no, I wasn't happy in Camberwell.

19 Q. I think one of the things that made you unhappy was the
20 fact that you were absent from your friend.

21 A. Yes, [REDACTED].

22 Q. Were you unhappy about how you were being treated?

23 A. Yes, yes.

24 Q. Did you say anything to Father Tye about that?

25 A. No, I didn't say anything.

1 Q. Any reason why not?

2 A. Because two nuns were in the parlour.

3 Q. Would other people come to visit Camberwell?

4 A. No, no, I don't remember having any other visitors.

5 Q. What about people coming to inspect the premises? Do
6 you know if --

7 A. No, I can't remember that.

8 Q. In relation to trips and holidays, though, did you go to
9 a particular family?

10 A. Yes, I did, in Castlemaine.

11 Q. What age were you then when that happened?

12 A. I think I was 13.

13 Q. And what --

14 A. And they had a 13-year-old girl too, so there were five
15 in the family.

16 Q. What was the arrangement, can you tell me about it?

17 A. He was a pharmacist in Castlemaine and one holiday
18 in the year, I was allowed to go up for one or
19 two weeks, it depended on the [REDACTED].

20 Q. That was their name?

21 A. Yes, their name, yes.

22 Q. And how was that -- what was that like?

23 A. It was beautiful. Beautiful. I didn't want to go back.

24 Q. You didn't want to go back to Camberwell?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And I think on one of the trips you were sick and it was
2 thought you may have had appendicitis?

3 A. Oh, I was so sick all the time. Right through I was
4 sick, sick, sick, and when they took me to the doctor
5 and thought it might have been my appendix, but it
6 wasn't the appendix, the appendix was all right.

7 Q. But at that time, the problem was not diagnosed?

8 A. No.

9 Q. How would you describe the nature of the emotional care
10 and support that you had at Camberwell?

11 A. Very -- a lack of it, yes. I say my faith sort of kept
12 me together.

13 Q. Throughout your time at Nazareth House in Kilmarnock and
14 then Nazareth House in Camberwell, did you think about
15 your family?

16 A. Oh yes. All the time. We'd ask if we could write
17 letters over to [REDACTED] no, we weren't allowed to
18 write any letters, no letters at all.

19 Q. Were you told why you couldn't?

20 A. No, we weren't told why.

21 Q. But in relation --

22 A. And if they saw you writing and they knew it was
23 a letter, we would hide them, they would get them and
24 just tear them up. No letters.

25 Q. What was your own understanding in relation to your own

1 family?

2 A. "You were sent here because you weren't wanted", they
3 often said that to us, "so this is where you stay."

4 Q. But did you have in mind, did you think that you did
5 have family --

6 A. Oh yes. My family -- I was thinking about [REDACTED]
7 but my mother and father or my immediate family, no,
8 I never thought about at all.

9 Q. So when you talk about family, you're thinking about
10 your friend [REDACTED]?

11 A. [REDACTED].

12 Q. What about mother, father, brothers, sisters?

13 A. No, not until later.

14 Q. But at the time then, what did you think your status --
15 did you think you had family or did you think you were
16 an orphan?

17 A. Well, because we were here we thought we were orphans.
18 We were told we had no family: you've got no family at
19 all, this is where you're going to be staying now.

20 Q. And who told you that?

21 A. Most of the nuns.

22 Q. So did you think then that you were an orphan?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And that's why you were there?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. What about talking about Scotland? Were you allowed to
2 talk about Scotland?

3 A. No, no, no, especially in front of the English. No, no,
4 no, couldn't talk about Scotland at all.

5 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, that's coming up to 1 o'clock.

6 LADY SMITH: That would be a good place to break.

7 We'll stop now for the lunch break, Alice, and I'll
8 sit again at 2 o'clock to continue your evidence if
9 you're ready then.

10 (12.58 pm)

11 (The lunch adjournment)

12 (2.00 p

13 LADY SMITH: Good afternoon.

14 Alice, are you ready for us to carry on with your
15 evidence?

16 A. Yes.

17 LADY SMITH: Very well. I'll hand back to Mr MacAulay.

18 Mr MacAulay.

19 MR MacAULAY: We saw from the child migration form that

20 I asked you to look at on the screen that you were at
21 that time described as having a pronounced Scottish
22 accent; when you were in Camberwell did that cause
23 problems for you?

24 A. Oh, yes, yes. We were always the ones that had to stand
25 up to do the dictation from the Bible. You couldn't

1 read it because the other girls would be laughing at
2 you.

3 Q. Did you find that humiliating?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Do you think it was deliberate that you were being
6 asked --

7 A. Yes, yes, deliberate.

8 Q. And who would do that?

9 A. The girls, the girls.

10 Q. Who'd ask you to read?

11 A. The nun, Sister LSV

12 Q. Was it Sister LSV, or LSV as I think she has
13 been described --

14 A. LSV yes, we nicknamed her that.

15 Q. -- who caused you the greatest trouble?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. How would you respond to the other girls laughing at
18 you?

19 A. We'd get them, up on the roof, when we were playing, you
20 know.

21 Q. You'd get them up on the roof and what, sorry?

22 A. When we were playing up on the roof, we'd get back at
23 them somehow.

24 Q. Would you become upset?

25 A. Yes, very upset. We planned together and rolled our Rs,

1 that was the worse thing, rolling our Rs.

2 Q. Do I take it from what you've been saying that the
3 Scottish girls did keep together and support each other?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Can I then look to the time when you're coming to leave
6 Camberwell. We haven't, at least in the material that's
7 been sent to the inquiry, been able to establish
8 a precise date, but we think it must have been in about
9 1960, when you were 15; is that correct?

10 A. That's correct.

11 Q. That would be 1960?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Can I ask you, first of all, about what sort of
14 preparation, if any, you had for leaving Camberwell.

15 A. Well, none, really. I was able to get a job, one of the
16 nuns got me a job at St John's, Brighton Beach, and it
17 was a psychiatric hospital, and they had electric shock
18 treatment, and I enjoyed it.

19 Q. At that time did you go to stay with the family you used
20 to stay with when --

21 A. Yes, I'd see them one time in the year.

22 Q. And that was at the age of 15 that you went into that?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And you do set out in your statement from paragraphs 72
25 onwards the various jobs that you had over the years;

1 is that right?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And essentially, you've been involved in the nursing
4 side of things; is that correct?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And in particular, psychiatric nursing?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Once you had left Camberwell at the age of 15, and gone
9 into work, did you have any further contact with the
10 nuns?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Did anyone from the home ever try to make contact with
13 you?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Was there anything like what has been described by some
16 people as aftercare?

17 A. No, no.

18 Q. You also tell us that you met your first husband and
19 that you had two children, I think.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. You [REDACTED]?

22 A. [REDACTED].

23 Q. You became involved with the Child Migrants Trust;
24 is that correct?

25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. When was that?
- 2 A. Maybe ... six, seven years ago.
- 3 Q. Prior to that time, had you had any contact with your
4 own family?
- 5 A. No.
- 6 Q. And through the Child Migrants Trust have you been able
7 to make contact with your family?
- 8 A. Yes, but I didn't go through the Child Migrants to find
9 them, we did it ourselves.
- 10 Q. Can you tell me about that then? What did you do and
11 what happened?
- 12 A. Oh, it was a big job. We went into the
13 British Consulate and asked them for the telephone
14 directories for the Highlands of Scotland. I had
15 certificates for them, birth certificates and marriage
16 certificates, so I knew who I'd be asking for.
- 17 Q. How did you get hold of these?
- 18 A. They let me have a look at them in the British
19 Consulate.
- 20 Q. So they had them there?
- 21 A. They had them there, yes, and I looked down the names
22 and took all the names that I thought may be, maybe ...
- 23 Q. Was this after you'd been in touch with the Child
24 Migrants Trust?
- 25 A. No, no.

1 Q. Before?

2 A. Yes, well before.

3 Q. So when was this?

4 A. Oh ... to look for my family?

5 Q. Yes.

6 A. As soon as really I left Nazareth House, I was going to
7 do something about it, but when I was working, it was
8 a bit difficult. Probably about three years after that,
9 we really got stuck into it.

10 Q. I think you link it to some extent, at least in your
11 statement, to the time when you yourself had children.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And you wanted to see if you could contact your
14 mother --

15 A. Yes. [REDACTED] went to Scotland, so it was
16 five years before then.

17 Q. And what happened then?

18 A. When my husband passed, he said, "You must try and look
19 for your family and go and see them." I said, "I know
20 I have family in Scotland, in Inverness." Then he
21 passed and I was determined to find them, and it was
22 in that five years. Then we went back in the fifth year
23 to meet my mother.

24 Q. When you say "we", is that yourself and your children?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And you think they were [REDACTED]?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. That would probably tell us it's about 1986 or
4 thereabouts because I think they were [REDACTED].

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And did you meet your mother?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And what was that like?

9 A. It was a big, beautiful thing.

10 Q. What about brothers or sisters?

11 A. Yes, I have an older sister, she'll be 80 next birthday,
12 and we had [REDACTED] he passed away two years ago, and then
13 there was me, then my mother remarried again and there
14 was [REDACTED] who's in Inverness.

15 Q. And so far as the siblings are concerned, are you still
16 in contact with those that --

17 A. Oh yes, we're going up there tomorrow.

18 Q. Your mother, I think she has died?

19 A. My mother's passed away, yes.

20 Q. And how many times did you see your mother then after
21 that first visit?

22 A. I think five times. When she was very ill, I made sure
23 to come over.

24 Q. And you describe her as the most lovable person.

25 A. Yes, a beautiful person.

1 Q. Did you ever discuss with her why it was that you were
2 put into care?

3 A. Well, she was going through a divorce and she couldn't
4 cope, so I wasn't angry at all about that. It was her
5 and granny that decided to send me to Aberdeen.

6 Q. Did your family know that you'd been sent to Australia?

7 A. No. Oh no, they didn't know.

8 Q. When you told your mother that you'd been sent to
9 Australia, what was her reaction?

10 A. Well, actually, I got hold of her -- my uncle, and they
11 called my mother, [REDACTED] so I rang Uncle [REDACTED] and he was
12 in the navy, so he knew nothing about me. He knew the
13 other children but knew nothing about me.

14 I said, "I'm looking for a [REDACTED]",
15 and he said, "Oh aye." I told him who I was and I said,
16 "I think she's my mother." So he rang my mother and
17 they packed a bag in Kingussie somewhere and off they
18 went to Uncle [REDACTED] and I was to ring them the next day
19 and it was brilliant.

20 Q. At any time did you discuss with your mother the fact
21 that you were sent to Australia?

22 A. I did, but she didn't want to say anything, so I never
23 pressed it.

24 Q. From what you've said then, Alice, your mother and your
25 family did not know that you'd been sent to Australia?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And do I take it from that that your mother had never
3 been asked about whether you should go to Australia?

4 A. That's right, no.

5 LADY SMITH: Did your mother carry on living in the north of
6 Scotland?

7 A. Yes.

8 MR MacAULAY: And I think you indicated that you've kept in
9 contact with your family and indeed you're going to
10 visit this week.

11 A. Mm-hm.

12 Q. Then just focusing on your life at Camberwell, and you
13 were there for about five years or thereabouts, how
14 would you summarise your life there?

15 A. Oh, I was glad to get out of there. It was mentally ...
16 It was terrible, absolutely. The next 10 years, the
17 depression started, and it was two years, really --
18 10 years altogether that I had lost because I'd had to
19 have four back operations and they had me in traction
20 for so many weeks to straighten out my spine. But it
21 didn't work, so they had to do the surgeries. So I know
22 that had probably something to do with all the work and
23 hard logging we did at Nazareth House.

24 Q. Was that your understanding, that that's what caused the
25 back problem?

1 A. Yes. So this depression, what was I going to do, where
2 am I going to go, how am I going to do these things, you
3 know?

4 Q. And do you associate both your physical and your
5 psychiatric problems with your life at Camberwell?

6 A. Yes, I was actually so bad that I went to see the doctor
7 and said goodbye to him and off I went back to -- we
8 lived in the home for the nursing. They already rang
9 the hospital where I was working and said, "CGM needs
10 a rest", so I stayed there for two weeks with care for
11 mental illness because I was so depressed.

12 Q. What was causing the depression?

13 A. Well, everything, I think everything was -- my back was
14 in so much pain and trying to cope with that and trying
15 to work, because the nuns would say, "There's nothing
16 wrong with you, nothing wrong with you", and then just
17 living through the hell in Nazareth House.

18 Q. Did you have the back problems when you were in
19 Camberwell?

20 A. No, no, I didn't have bad pain at all.

21 Q. But you had heavy work to do?

22 A. Very heavy work, yes.

23 Q. If I can just take you to paragraph 95 of your
24 statement, Alice. You're there saying that because of
25 your experience, particularly in Camberwell I think,

1 that you never understood love and affection at that
2 young stage of your life.

3 A. Yes. Even with my children, when they were young.

4 Q. Were you shown any affection at all at Camberwell?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Looking to your final thoughts then, I think you've told
7 us this already, but at 96 you say:

8 "I hated it at Camberwell, absolutely hated it."

9 A. Mm-hm.

10 Q. And then at 97 what you say is:

11 "The UK and Australian governments need to find out
12 why all this child migration occurred and tell the truth
13 about why this cruelty happened to children."

14 Do you characterise the way that you were treated as
15 being a manifestation of this cruelty that you mention?

16 A. Yes.

17 MR MacAULAY: Very well, Alice. Those are all the questions
18 that I have for you.

19 My Lady, I can confirm that I have asked, as I have
20 gone along, all the questions that have been submitted
21 to me.

22 Thank you for coming to give your evidence.

23 LADY SMITH: Are there any outstanding applications for
24 questions? No.

25 Alice, that does complete all the questions we have

1 for you and I know we've been asking you questions for
2 a long time now because you engaged with us so helpfully
3 to provide a written statement before today and then
4 again for quite a long time today.

5 But please don't be in any doubt as to how valuable
6 it is for me to have heard you and seen you today, as
7 well as having your written evidence in front of me.
8 It's such a help to have that.

9 A. Thank you.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you for coming all this way -- I know
11 it's not exactly just down the road -- and I'm very
12 grateful to you for doing that and I just wish I could
13 promise you better weather for going north tomorrow, but
14 I don't think you're going to get it. Take your warm
15 clothes with you and I hope it's a positive trip.

16 A. Thank you very much.

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

18 I'll just go off the bench because we have got some
19 things to re-organise before we go on to the next stage
20 anyway and then you can take your time.

21 (2.14 pm)

22 (A short break)

23 (2.18 pm)

24 LADY SMITH: Welcome back, Ms Rattray. I take it that means
25 we're now on to read-ins.

1 Witness statement of "TRISH" (read)

2 MS RATTRAY: We are, my Lady.

3 The first is a statement of an applicant who wishes
4 to remain anonymous and has chosen the pseudonym
5 "Trish". Her statement can be found at
6 WIT.001.002.7695:

7 "My name is Trish. I was born in 1943. My contact
8 details are known to the inquiry.

9 "I was born in Edinburgh. My mother was a widow.
10 I have three older sisters and an older brother. Two of
11 my older sisters and my brother were sent out to
12 Australia as child migrants before me.

13 "My eldest sister stayed in the UK and moved to
14 England but she is dead now. Mother had more than one
15 child after me, a girl, who was born in 1947. She was
16 adopted out and I have never met her.

17 "I only have vague memories of my childhood before
18 I went into care, one being when I was sitting in an
19 armchair with my granddad, but that's all. I have since
20 learned that apparently a bottle of polish or something
21 exploded while I was sitting there and I got a burn on
22 my leg.

23 "My mother's brothers all lived in my grandparents'
24 house too and apparently they were cleaning the brass
25 buttons of their army uniforms and they left the cleaner

1 near the fire. It exploded and burned my left leg. Mum
2 later told me that when she looked at my leg she tried
3 to pull off what she thought was my nylon sock, but it
4 was actually my skin and she ripped it right off.

5 "My sister who stayed in the UK later told me that
6 we were all evacuated to Inverness near the end of the
7 war. When we came back to Edinburgh all the children
8 whose parents weren't at the railway station were
9 transported to the orphanages. Mum wasn't there to meet
10 us so that's where all of us except my eldest sister
11 went. She was 15 and she said she didn't want to go to
12 the orphanage, so she went down to England to get a job
13 instead.

14 "I have been shown a document that was provided to
15 the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry by the Good Shepherd
16 Sisters. It shows I was born at Aberdeen and that I was
17 admitted to the Good Shepherd Convent at Colinton in
18 Edinburgh in [REDACTED] 1947. That document also records
19 me as going to Australia on [REDACTED] 1949."

20 That document, my Lady, can be found at
21 GSH.001.001.0493:

22 "Apart from the fact that I was born in Edinburgh
23 and not Aberdeen, I don't believe the dates on that
24 document are correct. It was my belief that I went into
25 the Good Shepherd in 1945 when I was about 3. I also

1 know that I went to Australia when I was 5.

2 "All I really remember about the Good Shepherd is
3 walking around doing nothing because I had nobody to
4 play with. There was nobody else my age and all the
5 other kids were in school. I never went to school
6 because I was too young. It seemed like I was the only
7 person there sometimes and I don't even remember seeing
8 my sisters while I was there.

9 "I remember seeing my mother a couple of times when
10 she came to visit, but I don't know if we did anything
11 when she did. I don't remember much else at all.
12 I can't even remember the sisters who looked after us or
13 what they were like.

14 "I don't remember who spoke to me about going to
15 Australia or what was said. I was only 5 years old.

16 "I have provided the inquiry with a copy of my
17 migration form, which had been signed by my mother."

18 The migration form can be found at TUA.001.001.0021:

19 "There's also a form in the back that records that
20 I am healthy and bright and there is a reference to the
21 injury I got from when I was burned with the can of
22 polish exploding. I don't remember going to see
23 a doctor for any health checks or getting any
24 vaccinations.

25 "I have since learned that two of my older sisters

1 and my brother all went to Australia before me. I have
2 no recollection of leaving or if my mother or anyone
3 else was there to see me off. I know I had a case with
4 me when I left because I have since managed to get some
5 photographs but I don't know what was in it. I have no
6 memory of getting on the ship, which I have since found
7 out was called the Mooltan. I only have vague memories
8 of walking around the ship during the journey.

9 "I can't remember anything at all about who looked
10 after me or if there were other children being migrated
11 with me.

12 "The Mooltan arrived in Fremantle, Western Australia
13 in [REDACTED] 1949, just before I turned 6 years of age.

14 I have been shown a copy of the ship's manifest by the
15 inquiry, but I am not listed on it. That just shows how
16 inaccurate the records are because later I obtained
17 other records which confirmed I was on the Mooltan. To
18 me this just shows how the authorities didn't care.
19 I have provided a copy of these records to the inquiry.

20 "I learned later that I was supposed to have been
21 going to Adelaide, however my sister stopped it.
22 I found out that our mother wrote to my sister and told
23 her I was coming out to Australia and my sister made
24 a big fuss when she was told by the nuns that I was
25 going to Adelaide. Apparently my sister said she was

1 going to go to the newspapers if I didn't go to
2 St Joseph's at Subiaco, Western Australia where she and
3 my other sister were.

4 "Although I didn't know it at the time I found out
5 that before the Mooltan docked at Fremantle, I stopped
6 at Woodman Point, which is a headland a little to the
7 south of where the immigration department was. There
8 had been an outbreak of smallpox on the ship and anyone
9 getting off in Western Australia had to stay at
10 Woodman Point until it was clear.

11 "I think it was mostly men who got off there as well
12 as four or five kids who were all going to St Joseph's.
13 One was a little boy who was the same age as me and
14 there was a girl who was about the same age as my
15 sister. There was also a boy who was a lot older and
16 who went to Tardun. I don't know about the others, but
17 the little boy was also Scottish. I have a photograph
18 of everyone who was kept at Woodman Point.

19 "I have since obtained a copy of a letter that says
20 I had spots on my forehead and arms and they thought
21 I had smallpox. Another girl who was with her family
22 going to Sydney had grade 1 smallpox and they thought
23 I might have had it too. We were all put in a single
24 big room at Woodman Point and I went into quarantine
25 with her and a few others.

1 "I have a photograph of me which was taken by one of
2 the newspapers just as I was about to be moved to the
3 quarantine centre at Woodman Point. There is a man in
4 a uniform in the photo who's a quarantine master and was
5 about to take us in. I have provided a copy of this
6 photo to the inquiry.

7 "I was kept at Woodman Point for 17 days and I was
8 there over my sixth birthday. I have since found out
9 from an article in The Daily News newspaper that I was
10 cleared to leave Woodman Point in [REDACTED] 1949. All
11 I remember of my time there was that a doctor and nurse
12 used to put stuff on my face that used to sting.

13 "I don't remember leaving Woodman Point or who
14 I might have been picked up by. All I do know is that
15 when I left I went to St Joseph's Orphanage at Subiaco,
16 where my sisters were.

17 "I know that St Joseph's was run by the Sisters of
18 Mercy. The Mother Superior was LYB [REDACTED], who was
19 an old fat woman, and all the other staff were nuns as
20 well. Some of the older girls worked in the kitchen but
21 they were never in charge of the kids.

22 "I think there would have been a couple of hundred
23 children at St Joseph's and the nuns called us all by
24 our first names. All the older ones were girls but
25 there were some young boys in a foundling home and

1 kindergarten as well. There were also some elderly
2 people who stayed upstairs and had their own balcony.

3 "I don't remember my first day but I have since been
4 told that the nuns introduced me to my sisters. I don't
5 remember that or how we were introduced.

6 "The dormitories were upstairs, one for the older
7 children and another for the little ones, and beside all
8 the beds was a little locker. Because I had just turned
9 6, I went into the dormitory with the older girls. If
10 I'd still been 5 I would have gone to the foundling
11 dormitory.

12 "About 6 o'clock in the morning a bell was rung for
13 us to get up and we'd have to jump out of bed, put our
14 church clothes on, and make our beds. We would have to
15 help any little ones and then we would kneel at the
16 sides of our beds and say prayers. After that we would
17 go and clean our teeth with soap and use the toilet
18 before we headed to church.

19 "Once we came back from church we would have to
20 change into our day clothes and then go in single file
21 down to breakfast. Once we were all in the dining room
22 we would say grace before we sat down and ate. We would
23 have to keep quiet while we ate and then, after we had
24 finished, we had to say grace again.

25 "After breakfast we'd have to go and done jobs null

1 a bell running for us to go to school. We would all
2 line up and head off to school where we would say our
3 prayers again before we sat down and did our schoolwork.

4 "At bedtime we'd go upstairs, kneel down, and pray
5 at the sides of our beds and then we would clean our
6 teeth, put our pyjamas on, and go to bed.

7 "Any girl who wet the bed was put out to the
8 balcony, which was on the way to the toilets to sleep.
9 Whichever girl was the worst had to sleep right next to
10 the toilet. There were no curtains on the balcony, just
11 louvres.

12 "I don't know what happened to girls who had wet the
13 bed, although other girls used to talk about them.
14 I never wet the bed so I'm not sure what might have
15 happened.

16 "There was a bathroom downstairs on the ground floor
17 and we all had a bath every night. We would wash our
18 hair with soap and then the nuns would come round all
19 the sinks and put cloudy ammonia in the water to stop
20 nits. I used to pull the plug out slightly so the water
21 would drain away because I didn't want cloudy ammonia in
22 my hair. It was very strong stuff and the smell of it
23 went right up your nose.

24 "If the nuns saw you scratching your head at all
25 they'd sent you had up to their quarters and put

1 olive oil, which they used to make at the orphanage, on
2 your hair, and then cover your head with the top part of
3 their stockings. They'd tie the stockings in a knot and
4 you had to walk around like that for a couple of days to
5 get rid of the nits. They reckoned that the nits
6 wouldn't be able to move around and the mixture of olive
7 oil and your sweat would kill the nits.

8 "You always knew when somebody had nits because you
9 would see them with a stocking tied on their heads.
10 That happened to me and it was terrible.

11 "Eight girls sat at each table and as the food was
12 being served we had to hand up our plates and the food
13 would be slopped on. We could always work out what
14 we were going to get. It changed every day but it was
15 the same each day of the week.

16 "On Monday we would get red saveloy sausages and
17 we'd take the skins off to give to the dog who belonged
18 to the orphanage. The dog always used to come into the
19 dining room, although the nuns would try and boot him
20 out. He liked the skins and he would eat anything else
21 we didn't like that we were able to slip to him as well.

22 "There were slugs in cabbages and the potatoes were
23 never mashed properly. They all just got thrown in
24 a big pot with their skins still on, cooked and mashed,
25 but there were always lumps.

1 "There was never a sweet or coffee or water. At
2 night-time we would get tea that tasted terrible because
3 it had been the nuns' tea from the day before. They
4 would empty their tea pots in a big urn, fill it with
5 water from the hot water tap, and that's what we sued to
6 get. I don't drink tea anymore.

7 "I didn't know any better. I had come from one
8 orphanage to another. I remember there was girl who was
9 they thin and she hated the food. The nuns would make
10 her sit there at the table until she had finished her
11 food while all the other girls had gone back to school.

12 "We all had to wear horrible uniforms which weren't
13 very elegant. Most of the time we never wore shoes,
14 only when we went to church or when somebody important
15 came from the child welfare department.

16 "We always had a to wear a special dress to church
17 and when we came out of church we had to change back
18 into our day clothes when we got back to the
19 dormitories.

20 "There was a big laundry at St Joseph's and once
21 a week we had to change our clothes, which all went down
22 to the laundry.

23 "I wasn't very intelligent at school but I can
24 remember learning the times tables and writing. All the
25 schooling was done by the nuns and they taught from

1 grade 1 up to grade 7. Some of the nuns were all right,
2 but some were cruel.

3 "By the time I got to seventh grade, manual
4 typewriters were in and I was taught how to type.
5 Everybody got a sheet of poetry to type up and that's
6 how they taught us. I was put in a room on my own
7 because I think I was a little bit older than the
8 others. I just sat there for about a year doing all the
9 shorthand typing and I did that until it was time for me
10 to leave St Joseph's when I reached 16 or 17.

11 "We were never taught any life skills or anything to
12 equip us for adult life for when we left the orphanage.

13 "There was some leisure time after school when we
14 could play in the park, where there were some swings,
15 a roundabout and a seesaw. That was it. We made our
16 own fun. There were no toys or books.

17 "I have a burn scar on my leg from the tin of polish
18 exploding when I was a very small child at home. While
19 I was at the orphanage it used to break out in sores
20 every year. I was supposed to have had a skin graft
21 when I came out to Australia but I never did get one.

22 "The nuns did try and treat it and they would wash
23 and clean it, but all they did was make the burn bigger
24 and it never healed. I remember one year it wasn't
25 healing and a doctor was called to the orphanage and

1 told me that I had to get the sun on it. I was kept off
2 school and put on a bed on the balcony.

3 "I went to the Royal Perth Hospital but they said
4 they couldn't operate on my leg because the skin was so
5 thin. All the sores that I had been getting had been
6 damaging the leg even more. They gave me some
7 treatment, including some sort of black paint to put on
8 the burn. I was supposed to put it on my leg after
9 I was discharged, but I didn't want to walk around with
10 black paint on my leg so I didn't use it. I knew it
11 wasn't doing the right thing.

12 "The only time I saw a doctor was when a Dr Barker
13 used to come and see me for my leg. I don't ever
14 remember a dentist coming to the orphanage.

15 "Religious instruction was full on. When we got up
16 everything morning with the bell we had to say prayers.
17 When we went for a meal, we had to say prayers before we
18 sat down and again after we'd eaten. At school before
19 we sat down for class in the morning, we said more
20 prayers.

21 "We went to church for the rosary every morning and
22 benediction in the evening and we said the Stations of
23 the Cross every day. We were in church every Sunday and
24 on the first Sunday of every month we had to go into
25 church every hour and pray.

1 "We had to learn the catechism, a holy book, back to
2 front and the priest would ask us questions on it at
3 school. He would just pick out anybody in the class and
4 see what they knew. The majority of us would know the
5 answers anyway because we'd spent so long memorising it.

6 "Everybody was given chores to do, such as sweeping
7 the wooden floors upstairs and then waxing and polishing
8 them on our hand and knees. We also had to clean the
9 bathrooms and the basins and when I got a little older
10 I worked in the kitchen helping the cook and in the
11 laundry.

12 "Every Monday the older girls, including me when
13 I was about 13 or 14, used to spend the whole day in the
14 laundry. We never went to school on a Monday because
15 the clothing from all the nuns in the surrounding area
16 used to come to the orphanage and we'd have to launder
17 it.

18 "As well as their clothing we'd have to wash all the
19 sheets and pillowcases. We'd have all the sheets and
20 pillowcases to wash and hang out on the line.

21 "There were more chores to do after school. We had
22 to go up to the dormitories and take all the quilts off
23 the beds, fold them up, and make our beds ready for
24 night.

25 "For all the work we did, we never got any payment,

1 pocket money or treats. I didn't know what money or
2 lollies were.

3 "Birthdays were never celebrated and Christmas
4 wasn't much either. One year we got clothes for
5 Christmas, but they were gone when we came back from
6 church. If you got a toy for Christmas it was gone by
7 the time you woke up in the morning.

8 "Another year we were all given a toothbrush and
9 a little round tin of toothpaste for Christmas. It was
10 a big thing to get toothpaste, but after I put mine in
11 the locker beside my bed, it disappeared.

12 "After I was sent out to Australia, in 1953, my mum
13 emigrated as well and she came to visit me a couple of
14 times. My brother came to visit a couple of times as
15 well after he left the orphanage he had been put in.
16 When my brother came I just used to sit there because
17 I didn't know what to say to him. I didn't know him and
18 I didn't know what to talk about because I had never had
19 any communication with him.

20 "If any visitors came from the child welfare
21 department the nuns made us change out of our day
22 clothes and into our special dresses so we looked nice
23 and neat and tidy. I'm not sure whether they came once
24 a year or twice a year but they never spoke to any of us
25 children without the nuns being there anyway. You

1 wouldn't want to say too much with the nuns being there
2 because of consequences if you did.

3 " There is a five-year age gap between my sister and
4 I and we were lucky if we saw each other once a week
5 because the nuns kept the different age groups apart.

6 " I used to write to mum after she moved out to
7 Australia; I never did before because I was too young.

8 " My brother was a sheep-shearer so I never wrote to
9 him, but I wrote to my sisters as well once they left
10 the orphanage.

11 " On one special Sunday a month we were allowed to go
12 and visit our relatives if we had any. I would go and
13 see my mum on those Sundays and the nuns would give me
14 money to catch the train.

15 " When I was about 12, once my sisters left the
16 orphanage, I used to go and see them as well if I was
17 allowed out. I was also allowed to go to my sister's
18 wedding one day.

19 " You relied mostly on other girls for any emotional
20 support rather than the nuns. We all had our little
21 groups of friends and we would turn to each other.
22 I would hear about the other girls talking about having
23 their periods but the nuns never told us anything about
24 them. It was a shock when my periods started and
25 I didn't know who I could ask for turn to. I think

1 I told one of the other girls and one of the nuns got me
2 something to use.

3 "Although the nuns weren't all cruel, they were all
4 cold and uncaring. None of them ever showed any
5 affection towards us and I never saw a nun put her arm
6 around anybody.

7 "The cruel ones whose name I remember are

8 LYB [REDACTED] who was the Mother Superior,
9 Sister MDS [REDACTED] and Sister MEI [REDACTED], who was
10 horrible. She was shocking.

11 "LYB [REDACTED] had a big cane and would use it to
12 belt us when she wanted to discipline us. The number of
13 times we would get disciplined like that depended
14 whether we had been caught doing something wrong. If
15 you pinched something or swore, even if you just said
16 the word 'bloody', you would get whacked. It wasn't
17 just me; I saw other girls getting punished like that
18 too.

19 "If you did something wrong in class, the whole
20 class heard about it. They made you feel horrible in
21 front of the whole class, most of whom were your
22 friends. They would think that you were getting told
23 off because you couldn't keep up with something and
24 you'd feel like you were going to lose your friends. It
25 was never one on one; the whole school always heard

1 about it.

2 "I got it one night in the dormitory in front of
3 everybody. I had to put my hand out and one of the nuns
4 whacked me with her cane. My thumbs were really swollen
5 and sore, so much I wasn't able to write the next day.
6 I never received any medical attention either that time
7 or any other time I was punished.

8 "Another nun had a strap she used to hit the girls'
9 hands with as well. It was always our hands they hit,
10 nowhere else, although they did pull our ears sometimes.

11 "I participated in the Western Australia Redress
12 Scheme and detailed the abuse I suffered at St Joseph's
13 in my application. I described the beatings I received
14 from the nuns and the beatings I saw others being given.
15 I also described the sexual abuse I was subjected to by
16 my mum's partner. She took up with him after she moved
17 to Australia and he abused me when I went to visit on
18 a Sunday while I was still living at St Joseph's.

19 "I have provided a copy of my application for
20 redress to the inquiry and I can confirm that it is
21 a true and accurate account of my experiences."

22 A copy of that application can be found at
23 TUA.001.001.0032:

24 "I could never have told the police or anybody else
25 about either the physical or the sexual abuse

1 I suffered. I was too scared. My mother's partner had
2 told me not to tell anybody or he would leave my mum.

3 "I was 16 or 17 when I left St Joseph's. The nuns
4 got me a job working in a bakery. At first I used to
5 have to travel from St Joseph's to the bakery, which was
6 in South Perth. I had to get the bus from St Joseph's
7 into central Perth and then catch another bus to take me
8 to South Perth. I did that for about a year before they
9 found me somewhere to live that was closer to the
10 bakery.

11 "When I was working at the bakery and still living
12 at St Joseph's I had to hand over all my wages to the
13 nuns. I wasn't allowed to keep any money, so every
14 morning I had to wait for one of the nuns to walk along
15 the veranda and give me money to catch the bus.

16 "The job itself was admin work and consisted of
17 writing down what bread and rolls the bakers had dropped
18 to people's homes and making a bill out for each
19 customer at the end of the week.

20 "I stayed in the lodgings the nuns got me near the
21 bakery for a couple of years and carried on working
22 there until I decided I wanted to do something else.
23 I got another job in an office and I did that until
24 I got married in 1965 when I had just turned 22. That
25 was my first marriage and we had two girls together.

1 "In all that time after I left the orphanage I never
2 heard from the nuns or the child welfare department
3 again. There was no help or support from them at all.

4 "I didn't see my brother for some time, although
5 we have since been in contact. I think he went into the
6 bush and then ended up in New South Wales. I still keep
7 in touch with my sisters and we are all close. I was
8 godmother to my sister's first child.

9 "I have never reported or spoken about what happened
10 to me to anyone other than Dr Philippa White of
11 Tuart Place, who helped me fill out my Redress Western
12 Australia application. Other than speaking to her,
13 I have never had any other counselling or support.

14 "I find Tuart Place to be very good. My sister and
15 I regularly come down to different things, including
16 craft work on a Thursday. I love it.

17 "I think I would find some extra form of support
18 useful. Sometimes you really need to talk and I think
19 some kind of counselling would be good.

20 "I got a lot of my records from the National
21 Archives office at Victoria Park in Perth, including
22 a copy of a document of identity from 1949, just before
23 I sailed to Australia. I also have copies of a letter
24 from the Catholic Migration Office to the director of
25 migration about me going to St Joseph's instead of

1 Adelaide and saying that my name wasn't on the list.

2 "Another letter mentions the spots that I had on my
3 arms and forehead when I arrived in Australia and that
4 I was put into quarantine with the girl who had the
5 grade 1 smallpox. Years later I met up with her and
6 I have a copy of a story that was in one of the
7 newspapers, The Daily News, about it.

8 "I now have copies of both my birth certificate and
9 an extract that I got from the child welfare department.
10 I think the nuns must have had my birth certificate and
11 they gave it to them.

12 "Child welfare also gave me a copy of my baptism
13 certificate and some health records which mention my
14 going to the Royal Perth Hospital for treatment for the
15 burn on my leg when I was 14.

16 "I stayed in contact with my mother in Australia
17 until she died in 1963 when she was 53 years old.
18 I never knew I had another sister in the UK until
19 Margaret Humphreys of the Child Migrants Trust found her
20 in the mid-1980s. We made contact and stayed in touch
21 and, in 1997, my husband and I went over to meet her
22 where she lived in England. It was very emotional
23 seeing her, her husband and her two daughters. We
24 stayed in touch, but she died in 2001.

25 "My husband and I went back a couple of times after

1 that, when we went to her funeral in England and another
2 time as well. We also went up to Scotland and met some
3 of my extended family there. It was lovely meeting them
4 and we are still in contact.

5 "We paid for our first trip over ourselves, but the
6 other two were paid for through the Child Migrant Trust
7 by the Family Restoration Fund.

8 "I have tried to find my younger sister who was
9 adopted out, but I can't. Scottish laws don't allow any
10 information of adopted children to be given out.

11 "I have never received an apology from the Sisters
12 of Mercy or any other person regarding my migration to
13 Australia as a child or the abuse that I suffered.

14 "As a result of participating in the Redress
15 Western Australia Scheme, I received a payment of
16 AU\$45,000. I have not been involved in any other
17 inquiries or commissions. To me my time in care has
18 been one of the things that I didn't want to drag up all
19 over again.

20 "I'm not sure when, but some time in the early
21 1990s, my sister told me she wanted to become an
22 Australian, so we both applied for citizenship together.
23 We had to pay \$85 for it, although I didn't see why we
24 should have had to. I hold an Australian passport but
25 I consider myself a Scot. I now receive an Australian

1 pension and I am able to access different welfare
2 benefits if I was ever to require them.

3 "I detail in my Redress Western Australia
4 application the impact my time in the orphanages and the
5 abuse I've suffered has had on me. I have not had
6 a very happy time. The burn on my left leg was never
7 treated properly while I was in the orphanages and
8 I have continued to have problems with my leg since.

9 "I don't know what response there should be to all
10 the child migrants. I'm glad that there is now an
11 inquiry and that somebody is at last helping us.

12 "I hope that giving evidence to the inquiry helps
13 make sure that children in care today are safer.

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

18 The statement is signed by Trish on 15 August 2019.

19 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

20 MS RATTRAY: My Lady, I understand there's one more read-in.

21 LADY SMITH: Yes, please, thank you.

22 Witness statement of "HELEN" (read)

23 MS MACLEOD: The next read-in is the statement of an
24 applicant who wishes to remain anonymous and to use the
25 pseudonym "Helen". It can be found at WIT.001.002.4837:

1 "My name is Helen. I was born in 1938. My contact
2 details are known to the inquiry.

3 "I was born in the Springburn area of Glasgow.
4 I lived with my mother, father and older sister, who was
5 four years older than me. I know from my sister that
6 I also had a younger brother. He was about 4 years
7 younger than me, but I don't remember him at that time.
8 I wouldn't meet him until after I had been in care in
9 Australia.

10 "My mother was very sick after my brother was born.
11 She was on her own and my father was away to the war.
12 I think that may have been a reason why my sister and me
13 were taken away and eventually put into care in
14 Edinburgh.

15 "I remember going to a lot of different places for
16 evacuees during the war. I was always with my sister at
17 all of these places.

18 "My sister went into care before me. She went to
19 the Good Shepherd Orphanage at Colinton in Edinburgh.
20 After this I fretted and cried until eventually I was
21 allowed to go there as well.

22 "I was taken in a double decker to the home in
23 Colinton. I hadn't had any contact with my mum and dad
24 when it was decided I would join my sister.

25 "When I arrived at Colinton, my sister came running

1 along the passageway to meet me. After this we were
2 never split up again.

3 "I was very happy at Colinton, there weren't any
4 issues and no abuse. It was all girls at the home.
5 There was little family groups of children. These
6 weren't just siblings. It might have been just to give
7 children a feeling of being in a family group. The home
8 was well ahead of its time doing things this way.

9 The convent was run by the Good Shepherd nuns and
10 Mother Teresa was in charge of the orphanage. I don't
11 remember the names of any of the other nuns.

12 "There was older women that worked in the laundry.
13 They would look after us as well. The nuns were lovely.
14 They were all very gentle with the children. All the
15 children loved it there. It felt very secure.

16 "We were in small dormitories. These were different
17 from what we would have when I went to Australia. My
18 sister was in the dormitory with me.

19 "The food was good. The nuns grew things at the
20 back of the convent. We were allowed to pick fruit.

21 "We were allowed to pay in the dell near to the home
22 with our friends from school and the local area. I also
23 used to go to the Brownies. We would go out on trips
24 quite a lot. I don't remember the places we went to but
25 we were always outdoors.

1 "I went to St Cuthbert's Primary School in
2 Slateford Road. I would get the bus to school in the
3 morning and then back to the home after it was finished.
4 I never had any problems at school, I really liked it.
5 I think I had done pretty well there.

6 "I wasn't with my sister at school as she went to
7 college.

8 "I don't remember having to see a doctor or
9 a dentist.

10 "I would go to Mass at the convent. The nuns would
11 sing and I would feel an inner peace. I took on
12 religion quite seriously at that time.

13 "The nuns would always make Christmas special.
14 There was always a nice meal and games. I don't
15 remember my birthdays at the convent.

16 "I remember my dad visited me a couple of times.
17 I have a memory of going out with him and being on his
18 shoulders. At that time my father was still in the
19 army. He would wear his uniform when he came to the
20 convent. My mother never visited. I would find out
21 when I was older that my mother had been put into
22 hospital, although I didn't know this then.

23 "I think that I must have had visits from the social
24 work. I don't remember who it was that came to see me.
25 Someone came to the orphanage and did a presentation to

1 us about Australia. I can't remember the details. At
2 the end of the presentation we were asked who wanted to
3 go to Australia. I put my hand up.

4 "I forgot about it until a year later when I was
5 told that I would be going to Australia. I was told
6 that I would be going to a foster family. There was no
7 mention about going to a convent. I can't remember if
8 it was the nuns or the people that gave us the
9 presentation who told us that we would be fostered.

10 "At this time I never thought that I would be going
11 and not coming back. I assumed that I was going there
12 for something like a holiday and then I would return
13 home.

14 "There was no contact with our parents. I don't
15 know if my mother and father were contacted about us
16 going to Australia. My father wouldn't have signed
17 anything that meant we weren't coming back.

18 "I was given a medical before I left. My eyesight
19 and other things like that were checked. I think it was
20 a general health check.

21 "I was 9 years old when I left. I actually had my
22 10th birthday on the ship. I was given a suitcase and
23 clothes before leaving for Australia. I remember
24 we were pretty excited about going. There were seven of
25 us from Colinton that were travelling together. It was

1 me, my sister and five other girls.

2 "I don't recall the trip between Scotland and the
3 port. I remember that we left from Tilbury Docks in
4 London in [REDACTED] 1948. There was a priest there and
5 two female chaperones. There was only one of the
6 chaperones who got on the ship with us. I don't
7 remember any other migrant children being on the ship.
8 I think that it was only the seven of us."

9 My Lady, a document at BEW.001.001.0549 confirms
10 that the ship on which Helen sailed, sailed on
11 [REDACTED] 1948. A document at NAA.001.001.0167 is the
12 passenger list of the ship, the Ormonde, which arrived
13 at Fremantle on [REDACTED] 1949. Helen is listed there
14 among the passengers, with her address given as "The
15 Sisters of Charity, Adelaide":

16 "The ship was the SS Ormonde. I had never been on
17 a ship before. The only thing that I remember about the
18 journey was that I got the measles and I was very ill.
19 I know that the ship stopped at the Suez Canal, but
20 I didn't get off.

21 "When the ship arrived at Fremantle Australia
22 we were taken to the Mercy Convent for a couple of hours
23 before going back to the ship. When we left Fremantle
24 we sailed on to Adelaide.

25 "After leaving the ship we went to convent at

1 Goodwood, which is a suburb of Adelaide. I don't
2 remember the journey from the ship to the convent.
3 I was thinking, why are we here? I was expecting my new
4 foster parents to be there to meet me. When I saw the
5 convent, I thought it may be just a brief stop, the same
6 as Fremantle.

7 "When we arrived at St Vincent de Paul's Orphanage,
8 it seemed so bleak. It was not a welcoming place. I
9 was devastated when I realised this was where I would
10 now be staying. I cried for about a week.

11 "When we had left Scotland it had been snowing and
12 cold. At Goodwood, the heat was really unbearable.
13 There were no fans or anything to cool you down.

14 "The nuns met us when we arrived. It was the
15 Sisters of Mercy who ran this place. This was the same
16 order as Fremantle. Their habit was different from the
17 nuns at the Good Shepherd. They wore mainly black.
18 This was a stark difference to Colinton. The nuns there
19 wore a cream-coloured habit.

20 "We had come from a country where the climate was
21 very different to Australia. Here it was very hot and
22 humid and it was very different to Scotland. I found it
23 difficult to deal with this change.

24 "The Mother Superior told us about the rules. Even
25 though it was very hot, the atmosphere in the convent

1 was very cold.

2 "We were all given a number. I think my number was
3 █ and my sister's was █. This was what you were
4 called by. The number related to everything. It was
5 stitched on to your clothes. It was all very
6 regimented, much like being in a prison.

7 "It was girls only at the convent. There was
8 a mixture of migrants and girls from Australia. There
9 was sometimes a bit of trouble between the groups. In
10 total there were about 90 girls in the home.

11 "I never felt happy at the orphanage. I went from
12 a place where I had been really happy to loathing the
13 place I now stayed. I think I realised very quickly
14 I wouldn't be leaving that home any time soon to go into
15 foster care.

16 "The dormitories were upstairs. I was in a huge
17 dormitory with a whole lot of other girls. There was
18 a nun in charge of each dormitory. The younger girls
19 were on one side and the older ones on the other side.

20 "You had to queue up for your clothing at the
21 laundry. There was an older English girl there who
22 worked in the laundry. She would dish out the clothing
23 to you. For some reason this girl didn't like me. She
24 tried to give me clothes which didn't fit. When one of
25 the nuns heard the commotion she told the girl not to

1 treat me in that way.

2 "You got up every morning at 7 am. Sister MJW
3 MJW would come in reciting the Bible to wake us up.
4 The first thing was to kneel at the side of the bed and
5 do your prayers. After this, you got washed and
6 dressed. When you made your bed, it had to be done in
7 a certain way.

8 "My sister used to wet my hair and then put it up to
9 curl it with a brush. One morning Sister MJW
10 came in when she was doing this. She grabbed the brush
11 from my sister and went to hit me and her. My sister
12 grabbed the brush from her and said, 'Don't you dare hit
13 my sister.' Sister MJW backed off and didn't
14 try this again.

15 "You lined up in the dining room and walked in
16 together for your meals. It wasn't nice. Before you
17 went into the dining room you were given Epsom salts.
18 I think this was for your bowel movements. It was
19 porridge for breakfast every morning, I didn't like it.

20 "For the other meals there was stew, which was very
21 watery, the tapioca was also horrible. The punishment
22 for not eating your meals was usually to go and stand
23 somewhere.

24 "One of my friends, who was Australian, used to wet
25 the bed regularly. The nuns would make her stand in the

1 bathroom, which had a marble floor. She was made to put
2 the sheet over her head when she was doing this. It was
3 freezing in the bathroom. The mattress was taken off
4 the bed to dry and my friend was then made to sleep on
5 the bed springs. This happened quite a lot. It was
6 very cruel. Nobody tried to find out what was wrong
7 with my friend. She ended up having to go to hospital
8 and had her spleen removed. She nearly died.

9 "There was a great big bathroom with sinks on each
10 side. There was no toothpaste and you had to use soap.
11 I would use just water. It seemed so primitive and
12 horrible.

13 "There was one nun, Sister Claire, who I thought was
14 better than the others. She would show us how to make
15 toffee and other sorts of homely things. Sister Claire
16 also started to coach the basketball team.

17 "Sister Claire was strict and a bit of
18 a disciplinarian. On the odd occasion I had a hiding
19 from her. This would be if I'd done something wrong.
20 Despite this, she was fair with all the girls.

21 "Sister Claire came to the orphanage after we
22 arrived. She was actually very good with the girls.
23 She would try and get us toothbrushes and places for our
24 personal possessions. I think that she got a bit of
25 flak from the other nuns for trying to help us.

1 "The orphanage was very different to Scotland where
2 we could go out and socialise with our friends. There
3 was no Brownies or getting the bus to school. It was
4 a total institution.

5 "The school was within the orphanage. The nuns
6 would teach you even though they weren't qualified.
7 I used to help some of the younger girls who had
8 problems with their reading. I regret that the
9 education I had in Scotland didn't continue at Goodwood.

10 "My sister was taken out of school even though she
11 was only 14. She was made to work in the front parlour
12 so that it was nice for visitors. She also had to do
13 some cleaning. This meant that she had to miss out on
14 her schooling.

15 "The Mother Superior would visit the school. She
16 would ask who wanted to be a nun. The nuns tried to
17 groom my sister into becoming a nun. They said she
18 would get an education if she became a nun.

19 "Sister Claire taught me shorthand, bookkeeping and
20 typing skills. This would help me when I left the
21 convent.

22 "Sister ^{MJW} [REDACTED] taught drama, art and singing.
23 Despite how Sister ^{MJW} [REDACTED] was with us in the
24 dormitory, I enjoyed these classes. It gave me a love
25 of music in later life.

1 "I never had to see a doctor other than for normal
2 check-ups. I also went to the dentist regularly. We
3 had to be taken to the dentist; there wasn't one at the
4 convent.

5 "The nuns were paid for trying strings together for
6 the butchers. They didn't do the work, it was us who
7 had to do this. It was also used as a punishment by the
8 nuns. If you did something wrong they might make you do
9 a 100 bundles of string. This was in addition to what
10 you would normally do. I have bad arthritis in my hands
11 now. I think this is as a result of tying all the
12 strings.

13 "There was a doctor and his wife who stayed next to
14 the convent. I went there to do cleaning. I wasn't
15 paid for doing the work.

16 "During the Christmas holidays we would go to stay
17 with Catholic families. My sister and I would not go to
18 the same families. I enjoyed Christmas, it was a good
19 experience for me staying with the different families.

20 "When my sister was staying with the [REDACTED] family,
21 Mrs [REDACTED] would allow her to play the piano. Mrs [REDACTED]
22 had a sister who was a nun. They were still trying to
23 get my sister to become one. My sister was told that if
24 she became a nun then she would be allowed to teach the
25 piano. She always resisted.

1 "Mrs [REDACTED] went to the convent and told them that
2 they had to let my sister leave as she didn't want to be
3 a nun. She said if they didn't, she would make the
4 archbishop aware. My sister was lucky that she had the
5 [REDACTED] looking out for her. I was glad she was able to
6 get away from the convent when she did.

7 "After my sister left, she went and stayed with the
8 [REDACTED]. She started to work with the water board. She
9 stayed with the [REDACTED] until she was married.

10 "My sister still came and visited me regularly. She
11 was working locally so it wasn't too difficult to visit.

12 "At some point there were visitors at the convent
13 from either England or Scotland. They were there to
14 check how the kids were getting on. We never got the
15 opportunity to speak to them. The nuns would have knew
16 in advance they were coming. This meant that everything
17 would be fine for the visit.

18 "At some point I was told by one of the nuns that my
19 mum and dad were dead. I just believed this. I thought
20 it must be right as that's why we had been in an
21 orphanage. I just felt that everyone had deserted us.

22 "The head nun, ^{MJY} [REDACTED], was pretty brutal.
23 If you did something wrong you would be sent to her and
24 she would give you the strap.

25 "I saw some of the older migrant girls being

1 punished. They had run away. When they were brought
2 back to the orphanage, the nun in charge gathered
3 everyone together. She made an example of the girls.
4 She hit them with the strap on the back and the
5 buttocks. It was horrible.

6 " There was a lawyer who would hand in fruit to the
7 nuns. He told Sister Claire he was looking for
8 a junior. Sister Claire said that she had just the
9 person for this. I went to his office for an interview.
10 I was successful and started as the lawyer's
11 receptionist.

12 " I was able to leave the orphanage and I found some
13 accommodation. My friend from the orphanage came to
14 stay with me as well.

15 " When I left the orphanage, there was no
16 preparation. I think I left with virtually what I was
17 standing in.

18 " At the lawyer's office, the wages were good. I was
19 given a pay rise every year. I was treated as an equal.

20 " I used to keep in touch with Sister Claire right
21 through to when my daughter was born. It was like
22 a friendship as she was the one who put me on the road
23 to my first job.

24 " When I was young, I moved around a bit before
25 travelling abroad for about a year. I then returned to

1 Adelaide. It was the first time I had been there for
2 about five and a half years.

3 "I started moving around again and eventually
4 arrived in Perth, Western Australia. I met my
5 daughter's father and the travelling stopped. We were
6 engaged but never married. We split up before my
7 daughter was born.

8 "After this, it was just me and my daughter. My
9 daughter is the best thing that ever happened to me.
10 She means so much to me.

11 "My sister met Margaret Humphreys from the Child
12 Migrants Trust when she visited Australia. That was how
13 I got involved with the trust. This is when I started
14 to become aware of other child migrants who had come to
15 Australia. I think that what Margaret Humphreys has
16 done for child migrants is just amazing. A lot of
17 people were unaware of child migrants until the
18 Australian inquiry started.

19 "There have been a lot of benefits for me from going
20 to the Child Migrants Trust by speaking to them. I felt
21 that someone was listening to me. They understood what
22 I had been through.

23 "The Child Migrants Trust asked me to go to Britain
24 and hear the apology from the Prime Minister,
25 Gordon Brown. There was a group of us that travelled

1 there. I felt that it was a very sincere and moving
2 apology. There was a depth to what he was saying.

3 " My sister would tell me when we were younger that
4 we had a brother. She remembered him being taken away
5 in a shawl to foster parents when we were very young.
6 He was four years younger than me. In the 1960s my
7 brother was getting married. It was then he found out
8 about me and my sister. He used a lawyer and managed to
9 track us down in Australia. It was a few years before
10 my brother got in contact with me and sister in
11 Australia. It wasn't until 1989 that I eventually met
12 my brother and his wife.

13 " In the late 1950s my sister tried to find out about
14 her family back in Scotland. She was sent a letter by
15 a lawyer and informed that her father had been looking
16 for us. He wouldn't have done this if he knew we were
17 in Australia. She also found out that our mother was
18 still alive but was in hospital. Our father had tried
19 to get her out of hospital but he wasn't allowed to.
20 This was a shock to me that our father was still alive.
21 My sister tried to find out more information but
22 couldn't get any until years later.

23 " In the 1960s, my sister found out where our mother
24 was in Glasgow. I think it might have been our auntie
25 and uncle who told us where she was. They had never

1 visited her. I couldn't forgive them for that.

2 "Myself and my sister travelled to Scotland to see
3 our mother in hospital. It was actually an institution
4 with locked doors. It was very traumatic as mother kept
5 repeating 'Where have they taken the children?' She
6 didn't recognise or remember us. I thought she looked
7 a lot like my sister. I wanted to have a conversation
8 with my mother, I wanted to tell her how much I loved
9 her. Somehow I just couldn't do it. My heart went out
10 to her. She must have suffered with no one there for
11 her. I just wanted to hold her.

12 "My sister and her husband asked about taking mum
13 back to Australia. We thought that would be good for
14 her, but we weren't allowed to. Mum wasn't well enough.

15 "Apparently, when my sister went back with our
16 brother to get family photographs, they weren't there.
17 She was told by the staff that there hadn't been any.
18 My sister knew there had been some as they were in her
19 little cabinet; she had seen them there on a previous
20 visit.

21 "My mother died from cancer in the 1980s. She was
22 79. If we had received proper support and information
23 from the Catholic Church or Federal Government, then we
24 might have been able to reunite properly with our mother
25 before we did. I have managed to recover some records

1 and letters about my time in care. This was only very
2 recently I received these documents from the records
3 office in Adelaide. The documents didn't have very much
4 information in them. There is a document in relation to
5 me going to Australia. This letter was written by
6 Father Rattigan. It is signed by him and my father.
7 It is permission for me to go to Australia. I don't
8 think my father would have signed this. I have looked
9 at the letter and it seems that the writing by
10 Father Rattigan is the same as my father's signature."

11 That document is at NAA.001.001.1487:

12 "The other records that I have seen are not
13 detailed. They don't appear to be transparent. Anyone
14 could have written what has been recorded. There were
15 no records about my parents.

16 "When my father came back from the war, my mother
17 was in a hospital. She was treated as being insane.
18 I can't imagine what all this would have done to my
19 father.

20 "When I was in care, I thought that my date of birth
21 was a particular date and month in 1939. It was only
22 when I got my records that I found it was a different
23 date and month in 1938."

24 At BEW56 there is a letter from Helen dated 1958
25 when she was 19, looking for information about her

1 parents, and "whether they were killed in the war or are
2 still living".

3 In the letter she says that she remembers seeing her
4 father in an army uniform when she was tiny.

5 "I think Great Britain and Australia have been
6 extremely culpable for what transpired in relation to us
7 being sent to Australia. It was clear there was an
8 agreement between the governments. The Australian
9 Government wanted to populate the country with white
10 stock. The British Government wanted rid of their poor.
11 I have found out that there was a lot of talk at the
12 time about us being imbeciles. Our identities were
13 taken away from us.

14 "It wasn't just very traumatic for me and my sister,
15 it was traumatic for our mother and father. I was happy
16 in Scotland but my family were taken away from me. They
17 robbed myself and my sister of our childhood and our
18 heritage. I have never had any ill-feeling towards my
19 mother and father. I don't believe they were party to
20 the decision for us to go to Australia. They must have
21 suffered. Being a mother myself, I can only imagine
22 what it must have done to my mother and father.

23 "As a result of all the suffering, there should be
24 compensation for the families from both the Australian
25 and British governments. The governments should also

1 understand that any monetary measures will not undo the
2 heartache and sadness that was our lot. I don't think
3 that the Australian Government has ever really
4 acknowledged the child migrants. I think they would
5 rather forget about it.

6 "I had no problems obtaining an Australian passport.
7 The only issue was that the records showed my surname
8 spelt incorrectly. I eventually became an Australian
9 citizen. When I did this, you could become an
10 Australian even though you were a British citizen.
11 There was an agreement between the governments for this
12 to happen. Years later, this changed. It no longer
13 automatically happened.

14 "I still see myself as a Scottish citizen. I feel
15 very strongly about this and see Scotland as my home.

16 "I protect my daughter like my sister used to
17 protect me. My sister had a tremendous burden to bear
18 when we were in care in Australia. She acted like
19 a mother to me.

20 "I like to think I have a certain amount of
21 stability because of my background. I don't let life
22 pull me down. I am much stronger for it. I am fiercely
23 independent. My time in care left me without faith. I
24 make up my own mind about things now. I have my own
25 opinions on issues and I won't be dictated to.

1 "I feel that as a result of being a child migrant,
2 I was robbed of my heritage and nationality. This is
3 something that has always stayed with me. I feel very
4 strongly about this. I am so grateful my sister was
5 with me in Australia. She took so much on to help me.
6 I can't think how I would have managed without her. She
7 was definitely like a mother to me.

8 "I think that countries need to view the child
9 migration scheme as a large injustice they facilitated.
10 They really need to think of the enormity of it and how
11 it impacted on every one of us. The countries involved
12 need to hear about the individual traumas that children
13 suffered as a result of the scheme. It is not enough to
14 say it was because of the times and use that as an
15 excuse.

16 "I think that the welfare institutions of the time
17 when I was put into care should also be held
18 accountable. They looked on poor families in a way that
19 was not acceptable. They thought they could do with
20 what you they wanted. It was such a huge thing taking
21 you away from your parents without any consideration
22 about how you felt or your parents' feelings. I have
23 such a deep sadness for what happened to me and my
24 sister.

25 "There has to be an accountability and acceptance

1 from the institutions that things happened. It is also
2 not acceptable to say that it was just because of what
3 happened in the times then.

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

8 The statement was signed by Helen on 20 March 2019.

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

10 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, that concludes the evidence for today
11 and for this week.

12 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

13 MS MACLEOD: On Tuesday we have two witnesses lined up, the
14 first appearing by video link at 10.00. I should also
15 say that we're not planning to sit on Wednesday next
16 week. We're back for Thursday and Friday.

17 LADY SMITH: So the next witness, as we say, Tuesday
18 morning. It's a video link, but it's not one of the
19 early ones, it's a 10 o'clock in the morning video.
20 I wish you all a good weekend and I'll see you next
21 week. Thank you.

22 (3.15 pm)

23 (The inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am
24 on Tuesday, 3 March 2020)

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"TRISH" (sworn)1

 Questions from MS MacLEOD2

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