

1 Wednesday, 4 December 2019

2 (8.00 am)

3 (Proceedings delayed)

4 (8.38 am)

5 LADY SMITH: Good morning. Can I add my apologies to those
6 that have already been tendered for the delayed start.
7 There was absolutely nothing we could do about it and
8 we have moved things as fast as we can to enable the
9 hearing room to get up and running.

10 I'm anxious to make progress with the witness who's
11 been so patiently waiting a long way away from here in
12 Australia, so unless there are any other preliminaries,
13 Mr MacAulay, I think we're ready to go. Is that right?

14 MR MacAULAY: I think so, my Lady. Perhaps two points:
15 there will be a fire alarm at 9 o'clock and the other
16 point is that there will not be a continuous transcript
17 because of the difficulties we've been having.

18 LADY SMITH: Yes.

19 The next witness?

20 MR MacAULAY: The next witness is an applicant, he wants to
21 remain anonymous and to use the name "Harry" in giving
22 evidence.

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

24 Harry, you should be able to see me on the screen
25 now, I hope. Good morning.

1 THE WITNESS: I can see you.

2 LADY SMITH: Good morning from here and good afternoon to
3 you.

4 I'm Lady Smith and I chair the Child Abuse Inquiry
5 here in Edinburgh. Let me begin by apologising to you
6 for the delay we've had; I think it has been explained
7 to you that there had been a power cut in the locality
8 here earlier today.

9 THE WITNESS: No worries.

10 LADY SMITH: We got the hearing room up and running as fast
11 as we could.

12 I don't want to delay any longer because I know that
13 you've already been twiddling your thumbs for long
14 enough and you'll want to get this finished. So if
15 you're ready to start your evidence, what I would like
16 to do is begin by putting you on oath. Is that all
17 right?

18 THE WITNESS: Yes.

19 "HARRY" (sworn) (via video link)

20 Questions from MR MacAULAY

21 LADY SMITH: You may have heard Mr Macaulay explain that at
22 about 9 o'clock our time, that's in about 20 minutes,
23 there will be a fire alarm sounding. We can't stop that
24 happening. It's a fire alarm that goes off to test the
25 whole building on a Wednesday each week. It doesn't

1 last for very long, but we'll just stop questioning you
2 during that, so don't worry, it won't mean that you've
3 done anything wrong. All right?

4 A. Okay.

5 LADY SMITH: If you're ready, I'll hand over to Mr Macaulay.

6 A. I'm ready now, young lady. Go for it.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much for that.

8 Mr MacAulay, when you're ready.

9 MR MacAULAY: Harry, how are you today?

10 A. Bloody good and ready to go.

11 Q. You have in front of you your statement; is that right?

12 A. Yes, young fella, I have.

13 Q. I'm going to give the reference for the transcript:

14 WIT.001.002.6578. Can you confirm that you have signed
15 the statement?

16 A. Yes, the one in front of me.

17 Q. Do you tell us in the statement that you have no
18 objection to the witness statement being published as
19 part of the evidence to the inquiry? Is that correct?

20 A. No worries, young fella, no.

21 Q. Do you also say that you believe the facts set out
22 in the statement are true?

23 A. Yes. 100% true, young fella, of course.

24 Q. I don't want your date of birth, but can you confirm
25 that you were born in 1945?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. You tell us in the statement, Harry, that you don't
3 remember anything in fact about your life before you
4 went into care; is that correct?

5 A. Bloody true and (inaudible: distorted).

6 Q. Do you now know you first went into care in Carlisle?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And then you were moved to Nazareth House in Aberdeen;
9 is that right?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. We know from records that we have looked at that that is
12 likely to have been in [REDACTED] 1950 when you were aged
13 about 5.

14 A. That'd be correct, young fella, yes.

15 Q. I think you left Aberdeen to go to Australia in
16 [REDACTED] 1952 when you were 7 years of age.

17 A. Yes, true.

18 Q. Can I just ask you a little bit about your time in
19 Aberdeen? What was life like for you in Nazareth House,
20 so far as you can remember?

21 A. Well, young fella, I was only a young 'un then, but
22 I remember a big fat nun. She was not very tall, but
23 just as tall as round, and she used to belt the hell out
24 of you.

25 I used to [REDACTED] pretty bad and hang my head

1 because I couldn't [REDACTED] because I had [REDACTED]
2 with [REDACTED] and she used to belt the hell out of me
3 for [REDACTED] all the time I remember that. That's the
4 only one I remember about, that particular nun. The
5 rest I don't remember very much about so they must have
6 been kind to me.

7 Q. When you say she belted you, was it a belt she used when
8 she hit you?

9 A. Yes. If you understand, it was about 4 inches wide and
10 she had it around her belly and she used to hang a cross
11 off with the rosary beads, a big cross hanging down.
12 She used to take that and undo it and belt you with it.

13 Q. Is that really your main recollection from your time in
14 Nazareth House?

15 A. That's all I remember, yes, just being belted all the
16 time because I [REDACTED].

17 Q. We know from records that you travelled to Australia on
18 a ship called the SS Ormonde and left on [REDACTED] 1952;
19 is that about right?

20 A. You're correct, yes.

21 Q. What do you remember about being asked about Australia?
22 Were you asked whether you wanted to go? What was the
23 position?

24 A. To be honest with you, young fella, I was only a little
25 (inaudible: distorted), and if I was, I couldn't

1 remember that. All I was told was I was going to
2 Australia to have a new life. I remember that.

3 Q. Who --

4 A. We thought it was fun.

5 Q. Who told you that?

6 A. One of the carers who was looking after us. I don't
7 know who he was at the time; I was too young to know his
8 name. I think the nuns told us, a couple of the nuns
9 said, "You're going to Australia for a new life".

10 Q. When you came to leave Aberdeen, were there other
11 children with you?

12 A. Yes, there was a lot of us come to Australia.

13 Q. And how many? Can you remember how many from Aberdeen?

14 A. Not really, young fella. I'll be honest with you, no.
15 There was a few of us. There was about five or six on
16 the boat that came from Aberdeen and that's all I know.

17 Q. When you left Aberdeen, what possessions did you take
18 with you?

19 A. We had a suitcase. We had a pair of shoes and we were
20 dressed up like little pommy kids, with a heavy suit,
21 because it was cold when we left (inaudible: distorted).

22 Q. And the ship you sailed on, the Ormonde, what was that
23 like?

24 A. We were little kids, we thought it was stunning, it was
25 like a holiday, going on a boat, you know. We were only

1 little kids. Some kids got sick. I think there was
2 1,000 kids all in all on that boat, from memory, and we
3 went through the Suez Canal, and the funny little people
4 with baskets (inaudible: distorted) and they were
5 swapping things and we thought that was fun. We were
6 only kids.

7 Q. You arrived at Fremantle in Western Australia, according
8 to the records, on [REDACTED] 1952. So you were at
9 sea for about two months; is that about correct?

10 A. Eight weeks, near enough, yes.

11 Q. When you arrived at Fremantle, were there
12 Christian Brothers waiting to pick you up?

13 A. Yes. Because we were only young, we went to Castledare
14 Boys' Home and there were other kids with us and some of
15 the other kids were a bit older and they went to
16 Clontarf, Bindoon and Christian Brothers Tardun.

17 Q. But you went to Castledare?

18 A. I went to Castledare because I was young.

19 Q. How did you travel there?

20 A. On the back of a truck. It was great fun.

21 Q. How many were in your group going to Castledare?

22 A. Roughly, 15, 20 kids at the time.

23 Q. Can you just describe the location for me? What was
24 Castledare like? Can you give me a picture of it?

25 A. Castledare was like a big farm. It was about 400 acres.

1 It had big dormitories and a big dining room. It had a
2 picture hall, a big church, and plenty of room to play
3 around.

4 Q. And it was run by the Christian Brothers; is that right?

5 A. It was run by the Christian Brothers. Pretty tough.

6 Q. Can you remember the names of the brothers or some of
7 the brothers?

8 A. There was a Brother **AKL** he was the farm brother.

9 He was a gentleman. He was a real scholar that one.

10 Brother **MDF** he was an asshole. Brother **MDJ** and
11 we had to more or less pick his hair and fingernails and
12 he used to -- he was a tall man, roughly 6 foot 4.

13 He was a tall man. He was a cruel man.

14 Q. How many brothers were there?

15 A. At the time, there was Brother **AKL** he was the farm
16 brother. There was another man used to help on the
17 farm. He was all right. And there was another three
18 brothers. There was one of the brothers in charge, I've
19 forgot his name, and the other brothers, but they were
20 all tough.

21 Q. And were there any female staff?

22 A. No, no. Oh, the cook. She was an Aborigine and she
23 used to cook for all of us. Oh ... Her name was Rosie,
24 but she was an Aborigine. A little short girl, but
25 plenty of fun.

1 Q. And how many boys do you think were there at the time
2 you were there?

3 A. Oh, I'd say roughly 100.

4 Q. And the age range at the time?

5 A. Right, young fella, five to ten, no older, because if
6 you got to 10 years old, you went to Clontarf.

7 Q. If I look at some aspects of the routine with you, did
8 you have chores to do?

9 A. Definitely, young fella. If we didn't do the chores, we
10 got a hiding. We had to sweep your dormitory, make your
11 beds, sweep the courtyards, and make sure there was no
12 leaves or dirt around the place. You all had little
13 chores to do and if you didn't do them, you didn't get
14 breakfast until they were finished and then you missed
15 out anyways.

16 Q. What about the food? What was the food like?

17 A. Oh, at Castledare, pretty good there. A lot of bread
18 and milk because it was a farm. Generally speaking,
19 kind of average, you know, nothing flash, but just
20 enough to keep us going.

21 Q. You tell us in your statement that there were some boys
22 who wet their beds; is that right?

23 A. Yes, that was at Clontarf, not at Castledare. They
24 didn't wet their beds at Castledare, but it was a
25 different sort of thing and it wasn't so harsh.

1 Q. Schooling. There was a school on the premises; is that
2 right?

3 A. Hell, yes. Because it was a farm, so the school was
4 there, everything was there, like I said the picture
5 hall and dining room. Because I used to [REDACTED] and
6 they would call me [REDACTED] because
7 I was trying to [REDACTED] and I couldn't [REDACTED]
8 at all and hang my head because I was [REDACTED] too
9 much. Occasionally I do it now, you know.

10 Q. Was your birthday celebrated in any way when you were
11 there?

12 A. No, no, young fella.

13 Q. Did you get any visits from the welfare department so
14 far as you can remember?

15 A. No way, not there. The only visitors we had were the
16 brothers.

17 Q. Did you manage to accumulate any personal possessions
18 when you were there?

19 A. No. We used to swap with each other and pinch each
20 other's things (inaudible: distorted).

21 Q. Can I ask you a bit about discipline then. In your
22 statement you talk about floggings; can you tell me
23 about that?

24 A. If you didn't do the job right or if you were fighting
25 or something, if you didn't go down the playground when

1 you were supposed to, because I used to knick off down
2 the farm all the time, and I wasn't very good at school,
3 so we used to knick off down the farm to the horses and
4 cows and pigs, and they used to find out I didn't come
5 to school or missed a class or didn't come for tea, they
6 used to flog the hell out of you, literally pick you up
7 and boot you and throw you against you wall, strap you.

8 Q. Apart from straps, were any other form of implements
9 used to hit you?

10 A. A fist and a boot up the bum.

11 Q. Did that happen to you regularly?

12 A. Quite a bit, yes, because we weren't honest little kids,
13 we were terrible, we were wild kids, if you understand
14 me.

15 Q. And were there particular brothers that you can name who
16 you'd say were cruel to you?

17 A. MDF, Brother MDF. Brother AKL was a gentleman.
18 I used to knick off down the farm, and other kids, and
19 he was good to us. He wouldn't --

20 Q. Were you called any names by any brothers?

21 A. The brothers used to call (inaudible: distorted), that
22 sort of thing, or, "Sonny, come here", "Blessed turd",
23 if you got into trouble, "You'll never get to Heaven,
24 you blessed turd."

25 Q. So that sort of thing?

1 A. Yes, and you'll go to hell, that sort of thing.

2 Q. I think you left Castledare when you were 10; is that
3 right?

4 A. You're so right. Correct, yes.

5 Q. And that would be in 1955?

6 A. Yes. I was in a bus accident after that.

7 Q. And you went to Clontarf?

8 A. That's the one, yes.

9 Q. At this time in your life, Harry, what was your
10 understanding about who you were? By that I mean, did
11 you consider yourself to be an orphan or what was the
12 position?

13 A. I'll be honest with you, we were just wild kids.
14 I didn't think much of it. We were just kids that
15 didn't have mums and dads and we just -- some of the
16 older kids used to call us bastards, you know. We
17 didn't know who we were.

18 Q. I think later on you found out about your mother;
19 is that correct?

20 A. Yes, I did, later on in life, yes.

21 Q. But at this time when you were in Castledare and when
22 you moved into Clontarf --

23 A. No, no, nothing about my mother at Castledare, nothing.

24 Q. But were you told anything about your background during
25 this particular time in your life?

1 A. No, not at Castledare. They told us we were orphans and
2 they were going to look after us.

3 LADY SMITH: Did any of the other children talk about their
4 mums and dads?

5 A. No, no way, young lady, no, because we didn't know what
6 a mum and dad was. We knew the brothers, the big black
7 brothers in habits, that's all we knew.

8 LADY SMITH: And the brothers said nothing to you about your
9 families back in Britain?

10 A. Not at Castledare, no.

11 LADY SMITH: Did that happen at Clontarf?

12 A. Yes, I couldn't read and write, they said I was useless,
13 (inaudible: distorted) on the wall as school, and
14 Brother Mowen and my mother, apparently, which I didn't
15 know for a while, she used to send letters to me and I
16 couldn't read and write and Brother Mowen used to read
17 the letters to me, then dictate them, and then I had to
18 copy what he had written, but I didn't know what I was
19 writing.

20 LADY SMITH: I see. Mr MacAulay may be coming to a little
21 bit more about that.

22 But until then you really had no idea about family
23 back here in Britain?

24 A. No, not a thing. Not at Castledare.

25 MR MacAULAY: Let's look at Clontarf then. So far as the

1 Christian Brothers were concerned, how many
2 Christian Brothers were there when you were there?

3 A. Sorry, young fella? I didn't get that one.

4 Q. How many Christian Brothers were at Clontarf?

5 A. Oh, there was a farm brother and he was
6 Brother MYK [REDACTED] He was a good fella. Then there was
7 another, Brother MDI [REDACTED] he was cruel -- sorry, I tell
8 you a lie, it was Brother MXC [REDACTED] he was a cruel man.

9 Q. Was he replaced by Brother MDI [REDACTED]

10 A. When I left Castledare, it was at Christmastime, during
11 the holidays, they took over. He was there for a while
12 and then Brother MDI [REDACTED] took over as the school started
13 the next following year.

14 Q. How many children were at Clontarf so far as you can
15 tell us?

16 A. About 250 boys, I think it was, at the time. It was
17 a big one.

18 Q. In your statement you tell us about an incident that
19 happened in your first week there --

20 A. Oh yes.

21 Q. -- when you were having stew and something happened to
22 you.

23 A. That's right. Because it was a farm, they killed all
24 their meat there and that sort of thing and there was
25 a stew and Brother MXC [REDACTED] -- there was only one door

1 coming out, they used to lock the back door, so you
2 would have to eat your meal. And if you didn't, you
3 were in trouble.

4 So I had pig tits, a big fat row of them with fat on
5 them and I didn't want that, so I put it in my pocket --
6 we called them Bombay bloomers, the grey deal(?), and we
7 put them in our pocket without thinking and the stew
8 would make marks on the thing and start running down
9 your leg. Brother **MXC** said, "What's in your pocket,
10 son?" and I said, "Nothing, sir", "You're telling me
11 lies: what's that running out of your pants?" I said,
12 "That's the (inaudible: distorted) in the stew there
13 were pig tits in a row with a big piece of fat and
14 I didn't want them", and he then gave me a smack, more
15 or less, a big one, and put it back on the plate and
16 tried to make me eat it and I wouldn't, so he cracked
17 the plate over my head. That's the only memory I have
18 of him because then he went because (inaudible:
19 distorted) in the middle of the day.

20 Q. But generally, what was the food like at Clontarf?

21 A. Well, that's one of my first experiences when **MXC** was
22 there because I had just come from Castledare, with
23 the -- the tables had 12 boys on, like the 12 apostles.
24 You had a loaf of bread and you had porridge in the
25 morning and bread and you had stunners at the back of

1 the bread, that's a hard crust on the front and back.
2 We used to fight over that because we liked the stunner.
3 So the only way we could keep that piece of bread and
4 not fight on the table, because the brothers would give
5 you a hiding, was to spit on it and say, "That's mine".
6 The boys then used to then come over and take the spit
7 off and claim the stunner on each table (inaudible:
8 distorted).

9 Q. Generally, did you find the food was acceptable?

10 A. It was pretty good, there wasn't enough. But for kids,
11 being an orphan at that time, it was the best we can do.

12 Q. Were you still hungry after you had your meals? Would
13 you still be hungry?

14 A. Yes, sometimes, it depends what they cooked, you know.
15 Generally, it would be pretty good.

16 Q. I think you tell us in your statement that you'd go and
17 raid the bins; can you tell me about that?

18 A. That was the slop run. We used to call it the slop run.
19 They had big drums on the back of the truck and they
20 used to go into Perth and pick up the swill from hotels
21 and motels that people didn't want, just old food. The
22 truck used to come at the back of the kitchen, we used
23 to hear it come, and the brothers used to go for a cup
24 of tea or something and we would raid the bins and eat
25 apples and old chook and bits and pieces, anything we

1 could eat, quick. It was good tucker, in the bins.

2 Q. Can I ask you about the location itself? Can you
3 describe it for me?

4 A. As in what, young fella?

5 Q. The buildings, the farm.

6 A. The building itself? The dining room was big. Plenty
7 of tables, 12 apostles -- 12 kids on the table. Then
8 there was a big bench that the food came -- the porridge
9 came out in big vats where the porridge was cooked and
10 you handed your plate over and they filled your plate
11 up, older boys would fill your plate up, and off you'd
12 go and eat it.

13 Then we had cups of tea by the way, young fella, I
14 loved my cups of tea, but we used to -- after the cups
15 of tea were finished, the big vat ... we used to pinch
16 the tea leaves and we used to grab handfuls and eat them
17 too because we were still hungry.

18 Q. You've described the dining room for me. What about the
19 dormitories? Did you sleep in dormitories?

20 A. Oh yes, big time. The dormitories had about 35, 40 kids
21 in a big dorm. One of the dormitories was known as
22 ██████████ that I was in, and that's where some of the
23 Christian Brothers sexually assaulted me.

24 We had a lot of fun in those dormitories. We had
25 pillow fights and we used to get belted for that.

1 Sunday night, at a quarter to 8, I always remember
2 that, we used to have a story called The Ghost and they
3 would put the speakers on and we used to go bed and we
4 used to shit ourselves, young fella, as it was scary.

5 Q. Looking at some aspects of the routine with you, again,
6 did you have chores to do when you were at Clontarf?

7 A. Yes. At Clontarf we did. We had a lot of chores to do
8 and if you didn't do them, you were brutally belted, I'm
9 telling you that now.

10 Q. Leaving aside what you might call ordinary chores like
11 making your bed and sweeping the floors, did you also
12 have more physical work to do?

13 A. Yes, the quadrangles. You had to sweep the quadrangles
14 before -- this was done before school and if you didn't
15 do it before school, you missed out on your breakfast as
16 well and then you went to school, so you had to make the
17 beds, sometimes you had to do the shower places, because
18 there were 40 showers and 40 kids would -- one brother
19 would have the taps and control them and if their team
20 lost -- if their bloody team lost, and I wasn't
21 interested in football, I was only interested in the
22 farm, you would get a cold shower because his team lost
23 and you weren't barracking(?) and I didn't know anything
24 about that anyway (inaudible: distorted).

25 Q. You tell us in your statement that you also had to do

1 what one would call quite heavy work.

2 A. Oh, we built handball courts, we built swimming pools.

3 On a truck -- they had the flat top truck, we were only
4 kids, and you used to shovel sand on the truck and then
5 the kids would shovel sand on the truck, stop on the
6 ground, 10 kids used to hop on the truck, take it onto
7 the oval and shovel the sand off again. That was done
8 in the afternoons or on Saturday afternoons. They had
9 to build the ovals up because the Swan River used to
10 flood the ovals. Then we had to dig the drains through
11 the guts of the oval and make -- put bricks in them so
12 it would drain about every 15 feet apart, the drain
13 would go across the oval to get rid of the water. We
14 done all that. Like I said, we done handball court,
15 swimming pool, chick coops, going down the paddock and
16 getting wood and all of that sort of thing.

17 Q. What about the brothers? Did the brothers do that sort
18 of work?

19 A. Oh yes. Hey, young fella, the brothers weren't just
20 silly men, they were brilliant men at -- very skilful
21 men in their different fields.

22 LADY SMITH: Harry, what age were you when you were doing
23 this heavy building work?

24 A. Between 12 and 15 --

25 LADY SMITH: Okay.

1 A. -- and sometimes, I think I was about 11, just after the
2 bus accident, you haven't got there yet, but when we had
3 the bus accident, I was going away for holidays, my
4 first time to people's places, to Dardanup. We didn't
5 make it.

6 LADY SMITH: When did you do this work, you said sometimes it
7 was after school. Did you do the work every day?

8 A. Not every day. It depended if it was team games or
9 football or something like that, you wouldn't do it that
10 day, but the next day you would, and the next day, maybe
11 three days in a row sometimes, maybe two days. On
12 Saturdays you did a lot of work.

13 LADY SMITH: So that would be the main thing you'd do on
14 a Saturday, would it?

15 A. Yes, but I used to knock off down the farm and
16 I wouldn't come back to work and I used to get a hiding
17 for that because I liked the animals because they were
18 more trusted than any other person there.

19 LADY SMITH: You could trust the animals? Is that what you
20 were saying?

21 A. I could trust the animals, yes.

22 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Mr MacAulay.

23 MR MacAULAY: Can I ask you about bed-wetting at Clontarf.
24 How were bed-wetters treated?

25 A. Oh, they were treated badly when they wet the bed and

1 they would sometimes get a hiding because they were
2 supposed to stop wetting the bed.

3 The dormitory, I was in [REDACTED] and there was
4 a veranda along the side of the big building. They were
5 big buildings and they were built by the brothers -- the
6 architecture was like Roman buildings, you know, really
7 heavy stuff, 2 foot walls, stick walls. All the kids
8 that wet the bed stayed on the veranda so the air, you
9 know -- it was quite ... maybe there were 40, 50 kids,
10 would wet the bed, maybe only 30 that day, maybe only
11 20, but they were put on the veranda.

12 Q. How long would they have to stay on the veranda?

13 A. Until they stopped wetting the bed -- and if they didn't
14 they would get a hiding.

15 Q. Did they sleep on the veranda?

16 A. Yes, there were beds on the veranda, all beds in a row,
17 side by side, right along.

18 Q. You mentioned a little moment ago a bus accident that
19 happened when you were 10 years of age. Can you tell me
20 about that?

21 A. That was horrific, young fella, that was bloody
22 terrible. I'd never been to people's places, like
23 a family, so at Christmastime, for the eight weeks, you
24 went to families like in the country, you know, farming
25 people, and you were dropped off from Perth to Albany,

1 that's 475K, and we were on the back of the truck and we
2 loved it.

3 I've got photos here with a hammer, photos of us on
4 the back of a truck, I've got a hammer in my hand, we
5 look like we're having fun, but when we were travelling
6 to these people's places, we thought -- we were stunned,
7 we were just travelling on the back of a truck, maybe
8 200, 300K, to where we're getting to. But we didn't get
9 there because we were in a bus and when we had that
10 accident there were 52 kids in the bus and one side of
11 the bus was concertinaed with all the kids crushed in
12 there, there were broken legs.

13 Douglas Bader, if you know him, young fella, over
14 there, the pilot, he came across from England to give us
15 encouragement with life again, the kids that lost their
16 legs. One of the boys was killed. We were put inside
17 the gutters on the road and told, "Go and have a play
18 you big sook, there's nothing wrong with you". We were
19 all upset, but anyways, those were the times.

20 [REDACTED] one of the boys, he was killed and
21 the other kids, you could see their limbs on the road,
22 the legs -- and they were the two [REDACTED]
23 They've both died now. [REDACTED] one leg. There
24 were a couple of other boys, [REDACTED] he lost his
25 leg, and I was all mates with them but I was on the

1 other side of the bus. I stopped --

2 Q. What about yourself, were you injured?

3 A. Yes, yes, we got injured but not badly, not enough to
4 put you in hospital, just cuts and bruises and split
5 heads, bits and pieces, but nothing. But it was only
6 orphan kids, so who gives a bugger?

7 Q. Were you given any support or counselling after the
8 accident?

9 A. You've got to be joking. We were told we were big sooks
10 and got a kick up the arse more or less.

11 Q. This is something that clearly left its mark on you.
12 Do you still have nightmares about the accident?

13 A. Oh definitely, definitely. I can still see the kids,
14 can see them with the blood everywhere, kids squashed,
15 like a piano accordion, and everyone was squashed to one
16 side. The chairs came out and the brother that was
17 doing it, Brother MDI we named him MDI after
18 that, we big kids. So I never got to my place, the
19 people for Christmas, we just went back to Clonnie, to
20 Clontarf.

21 Q. But from time to time did you go out to families and
22 stay with families?

23 A. Later on, but what happened to me was I didn't want to
24 go because I was -- I had a pretty bad temper, I was
25 only young and I had Italian in me, and they took me to

1 this place on the third Sunday of the month, with mum
2 and dad, two little kids, and we were sitting at the
3 table, nice meals, and they had a little present. I was
4 a little brat, I was an orphan boy, and I got so angry
5 I tipped the table up, lifted everything up, and the
6 bloke grabbed hold of me, gave me a hiding, took me back
7 to the orphanage, and Brother MDI flogged the hell out
8 of me. And I never went to another place after that
9 (inaudible: distorted).

10 Q. Did you run away from Clontarf?

11 A. Yes, I did.

12 Q. Can you tell me about that?

13 A. I ran away on horseback. There were five of us. We
14 went to Pinjarra from Clontarf. What would that be?
15 A couple of hundred miles on horseback. It was bloody
16 good. We had five days of it, no worries, and the
17 police caught us. We didn't take any money, we only
18 took food out of the farmhouses. We lived in the bush
19 in a barn and that's when the cops got us
20 (overspeaking).

21 Q. What age were you then at that time?

22 A. 14.

23 Q. Why did you run away?

24 A. Well, I wanted a bit more adventure. We were good
25 horsemen, the kids, because the brothers used to put us

1 on horseback out in the crush on unbroken horses, put us
2 in the crush on unbroken horses and so we learned how to
3 do butt jumping. It was good fun and we decided to piss
4 off from Clonnie because we'd had enough.

5 Q. What happened when you were caught by the police?

6 A. The police grabbed us and gave us a hiding, the little
7 shits. They belted us, the police belted us.

8 Q. Did you say the police gave you a hiding?

9 A. Of course they did, because in those days they were
10 pretty brutal anyways, coppers. Things have changed
11 today a bit.

12 Q. Did anything happen to you when you went back to
13 Clontarf yourself?

14 A. It bloody well did, young fella. We got flogged from
15 Brother MDI and one of the other brothers.

16 Q. When you say you got flogged, what did that -- can you
17 describe what happened?

18 A. Belted with fists and boots and throwing you against the
19 wall, that sort of thing. They were pretty brutal.
20 You've got no idea, young fella.

21 Q. You tell us something about a Brother Mowen in the
22 class. What would he do?

23 A. Brother Mowen, we used to call him Peg Leg, because he
24 used to have a [REDACTED]
25 Brother Mowen used to call us, "You blessed Turk, sonny,

1 you'll never get to heaven, you'll only be a road
2 sweeper the rest of your life". I had some animals on
3 the back of my desk, I always remember that because
4 I liked animals and he used to put me at the back of the
5 class, because I was as thick as two short planks in
6 school, I didn't want to go to school, I didn't like
7 school.

8 Anyway, the desks were made out of Jarrah. They had
9 Jarrah legs and I had my head in the desk a few times,
10 not hearing. He would sneak up and get the lid and slam
11 it on your head, hold his fists like this (indicating)
12 and that finger there, with the thumb curled up, and hit
13 you in the temple, "You blessed Turk, sonny, you
14 hypocrite".

15 Q. So you're indicating he would hit you with his knuckle
16 to the side of the head?

17 A. Right in the temple and it used to bloody hurt, I can
18 tell you.

19 Q. Can I just ask you about discipline generally. What you
20 say in your statement is that there were a lot of
21 floggings; was that the case?

22 A. Yes, young fella, there was a lot of floggings, because
23 the brothers were -- because there were only about six
24 of them and they were frustrated men, so they had to
25 rule it like a military camp. That's how I saw it

1 anyway, later on in life.

2 Q. The floggings -- you've already described that you'd be
3 punched. Would any implements be used to hit you with?

4 A. Yes, (inaudible: distorted) and he'd say, "Come to
5 Blacky, Blacky's hungry", and he'd belt the shit out of
6 you. And there used to be a V belt, I always remember
7 that, an A-class V belt, about 3 foot long, and they had
8 it down their habit and they used to pull it out of the
9 habit and whack the hell out of you.

10 Q. Would that be on any part of your body?

11 A. Anywhere, where they hit you, you know.

12 Q. Would these floggings cause injuries?

13 A. Oh yes, of course they did, psychologically, a lot.

14 It would make it feel that you weren't wanted, you were
15 just scum.

16 Q. What about bruising? Would you have bruising?

17 A. Of course you would, a lot of bruises. If you
18 understand the A-class V belt, it's a V so that when it
19 hits you, it will put a mark right across your skin or
20 legs or back.

21 Q. You tell us about an incident that involved another boy
22 who was knocked out in class. Can you tell me about
23 that?

24 A. [REDACTED] he got deported to your place, not
25 England -- not Scotland, England. Brother Mowen was the

1 brother then. We were only about 12, 13. And we were
2 mucking around, all mucking around, so he picked on
3 [REDACTED], he got a bloody duster, a wooden
4 duster, and threw it at him and hit his head and he
5 knocked him out and we thought he had killed him, all
6 the kids in the class, there was about 20 of us, maybe
7 30. He grabbed the kid and the kid was just hanging
8 from his arms and his legs were swinging, he huddled him
9 up and took him to the surgery, and that's the last we
10 heard of him.

11 Then after a few days, he come back to the class,
12 but after a while he was deported back to England.

13 I don't know why, the reason for that; I found that out
14 later.

15 Q. Were your birthdays celebrated?

16 A. No. We didn't even know what a bloody birthday was.

17 Q. What about visits? Did you get any visits from the
18 welfare people?

19 A. No, not really. From the brothers, we might have seen
20 some blokes walking around, but because we were small,
21 we didn't think much of it.

22 Q. Can I now ask you a little bit about sexual abuse? Can
23 you tell me about that?

24 A. I can tell you about it. There was a dormitory,
25 [REDACTED] one of the brothers had a room there at the

1 side. There were about 20 kids in the dormitory.

2 The lights would go off and he would come and sit on
3 the side of your bed and talk to you and make a bit of a
4 funny joke and then he would put his hand down next to
5 your leg and gradually pull it up to your willy and then
6 play around and then you'd grab your hand and pull your
7 hand, and you had to play with his willy.

8 Q. Who was this brother that you're talking about at the
9 moment?

10 A. Brother MPQ Brother MPR It was bad
11 (inaudible: distorted).

12 And because I liked animals and horses, I had to do
13 these things to him otherwise he wouldn't let me go down
14 the farm or grab a horse or ride. He used to bribe me
15 with them, so I would still knick down the farm later on
16 and ride the horses without him knowing.

17 Q. Who are you talking about now?

18 A. Brother MPQ (inaudible: distorted).

19 Q. What sort of things would he make you do to him?

20 A. Well, I had to rub him up and down so that he would come
21 and then you would get stuff on your hand and he'd say,
22 "Don't worry about it, that's only a bit of liquid".
23 We were only kids and it often happened to me like that.
24 There were a lot of other things but I'm not going to
25 say because it's too horrific.

1 Q. What age were you, Harry, when this sexual abuse began?

2 A. For five years it lasted on and off. Five years.

3 Q. And you've mentioned Brother MPQ I think you
4 mentioned Brother MPR as well.

5 A. Yes, the same thing. The same thing happened.

6 Q. Did you say a Brother MHZ a moment ago?

7 A. MHZ yes, he was short, a little short bloke. He
8 became a Christian Brother later on in life.

9 Q. Did he sexual abuse you?

10 A. Yes, yes, he used to grab your upper -- and then he
11 would poke you and he used to (inaudible: distorted)
12 right at the back of your bum. He done that quite
13 a bit. He used to go, blowing, gasping, we didn't know
14 what he was doing. We were only kids.

15 Q. Do you know if other children like you were sexually
16 abused by brothers at Clontarf?

17 A. There was, yes, yes. There was another lad but he died
18 recently. He was sexually abused by Brothers MPQ
19 MHZ MPR. There was quite a few boys.

20 Q. How do you know that?

21 A. Afterwards, when we left the orphanage, we talked about
22 it and different things. We didn't know it was going on
23 when we were younger because -- hey, I didn't even know
24 -- I thought I was gay for about four or five years,
25 I didn't know.

- 1 Q. Can I ask you this: you mentioned earlier
2 Brother **MDF** who was at Castledare. Did
3 Brother **MDF** come to Clontarf at any point?
- 4 A. Yes, he did, he did. He was sitting down in the
5 quadrangle. We used to have a big quadrangle and all
6 the kids in their groups, classes, were stood in
7 different lines and different classes. And he used to
8 be there in the quadrangle -- I must admit, I never told
9 anyone this, it's coming back to me, but I got angry one
10 time because two of the big boys belted the hell out of
11 me because I was doing a job and they belted me and,
12 like I said I had a bit of Italian in me, and I was
13 wild, and I got a dart, I had a dart and I stabbed them
14 with the dart all over. Brother **MDI** put me on the
15 stage in front of all the kids and flogged the hell out
16 of me and said, "This is the boy that stabs other boys
17 with a dart". It's only because we were so depressed
18 and psychologically damaged, you know?
- 19 Q. Did you have anything to do with Brother **MDF** when he
20 came to Clontarf?
- 21 A. Yes. Yes, yes. **MDF**, he used to pick the kids
22 around, sit the kids around him and they had to comb him
23 and pick his fingernails. He never sexually done
24 anything to me.
- 25 Q. You say you had to comb his hair; is that right?

1 A. Yes, with a brush, just sit there like a little Buddha,
2 with five of us sitting around him and we would pick his
3 fingernails and just hang around him --

4 Q. And you say clip his nails?

5 A. Clean his nails. Clean, not clip, clean.

6 Q. The quadrangle that you mentioned, did that form part of
7 how discipline was being administered? Can you tell me
8 about that?

9 A. That's right, young fella. There was a quadrangle and
10 there was a stage. We used to have concerts where the
11 brothers used to dress you up like farm animals, like
12 pigs and chooks and bloody cows on the stage, Old
13 MacDonald's Farm, and people used to come from all over
14 Perth to see us.

15 That was also the discipline area. If any kids got
16 into trouble, we'd be on the stage in front of everyone,
17 "This kid done this and this kid done that", and they
18 would flog them in front of the other kids with straps
19 and ...

20 Q. And would you have to wait before you were flogged?
21 Would there be --

22 A. Yes, oh yes. They'd call you up, "You go over there,
23 son, and stand in a row over there".

24 Q. And how did you feel about that, having to wait to be
25 punished?

- 1 A. You nearly shit yourself, young fella. Brother MDI
2 was over 6 foot, he was a big man, with a big black
3 habit. He looked like a giant and we were only bloody
4 kids.
- 5 Q. You tell us in your statement, Harry, that you did think
6 about shooting the brothers.
- 7 A. I did.
- 8 Q. Can you tell me about why that was?
- 9 A. Well, because of what they had done to you and how
10 brutalised they were. I could have got a gun. Brother
11 MHZ had a gun, Brother MYK had a gun to shoot the
12 animals when they got sick, or pigs or whatever. I had
13 it in my hand and I didn't put the bullet in, but
14 I said, "I'll shoot them bastards". But I didn't,
15 I pulled back on that one. I tell you what, I would
16 have liked to, don't you worry about that, after what we
17 went through.
- 18 Q. But so far as sexual abuse is concerned then, Harry,
19 I think you've identified three brothers that sexually
20 abused you at Clontarf; is that right?
- 21 A. Yes, that's true, yes.
- 22 Q. You mentioned shooting there. Were you present when
23 a horse or horses were shot?
- 24 A. Yes. I used to run down the farm all the time and they
25 used to feed -- one of the horses they shot -- we were

1 riding it one minute and then they shot the bloody thing
2 because -- it was called Bomber. Bomber used to fart
3 all the time and that was rude, the Christian Brothers
4 said, so they took it down the piggery and shot it and
5 (inaudible: distorted). I remember all that. And we
6 cried. We were only kids.

7 Q. And what did they do with the horse once it was shot?

8 A. Well, cut it open and gave it to the pigs, dragged it
9 down with the tractor. We saw it and we were crying
10 because it was a good horse.

11 And there was another time they had a barbecue --
12 I forgot about that -- they got this draught horse, we
13 were riding it Sunday morning, they took it down the
14 playground, Sunday afternoon and shot it and hung it up
15 underneath the tree and they went and fed you bloody
16 horse meat that afternoon for a barbecue. I didn't eat
17 it because I loved those animals. They started cutting
18 it up. Anyway, it wasn't bad, it was a good horse
19 (inaudible: distorted).

20 Q. Did you have any pets when you were there?

21 A. Oh yes. My mother, after writing to Brother Mowen,
22 writing letters, mum used to send me some money.
23 I didn't know what the value was. We used to go to the
24 tuck shop and if I got into trouble, the £5 from
25 England, they used to take off me all the time because

1 I'd been in trouble, and they would just take the money
2 off you.

3 Later on I got a horse and I said to Brother MDI
4 "Can I have that horse?" and I named it Trigger.
5 I broke it in and then it died and I cut its tail off
6 and put it in my bed, and for about three weeks, and
7 they said, "You're smelling in your room, did you shit
8 in your bed?" I said, "No, it's my horse's tail", "I'll
9 give you your horse's tail, son, you blessed Turk", this
10 and that the other, and flogged me and took the tail off
11 me. But it was my horse.

12 Q. Can I go back to what you've been saying about your
13 mother. At a point in time is it the case that you
14 realised you had a mother who was in this country?

15 A. Yes. Brother Flanagan, I was down, the dairy mucking
16 out the cows and milking. Brother Flanagan was a tall
17 man, about 6 foot 6, he come came down and said, "Your
18 mother's on the phone." Being a wild boy, and I'll be
19 honest with you, I went up there to the brothers'
20 dining room to pick up the phone and she said, "Hello,
21 Harry, this is your mother", and I said, "Fuck off", and
22 put down the phone. I'm sorry I said that then, I was
23 only a kid, but later on in life I was sorry because
24 I went to see my mum in England and she was sick before
25 I got there and she died two years before.

1 Q. What age were you when you had this phone call from your
2 mother?

3 A. 16.

4 Q. But was it after that that your mother started writing
5 to you or had she been writing to you before that?

6 A. No, young fella, she did write to me before but I didn't
7 understand anything I was writing. I was only copying
8 the letter Brother Mowen copied for me.

9 Q. What age were you when your mother started writing to
10 you?

11 A. Oh ... She sent me a bridle because I said I had
12 a horse called Trigger. I suppose 14.

13 Q. Before that then, what knowledge did you have of any
14 parents?

15 A. Nothing. I thought I was an orphan.

16 Q. Can I then try and summarise your position, Harry,
17 looking to your life in care in Australia. This is what
18 you say in your statement and I'll just read this out to
19 you. It's paragraph 79 if you want to have that in
20 front of you.

21 What you say in paragraph 79 is:

22 "Those weren't good times. I sailed over here for
23 a new life and all I got was messed up. I was bashed,
24 flogged and molested. It went on until I left the
25 orphanage. I haven't really had a good life. I still

1 go to bed now sometimes and feel scared. It's with me
2 all the time."

3 Is that your position?

4 A. You are so bloody right, young fella. I'm 75 and I'm
5 nearly ready to die. It's still with me.

6 Q. Well, can I then look at the position, quite quickly,
7 in relation to your time after you left Clontarf. You
8 left Clontarf, I think, at the age of 16; is that right?

9 A. That's right, and I was taken up to Katanning, to people
10 called the **MSB** They treated me like a dog. They
11 came down to the Christian Brothers and said, yes,
12 brother, we'll look after him. I went to Katanning,
13 it's roughly 250/300K from Perth, up the (inaudible:
14 distorted), they put me in a room, treated me badly.

15 Q. Did you get any warning, any preparation, for leaving?

16 A. No. As soon as you turned 16, they pissed you off.

17 Q. And these people that you went to live with, did they
18 run a farm?

19 A. Yes, they were farmers. I went to a farm.

20 Q. Had you met these people before?

21 A. No. No, not at all.

22 Q. Who were they? Are you talking about a husband and
23 wife?

24 A. Yes, husband and wife and four kids, and one of the kids
25 was going to be a nun. He was a very strict Catholic,

1 the farmer.

2 Q. When you were there, where did you live?

3 A. I lived in a bit of a shed. There was a bed in the
4 room, not in the house, treated like a dog on a chain.
5 Then after a while, I got angry -- we were doing the
6 sheep one day and the fence broke and he said,
7 "I thought I told you to fix that fence up, whatever
8 your name is", he said, "I told you to fix it", "No",
9 I did", "No, you didn't", so he clobbered me and belted
10 the hell out of me, so I belted him back because I'd had
11 too many beltings at the orphanage.

12 I didn't deserve that. I was 17, 17 and a half, so
13 I flogged him, and then I raced over to his brother's
14 farm. That was about 4 or 5K away, and I worked for him
15 for a while. Jimmy was his name. He was a good bloke.

16 Q. Do I take it from what you have said that you were at
17 the first farm for a year or a year and a half or so
18 before you left?

19 A. Yes, and I didn't know who I was. I thought I was still
20 gay. I didn't know whether I was gay or a bloody
21 swinger or what. After all that sexual abuse, you don't
22 know who you are.

23 Q. The second farm you went on work at, was that a better
24 experience for you?

25 A. A lot better. He was gentle, he was chalk and cheese

1 from his brother.

2 Q. Did you receive any visits or assistance from the
3 welfare people during this period?

4 A. I did, actually. Come to think of it, it was welfare
5 from Perth, two men, they came up and something happened
6 and they gave me a bloody hiding, I don't know what it
7 was for. I forget what it was for. But they were just
8 brutal like the [REDACTED] anyways (inaudible:
9 distorted) --

10 Q. What happened when they visited?

11 A. They said I'd done something at the farm, I forget what
12 it was, and I had a horse, and I rode a horse about
13 60/80K there and something happened, but I can't
14 remember, but they gave me a hiding.

15 They were from the welfare, from Perth, but I don't
16 know who they were. I suppose I did at the time, but
17 I can't remember. They were all shits.

18 Q. Do I take it from what you're saying that they weren't
19 coming to check on your welfare, they were coming
20 because something had been reported to them about you?

21 A. Yes, yes, yes. I really don't know what I'd done
22 because I was 17, 17 and a half. I was a young man.
23 I don't what happened. Anyway, I left there and went up
24 north and mucked around with horses and all that sort of
25 thing.

1 Q. And I think you ended up yourself becoming a farmer;
2 is that right?

3 A. You're so right, young fella. Useless as tits on
4 a bull. I couldn't read or write but I had other people
5 helping me to do things. I used to say, "What can I do
6 here?" When I was at the orphanage and the brothers
7 always used to say to me, "You won't be any good, Harry,
8 you won't be any good at all, you'll only be a road
9 sweeper". They used to be belittling you all the time,
10 they'd put you down like you was scum.

11 Anyway, I used to write on a piece of paper: I'm
12 going to have a horse farm, I'm going to have a stud,
13 I'm going to have cattle. I got there, 45 years later.

14 Q. I won't go into the detail of this with you, but you
15 tell us in your statement about your personal life and
16 you do have children.

17 A. Lovely children, young fella, yeah.

18 Q. So far as reporting the abuse that you suffered to the
19 police, did you ever report the abuse?

20 A. Sorry, I lost what you were saying.

21 Q. Did you ever report to the police the abuse you
22 suffered?

23 A. No. They wouldn't take any bloody notice of you. Being
24 an orphan, they couldn't care (inaudible: distorted).

25 Q. Insofar as tracing your family was concerned, did you

1 then make some efforts to track your family down?

2 A. Yes. I didn't know this, but they came and saw me from
3 England. I didn't know this. They told me all about my
4 mother and I didn't know very much about her, as you
5 know. They said she was a -- what's the word?

6 (Pause)

7 Q. Eccentric?

8 A. That's the one. That's the one, you're so right. Yes,
9 that's the word I can't get out.

10 Her brothers used to go and visit her, she wouldn't
11 let them in for 10 minutes in the house until she'd done
12 something and then only let them in one room. So the
13 brother got a camera, sneaked it and looked around the
14 room, because she used to work for [REDACTED] when she
15 was a young 'un. Things didn't go well there and she
16 got the shits up with them and brought me across here.
17 That's what I believed from what [REDACTED] told me, the
18 son.

19 Q. Did you in fact ever meet your mother again?

20 A. Never. I wouldn't have a clue. I've got a photo of
21 her. She's a little thing with big tits and short legs.
22 She looked like a (inaudible), a little (inaudible)
23 woman. She looked beautiful, but I had no feeling
24 there, if you understand me.

25 Q. But you have been back, I think, to England; is that

1 correct?

2 A. I went back to England. I found out where she was and
3 it was a funny feeling. I went to where she used to
4 work and they shut the door on me and waited there for
5 10, 15 minutes. This bloke came out and said, "What
6 do you want?" I said, "I'm looking for my mum, where
7 she used to work", "What, are you coming over here for
8 a claim or something?" I said, "No, I wouldn't have
9 a bloody clue." They were quite canny, quite -- what's
10 the word I'd used? They distanced me, you know. They
11 didn't want me to know much.

12 Q. Do I take it from what you've said that although you
13 came to England, you never actually met your mother
14 because she had died by then?

15 A. No, no, I found her -- I was going up to Scotland and
16 I asked a couple of Scottish guys, and they said, "Aye,
17 you're a [REDACTED] you're definitely a [REDACTED]", I said,
18 "No, I'm a bloody cowboy from WA, Australia", and they
19 said, "No, you're not, you're a [REDACTED]. I know the
20 [REDACTED] very well." So it clicked.

21 I found out where my mum was, where she was buried
22 in Scotland, Bishop Auckland, County Durham somewhere --
23 my mind is a bit funny with places because I can't read
24 and write very well, young fella.

25 Q. Did you find then where your mother was buried?

1 A. Yes. There was a bloke there who done the graveyards
2 and that and he found it for me.

3 Q. And did you go to her grave?

4 A. Yes, yes, I did, I did. I've got a couple of photos.
5 I took some photos. It was sad. It was like someone
6 pulled something away from you.

7 Anyway. Hang on.

8 (Pause)

9 You have no idea what went on, you know. Anyway.
10 Go on, carry on.

11 Q. Were you able to trace any other family members in the
12 United Kingdom?

13 A. I did. I did, actually. There were some [REDACTED] you
14 know, some Harries over there. My mum didn't have any
15 other kids. She was going with a Russian, a Hitler guy,
16 the SS, I believe. That's the war years. They lost
17 a lot of the Italians over there in Pommyland.

18 Q. Harry, have you made some efforts to try and get some
19 records relating to your past?

20 A. Young fella, I can't, I'm useless, tits on a bull,
21 I can't do anything, sorry.

22 Q. But do you know if there are any records of your times
23 at Castledare and Clontarf, for example?

24 A. No, nothing. I got nothing from them.

25 Q. Can I just touch upon what you consider the impact on

1 you --

2 A. Sorry, what?

3 Q. Your life --

4 A. I'll be straightforward, I'm not mucking around: I was
5 fucked in the head for years. I didn't know who I was.
6 I was a nobody. I didn't get on with people. I was
7 different, I knew I was different because of all that
8 happened.

9 Could we stop a minute?

10 LADY SMITH: Harry, we can take a break at any time just now
11 and we'll do that.

12 (9.40 am)

13 (A short break)

14 (9.46 am)

15 LADY SMITH: Harry, hello again. It's Lady Smith speaking.

16 A. Fire away.

17 LADY SMITH: Are you okay for us to carry on, are you?

18 A. Yes. Get it over and done it instead of mucking
19 about --

20 LADY SMITH: Well, I hope it doesn't feel too much like
21 being at the dentist, because that's what that comment
22 sounds like.

23 But seriously, if you need another break any time,
24 it's no problem, but if you're ready then I will hand
25 over to Mr MacAulay.

1 MR MacAULAY: We're nearly finished, Harry. What I want to
2 ask you about now is what you consider the impact of
3 your life in care has been on you.

4 I think one of one thing you say, for example, in
5 your statement, is that you still have flashbacks about
6 your time in care; is that right?

7 A. Definitely. You would have after all I went through,
8 young fella. If you went through it yourself, you'd
9 have bloody flashbacks.

10 Q. What you tell us in paragraph 93 -- and I'll read it out
11 to you:

12 "It has taken its toll. There's a whole lot more
13 that went on, but I don't like talking about it. I had
14 to stay strong about the whole thing, otherwise I'd have
15 gone nuts or done myself in. That's how bad it was."

16 Does that --

17 A. You're bloody right, young fella. Straightforward,
18 I would have. I tried a few times, but life went on.

19 Q. Can I ask you about this comment that you make in your
20 statement? I'll read this out to you, Harry. You go on
21 to say:

22 "Despite all of that, if I had my time again,
23 I would go back to an orphanage."

24 A. You've got to understand that statement I made is
25 fantastic because it was 600 acres, we had all the kids

1 there, our family was 250 kids. The brothers were
2 supposed to be our leaders, helpers, but in turn you
3 went back to the kids because that's who were your
4 family and I would not ever go back to a family with two
5 kids, a mum and dad. It was so boring. It was fun with
6 a big mob.

7 To say some of the brothers -- and don't get me
8 wrong, this is very true, they were gentlemen, but
9 tough. Others were brutal and they should have been --
10 I'm going to use the word again -- they should have been
11 fucking shot and hung. If you knew what went on, you
12 people in Scotland, all these kids over here, you would
13 start a Third World War.

14 It's hundreds of kids who have been affected by it.
15 Some of them commit suicide. I've known some of the
16 lads. I've known some lads who have still taken it to
17 their grave. I will, but I won't dwell on it because
18 I've got to get on with life. If I did, I'd bloody
19 commit suicide.

20 Q. Your final thoughts in your statement, Harry, are these:

21 "It's too late because a lot of the perpetrators are
22 dead, but it's not too late to fix it."

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

24 A. All right. To fix the problem with the churches,
25 whoever, the religious side of it, let them get married,

1 let the priests get married, let the Christian Brothers
2 get married. You'll solve a lot of problems because
3 they were frustrated men.

4 As I grew up and looked at it in a different light,
5 I'm not a brainy man, I'm as thick as two short planks
6 sometimes, but I see it. If the system changes in the
7 next few years, it doesn't matter whether it's England,
8 Ireland, Scotland, the religious side has got to change
9 big time. That's what I meant by that.

10 MR MacAULAY: Well, Harry, these are all the questions
11 I have for you. Can I thank you for engaging with this
12 inquiry and helping us with the inquiry's work.
13 Thank you very much indeed.

14 A. All right, young fella. Listen, all what I said to you
15 is spot on. It's hard to believe what went on, but it
16 did, big time.

17 MR MacAULAY: Thank you, Harry.

18 A. No worries.

19 LADY SMITH: Just wait there a moment, Harry.

20 Are there any outstanding applications?

21 MR MacAULAY: I can confirm that in putting questions,
22 I have also put the questions that have been submitted
23 to me.

24 LADY SMITH: Thank you, Mr MacAulay.

25 Are there any outstanding applications for

1 questions? No.

2 Harry, that does complete all the questions we have
3 for you today. Thank you very much for engaging with us
4 as you have done, both by providing your statement,
5 which I know will have taken a lot of effort and
6 engagement on your part to go back through your
7 memories, and by coming today to the centre that you're
8 at to talk to us over the video link. It's of enormous
9 assistance to us that we're able to talk to you directly
10 and I'm very grateful to you and also to, I think,

11 [REDACTED] who is sitting beside you. Thank you very much
12 indeed. I'm sorry that we have kept you hard up against
13 your deadline for time today, but we are now finished
14 with you, Harry, so we are able to let you go.

15 A. All right, young lady, thank you. The time I spent with
16 you, I hope it's well worth it and you get things
17 correct; all right?

18 LADY SMITH: Thank you, I will bear that in mind.

19 A. Goodbye, and have a good Christmas, all of youse.

20 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

21 (The video link was terminated)

22 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, that's now 9.55. I think we've just
23 about beaten the bell. The bell is about to ring at
24 10 o'clock. Perhaps a short adjournment.

25 LADY SMITH: Let's have a short adjournment and you can

1 change seats.

2 (9.55 am)

3 (A short break)

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1 (10.15 am)

2 LADY SMITH: Ms MacLeod.

3 Witness statement of "MICHAEL" (read)

4 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, I will now read in the first of nine
5 statements that we plan to read in this week. This is
6 a statement of -- I should say they're statements of
7 witnesses who are not able to give evidence by video
8 link or in person.

9 The first of the statements is from an applicant who
10 wishes to remain anonymous and to use the pseudonym
11 "Michael" in giving his evidence and having his
12 statement read in.

13 The statement is to be found at WIT.001.002.8309:

14 "My name is Michael. I was born in 1943. I am
15 presently 75 years of age. My contact details are known
16 to the inquiry.

17 "I was born in a little cottage in Echt in
18 Aberdeenshire. I know now that when I was 3 years old,
19 my mother died giving birth to my sister and I was put
20 into Nazareth House orphanage in Aberdeen. I later
21 learned that my father's sister, who had a daughter
22 already, adopted my sister.

23 "I have no recollection of anything before I was put
24 into Nazareth House. My understanding as I grew up was
25 that I had no parents. I thought I was an orphan.

1 "I have been shown a document by the Scottish Child
2 Abuse Inquiry which gives details of my register entries
3 for Nazareth House. That document records my first name
4 and that I was born in Aberdeen in 1943. It states that
5 I was baptised at St Mary's Church in Aberdeen and
6 records both of my parents' names and that my father was
7 a labourer.

8 "It also records that I was recommended for
9 Nazareth House by the Very Reverend Canon Grant and that
10 I was received there in [REDACTED] 1947 and that I left
11 in [REDACTED] 1953.

12 "There is also an observation that my father was
13 living and Catholic.

14 "I have also been shown an observation book by the
15 inquiry, which records that my father had promised to
16 pay seven shillings and sixpence per week for my care.

17 "Additionally, I have been shown a register of
18 sacraments within which are details of my baptism, my
19 first Holy Communion, my first confession and my
20 confirmation. I have been shown a further document
21 entitled 'boy's inventory' which records details of the
22 clothing I had. I can accept that these documents are
23 accurate and relate to me, but I was only three years
24 old and have no recollections from that time.

25 "I remember two things about Nazareth House in

1 Aberdeen: I was always cold and I was always hungry.
2 When I look back now, I realise it was just after the
3 war and there were lots of kids hungry. I think it was
4 probably par for the course and I put that down as part
5 of growing up.

6 "I always remember boys being there. I don't
7 remember any girls and I can't remember the names of any
8 of the nuns because we only ever called them sister.
9 I don't remember there being any leisure or playtime and
10 I don't remember there being any trips or holidays
11 either. We were just locked up within the walls all the
12 time and that was it.

13 "I don't even have a recollection of there being any
14 special days like Christmas and birthdays were
15 non-existent. I don't remember any work or chores and
16 I don't remember anything about the healthcare. I have
17 no recollection of ever seeing either a doctor or
18 a dentist or what might have happened if any child was
19 sick.

20 "Although my memories of Nazareth House are few,
21 none of them are good. I think I have shut out that
22 part of my life and moved on.

23 "We slept in a dormitory that had quite a few beds
24 in it. I think the oldest boy in my dormitory was about
25 12, but a lot of the others were about the same age as

1 me. Every morning one of the nuns used to come round to
2 wake us all up and get us out of bed. Night-time was
3 the worst. I would lie awake shivering and the end
4 result was that I would wet the bed. This went on for a
5 long time and was the source of all my problems.

6 "I was always hungry at Nazareth House. There never
7 seemed to be enough to eat. We never complained about
8 it because the only thing I remember about mealtimes was
9 one occasion when one of the other kids asked for more.
10 He got a slap across the head from whichever sister it
11 was that was there and was told to sit down and eat what
12 he had been given.

13 "I remember we used to have to take a shower about
14 once a week. They were always cold and once a week was
15 enough. School was within the orphanage and I recall
16 being in class with one of the nuns was doing the
17 teaching. If you got something wrong, you got slapped
18 or you would have to put your hand out and get hit with
19 a ruler.

20 "We had to go to Mass on a regular weekly basis and
21 we also had to go to confession. It was expected of us
22 and if we didn't go to confession, the nuns would want
23 to know why. It was a routine we just got into.

24 "I remember, if I was considered to have been
25 a reasonable child, I might get to say three Hail Marys

1 at confession. If it was considered I'd been
2 particularly naughty -- for instance, I might have
3 stolen another kid's food -- then the priest would make
4 me say the whole rosary. By the time I left the
5 orphanage I was an expert and I could get through the
6 rosary in about two minutes.

7 "I don't remember ever getting a visit from anybody.
8 I have since obtained some letters relating to my stay
9 in Nazareth House in which there is mention of somebody
10 coming to visit me but I don't remember any visits or
11 who that might have been.

12 "I don't remember there being any official people
13 such as inspectors coming to visit the home either.

14 "It was my impression that I didn't have any family.
15 I thought I was an orphan and, like the other kids
16 there, just accepted my lot in life. There was nobody
17 available for any emotional support, you never got close
18 to the nuns, they were just very officious in what they
19 did. I don't even recall having any friends.

20 "In all my time at Nazareth House in Aberdeen I can
21 honestly say I never encountered any act of love or
22 compassion from any of the nuns. They were the bosses
23 and you just did what you were told or got belted.

24 "The nuns ruled with a rod of iron. It was a strict
25 regime. They carried a leather strap hooked to their

1 belts and if they felt they needed to discipline any
2 boy, they took it out and used it. Usually they would
3 belt you on the back of the legs, which seemed to be
4 their favourite method. When you were wearing shorts
5 and it was cold, it would sting. If you were late for
6 chapel or if you were late for the classroom or if you
7 answered back to a sister in any way, that's what you
8 would get.

9 "I saw other boys being hauled off by the ear for
10 wetting their beds and marched down to the bathroom.
11 I never saw what happened to them but I knew what was
12 coming because I wet the bed at Nazareth House as well.
13 One of the reasons I did so was that it was so cold that
14 I didn't want to get out of bed and go to the toilet.

15 "When I did wet the bed one particular nun would
16 punish me. I can't remember her name, but it was her
17 job to get the boys up in the morning and ready for
18 breakfast. At first, every morning that I wet the bed,
19 she hit me on the back of the legs with a strap and this
20 went on for a long time.

21 "I continued to wet the bed so she started grabbing
22 me by the ear and dragging me along to the bathroom.
23 In the bathroom she would stick my head down the toilet
24 and pull the chain. This happened many times but
25 I couldn't stop wetting the bed.

1 "Sometimes that same sister locked me in the toilet
2 overnight and I would sit on the cold floor in the dark
3 and cry until I fell asleep. One time she got real mad
4 at me and locked me in the toilet for an even longer
5 time. I can't remember how long, but more than a day
6 and night. I remember being cold, hungry and thirsty.
7 I have a vivid memory of pulling the chain and drinking
8 the water out of my hands as I scooped it up.

9 "I think I stopped wetting the bed when I was about
10 7 years old, probably because I was so afraid. I would
11 go to bed and not let myself sleep until I needed to go
12 to the toilet. When I did need to go, I would get up
13 and go to the toilet and then go back to bed. That
14 seemed to cure it.

15 "I never reported what was happening to me. Who
16 could I have reported it to? I certainly couldn't have
17 told another nun because I would have got a smack for
18 telling tales.

19 "One morning at breakfast in Nazareth House, around
20 late 1952, a brother from Western Australia came to
21 speak to the boys and talked about life in the orphanage
22 at Bindoon Boys' Town, Western Australia. The head
23 sister got all of our attention and told us that she
24 wanted to welcome a man from Australia.
25 A Christian Brother wearing a long black robe walked in

1 and spun a great yarn about Australia. I don't know
2 this brother's name but I remember some of the things
3 that he told us.

4 "He said that the orphanage in Western Australia was
5 still being built and that the boys there were very
6 happy and got on well together. He said that everywhere
7 there were all kinds of fruit trees that I had never
8 heard of before and that the boys could pick fruit any
9 time. I couldn't imagine what a pear tree, an orange
10 tree or an olive tree were like because I'd never seen
11 one.

12 "He described how the sun was always shining and it
13 was a beautiful place to live. He said that on the farm
14 there were all kinds of animals to look after and when
15 the boys weren't in school they could do so. He made it
16 sound like the Promised Land and after he finished
17 giving such a glowing report, he asked who wanted to go
18 to Australia. My hand shot straight up.

19 "At the time that was all I knew about the selection
20 process. However, in more recent years, I received
21 a letter from my cousin in which she mentions that some
22 men from Nazareth House went to see my grandmother with
23 a view to getting me sent to Australia. My cousin wrote
24 in her letter that my grandmother thought it was going
25 to be a good thing for me to go and that is why she

1 signed it. I have provided a copy of that letter to the
2 inquiry.

3 "I have no memory of my grandmother being involved
4 at all and I have no recollection of her or any of my
5 relatives coming to the home or being involved in me
6 going to Australia. I never saw the Christian Brother
7 that came to speak to us at Nazareth House again.
8 I later found out that he had been recruiting for all
9 four orphanages in Western Australia.

10 "I have provided the inquiry with a copy of my
11 migration form which I obtained a number of years later.
12 The form was completed by Father Cyrill Stinson and
13 shows that the Mother Superior of Nazareth House signed
14 the consent section and that her signature was witnessed
15 by an Aberdeen medical practitioner."

16 My Lady, that document is to be found at
17 WIT.003.002.0281.

18 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

19 MS MACLEOD: "The medical form that accompanies my migration
20 form shows I was a healthy child. I have no
21 recollection of a medical check being done.

22 "There is also information in another document that
23 my grandmother, who is named and noted as 83 years of
24 age and a widow, had no objection to me being sent to
25 Australia.

1 "At the time I knew nothing of that or any other
2 paperwork relating to me being sent to Australia.
3 I don't think we even had a passport.

4 "The next thing I knew after the brother spoke to us
5 at Nazareth House was that I was on a ship, the Otranto,
6 heading for Australia. I remember going to
7 Tilbury Docks and meeting up with kids from other places
8 that were all going there as well. I don't remember how
9 I got to Tilbury Docks or being sent for any health
10 checks before I left Nazareth House.

11 "We all had a small case each and I think there were
12 probably two sets of clothing in mine.

13 "The ship left Tilbury Docks in [REDACTED] 1953."

14 The witness at that time would have been aged 9 and
15 a half years old. From records the inquiry has
16 recovered, the date of the sailing is confirmed as
17 [REDACTED] 1953:

18 "I think one of the brothers came with us because
19 I remember a man in a black robe on the ship. I don't
20 remember anyone else accompanying us boys.

21 "There were about 30 boys on the ship and although
22 I don't remember their names, I do recall there were
23 other boys from Scotland.

24 "It was a six-week trip in those days and I remember
25 when we got into nice warm weather for the first time

1 all the boys were running about in their shorts with no
2 shirts on. We were allowed to run freely around the
3 ship and it was fabulous, feeling the sunshine.

4 "There was a big swimming pool on the ship and all
5 the boys were in it, so I dived in as well. I didn't
6 know how to swim and one of the passengers had to haul
7 me out by the hair. Over the rest of the trip I learned
8 how to swim.

9 "There was all this delicious food that I had never
10 seen before and I used to sneak down to the dining room
11 to get something to eat. One time one of the cabin crew
12 reported me to the brother that was accompanying us and
13 I got a clip on the ear. Other than that, it was an
14 exciting time for me. I was going somewhere new, the
15 sun was shining, and I was feeling warm for probably the
16 first time in my life. In a sense, it was a new
17 beginning.

18 "After six weeks at sea, we arrived at Fremantle,
19 Western Australia. I have been shown a copy of the
20 ship's manifest by the inquiry that was obtained from
21 the National Archives of Australia, which shows that the
22 ship arrived on [REDACTED] 1953.

23 "I am named on the manifest as Master [and my
24 surname] and it shows that I was to be going to Bindoon
25 Boys' Town.

1 "All of us boys were split up at Fremantle. One of
2 the brothers met us at the port and each group were told
3 to get in three different vans. Along with about 12
4 other boys, some Scottish, I was told I was going to
5 Bindoon, which meant nothing to me. The other boys went
6 to Clontarf and to New Norcia.

7 "Once we were all in the van, we were driven to the
8 orphanage, which was 60 miles north of Perth,
9 Western Australia. It was a long trip.

10 "Bindoon Boys' Town was a farm of 17,000 acres. It
11 was a big place and it was very isolated, being 60 miles
12 from Perth. There were two-storey buildings all over
13 the place and at the time we arrived, some were still
14 being built. The orphanage was run by the
15 Christian Brothers and there were 14 brothers as well as
16 a priest who would change every so often and four nuns.
17 I'm not sure what order the nuns were, but they took
18 care of the kitchen and had some other duties.

19 "Brother Burns was in charge and amongst the other
20 brothers that were there, I remember there was
21 Brother **MDV**, Brother **LZO** and Brother **LZP**.

22 "There were about 150 boys in the home, ranging in
23 age from about 7 through to 16. Amongst us there were
24 boys from England, Ireland, Scotland and Malta. We were
25 called by our first names by the brothers and the nuns.

1 "Although I remember a couple of the brothers being
2 kind and soft natured, they were mostly hard cases who
3 would belt you for the smallest infraction. They all
4 carried long leather straps and would give you six of
5 the best to set an example to the other boys not to
6 misbehave. The nuns were also very tough on you if you
7 stepped out of line.

8 "I remember thinking how big Bindoon was when I
9 first arrived there. When you entered the property,
10 a long drive led from the gate. As you carried along
11 the drive, you came to the top of a big hill and then
12 continued along the long drive that had the Stations of
13 the Cross all the way down to the bottom.

14 "I remember travelling down the drive on our first
15 day and the brother that was with us telling us all
16 about the Stations of the Cross. I was thinking that
17 was the last thing in the world I wanted to hear about.

18 "When we got to the buildings, lots of other kids
19 who were already part of the orphanage had gathered
20 around to meet us. Several of the kids were given
21 orders to take us to where our beds were. We went away
22 with them and we started making friends or enemies from
23 that moment on.

24 "Although some of the buildings were still being
25 built, our sleeping quarters had already been finished.

1 We slept in a big, long dormitory in which there were
2 wire-framed beds on either side that all had thin
3 mattresses on top. The brothers tries to separate the
4 boys by age and most of those in my dorm were much about
5 the same age as me.

6 "Our life at Bindoon Boys' Town was run by the huge
7 bell that was rung every time we had to do something.
8 The bell would wake us up at 6 o'clock in the morning
9 when we would have to get up. I learned very quickly to
10 get up as soon as the bell rang because if you didn't
11 one of the brothers would come along and kick the
12 mattress from underneath with a big heavy boot. He
13 would kick it so hard that you were almost kicked out of
14 bed and it hurt.

15 "First, we would go to the bathroom and then we
16 usually went to chapel to say the rosary. After chapel,
17 we would have breakfast and then we would work on the
18 building site until it was time for school. At school
19 we would have a break for lunch and then after school
20 we would be back working on the building site until it
21 got dark or until teatime.

22 "After tea there was a bit of leisure time before
23 chapel again and then bed.

24 "at mealtimes we all sat at tables of four in two
25 dining rooms, one for the younger boys and one for the

1 older boys. When we were in to eat, we would sit at the
2 tables and you were supposed to be absolutely still and
3 quiet. A brother would say grace and then you would get
4 up, queue go up, get your meal and come back. There was
5 always an order to who would go up and when.

6 "Sometimes there would be a special treat, but most
7 of the time we always knew what we were going to get.
8 Breakfast consisted of two slices of greased bread.
9 When it was your turn, you would walk up to the counter,
10 pick up two slices of bread, dip it in a tin of fat, and
11 put it on your plate. Then you'd go back to your table
12 and wait until everybody had done that and a brother
13 would give you an order and you could eat.

14 "At lunch you'd be given a slice of bread and some
15 sort of weak stew that was like soup. You would line up
16 in the same way, pick it up at the counter, return to
17 your table, and wait until the order was given after
18 everybody had got theirs.

19 "Often tea was two pieces of sliced bread again.

20 "As a treat every now and again, one of the brothers
21 would take the truck and go down to the factories in
22 Perth. All the Wheaties and Corn Flakes that were
23 produced at these factories would be swept up off the
24 floor and put into tea chests. The truck would be
25 loaded up with the tea chests and when it came back we

1 could have them for breakfast. Sometimes we would have
2 water with them, sometimes we would get diluted milk,
3 but you'd have to be careful chewing because there were
4 all kinds of things in them as well. We just accepted
5 it at part of life. That was all we knew.

6 "Another of the treats was again after one of the
7 brothers had gone down to Perth. He would get the
8 broken biscuits that had been swept up off the floor of
9 one of the biscuit factories. Probably once a week
10 we would have what was called 'treat night'. We would
11 all line up with the big boys in one line and the small
12 boys in another. Then we were allowed to go up to the
13 tea chest, put our hands in and however many broken
14 biscuits we could scoop up in one hand, we would have.
15 We thought these were great days.

16 "There were big showers that we all went in
17 together. We just threw our clothes off, had a quick
18 shower, and threw our clothes back on again. We had to
19 share a towel with five or six others, which would get
20 thrown over a line, ready for the next time.

21 "We were all given two pairs of khaki shorts and two
22 khaki shirts to wear and we used to change them once
23 a week. There was no underwear, socks or shoes. That
24 was it. When you're used to walking around everywhere
25 in your bare feet, you could walk on glass and not feel

1 it very much.

2 "When we changed clothes, the dirty ones would be
3 put in a big pile and, depending whose duty it was, each
4 week boys would wash them in a machine.

5 "We had leisure time in the evenings when we could
6 all play amongst ourselves. After I had been working
7 in the machine shop I built a bike from bits and pieces
8 and I was sort of like the king of the road. I welded
9 a couple of brackets on to the side of the bike and rode
10 it around, cutting into other kids and breaking the
11 spokes on their bikes. It was all fun, but if you could
12 hurt somebody, that was great, you were considered a bit
13 of a hero.

14 "There was also a boxing ring where we would box
15 regularly and once a month they would show a movie on
16 a big screen. I remember one time they were showing the
17 old version of Calamity Jane when one of the star's
18 boobs flashed on the screen. All the boys started
19 cheering and the brother that was watching it with us
20 was furious. He started belting boys everywhere and
21 we weren't allowed another movie for six months.

22 "We also played football and cricket. Even when
23 we were playing sport we were all still in our khakis
24 and bare feet. Trying to play Australian Rules Football
25 in our bare feet was tough but we could do it.

1 "We went to the other orphanages to spend the day
2 and, whenever we did, they would provide a lunch of
3 sandwiches or something. Usually we went to play
4 football and, if we won, the brother would reward us
5 with ice cream on the way home. If not, we drove home
6 in silence.

7 "We enjoyed these trips, getting to meet the kids at
8 the other orphanages, but that was the only time we got
9 out, except at Christmas, when we were taken to a place
10 called Moore River in Western Australia somewhere.
11 I don't remember going there at any other time of the
12 year.

13 "There were two trips to Moore River, one for the
14 older boys and one for the younger ones. We were split
15 into two groups, depending on our ages at the time at
16 Bindoon, so it depended how old you were which group you
17 went with. They would put up a huge tent and we would
18 camp and sleep in it together. That was the one holiday
19 break we got, but there was nothing organised while we
20 were there. There would just be 70 or so boys running
21 wild down at the beach or at the river, wrestling and
22 that sort of thing. The brothers would allow us just to
23 let our hair down a bit.

24 "When I arrived, the Brothers sorted out where I was
25 and put me into the right class at school for my age and

1 I was in school for the whole time I was at Bindoon.
2 The brothers did all the teaching; there were no lay
3 teachers and none of the nuns taught anything.

4 "I remember that the schooling seemed to be religion
5 more than anything else. There was maths and all the
6 other proper subjects and we had tests as well, but in
7 the main it was religion.

8 "If you were asked a question and you got it wrong,
9 you were punished. You had to go to the front of the
10 class, put your hand out, and whichever brother was
11 teaching would strap you. The things we were taught we
12 learned by rote because we didn't want to get strapped.
13 That went all the way through the school years.

14 "Some boys did well in the tests but I didn't do so
15 well because I was good with my hands. I was more
16 interested in other stuff, in the machine room or
17 whatever.

18 "There was nothing taught to equip us for adult
19 life, except that the priest would give us lectures on
20 morality and that sort of thing. One of his favourite
21 lectures was about the evils of alcohol, yet this priest
22 was the biggest drunk I've ever seen. I can't remember
23 his name.

24 "When I was 13 or 14, it was not unusual, when I was
25 sound asleep in my bed, for a brother to wake me and

1 another three lads up with a kick under our mattresses
2 and tell us to go with him. We would do so and get
3 marched out in the gardens where we would find a priest
4 lying as drunk as a skunk under the bush. We would have
5 to pick him up and carry him to his bed. I would go
6 into confession after this asking for forgiveness for my
7 sins and thinking that this guy was a worse sinner than
8 me.

9 "Once a year a couple of doctors and a couple of
10 nurses from somewhere government agency would come and
11 examine us. We would all have to strip down to a pair
12 of shorts and they would tap our chests and look down
13 our throats and in our ears. They would take about
14 2 minutes with each boy. I never heard any more about
15 those checks and we never got to know what those checks
16 were for.

17 "There was an infirmary at Bindoon and if a boy was
18 hurt badly enough, they would be put in there.
19 Sometimes they would be driven off to the nearest town
20 and taken to the doctor there. If you had a toothache,
21 the brother would take you to some place out of the
22 orphanage as well.

23 "Religious instruction was a big focus. There was
24 Mass three or four times a week and we had chapel every
25 morning and night which consisted of us saying the

1 rosary and the priest reading out prayers.

2 "We used to strive to be altar boy because after we
3 had Mass the altar boy had to carry the chalice and
4 could drink the wine that was in it, although the
5 brothers were not aware that was what we were doing.

6 "Christmas was not celebrated other than that there
7 was a special Mass. There were certainly no presents
8 given out and the food was always the same. Birthdays
9 too were a non-event.

10 "My cousin would send me a present for Christmas,
11 usually a Broons comic book. That was my only Christmas
12 present and I would hang on to it for dear life.

13 "I never had any visits but at least once a year
14 a group of three or so inspectors would come. We always
15 knew they were coming because the brothers would make us
16 tidy the place up and we would all have to work extra
17 hard to make it look nice and neat. We would see the
18 inspectors marching around and as they did, we older
19 boys would watch for them when they threw away their
20 cigarette ends. When they did, we would race to see who
21 could pick the butt up.

22 "Of the older boys, the brothers would choose six
23 who would go into a room with the inspectors. They
24 would ask us questions such as whether we were being
25 treated well and suchlike. It was such a waste of time

1 because beforehand we would be told by one of the
2 brothers that if we said anything out of line, they
3 would find out about it and they would belt us. There
4 was always one brother sitting in and we just gave the
5 answers that were expected.

6 " My understanding was that I was an orphan.
7 However, my cousin would write me a letter once a year
8 while I was at Bindoon. I don't recall getting any
9 letters from her while I had still been in Scotland. My
10 sister wasn't good at writing and my cousin would tell
11 me how my sister was and that was about it. I knew my
12 sister was living with my cousin and I would write back
13 to my cousin once a year or so.

14 " I never really thought anymore about those letters
15 or about what happened to my parents. I assumed at the
16 time that my cousin was the lady who had adopted my
17 sister.

18 " Once I had been in Bindoon for a while, perhaps
19 when I was about 13, one of the brothers gave me
20 a letter that said that my father had died. After
21 I read it, I was confused. I thought both my parents
22 were already dead. Looking back now, I think I must
23 have been mixed up about what the letter actually said.
24 I think my father did die while I was in Nazareth House
25 and perhaps the letter was telling me about my past

1 history.

2 "I had half a dozen boys who were my friends. We
3 looked after each other and if one of us got into
4 a fight, we would all get into it. They were good
5 friendships, although I didn't have any contact with
6 them after I left the home.

7 "We had no personal possessions. I would hide the
8 Broons book that I got for Christmas from my cousin
9 under the cover. There was no such thing as a locker
10 for your stuff because we didn't have anything. All we
11 had was one set of clothes to wear and another set that
12 we kept at the end of our beds. That was it.

13 "If we weren't working on the buildings we were
14 working on the farm. It was a tough place. The younger
15 ones would have to sweep up the quadrangle and all the
16 verandas and by the time you were 11 or 12, you were
17 considered a man and you'd be doing the heavy building
18 and farm work.

19 "By the time I arrived at Bindoon, the first floor
20 of the main building had been completed and they were
21 putting a second floor on it, which was to become more
22 dormitories. The boys were doing bricklaying and all
23 the plastering, but for some of the special jobs the
24 brothers would bring in outside tradespeople. We loved
25 that because when the brothers weren't looking we would

1 get a cigarette or a drink from the tradespeople.

2 "At that time safety wasn't a concern. We would
3 maybe be carrying six bricks at a time, walking up
4 planks to the second storey of one of the buildings,
5 dropping them off and going down to get another load.
6 We would also be carrying buckets of cement up and all
7 this was done in our bare feet and with no protection.

8 "One of the Christian Brothers was an electrician
9 and he taught some of the boys what he was doing.
10 Another brother was a plumber and he taught some boys,
11 myself included, how to bend copper pipes and weld.
12 We were getting some training in that sense and
13 I enjoyed that.

14 "As I got a bit older and because I was good with my
15 hands, I worked in the machine shop. I learned how to
16 fix the trucks and I learned how to drive the tractors.
17 Over a period of several months, I welded the tracks on
18 a bulldozer, building them back up again.

19 "That was kind of a good side of life at Bindoon.
20 I enjoyed that and when I look back now and I am
21 thankful for learning those skills.

22 "I drove the tractors for planting crops and the
23 bulldozer for clearing land and the truck which was used
24 for every around the place. To be able to reach the
25 pedals on these things they bolted thick blocks on the

1 brake and clutch pedals for the kids who couldn't reach.

2 "There was also a dairy, a piggery and a lot of
3 chickens and I would have to take my turn working with
4 them. When it was my turn to work in the dairy, I would
5 have to get up early and bring the cows in for milking.
6 If ever I was late, the brother in charge would give me
7 the strap. After the milking was finished we would dip
8 a bucket in a 44-gallon drum of water that there was and
9 throw it all over the floor to clean it.

10 "I don't remember any boy getting paid for any of
11 the work they had done, although we used to get
12 rewarded. As well as getting the broken biscuits and
13 corn flakes that had been swept off the factory floors,
14 a brother would go to Perth and get all the broken
15 lollies from another factory. As a reward for all the
16 work we did, we were allowed to swoop up a handful of
17 lollies.

18 "Life was pretty tough and there was a pecking order
19 amongst the boys and the older ones used to bully the
20 younger ones all the time. I soon learned that you did
21 not cry when somebody bullied you because you'd be
22 considered a cissy and then everybody picked on you.

23 "I arrived at the age of 9 and by the time I had got
24 to 11, I was one of the kids that nobody wanted to mess
25 with. I had learned very smartly that if somebody

1 picked on me I would try to hurt them. I would pick up
2 a piece of timber or a brick and I would try to hurt
3 them. I was known as having a vicious temper and most
4 of the other boys would stay clear of me.

5 "That worked all right to some extent, except that
6 once a week they would set up a boxing square in the
7 quadrangle. The main brother would call me up and tell
8 the others that they had three minutes to knock the
9 daylights out of me or I would knock it out of them.
10 I would have to knock whichever lad came forward down
11 and then, after three minutes, somebody else would come
12 up. The end result of all of that was that when I left
13 the orphanage, I did so as a very angry and violent
14 person.

15 "In terms of discipline, it was a very strict regime
16 at Bindoon. One of things we were not allowed to do
17 under any circumstances was answer back. If a brother
18 said anything, you weren't allowed to question it. They
19 expected immediate obedience of anything they told you
20 to do. A brother would always check our work and if
21 a job, for example, sweeping the verandas, wasn't done
22 right, you would get a beating.

23 "The brothers ruled by the rod. If you were out of
24 the line in their eyes they corrected you. They had
25 straps that were about 2 feet long and an inch across

1 and, when they brought them down on your hands, they
2 could hurt you. Usually the strap was used on our
3 hands, but if the brother lost his temper he would just
4 grab you by the hair and belt you on the legs, the
5 backside, the back or anywhere. Sometimes you would
6 have welts for weeks afterwards.

7 "I did think that with 150 kids to control, they had
8 to keep us in line somehow.

9 "There was also a room that they would put boys in
10 occasionally, which they called the quiet room. They
11 would threaten us with did and if they did put anyone
12 in, they would lock the door and leave them. Sometimes
13 you could be in that room in the dark for a couple of
14 days.

15 "It happened to me once. When I was put in I was
16 trying to get out, but then after a while my voice wore
17 out and I just sat there and resigned myself to it.
18 I was in for a couple of days and had to do the toilet
19 in the corner. Sometimes somebody would open the door
20 and throw a piece of bread in for me to eat. I was glad
21 to get out into the daylight when they finally opened
22 the door.

23 "I had stopped wetting my bed by the time I got to
24 Bindoon Boys' Town, but there were other boys who did
25 wet the bed. If they did, they would get belted by the

1 brothers. I don't know if anything else happened to
2 them.

3 "I used to think that the nuns at Nazareth House in
4 Aberdeen were cruel, but the brothers were ten times
5 worse. I only remember two of the brothers being kind
6 and compassionate. The others were monsters, they were
7 brutal.

8 "When I was probably about 11, I was finding life at
9 Bindoon a bit tough. I had been getting into lots of
10 fights and had been receiving lots of strappings when
11 one brother, Brother LZO put his hand on my shoulder
12 and asked me how I was getting on. I told him that I
13 was finding it very hard and I think I started to cry.
14 He told me that he thought we had better have a talk and
15 told me a time to go and see him.

16 "I met Brother LZO and told him how sick I was
17 fighting to get everything I wanted. We talked for
18 quite a while and he gave me some advice, although I
19 can't remember what it was and we left it at that.

20 "Within a week, Brother LZO came visiting me
21 during the night, took me out of my bed and into his bed
22 and he started to molest me. He raped me. It hurt like
23 anything and I wanted him to stop. That abuse went on
24 about once a week for over a year.

25 "I used to hate what he did to me and yet in some

1 ways I used to look forward to it, not to what he would
2 do, but to the reward I would get. Always the next day
3 he would seek me out and tell me I was his favourite
4 little boy and that I was not to say anything and then
5 he would give me a big handful of lollies, which I used
6 to love.

7 "Every night I would lie awake anticipating him
8 coming to get me until one night when I saw him marching
9 another boy out. I knew then that he was starting on
10 somebody else and he never abused me again.

11 "Other brothers were doing the same thing that
12 Brother LZO did to me to other boys. They never did
13 with me, but I would see boys getting led out of the
14 dormitory during the night and I knew what was
15 happening. I can't recall those other brothers' names.

16 "Of the brothers who were cruel, one that I remember
17 in particular was Brother MDV. He was brutal and not
18 just with me; he was vicious with other boys too. As
19 the other brothers did, Brother MDV used to carry
20 a leather strap around with him that was about two feet
21 long and he used it regularly.

22 "It was par for the course at Bindoon that when you
23 reached a certain age you got more responsibility. When
24 I was about 13 or maybe 14 it was my turn to be on dairy
25 duty. I had to get myself up in the early hours of the

1 morning before anybody else, get dressed, go out, and
2 chase the cows around the paddock, trying to get them in
3 for milking.

4 "A brother would be in the dairy along with a couple
5 of the other boys and we'd go through the whole process
6 of milking them. Sometimes these cows were hard to find
7 in the dark and on a couple of occasions I was late
8 getting the cows into the dairy. As a result, the
9 brother in charge, Brother MDV gave me six of the best
10 with his strap across my hands. By the time I had been
11 belted so many times that he was finished belting me
12 after the second time I was late, I just smiled at him.
13 I knew that would make him mad and it did. He said to
14 me, 'Think you're tough, do you? I'll fix you.' He
15 grabbed me and put me head first into the 44-gallon drum
16 of water that was kept in the dairy and pushed the drum
17 over with me in it. The thing I remember most is lying
18 on the floor like a drowned rat and Brother MDV
19 standing over me and laughing his head off. I hated him
20 from that moment on.

21 "If I was in charge of the piggery I would have to
22 get up at 4 o'clock in the morning and boil up all the
23 food for the pigs. When it was finished, it all had to
24 be slopped out and taken to the pens. Quite often,
25 while I was down there by myself and had the fire going,

1 I would feel hungry, so I used to go next door and catch
2 a chicken, wring its neck, and chuck it on the fire.

3 "On one occasion, Brother MDV walked in and caught
4 me. As soon as he saw what I was doing, he laid into me
5 with a strap and not just with his hands; he was hitting
6 me everywhere and calling me all sorts of names. When
7 it was all over and I had got rid of the bruises
8 I thought, I like chicken, so I did it again, but made
9 sure I didn't get caught.

10 "Another time I was working on the building site
11 when another brother, maybe Brother LZP saw me and
12 told me that I wasn't working hard enough. He came up
13 to me and cracked me on the head with a piece of timber
14 that he had in his hand.

15 "He hit me so hard that my head split open and it
16 was so bad that I had to be taken to the hospital in
17 Perth, where I had to stay for a few days. On the way
18 to the hospital, this brother told me not to say
19 anything. He told me that if I was asked, I had to say
20 that it had been one of the other boys who threw a stone
21 at me.

22 "One morning at breakfast, when I was about 15,
23 I was sitting at the table with three other boys,
24 waiting to say grace, and I was whispering to the others
25 when one of the other brothers came behind me and belted

1 me on the ear. He hit me so hard that he broke my
2 eardrum and knocked me off my chair. I was screaming in
3 pain but the brother just told me not to be such a cissy
4 and get up.

5 "Something happened to me at that moment. Something
6 inside me snapped. I was so angry I jumped up and
7 grabbed this brother. I was getting stuck into him,
8 punching and kicking him and trying to really hurt him.
9 Another brother had to come over, grab me by the scruff
10 of the neck and pull me off him.

11 "The head brother came into the dining room to see
12 what all the fuss was about and said he wanted to see me
13 in his office after breakfast. When I went to his
14 office he had another brother in with him and both had
15 their long straps in their hands. The head brother told
16 me that I had crossed a line and that they were going to
17 belt me within an inch of my life. I told them that if
18 they touched me I would sneak up to the head brother's
19 bed one night and cut his throat while he was sleeping.
20 We all knew where he slept because he used to snore so
21 badly. I was so angry I shaking with rage and I would
22 have smashed his head in with a brick or anything else
23 just to hurt him.

24 "He told me to go and wait outside while they talked
25 about it. When they called me back in, they must have

1 been so afraid of what I might do that they told me they
2 were going to deal with it later. They never touched me
3 after that. I had reached the point where I had broken.

4 "On one occasion when I was about 13 and while
5 Brother [LZO] was still abusing me, other
6 Christian Brothers came into the home and held an
7 inquiry. I don't know who those brothers were, but they
8 were concerned because a complaint of sexual abuse had
9 come from outside. I didn't know the circumstances.

10 "They called each off us boys into a room and asked
11 us about sexual abuse. When Brother [LZO] found out
12 what was going on, he pulled me aside and told me what
13 would happen to him if they found out and promised me
14 some more lollies. I went into the room where there
15 were three brothers and they quizzed me intensely. They
16 told me they knew what had been going on and that they
17 knew it had been happening to me and they asked me who
18 had been doing it. I just told them nobody had done
19 anything to me and I wouldn't answer their questions.
20 I was afraid for Brother [LZO].

21 "Some of us talked about this afterwards, but we all
22 acted brave and told each other that we had kept our
23 mouths shut.

24 "There was no follow-up that I was aware of
25 afterwards and Brother [LZO] remained at Bindoon.

1 "Other than that one time, the question is: who
2 could we boys report the abuse to? There was nobody
3 there. We learned from experience that if we reported
4 something a brother had done to another brother, they
5 would belt us. They would assume we were telling lies.
6 We learned not to trust the brothers at all.

7 "We boys would never talk directly amongst ourselves
8 about what was happening to each other, but if a brother
9 gave a boy a handful of lollies or something, we would
10 tease each other. We would tell the boy that we knew
11 why he was getting them and make fun of the lad. That
12 was it.

13 "I think I had just turned 16 when I left Bindoon
14 Boys' Town. I was taken to Perth, given a job in an
15 engineering factory and put in a boarding house and that
16 was it. I had no contact with the Christian Brothers
17 afterwards. I was really left on my own.

18 "After I had paid the boarding money, I could do
19 what I wanted with the rest of my pay, so I bought
20 myself an Indian motorbike. After I got rid of that
21 bike, I got another more powerful one that I would take
22 out on the open highway, ride as fast as I could, take
23 my hands off the handlebars, close my eyes and see how
24 fast I could travel. I had a death wish and I don't
25 know how many times I came close to losing it.

1 "This was all a consequence of what had gone before.
2 It had made me do stupid things and I had no respect for
3 my own life and no respect for anyone else's life. The
4 awful thing is that I was so full of anger and rage that
5 I just wanted to hurt people.

6 "On Friday and Saturday nights, I would meet up with
7 more boys who had been at the Catholic orphanages in
8 Western Australia, go to the local pub and get drunk.
9 When we left, we would walk the streets looking for
10 people to bash up and then laugh our heads off because
11 we got such a kick out of hurting people.

12 "We would look for people in authority. I hated
13 people in authority and if we saw a policeman, for
14 instance, our Friday night was made. We would go and
15 attack him and run for our lives.

16 "We were all the same. We were all lost. We just
17 wanted someone to notice us and we ended up doing crazy
18 things.

19 "We did this on many occasions until one time when
20 I thought we had gone too far, and I told myself I had
21 to get out of there. I was turning into a monster and
22 I knew that if I didn't get away, I was going to end up
23 in jail.

24 "By the time I was nearly 20, I left Perth and I got
25 a job as a windmill mechanic on a sheep station up north

1 in Carnarvon. The windmills would get blown over in the
2 cyclones and I would reassemble them by myself and get
3 them put up again. I loved it.

4 "After 12 months, in 1964, I flew back to Perth for
5 a holiday. I got a bus from the airport to the city and
6 looked around for somewhere to stay. A guy who had been
7 the foreman of the engineering shop I had worked in when
8 I left saw me and told me to come and stay with him.

9 "I did so and I think on the third day I was there,
10 the pastor of the pentecostal church came to visit me.
11 When the pastor saw me, she started to preach to me and
12 told me how my life needed to change. After two hours
13 of heavy discussion with me, contradicting her, telling
14 her what the Catholic Church had taught me, I went
15 outside to smoke. I went back in and the end result was
16 that she told me I needed to receive Christ into my
17 heart as my saviour.

18 "In response and to shut her up, I told her I would
19 make a deal with her. After all that she had told me
20 and everything that the Catholic Church had told me, I
21 didn't know what to believe any more.

22 "She led me through a simple prayer and laid hands
23 on me. The moment she did I fell to the floor and to my
24 absolute surprise I began to bawl like a baby. As I lay
25 there on the floor, I could see a pink neon sign in my

1 mind going back and forwards that said, 'Jesus loves
2 you.' For the first time in my life, I heard someone
3 tell me that they loved me. It was amazing.

4 "A few days later, the pastor put me in a bathtub of
5 water and baptised me and I became a born-again
6 Christian. God took away all the anger, hatred and
7 violence from my life. He also took away the stronghold
8 that alcohol and cigarettes had on me. I haven't
9 touched a drop of alcohol or had a cigarette since.

10 "I flew back up to the north, to Carnarvon, and as
11 I got off the plane, God spoke to me and told me he
12 wanted me for the ministry. I immediately told my boss
13 that I was giving him three months' notice because I was
14 going to be a preacher. He laughed so much he was
15 rolling around the tarmac because he knew what a thug
16 I was.

17 "The irony is with all the bad experiences I had
18 with people of the Catholic Church, who I hated by this
19 time, I left that job after three months and went to
20 Bible college and prepared to serve God. Every bit of
21 hatred and animosity that I had to all those who did
22 those things to me was dealt with.

23 "Eventually I graduated and at the age of 23, while
24 I was at Bible college, I met my wife. We married in
25 1968 and we have now been together and in the ministry

1 for 51 years. We have two children. Our daughter is 49
2 and she and her husband, who is also a minister, have
3 three children. Our son is now 48 and he has a son. We
4 have a lovely family.

5 "Since I first graduated I have been a full-time
6 pastor, firstly as an assistant for 12 months, until my
7 wife and I moved. We have lived and worked in various
8 places throughout Australia and in New Zealand. My last
9 church was in Queensland where I remained for 20 years
10 as a senior minister.

11 "Although I am now retired, I am still an assistant
12 minister in the church, and so the change God brought to
13 my life in 1964 has continued to this day. I'm kept
14 busy and I like that because I don't like the idea of
15 sitting down all day.

16 "I have obtained a number of documents and letters
17 relating to my time in the orphanages and my migration,
18 however I'm not sure now where a lot of them came from.

19 "I do know that my cousin managed to obtain some,
20 including my migration forms, and she sent them to me,
21 but I can't recall where everything had been held.

22 "I have some information relating to my half-brother
23 and sister, which may have been obtained on my behalf by
24 the Child Migrants Trust, but I can't be certain.

25 "I am aware that the Western Australian Government

1 have a department that looked after the child migrants
2 and they gave me some information that I needed when
3 applied for Australian citizenship back in the 1960s.

4 "Amongst the information I got was a letter dated in
5 1961 from the child welfare department which certifies
6 I was a child migrant.

7 "I also managed to obtain a document from the Family
8 and Children's Services. Again, I'm not sure how I came
9 into possession of it, but I have provided to copy to
10 the inquiry. There is reference in that document to my
11 destination being Clontarf when I got to Australia, but
12 I never went there.

13 "I have not obtained any health records from my
14 childhood, other than the one that accompanied my
15 migration forms.

16 "All through my time in Bindoon and since, I have
17 received letters from my cousin and I would write in
18 reply, maybe about once a year. About 40 years ago,
19 while I was living in New Zealand, I went on a mission
20 trip to Africa and Israel and at the end I went to
21 Scotland to meet my sister. I flew into Heathrow and my
22 sister and her husband drove down from Aberdeen to pick
23 me up. We travelled back to Aberdeen and I met some of
24 my family for the first time, including my three
25 half-brothers and my half-sister. They had the same mum

1 as me but a different dad. It was cold in Aberdeen and
2 the weather was so bad that we ended up getting snowed
3 in for some of the time.

4 "Unfortunately, when I returned to Australia, I only
5 had the address of one of my half-brothers. I tried to
6 maintain contact and we exchanged a few letters, but
7 they fizzled out eventually. I'm not sure who the
8 poorer writer was.

9 "My wife managed to get my cousin's address after we
10 got engaged and she wrote to her and they started
11 a regular correspondence. My cousin gave us a whole lot
12 of information that she could remember about the past
13 and it was very helpful. I have provided the inquiry
14 with copies of some letters that she sent, which include
15 a lot of information about my family and what happened
16 to my and my sister.

17 "We tried to track my half-brothers and sisters down
18 again with the assistance of the Child Migrants Trust,
19 but we never managed. One of my problems is I have
20 great difficulty locking on to the family that I have.
21 I dismiss my family in my mind and I don't want to go
22 down that path.

23 "My wife and I visited Echt where I was born when we
24 went to Scotland in 1996. My wife had never met my
25 family and I wanted her to. We stayed with my cousin

1 and her husband and made some family connections at a
2 family barbecue she organised. It surprised me when
3 they told me I was the spitting image of my father.

4 "They also told me that when they found out that my
5 grandmother had signed me away and got me sent to
6 Australia, there was a big row amongst the family. They
7 said that they never spoke to grandma for a long time.
8 I knew nothing about that.

9 "My wife and I saw the cottage where I was born,
10 which was still being used as a farm cottage, and we
11 went to the cemetery to try to find my mother's grave.
12 The caretaker gave us a number and pointed us in the
13 direction of the paupers' graves. We found it, although
14 there were no markings, and I realised that my mother
15 was probably the third or fourth person that had been
16 put in that one grave. It is just yet another thing
17 that I have to shut out. I couldn't understand how
18 someone could do that to my mother.

19 "I met my sister on two occasions and on the last
20 occasion I wanted to try and connect with her so that we
21 could have some sort of relationship. I wrote to her
22 and told her I was coming but she wrote back and told me
23 not to and that she wouldn't let me into the house.

24 "I got her number from another lady and I phoned her
25 up and told her I was coming whether liked it or not.

1 Fortunately, when I got to her house she opened the
2 door. She had become agoraphobic and lived in the
3 lounge.

4 "I managed to persuade her to come out with my wife
5 and I and we spent the day with her. We took her back
6 home and told her we could see her the next day, but
7 when we turned up she yelled at us and she wouldn't open
8 the door and yelled at us to go away.

9 "One of the issues I had with my sister before she
10 locked me out and wouldn't talk to me was that her view
11 was that I was the lucky one. I was put in an orphanage
12 and I was sent to Australia and I had been given all
13 these privileges. She pointed out what I had made out
14 of my life and could see only negative stuff in her own
15 life. It may have been that she wasn't clear in her own
16 mind at that time. She was bipolar and had some
17 problems.

18 "A couple of years back, my wife and I got an email
19 from my sister's daughter, saying that my sister had
20 died. It was the most odd thing because I didn't know
21 how to react. I didn't know whether I should cry or
22 feel sorry. I tried to get a connection but there was
23 nothing there. I wondered whether I should fly back to
24 Scotland for the funeral, but I didn't know why I should
25 do that. Trying to get my family connections worked out

1 in my head has never worked for me.

2 "I had a good time when I went to Scotland but
3 I remember asking myself whether I would have ended up
4 like my relations if I had stayed in Scotland and not
5 been sent to Australia. I wasn't being critical, they
6 seemed fairly happy, but I felt I was better off in
7 Australia.

8 "From my point of view, the whole thing is a mess up
9 and I can't get my head around it. I have resigned
10 myself to the fact that my family, my wife, children and
11 grandchildren are all here in Australia. That's how
12 I see my family.

13 "Interestingly, though, my daughter and her husband
14 drove up to Scotland and went to see my sister's
15 daughter and her family and they got on like a house on
16 fire. They remain in touch and so there is still
17 a connection.

18 "I have never reported what happened to me to the
19 Christian Brothers for anyone else. There was no room
20 for that in the orphanage itself and later on I just
21 kept it all to myself. My conversion experience helped
22 me deal with a lot of things.

23 "I am aware that there was litigation taken out
24 against the Christian Brothers by a firm of solicitors
25 from Sydney called Slater & Gordon, but I was never

1 involved in it.

2 "I have provided the inquiry with a copy of a letter
3 I received from the Western Australia Institutions
4 Reconciliation Trust dated 4 October 1996. The
5 reference is WIT.003.002.0290.

6 "The letter states that the fund was at that time
7 in the final stages of setting up the trust. It advises
8 that in order for me to receive benefits under the
9 trust, I was required to provide formal notification of
10 my intention to be a beneficiary. It also advises that
11 each beneficiary was entitled to claim \$2,000 as
12 reimbursement for miscellaneous expenses.

13 "Unfortunately, I can't now recall what that letter
14 related to although I believe I received some money and
15 used it to return to Scotland for the second time with
16 my wife.

17 "I believe that there was also an Australian travel
18 fund and a Christian Brothers travel fund which had been
19 set up following the Slater & Gordon litigation. I am
20 also aware that a family restoration fund was set up and
21 administered by the Child Migrants Trust to enable
22 former child migrants to return to the UK and see their
23 families, however I never accessed that.

24 "In 2006 I took part in the VOICES campaign, which
25 stood for Victims of Institutionalised Cruelty,

1 Exploitation and Supporters. I wrote down my story and
2 submitted to them although unfortunately I no longer
3 have a copy of what I wrote.

4 "I'm not sure whether what I'd written was then
5 submitted to the Western Australia redress scheme
6 because not that long ago I received \$40,000 as redress
7 from Western Australia. I never met anybody from the WA
8 scheme; it was all done over the phone.

9 "There had been more money promised at first.
10 However, they had made the field so wide when they held
11 the redress scheme that the state couldn't afford to
12 give what had originally been promised. Instead of
13 restricting it to institutions run by the church, they
14 opened it up to all different homes and the response was
15 so great that their resources went.

16 "After the redress scheme in WA, I received a letter
17 from the WA Government apologising for what happened.
18 This is the strange thing. The Prime Minister at the
19 time, Kevin Rudd, gave a big statement and apologised to
20 the child migrants, but my question is: what good did it
21 do? What did it change?

22 "I wasn't aware of the British apology regarding
23 child migration, but if you ask anybody who was abused
24 and who received an apology, they will ask: what
25 difference does it make? Saying sorry is not enough;

1 you have to change what has happened by bringing some
2 healing.

3 "If the abuse was dealt with at an individual level
4 then at least any apology might convince the individual
5 that they had been believed. A general apology, issued
6 perhaps as a publicity stunt, does not amount to much at
7 all in my view.

8 "In all the years I've been away from Bindoon and
9 despite there having been 150 kids there, I have only
10 ever met one boy who had been there with me. He was
11 a Scot as well but I don't recall his name. Everyone
12 scattered and went their different ways, although I have
13 heard some boys' names mentioned on TV or radio
14 sometimes.

15 "While the Western Australia scheme was going on,
16 a TV programme was interviewing wives of children who
17 had been brought out to Australia as slave labour, as
18 they called it. Other boys had been having problems
19 with drugs and alcohol and I recognised some of the
20 names of the boys. Their lives were a mess.

21 "In 1961 I received a letter offering me the chance
22 to become an Australian citizen. I believe these
23 letters were sent to all the boys and girls that were
24 sent out. The Western Australian Government had
25 a department that looked after the child migrants and

1 they provided all the details I needed. I filled out
2 all the necessary paperwork and didn't have any
3 difficulties and I have held an Australian passport
4 since.

5 "As an Australian citizen, I would be able to access
6 any benefits that I might require.

7 "I tried going to a psychologist once about
8 eight years ago when the redress scheme in
9 Western Australia was going on. I contacted the redress
10 scheme but I ended up getting mad. After telling me
11 they thought I had some issues, they recommended I see
12 a psychologist. I did so and after three visits the
13 psychologist told me I was going to need a lot of
14 sessions to sort myself out. I was told I would need to
15 go to my doctor and get some sort of certificate so that
16 Medicare would pay for it. I went to my doctor who
17 instead wanted me to see a psychiatrist and that was
18 within the practice.

19 "I went to the psychiatrist, spent a hour with him
20 and told him all the things that had happened to me and
21 who I had learned to deal with it. He told me that
22 I was one of the sanest persons he had talked to and
23 recommended that I did not go back to the psychologist
24 because bringing all the stuff up was not good for me.
25 Instead he said I should live as I do.

1 "When I had my conversion experience I changed in so
2 many ways that I was able to let a lot of stuff go.
3 However, when my wife and I married and set up home
4 together, I had no idea how to live in a house like
5 that. I didn't know how to behave. It was all new to
6 me. I was institutionalised.

7 "I think that for probably the first 10 years of
8 being married I struggled. I found it difficult to
9 adapt to a family situation. I was very busy working
10 full-time for the church and what used to happen was
11 when things were going wrong, I would just say
12 I couldn't help it, it was just the way I was brought
13 up.

14 "I used being brought up in an orphanage as an
15 excuse until something happened inside me and I made
16 a conscious decision that if I made a mistake, I would
17 own up to it, I would look at it for what it was, and if
18 I had been wrong, I would accept it and move on. It
19 took me 10 years to be able to get to the point that
20 I was able to make that decision. That's how lame I was
21 inside. I could solve everyone else's problems who came
22 to me as a minister, but I had troubles of my own.

23 "There was a lot of stuff inside me that needed
24 undoing, so I did that. However, there are still things
25 that bother me.

1 "As a result of the sister at Nazareth House locking
2 me in the toilet overnight, I hated the dark because it
3 made me very fearful. Even to this day I have to have
4 a small light on that I can see from my bed. Now,
5 nearly 70 years later, it has come back to haunt me.

6 "About four years ago, I had a heart event and I was
7 in hospital for 15 days while they tried to sort out my
8 problem. I went through too many tests to count, but
9 one stands out in particular, the MRI. The MRI machine
10 was like being put in a tunnel with my shoulders
11 touching the sides. About 20 minutes into the process
12 I had a panic attack. I could see myself as a small
13 child being dragged to the toilet and being locked in
14 the dark and I was crying out, 'Let me out, let me out'.
15 I felt everything was pressing in on me and squashing me
16 so I pressed the panic button and begged them to get me
17 out of there. I thought I was going to suffocate and
18 I was hauled out in a cold sweat. I was very
19 embarrassed by my actions when I got back to the ward as
20 I had never had a panic attack before.

21 "The specialist came to see me that night and asked
22 if I would take the test again the next day. I agreed
23 to take the test again so long as I was medicated and so
24 they doped me up with Valium.

25 "This had an ongoing effect and once every three or

1 four months I have the same experience and I wake up in
2 a panic and I feel as if I'm in a dark hole somewhere
3 and everything is pressing in on me and I can't breathe
4 and I think I'm going to die. It is the worst feeling
5 imaginable.

6 "I get up and watch TV or play with my computer to
7 distract me for the rest of the night. When this
8 happens, I wonder what would happen if I wasn't in my
9 own house and couldn't get up and do something to
10 distract me, which leads to some horrendous thoughts.

11 "I haven't told my wife about this because she would
12 worry about me every time I got out of bed in the night.

13 "I don't want to end up in an old folks' home.
14 I visit one near where I stay where I see a guy who's in
15 his 90s now. He just lies there and I wonder what if
16 that was me and I had one of these panic attacks and
17 I couldn't get up and get anyone to help me. I have
18 fleeting thoughts that I'd be better off killing myself.

19 "I don't let these thoughts of suicide linger but it
20 bothers me that they are even there. Those thoughts are
21 the one thing I feel I gave to conquer and overcome, but
22 I haven't done so yet and it worries me.

23 "I think to myself: how can something that happened
24 nearly 70 years ago still come back and haunt me and
25 affect my life today?

1 "I struggle to know how to deal with the sexual
2 abuse from Brother LZO at Bindoon and left it in the
3 back of my mind until about 15 years ago.

4 "On my 60th birthday I went to my doctor to have my
5 prostate examined. I knew the doctor well because
6 he was a member of my congregation. After examining me,
7 the doctor asked me if I was a homosexual. I was
8 furious with him until he explained that he had noticed
9 I had bad scarring in my rectum. All of a sudden I was
10 taken back to Bindoon and what Brother LZO did to me.
11 When I told him what had happened to me in the
12 orphanage, he told me he believed that had been the
13 cause. These things never go away.

14 "My spiritual encounter with God has taught me how
15 to deal with my abuse, but I still have nightmares quite
16 often. I can still see myself being put head first into
17 the drum of water by Brother MDV or I might be watching
18 the television and see something about a child being
19 abused. If I do, I either change the channel or I get
20 up and walk out of the room. I don't let it get into
21 me, I shut it off.

22 "A mechanism must be created whereby if abuse has
23 taken place, there is some way for the child to be able
24 to report it outside the institution. The child that's
25 being abused must be able to reach out to someone even

1 if it is anonymously. If it is left that any abuse must
2 be reported within the institution, it won't happen
3 because the child would be too afraid. If it were to
4 get out that a child had reported something, the other
5 kids would make life miserable for them because the
6 staff would take it out on them.

7 "In Australia there is a hotline that kids can phone
8 anonymously for help and that should be everywhere if
9 it's not already.

10 "I would like to think that when the Scottish Child
11 Abuse Inquiry concludes, something is set up to hold the
12 institutions accountable. There needs to be
13 a government agency that can go into these places
14 unannounced and have freedom to talk to the kids and
15 find out what is happening. Whenever a planned visit is
16 announced, children can be prepared and told what tales
17 to tell.

18 "The inspectors should be normal people who would be
19 able to go into these places and build friendships with
20 the children. They should be people who would be able
21 to get kids talking and they should be able to listen.

22 "Interestingly enough, the Royal Commission in
23 Australia has made life tough for the churches now. I'm
24 still part of my church and see all the paperwork and
25 checks and balances that are required now. That is

1 a good thing.

2 "It's now a long time after these events and
3 I believe that those who are hurting the most should be
4 found and a means for them getting help should be
5 established. Whether that is a psychiatrist or medical
6 treatment or whatever kind required, the means should be
7 found.

8 "I'm glad that I have had the opportunity to tell
9 the inquiry about my childhood and that my wife has now
10 heard things about me that I have never told her before.
11 I can now honestly say that I have no more secrets from
12 her.

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

17 The statement was signed by Michael on
18 19 August 2019.

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

20 What's the plan now?

21 MS MACLEOD: Ms Rattray will read in the next statement.

22 LADY SMITH: Is it all right if we go straight on to that,
23 Ms Rattray?

24 MS RATTRAY: Yes.

25 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

1 Witness statement of IAN DONALDSON (read)

2 MS RATTRAY: The next statement is from an applicant who has
3 waived his right to anonymity and his name is
4 Ian Donaldson. His statement can be found at
5 WIT.001.002.2994:

6 "My name is Ian Donaldson. I was born in 1943 and
7 I am presently 75 years of age. My contact details are
8 known to the inquiry.

9 "I was put into care at Nazareth House in Aberdeen
10 when I was just three months old. When I was 10 years
11 old, I was sent to Australia as a child migrant and
12 spent six years in care at Boys' Town Bindoon,
13 Western Australia.

14 "I have since found out my mother's name and I think
15 my father's first name but I don't know what his second
16 name was. I'm not sure why I was placed in care. While
17 I was in care, I never knew anything about my mother or
18 father.

19 "I have been shown a document which contains
20 information regarding my entry into Nazareth House in
21 Aberdeen in 1943. I am recorded as, 'Ian Donaldson,
22 born in Aberdeen in 1943.' The document also shows that
23 I left in May 1953 when I was 10 years old. I believe
24 that the information contained in this document is
25 correct.

1 "I can't remember much about Nazareth House in
2 Aberdeen at all, not even what the nuns were like or
3 anything about the routine.

4 "I remember a man and a woman came to see me at
5 Nazareth House and asked if I wanted to go to Australia.
6 I think they were from the government, but I don't know
7 who they were. I said I would go because I didn't think
8 I really had a choice. They never told me anything
9 about Australia. I had never even heard of it before.

10 "I have been shown a copy of a migration form that
11 relates to me. I see that my mother signed the form in
12 1953 giving permission for me to go. My weight is
13 recorded on the form, but I don't remember getting any
14 sort of health checks before I left.

15 "I remember the steam train from Aberdeen to
16 Southampton and going over the Forth Rail Bridge on it.
17 A couple of lads from Nazareth House in Aberdeen went
18 with me. I was good friends with one of the lads who
19 was much the same age as me. The other boy was a bit
20 younger.

21 "When we got to Southampton, we all had to wait with
22 the other kids who were going before we were allowed on
23 the ship. I think there were seven boys and seven girls
24 all going to Australia. I remember a bit of the journey
25 on the ship, which was called the Otranto. It was a big

1 passenger liner and I believe there were about 2,500
2 people on board.

3 "Being young lads, we just about got thrown off the
4 ship Because we were mucking around so much. We used to
5 chuck a ball about and it would hit other passengers.
6 The crew would chase us and we would just run away.

7 "A man and a woman looked after us on the ship.
8 I don't know who they were. Every time we got something
9 like fruit or lollies, we would put it in our cabin and
10 the man and woman would if steal it off us.

11 "I have been shown a copy of the passenger list for
12 the Otranto, which shows that the ship arrived in
13 Fremantle in June 1953. The list records me as 'Master
14 I Donaldson' and that I was going to Boys' Town Bindoon
15 Western Australia. That is correct.

16 "We stayed at Clontarf Boys' Home for the night when
17 we came off the boat and then me and three of the other
18 boys who had also been on the ship were taken up to
19 Bindoon on the back of a truck. I didn't know two of
20 the boys that went with me. The other three boys that
21 had been on the ship stayed at Clontarf. There was no
22 protection over the back of the truck and the journey
23 must taken about three hours.

24 "Bindoon was run by the Christian Brothers and was
25 in a valley in the countryside. It's a big place with

1 lots of ground all around. I have photographs of the
2 place which show the work the boys did. The boys built
3 half the place while I was there.

4 "I would guess there were about 300 boys at Bindoon
5 and probably 15 monks with five or six lay staff. There
6 were also some nuns and one of them looked after the
7 infirmary. The monks dressed in black robes and looked
8 like Dracula.

9 "Brother MDJ was in charge and the other brothers
10 included Brother MDV Brother MDW, Brother MDF
11 and Brother MDY. Brother MDY was as wide as a car.

12 "Those brothers were real criminals who should never
13 have been allowed to do what they did.

14 "I have never forgotten my first day at Bindoon
15 because I had to use the toilet and it was starting to
16 get dark. One of the brothers, I don't know which one,
17 was hiding in the dark with the lights dimmed right
18 down. I turned round and saw him dressed up in his
19 black robes and got such a fright that from that day
20 onwards I never wanted to go to the toilet when it was
21 dark. Instead, I ended up wetting my bed most nights.

22 "There were three dormitories with 50-odd kids in
23 them as well as some kids sleeping on the verandas
24 outside. There were beds along each wall and more in
25 the middle.

1 "We were woken at 7 in the morning and after we'd
2 got up we'd have a wash and then have breakfast. After
3 breakfast we went to church every day.

4 "We also had church in the evening and then about
5 7 o'clock we went to bed.

6 "If you had wet your bed, you would get a flogging
7 with the strap. The beds had plastic sheets on them so
8 the mattress wouldn't get wet. That meant you'd be
9 sleeping in your own urine if you wet the bed. In the
10 winter I'd wake up freezing, shaking with the cold.
11 This went on for about three or four years until
12 I wasn't so afraid to go to the toilet at night.

13 "We washed our face and hands in basins every
14 morning and there was hot water most of the time. Every
15 evening we'd have a shower as well. There were a few
16 individual shower cubicles as well as a big one that
17 a few boys could use together. Next to the showers was
18 a Roman bath where we could wash our feet before getting
19 in the shower.

20 "We ate our meals in a separate building and the
21 brothers ate in their own dining room. A couple of
22 times I had to go and clean up after the brothers had
23 eaten. You should have seen all the food they had. It
24 was a lot different to what we boys had.

25 "Our food was not good. I did not like veggies at

1 Bindoon, although now I do. There would be fish on
2 a Friday, maybe stew during the week. Sometimes our
3 main meal might be pumpkin, which had lumps in it. It
4 was terrible.

5 "I'm not too sure what happened to any boy that
6 didn't eat their food. I think they might have got hit
7 or belted by the monks. We never wore any shoes, only
8 open-toed sandals and it was cold sometimes. I used to
9 get chilblains a lot of the time. It was terrible.

10 "All we wore the whole year round was a pair of
11 shorts and a shirt. I don't think I ever saw a jumper
12 or a jacket.

13 "We only did a bit of school every now and again.
14 In all the years I was in Bindoon I only did about
15 six months' schooling in total. Like every other kid
16 there, I was used as slave labour.

17 "I was a real dummy when I left because I never
18 learned anything. I wasn't really interested in
19 reading, although there was nothing to read anyway.

20 "I don't remember having much leisure time all. The
21 monks would take us up to the oval sometimes and we
22 might play football or something. But most of the time
23 we were working.

24 "There was an infirmary among the buildings at
25 Bindoon. We would go there if we were ill or had any

1 injuries and the nun would treat us. My health was
2 pretty good most of the time.

3 "I did go to the hospital in Perth to get my tonsils
4 out and we also used to have to go to the dentist in
5 Perth.

6 "Religion was a big thing at Bindoon. We had church
7 twice a day in the morning and the evening, every day,
8 including at the weekends.

9 "There were never any presents for Christmas or
10 birthdays. We have never had any of our own possessions
11 anyway. I don't have any memory of Christmas and
12 I didn't even know when my birthday was.

13 "There used to be a lot of tourists who would come
14 and look around Bindoon. I recall once, when I was
15 about 9 years old, one of them gave me a packet of
16 cigarettes. I can still remember the brand. I have
17 been smoking ever since.

18 "The welfare department would come and inspect the
19 place from time to time but I never spoke to any of
20 them. The brothers were cunning. They would have six
21 or seven boys all dressed up to meet them and we would
22 be put away out of sight. The welfare would see these
23 boys and think we were all getting looked after
24 properly.

25 "I have no recollection of ever going out to visit

1 anyone or stay with them while I was at Bindoon.

2 "I never had any contact with my family when I was
3 at Bindoon. I never heard from anymore or wrote to
4 them. I didn't even know anything about them.

5 "I really only had the lad who sailed with me and
6 another boy who was Irish as friends at Bindoon. We had
7 our own little gang and I didn't associate with any of
8 the other boys.

9 "I wasn't aware of either of them having contact
10 with family back home either.

11 "I couldn't go near the brothers if I had any
12 worries or concerns. I didn't trust them. We boys at
13 Bindoon were used as slave labour.

14 "While I was there, the main building, which was
15 Brother MDJ pride and joy, was finished. The
16 building had three floors with dormitories in the
17 left-hand side and verandas outside which had beds on
18 them as well.

19 "My work involved lifting bags of cement and taking
20 it on a wheelbarrow along the scaffolding. There was no
21 health and safety. Maltese boys who were staying there
22 had covered the floors in terrazzo tiles and another of
23 my jobs was to clean the tiles up.

24 "We were shown what to do by the older boys that
25 stayed there. There were no adults involved in the

1 work, although I think one of the brothers would be
2 watching over us.

3 "We were given two bob a week for all the work that
4 we did. At that time I thought that was great. We used
5 to go to the lolly shop in the school and buy chips or
6 whatever with the money we got.

7 "I ran away from Bindoon a few times and ended up
8 hiding in the bush where I had built a little den with
9 three other friends. It was built well so if it was
10 raining we wouldn't get wet. We would steal a chicken
11 and cook it in the den and sometimes be away for a night
12 or two.

13 "When we went back, we'd get the biggest flogging of
14 our lives. We'd get the strap and we'd get booted and
15 everything.

16 "If the brothers couldn't keep us in line, we would
17 get a flogging. They all had leather straps hanging
18 from their belts, which were about 16 inches long and an
19 inch thick with strips of lead in them. They used to
20 hit us with those straps and it used to hurt really
21 badly. They loved doing it. That's how they were.

22 "Most of the brothers liked hitting kids. Boys were
23 physically abused by the brothers all the time. All the
24 brothers were the same, Brother MDJ, Brother MDV
25 Brother MDW and Brother MDF. Another brother,

1 Brother MDY used a wooden cane all the time that had
2 a steel rod inside.

3 "After we had washed our feet in the Roman bath,
4 before we got in the shower, we would have to get our
5 feet examined by Brother MDY. Nine out of ten
6 I hadn't cleaned behind my ankles and before I knew
7 where I was, he had whacked my angles with his came.

8 "One day wile I was working in the dairy and just
9 before I knocked off, Brother MDV asked me to shut the
10 barn gate. I did and when I went down the next morning,
11 Brother MDV accused me of not shutting it. I think
12 he was just trying to pick on me because he was that
13 sort of man. He tried to corner me so I picked up
14 a pitchfork and warded him off. I dropped the pitchfork
15 and ran away, straight into Brother MDJ. He asked me
16 what was wrong so I told him and he grabbed me by the
17 arm and took me back to the dairy.

18 "Brother MDV then appeared and they shut the door
19 and give me the biggest flagging of my life. They even
20 booted me in the head. I was black and blue for about
21 four weeks afterwards.

22 "The brothers had pet boys who were a bit older.
23 These boys would come round our beds at night and touch
24 us up sexually to warm us up for the brothers. A lot of
25 the times I would get out of bed and hide under another

1 bed. Sometimes I would run away to my den in the bush.

2 "This went on for about four or five years until
3 I was brave enough to stand up for myself. I saw the
4 older boys going to the other boys' beds as well but
5 I didn't take much notice of what they were doing.
6 I wasn't really aware of other boys getting sexually
7 abused but I now know that they were.

8 "A couple of times Brother MDV and Brother MDF
9 tried to manhandle me sexually. Most of the time
10 I managed to get away. I provided details of what
11 happened to me to the Christian Brothers when making
12 a further application to them for redress. I have
13 provided a copy of this claim to the inquiry. I confirm
14 that the facts stated in it are true.

15 "I never reported anything that happened to me.
16 I couldn't. There was no one to tell. If I had said
17 anything to any of the brother, I'd be flogged again.

18 "I believe there were about five boys killed at
19 Bindoon while I was there. One boy had been sliding
20 down the balustrade when he fell off and banged his head
21 on the cement. The other four were accidents while the
22 boys were employed as slave labour.

23 "My friend who sailed with me was killed at Bindoon.
24 A few of us boys were loading bags that had been getting
25 washed in a dam on to a cart. There was no brother

1 there to supervise us. The cart had two big wheels and
2 we were the horses. My friend had been sitting on top
3 of the bags on the cart when he fell off and one of the
4 wheels ran over his neck.

5 "I told one of the other boys to go and get one of
6 the brothers while I stayed with my friend. When the
7 brother arrived, they took my friend to the infirmary at
8 Bindoon. As far as I know, he was never sent to Royal
9 Perth Hospital; he was kept at the infirmary. He was in
10 a coma for three and a half weeks before he died. It
11 was all hushed up and I don't even know whether any
12 family he might have had in Scotland were ever notified.
13 Like a lot of things with the state government and the
14 Christian Brothers, it was swept under the carpet.

15 "None of the brothers ever asked me how I was
16 afterwards. I wasn't given any support at all.

17 "There was no preparation for life once we left
18 Bindoon. There was a carpenter's shop and a mechanic
19 shop and I went there sometimes and learned some stuff,
20 but that was it. I look back now and think my head
21 wasn't screwed on right when I left. I drank a lot and
22 I got into a lot of fights.

23 "I left Bindoon in 1959 and stayed with some people
24 at Mount Lawley for about nine months. They were
25 terrible, just like the Christian Brothers. I would get

1 up at 5 o'clock every morning and spend the day working
2 my guts out. I did all the heavy work and their son did
3 nothing.

4 "The welfare were supposed to check on me while
5 I was there but they never did. The Christian Brothers
6 never did either. They just couldn't be bothered.

7 "One morning I didn't get up and a woman came to get
8 me. We had words and they sent me on the train to
9 Perth, telling me I had to meet someone. It was all
10 lies and I ended up with nowhere to go.

11 "After that, I got a farming job with a young couple
12 called Mundy. After that I worked for a company for
13 about 10 years, driving a front-end loader, delivering
14 wheat. I went all over the state.

15 "I have worked all of my life and got a job with
16 a contractor on a BP refinery. I ended up spending
17 20 years on that job.

18 "I got together with a woman and we lived together
19 for 16 years. I brought her six kids up. None of them
20 were mine.

21 "I took part in a class action against the
22 Christian Brothers in 1997. I treated to sue them and
23 they gave me \$2,000. That wasn't good. That was like
24 getting a kick in the backside.

25 "I participated in the Redress Western Australia

1 scheme, which was a scheme to provide redress to those
2 who had been abused or neglected in the care of the
3 state of Western Australia. Dr Philippa White of the
4 organisation Tuart Place helped me compile a statement.

5 "I also wrote a lot of letters every time i thought
6 of something. At first I never mentioned the sexual
7 abuse in any of those letters because I was too ashamed.
8 It was only after my lawyer advised me that I did
9 mention it.

10 "The statement was submitted in October 2008 and
11 I have provided a copy of this statement to the inquiry.
12 I have also provided a copy of my letters. I confirm
13 that the facts stated in these documents are true.

14 "I got \$45,000. It could have been 80,000, but the
15 WA state government reduced it. I think I should have
16 got a lot more but other boys got more.

17 "The WA State Government has changed the law
18 regarding the statute of limitations for child sexual
19 abuse and there is now a further opportunity for redress
20 from the Christian Brothers. I have submitted an
21 additional claim and it will hopefully be getting
22 settled shortly.

23 "I often come to Tuart Place and see other people
24 who have been in care as well as the staff there. It
25 makes my day to see everybody, but I have never had any

1 counselling or support. Before that I had nowhere to
2 go.

3 "All I used to have was a copy of the extract of my
4 birth certificate and when I went for a job as an fitter
5 at the BP refinery they wouldn't accept it. BP also
6 asked for a record of my schooling and so I rang Bindoon
7 up and they told me they had no record of me being
8 there.

9 "It took me a long time to get my birth certificate.
10 Eventually, Dr White of Tuart Place got it for me. It
11 had been held by the Australian Welfare Department and
12 then by the Department for Child Protection. I only got
13 it about seven years ago when I was 68 years old.

14 "I also have a copy of an annual report of
15 Australian child migrants for the Catholic Child Welfare
16 Council of England and Wales dated 1956. In that report
17 is my name and comments that my behaviour was very good
18 and my school progress was excellent. It also says that
19 my state of health was very good. The report also
20 mentions that I correspond with friends and relatives in
21 England and that I visit an Australian family. I'm not
22 too sure what that is referring to. I certainly don't
23 remember writing any letters and I never visited anyone
24 while I was at Bindoon.

25 "I also tried to get records of my time in care from

1 the Christian Brothers but I had never got anywhere.
2 Since I started coming to Tuart Place, they have helped
3 me to get some, although there wasn't much available.
4 One of the boys, who had also been a child migrant,
5 mentioned tracing my family. I made some enquiries with
6 the Christian Brothers Ex-residents and Students Service
7 in Subiaco, and they worked with the Child Migrant Trust
8 to trace my family.

9 "A lady called Joan Kerry of the Catholic Child
10 Welfare Council did some research and around 2001 I
11 found out I had a sister in Scotland. Margaret
12 Humphreys of the Child Migrant Trust then came out to
13 Australia and took a video of me to show my sister in
14 Scotland.

15 "In April 2003 either the Australian or the British
16 Government, I can't remember which, paid for me to fly
17 over to the UK and I met Joan Kerry there. I was over
18 for five weeks and met my sister in Dunfermline, but all
19 we had was a shake of the hand. I actually got on
20 better with my brother-in-law; we stayed in touch and
21 they ring up every Sunday.

22 "Two or three years ago, the UK Family Restoration
23 Fund paid for me to go back to Scotland and I met my
24 sister and my brother-in-law again. My brother-in-law
25 and I went back to Nazareth House in Aberdeen that time

1 and we met the sister in charge. She asked me if
2 I remembered anything about the place but the only thing
3 I remembered was the big number 34 on the front wall.

4 "I got my driving licence without any problems the
5 day I turned 17. I have never had any problems getting
6 my health card, my pension or free transport either.
7 I also had never had any difficulties getting an
8 Australian passport. I had to get naturalised to get
9 a passport, but I didn't have any problems because I'd
10 been in the country for such a long time. I think the
11 CMT actually paid for my passport. I could probably get
12 a passport from the UK too if I wanted to.

13 "I'm aware that there were inquiries into
14 child migrants by the British Government in 1997 and
15 also by the Australian Senate in 2001 and 2002. I never
16 took part in either of those.

17 "I know that there were apologies from the
18 Prime Ministers of the Australian government and the
19 British Government, but the Christian Brothers have
20 never apologised.

21 "The fact that I never got an education and Bindoon
22 said they had no record of me stopped me getting a job
23 at the BP refinery. I was pretty upset about that.

24 "I have had bad neck pains for some time now and one
25 of the bones is actually out of joint. I wonder now if

1 that is as a result of getting beaten so much,
2 particularly the beating I got from Brother MDJ and
3 Brother MDV in the dairy.

4 "My redress WA statement, which I provided to the
5 inquiry, provides details of the impact and my
6 experiences at Bindoon have had on me.

7 "I go back to Bindoon now and again to put flowers
8 on my friend's grave. I had to get permission to do it
9 and had to get escorted by security because I believe
10 some of the boys had been smashing the brothers' graves.
11 I took a photo of my friend's graveside one time.
12 Bindoon is now used as a college for girls and boys so
13 you can only go in the holidays.

14 "If I remember right, the Christian Brothers had
15 about 44,000 acres at Bindoon, although now they only
16 have about 6,000 left. The rest has been sold and it
17 had been worth a lot of money. I believe the land had
18 been given to the Christian Brothers by the farmer,
19 whose name was Musk. It is my understanding that when
20 the farmer gave the land to the Christian Brothers, he
21 put a condition in that the boys had to get a block of
22 land each.

23 "A trust fund was set up as a result of the
24 Christian Brothers class action in the late 1990s.
25 In the following years ex-residents could ask for things

1 like a new fridge or a washing machine.

2 "I love Australia and there's no way I would ever
3 move back to Scotland, even though my sister and
4 brother-in-law wanted me to. My sister was upset when
5 I said I wouldn't, but Australia is all I know.

6 "I think all the people that were put in the care of
7 places like Bindoon should get compensation. A lot of
8 them went through hell. I can see that in them when
9 I go to Tuart Place. Money may not heal them, but
10 it would be something.

11 "The State Government, the Australian Government and
12 the British Government put us in those situations and
13 they must have known what was going on. Not once did
14 I ever get a visit from the welfare or the government to
15 see how I was treated. It was all hidden under the
16 carpet.

17 "The Christian Brothers should have been looked into
18 properly before they were ever allowed to look after
19 children. They were the worse offenders in the world.
20 It was frightening being at Bindoon, especially at
21 night.

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

1 Ian signed the statement on 6 December 2018.

2 My Lady, we have one more statement to read in,
3 which I can go straight on to.

4 LADY SMITH: If you're ready to do that.

5 Witness statement of "TONY" (read)

6 MS RATTRAY: My Lady, the next statement is from an
7 applicant who wishes to remain anonymous and is using
8 the pseudonym Tony.

9 Sadly, since signing his statement, Tony has passed
10 away. His statement can be found at WIT.001.002.4625.

11 "My name is Tony. I was born in 1938. My contact
12 details are known to the inquiry.

13 "I was born in England but my mother was Irish.
14 They couldn't have babies out of wedlock in Ireland, so
15 she went to England and I was born there. I found out
16 afterwards that she passed me on to someone else. She
17 handed me over to the midwife and I was then handed over
18 for adoption. I was then sent to an orphanage in
19 Scotland, Nazareth House in Aberdeen.

20 "I was initially in an orphanage somewhere in Sussex
21 or somewhere for two years, then transferred to
22 Nazareth House. I didn't know anything about it."

23 My Lady, the Nazareth House register states that
24 Tony was admitted to Nazareth House Aberdeen
25 in [REDACTED] 1940 and he sailed for Australia

1 in [REDACTED] 1947, where he was sent to Clontarf.

2 "Nazareth House was a huge building. There were
3 quite a few boys there, over 100. We would go outside
4 into the hallway and sit on the concrete seats and were
5 checked by the nuns; then we would go back inside. We
6 used to go to school at three years old. We had
7 a kindergarten, then, when we were older, we went to
8 a state school. We walked there in all weathers, snow
9 and all. It was a kilometre or two away. I can't
10 remember the name of it.

11 "Nazareth House was three storeys high. On the
12 first floor there was a big hallway and a dining room.
13 On the second storey were dormitories and on the third
14 there were more beds.

15 "Over 80 children slept in the dormitory. The beds
16 had kapok mattresses, which were tiny things. We were
17 always cold, so we were given old style army blankets.
18 They were quite warm. It was all boys in the dormitory.
19 There were boys on one half the floor and girls on the
20 other half. There were all ages of children there. The
21 same nuns ran both sides.

22 "When the air raid sirens started, we had to hide
23 under two army bunkers until the second siren rang
24 giving the all-clear. Apparently, Nazareth House was
25 hit during the war. I wasn't there. I remember going

1 to England, I think because the place was getting
2 rebuilt after being bombed. I then went back from there
3 to Scotland. Wherever it was, I wasn't there very long.
4 I don't know where it was offhand, but I know it was in
5 England. We took two trains, one to London, then one
6 back to Aberdeen. It was the same going to the boats.

7 "We had to get up early in the morning. We did our
8 jobs, then we had breakfast, and then back to our jobs
9 if we hadn't finished. The nuns would want to know why
10 you hadn't finished and you'd get the strap from
11 Sister MHX in the hall again afterwards with her
12 rosary beads and while the kids were out playing you had
13 to do it again.

14 "If you didn't eat breakfast you got no lunch. I
15 saw many of the kids being forced to eat the food. They
16 tried to force them with a spoon. They would shove it
17 down. The next thing, the kid would bring it all up
18 again. If you didn't want it, you were forced to eat
19 it. It didn't happen to me. It was the fat nun that
20 did it, Sister MHX. She spent most of the time
21 with the older boys. She did it to show her authority.
22 The meals weren't bad. If you turned the plate upside
23 down, the food wouldn't fall off. It was cold stew and
24 cold porridge. I didn't complain about the food so
25 much, just how we were treated there.

1 "We got sandwiches from Nazareth House for lunch
2 when we were at school. The nuns brought them in the
3 little bus they had. They made sure you ate them. They
4 were short of nuns, either that or they didn't know how
5 to look after kids. If you wet your bed, the next
6 morning you were terrified. They rubbed your nose in
7 it, then we had to wash our own sheets in the morning.
8 You would walk on them with the shower running. There
9 were a few who wet the bed and that included me.
10 I received that treatment from the nuns.

11 "They brought the doctor in and he said it was my
12 nerves. I can't remember his name. He was a local
13 doctor. He didn't speak to us individually. We had to
14 all be together and the nun was there. We couldn't say
15 what we wanted when the nun was there. Sister LSG
16 told us what the doctor said. We still wet the bed, we
17 still had to wash the sheets and hang them up. If the
18 sheets weren't dry, you slept on the mattress. That
19 didn't bother you so much, it was how we were treated.

20 "We washed our face and hands in troughs. The
21 showers were open-plan and the floor had tiles. You
22 would have a shower about three times a week.

23 "We got back from school at 3 o'clock and did little
24 jobs in the garden or swept the yard, things like that
25 to keep us occupied. There was leisure time, but what

1 could you do except walk around and talk to your mates?
2 If it rained you were in the hall.

3 "There were no toys. We didn't know what toys were.
4 I used to suck my fingers. If they saw you, the nuns
5 would hit you on the knuckles with the cane or strap.

6 "As I said, the girls were on one side of the
7 orphanage and the boys on the other. We saw them in the
8 playground and in the oval, which was a sports area
9 where they had games. Nazareth House had the oval and a
10 little farm. There was a bloke there who looked after
11 the farm. There were four or five cows. Part of his
12 job was to milk them. He looked after the pigs and the
13 farm there. I can't remember his name. I didn't do
14 anything on the farm. We put up with a lot there, but
15 still many people had to put up with worse.

16 "We didn't go on any trips in Nazareth House.
17 I don't remember being taken on a picnic or anything
18 like that. I don't recall ever going on any holidays
19 either.

20 "When we went to school, we wore a pair of shorts,
21 a thin shirt, a little jumper, shoes and socks. We had
22 to hold each other's hand and walk down the road to
23 school. I remember the school was cold. It was an
24 overcrowded state school, so schooling wasn't much, but
25 you had to be there. There were over a hundred kids

1 there, not just from the orphanage but kids from outside
2 attended too. I met a few friends there.

3 "We didn't receive any other medical attention apart
4 from when the doctor came to speak to us about wetting
5 the bed. The government dentist would come once a year.
6 He came in a van for a week or two and he'd check all
7 the kids' teeth. I can't remember being seen, but he
8 was there. I never had a problem with my teeth or my
9 health while I was in there.

10 "I was baptised in Nazareth House, so when I came
11 out to Australia it was put down that I was a Catholic.
12 We had to go to church in the orphanage three times
13 a week. We also had morning prayers, mass in the middle
14 of the day at school, and prayers at night. We would
15 say an Our Father, three Hail Marys and a Glory Be To
16 The Father. The nun would walk into the dorm and tell
17 you to say your night prayers. If you were seen talking
18 to someone in the church, the nuns would come up to the
19 back of you and tell you to get outside and you got the
20 strap. That happened to me many a time.

21 "I was about 8 when I started working. There were
22 two of us that did the stairways. There were three lots
23 of stairs and it was tiring. All the kids used the
24 stairs and if kids walked on it when it was polished,
25 there were always footprints on it. The nun didn't like

1 that. It had to be spotless so that you could see
2 through it and you had to keep doing it. We used a big
3 4-gallon drum full of polish. It was called Relax
4 polish. The stairs were timber wood.

5 "If you didn't do them properly Sister **MHX**, who
6 was a big lady, would give you the strap across your
7 legs with her rosary beads. If there was a mark on the
8 stairs, you got a whack straight across the back of your
9 legs from her. She was older and she was cruel. I'm
10 sure her name was **MHX**. This happened several
11 times. You never forget things like that.

12 "Otherwise, Nazareth House was all right except for
13 the big heavy nun. She was middle aged and she was in
14 charge of pretty much everything. There were two that
15 looked after us and another for meals in the
16 dining room. The other nun was nice; her name was
17 Sister **LSG**.

18 "There was nothing different about Christmas. It
19 was treated as a normal day. We went to church in the
20 morning, but then we just did our normal jobs. There
21 wasn't a tree and we didn't receive any presents. We
22 didn't celebrate our birthdays so we didn't have
23 a party. I didn't know when my birthday was until
24 I came to Australia.

25 "We didn't receive any visits from a social worker.

1 I didn't have contact with my mother when I was in
2 Nazareth House. All that time I thought she was dead,
3 but she wasn't dead. About 15 years ago I went over to
4 the UK and saw my mum. She sat at the end of the table
5 and didn't say a word. She didn't want me. My wife
6 asked her a lot of questions and she just sat there.

7 "There was nobody to speak to at Nazareth House.
8 Sister LSG who was a big tall nun, was very good
9 to us, but you couldn't speak to her. Thinking back on
10 it now, what happened to us would have been seen as
11 abuse, especially when we got a strap across the back
12 when we were working.

13 "I had the same job all the time, polishing the
14 stairways. Once you had a job, you had to keep it. We
15 regularly all stood up in the hall and had to put our
16 hands above our heads. If your hands were coming down,
17 you'd be hit with a cane. We did this for about half
18 an hour. This happened when the nuns wanted to know
19 what kid had done something wrong and no one owned up to
20 it. We would all have to go into the hall. It was very
21 uncomfortable. Sister MHX the big heavy one, done
22 it the most. She was cruel. All she said was, 'Get
23 your hands up'. When she came in, everyone was
24 terrified.

25 "The job was too big for Sister MHX or she was

1 just too old to look after kids. There were too many
2 kids. There were only about six nuns altogether, but
3 there were boys, a girls section and a little kids
4 section.

5 "I did not report what happened to me at
6 Nazareth House to anyone.

7 "When I was 8 years old we were all taken into the
8 hall at Nazareth House and the superior nun asked, 'Who
9 wants to go to Australia?' We didn't even know where
10 that was. We all put our hands up. I remember I put my
11 hand up and I remember feeling sorry for two twin
12 brothers. They were standing beside me in the hall. We
13 all put our hands up and one boy and I were picked, but
14 his brother couldn't go. A few weeks afterwards,
15 we were told we were going to Australia. Eight of us
16 came over here, I think.

17 "The whole hall put their hands up when we were
18 asked who wanted to go Australia. We all put it up to
19 get out of the place. We got some clothes, we then
20 received some injections from the doctor, and we got the
21 train to London and then Southampton.

22 "I met my friends when we came out to Australia. We
23 went on the boat called the Ormonde. It had apparently
24 been a troop carrier. Seven boys went from
25 Nazareth House. Two girls came too. The girls called

1 me up years ago. They told me that the same fat nun
2 came to Geraldton to teach where they were. They said
3 she was kicked out after a year for belting the kids as
4 she did in Scotland and was sent back.

5 "There were two boats, the Asturia and the Ormonde.
6 Both were full of migrants. We went with a woman,
7 a caretaker, I don't know her name. She might have been
8 from the welfare. We were kept in the back of boat. We
9 didn't know where everybody else was. We didn't have
10 any paperwork. I don't remember signing anything.
11 We were just glad to get out of Nazareth House.

12 "They gave me reading glasses but I threw them
13 overboard and I never used them again. The journey took
14 six weeks. We went to the dining room and ate in a
15 group, but we didn't mix with the others. The kids from
16 Nazareth House were together but no other kids until we
17 got off the boat. The caretaker was there; she had all
18 the paperwork.

19 "We walked down the plank when we got to Australia
20 and all the other kids were there. We hadn't seen them
21 the whole journey. First of all, the caretaker put us
22 in the number four shed. There were lots of tables and
23 lots of kids. We had a big party and after that we got
24 on four buses to Clontarf.

25 "There were about 400 to 500 children in the shed.

1 At Clontarf we got divided into who was going where, as
2 in staying at Clontarf or going to Castledare, Bindoon
3 or Tardun. I stayed at Clontarf. I was 8 when
4 I arrived in Australia. It took about 20 minutes to get
5 to Clontarf. It was a massive big building. It was an
6 orphanage first, then, when the war started, the army
7 took it over. They handed it back to the
8 Christian Brothers after the war.

9 "It was massive, but you had your mates there.
10 There were six brothers in Clontarf to look after over
11 200 boys. There were also four Hungarian nuns. Brother
12 **AKG** was in charge. He then moved on and we got
13 another brother. We were taken round to the quadrangle
14 and everyone was divided in age to different places. I
15 stayed in Clontarf. As soon as we got there, the kids
16 jumped into the river. We arrived in December and it
17 was really hot.

18 "It was completely different to Nazareth House.
19 There were four or five dormitories all with different
20 names. There was St Pat's, St Mary's and Sacred Heart.
21 The 'wetty beds' were in a different dormitory. I was
22 in St Pat's and the Sacred Heart. There were four rows
23 of beds with 30 to 40 kids in a dorm.

24 "As I said, I went when I was 8 and left when I was
25 16. There were all different ages of boys there. There

1 were working boys there too. They were Australian and
2 they were put there by the government. When jobs came
3 up, they would go to them.

4 "At Clontarf we got up at 7 o'clock. The brothers
5 walked down the middle of the dormitory and got you up.
6 There was Brother **MHY** Brother Isaac and Brother
7 **AKG**. He was in charge and he was all right. You
8 got up, got a wash, got changed and went to church.
9 After church, you made your bed and then you went down
10 for your breakfast. If it was a feast day we went to
11 church twice. The church was in Clontarf.

12 "Breakfast was porridge. It looked like glue but we
13 had to eat it. We were also given milk to drink. When
14 another boss came, Brother Acrid, we got toast and a cup
15 of tea. I was about 9 then. If you didn't eat the food
16 you were given, you were not given anything else. All
17 of us ate in a big dining room.

18 "After breakfast, we had our charges to do. This is
19 what we called our jobs. My charge was to sweep the
20 veranda and the hall.

21 "At lunch we had stew and potatoes in the
22 dining room and it was served cold. One kid would serve
23 a table of 12. There were so many there that by the
24 time you got it, it was like glue, but you had to eat it
25 or you'd go without.

1 "For afternoon tea after school, we were given an
2 apple. In the evening we got two bits of bread with
3 either jam or treacle and a cup of tea. The treacle was
4 used to mix in with the pig feed and we got it too. It
5 called molasses. Some didn't like the taste of it, but
6 I didn't mind it. There were four gallon tins of jam.
7 We would get cheap jam, like plum jam, from a place in
8 West Perth. Even in the dining room, if you didn't eat
9 it, it was poured down your neck nearly. Discipline was
10 heavy at Clontarf. The food was forced down children's
11 necks. It didn't happen to me. I hid it in my pocket
12 or in a handkerchief. Brother **MDI** started that force
13 feeding caper first, but it didn't work for him. Then
14 **MHY** did it. Brother **MHY** was the truck driver.

15 "After tea and homework, you would go to church, say
16 the rosary, then straight to bed for about 9.30. The
17 brothers would come to the dorms to check you were
18 asleep. The brothers had two rooms off the dorms, one
19 on each side. There was Brother **MHY**, Brother **MDI**,
20 Brother **MHZ**, Brother Acari and Brother McGone, who was
21 one of the first ones there and he was good. It changed
22 whenever they got transferred. Sometimes they would get
23 transferred to Castledare. My brothers were **MHY** and
24 **MHZ**. Then in St Mary's dormitory it was the same
25 arrangement there.

1 "I never got in trouble for talking in bed but other
2 kids did. I felt nervous a lot. In fact, most of the
3 boys there were nervous. You think that they'll forget,
4 but they won't forget. If you didn't sleep, you were
5 bugged the next day. All you could think of was what
6 they were going to do to you. There was no forgiveness.
7 The wetty beds were in a separate dorm down the bottom
8 end.

9 "There were showers there, which were open-plan.
10 There were about 12 of them. Sometimes the showers
11 would be freezing and sometimes they were really hot.
12 We didn't know what they would be like. The brothers
13 controlled the taps. You got dressed into the school
14 uniform, which was grey and maroon. The school was
15 inside Clontarf. We were taught by the brothers.

16 "We went to a place called Angel Farm in Manjimup
17 for our holidays. I also went to another farm in
18 Koolan. I didn't go all the time as I was maybe too
19 small, so I went to two places. They were harvesting
20 then. We would give them a hand, but I didn't mind
21 that. I was 13 or 14 at the time and I stayed for about
22 four weeks in each place. We were taken there in the
23 back of a truck with seats on the side. If it went
24 round a corner, you would tip out. We didn't have to
25 work there. I enjoyed it. I went to KoolanKoolan with

1 two other boys. They knew the owner of the farm. They
2 had been there a couple of years before. It was quite
3 good, really. This was at Christmastime. It was called
4 the Christmas holidays and we all looked forward to it
5 to get away from the place.

6 "A married couple from Victoria Park used to come
7 and pick me up the third Sunday of every month. They
8 had two kids. I would spend the day with them, then get
9 dropped off at night. Their son is still alive. He is
10 in his early sixties. However, their other child died.
11 They were very good to me. I went there for years and
12 years.

13 "School wasn't good. The brothers taught us, but
14 I don't blame them. The school was overcrowded. When
15 I reached grade six or seven I went to work. I was
16 hopeless at school. We were in different houses. These
17 were red, gold, green and blue. I was in blue. That
18 was my colour for school.

19 "We were taught everything in school like maths and
20 the times tables. There were 70-odd in my class.
21 I couldn't be bothered learning anything. They didn't
22 teach us properly. They picked those that they thought
23 could learn. I liked working on the farm more than the
24 school, at the piggery or milking the cows. I worked
25 there any time I could. The teachers sent me there and

1 I liked it better. It was peaceful and I would talk to
2 the pigs.

3 "I'd milk the cows, feed the pigs and go to market
4 with Brother MHZ on the truck every Tuesday, Thursday
5 and Saturday morning. We would go to the market and get
6 all the veggies they didn't want and spuds from the spud
7 board. You got to do this when you became a certain
8 age. I got a job there when I was older because Brother
9 MHZ could not drive anymore. He was too old, so they
10 gave me full-time employment. I got a driver's licence
11 and I worked there for a while, doing the pigs and the
12 truck run. You had to be 16 to be able to do this.
13 I was staying at the big house at the bottom by that
14 time. I stayed there before I was married.

15 "We finished school at 3.30. You would get your
16 piece, a snack. It was an apple or biscuits. These
17 were all given to Clontarf. After supper, you had to go
18 back to school and study for an hour and a half. The
19 brothers supervised that. One brother used to walk
20 between the classrooms. You had to wash up first. The
21 next morning you had to get your homework out and if you
22 hadn't done it, you got a clip round the ear. Brother
23 MDI did it.

24 "As I said, I was no good at school. If there were
25 any jobs to be done outside, I would put my hand up

1 right away. I learned a lot on farms when I left
2 Clontarf. I learned plumbing and welding.

3 "If I didn't do my homework, I would get a clip
4 around the earhole. This happened around twice a week
5 at least and then they would put me outside somewhere.
6 I'd be told: go and do this, go and do that. It was
7 cheaper in the long run not doing the homework. It was
8 a bit of discipline. If they let it go, nobody would
9 have done it. I saw others in my class get punished
10 too. There were some brainy ones, but I wasn't one of
11 them and you couldn't cheat.

12 "There was a local doctor called Dr Harold that we
13 saw if he was required. They would ring him and he came
14 across. I hurt my finger when I was about 10. Another
15 kid was using a lawnmower and he was pushing it
16 backward. I stuck my finger in it and it took a bit of
17 my finger off. I didn't go to hospital. The nuns gave
18 me a knife and I had to try and cut the little piece at
19 the top of my finger. I couldn't cut it off, so they
20 got a pair of tweezers. I was yelling so it didn't come
21 off. It eventually got better itself. I was given
22 a Band Aid, but I didn't receive any proper medical
23 attention. There was a dentist in a caravan. You would
24 see him twice a year. He would stop for two weeks, then
25 off he would go again.

1 "Father Gorman took mass. He was an old priest who
2 was good but very slow. Mass used to take an hour.
3 There was also Father Dopiazza and Father George.
4 Neither could speak a word of English. Father Gorman
5 cared for the kids. If the brothers belted the kids,
6 they would go and tell Father Gorman and he would tell
7 the brothers off.

8 "There was also a guy who looked after the garden.
9 He was 17 to 18 years old. He was one of the working
10 boys. He was Australian and he had been sent by the
11 government. We didn't know why. He had the boys
12 carrying these really big heavy buckets of water and he
13 would belt them if they knocked one over. When Father
14 Gorman saw that, he would tell him off.

15 "You had your charges to do in the morning, as I
16 said. Mine was sweeping the veranda and the hall. We
17 knocked the dairy down to build the piggery and we had
18 to chip all the bricks to make them clean. After school
19 we would work on the piggery, mix cement and things like
20 that. The kids built it. There were about 200 pigs,
21 about 30 to 35 cows and about eight horses. The kids
22 used to ride them at weekends. If you fell off a horse,
23 you fell off.

24 "I wouldn't have known if it was my birthday at
25 Clontarf. It was treated as just a normal day. At

1 Christmas we got a toy. We would get a torch with no
2 batteries in it or something like that. We didn't have
3 a Christmas dinner, just an ordinary dinner. We were
4 given pumpkin, spuds, cabbage and sausages. The
5 brothers had a big turkey. We had turkeys there and
6 they got the boys to kill a couple themselves. The
7 brothers ate in a separate room. They had a waiter. It
8 was a kid that came in and gave them their food. They
9 had roast turkey and everything. They had that at
10 Easter too. We were given a few boiled lollies. We
11 enjoyed the lollies.

12 "The child welfare came every now and again, very
13 rarely. They spoke to the brothers, not the kids,
14 because the kids would tell them a few yarns, but they
15 would never believe it. When we left Clontarf, we saw
16 the welfare officers, Miss Sanderson and Mr Young.
17 Their office was in St George's Terrace, Perth. They
18 had an office upstairs. They were in charge of us until
19 we were 21.

20 "You had a locker out in the hall, but they were
21 never locked. They were numbered. If you had personal
22 possessions they didn't last very long. Someone else
23 would take them out of your locker. The kids would be
24 told to go to the front of the dining room and get six
25 of the best. The brothers wanted to show an example.

1 If you cried, you would be sent to the corner until you
2 stopped. You'd have to stay there facing the wall for
3 an hour. It happened to me once when I was in grade 6.
4 Brother **MHY** did it. The brothers would come upstairs
5 and they'd call your name out. You would never answer.
6 You would kid on you were sleeping. If you sat up, they
7 would ask you why you were awake and take you to their
8 room to give you a talking to. Brother **MHZ** did that.

9 "I was referred to as 'hey you' or 'mister'. If you
10 didn't call them 'brother', you would get a clip around
11 the earhole. It happened to lots of boys. It happened
12 to everybody. Some kids got it worse. In big places
13 like that, the older boys would push the smaller ones
14 out to take the blame for things and they would get a
15 hiding even though they didn't do it.

16 "The Memories of the abuse never go away. You hope
17 it's still not happening. If it's still happening then
18 they want shooting. I went through it and it stuck with
19 me. How could they do it to a baby?

20 "When you were meant to hand your homework in,
21 Brother **MDI** would ask where it was and clip you on the
22 back of the head if you hadn't done it. The brothers
23 understood. They could tell what person wasn't going to
24 make it. The ones that could do it, they would get away
25 with it.

1 "The older boys in Clontarf were also abusive.
2 I was raped five times by an older boy. I'll never
3 forget his name. You couldn't tell the brothers what
4 had happened to you when they asked: why are you
5 bleeding, why are you sore, what are you crying for?
6 I was told not to say anything or they would belt you.
7 It happened when I was cleaning out the band room. It
8 was my job in the morning and another boy's job in the
9 afternoon. At lunchtime the older boy would abuse me,
10 then I'd get belted by the brother for not coming to
11 lunch. He would ask me where I'd been, but I couldn't
12 tell him. But the older boy would walk straight in and
13 he would get his lunch.

14 "I was about 11 or 12 when it happened. I didn't
15 tell the brothers. He said he would belt us and he was
16 a big bloke. I didn't know then if it happened to other
17 boys. I found out years later that this older boy
18 sexually abused the other boy too. He was twice as old
19 as us, he was 17 or 18, he was a working boy there sent
20 by the government.

21 "There were so many boys there before we got there,
22 who were a lot older than us. I was in the band and the
23 other boy who was abused was in the band. The older boy
24 was in charge of us cleaning out the band room. I met
25 the other boy who was abused years later. He started

1 crying and I started crying. He said, 'He did it to
2 you, didn't he?' This was a long time after I left
3 Clontarf.

4 "This is all that happened but it was the worst.
5 Otherwise I got on quite well and did what I was told or
6 you would get a clip around the ear.

7 "I reported the sexual abuse to the police in the
8 1990s. However, the older boy who abused me is dead
9 now.

10 "We were at Clontarf until we were 16, then you got
11 a job. I went to a dairy farm and was given the job of
12 milking the cows, which I hated. I did this job seven
13 days a week. The welfare would get you a job anywhere
14 you didn't want to go, so they stuck me back on a dairy
15 farm again. I got two pounds and five shillings a week.
16 I worked seven days a week, but in a way I was out of
17 the place.

18 "Farmers went to Miss Sanderson, the welfare
19 officer, looking for labourers, so she would get the
20 boys from Clontarf. It was cheap labour. I was given
21 no preparation. I got a suitcase from the welfare
22 department and caught a bus. Miss Sanderson told
23 Clontarf there was a job in man money and Brother MDI
24 told me. He didn't tell me what it was.

25 "I'd work seven days a week, which involved me

1 getting up at 4 o'clock in the morning. It was really
2 cold. I slept in the veranda outside the back of the
3 house.

4 "After about 12 months they put me off that farm. I
5 don't know why, but they put me out. They packed my
6 bags out and put me out in between Manjimup and the next
7 town with my suitcase. I was sitting on the side of the
8 road. I was 16 or 17. I didn't know what to do. A big
9 bus came along and took me to Perth. I got to Perth and
10 a police officer came and said, 'Oh, I know where you'll
11 be from, Clontarf'. I said yes and he asked me where
12 I was going now. I told him I didn't know, so he took
13 me to Clontarf. The next day Brother MDI belted me
14 for leaving a job. I didn't leave it, I was put off.
15 He was in charge of Clontarf then.

16 "I went the next morning to see Miss Sanderson to
17 get a job. I then went to Corrigin to Ken Harmon's. It
18 was a farm run by a father and son. They were different
19 people altogether. I left there and went to Motherwell
20 and Tardun. I worked on different farms there. I
21 worked on farms for a few years before I was married.

22 "I got married when I was 30 in 1967. I met my wife
23 at Mount Henry Hospital. We got talking by phone and
24 she asked me out. I was working at Clontarf and their
25 farm when I met her. We were together for two or three

1 years before we married. When we got married, we lived
2 at Clontarf. I was still working on the farm. They
3 asked me to drive the truck when I got back. There were
4 still some of the brothers there. Brother **MHZ** was too
5 old to drive it so he got transferred off the road.
6 I would drive to Fremantle to Miles and Wares and get
7 broken biscuits. I'd go to the spud board. We'd get
8 five bags of spuds and veggies, two bag of spuds were
9 for Castledare and three for Clontarf. If you had to
10 buy something, you would get it there.

11 "Some of the brothers were still there. Not many of
12 them though, but **MHZ** was still there. There was one
13 brother there that I didn't like much. Otherwise it was
14 all right there. I got up at five in the morning and
15 I had two kids working with me. This is before I met my
16 wife.

17 "I married in 1967. We have three children. We
18 moved to Wilson and I have been there ever since. I was
19 worked at Castledare then, doing farm work. They had
20 pigs and cows, but when a certain brother came along
21 they got rid of the pigs. He said it was to help me,
22 but I liked it, so I did the gardening and the plumbing.

23 "I was 65 when I retired. My kids live quite near
24 me and help me. I have spoken to a counsellor through
25 the Child Migrant Trust. My wife and I had a bit of

1 counselling early on in our marriage. I told my wife
2 about what happened to me and eventually I told the
3 kids. I couldn't keep it from them. I kept this grudge
4 under me. Then, when I told the kids, I think
5 I relieved myself a lot of stress. The kids understood
6 then.

7 "I asked the Child Migrant Trust to help me trace my
8 mother and they found her and set up a meeting. About
9 15 or 16 years ago I went to England with my wife. My
10 mother was at the table with two of her sons, my
11 stepbrothers. She didn't speak. My wife tried to speak
12 to them but they didn't say much at all. She sat there,
13 stone cold. I was trying to find out who my father was
14 but I didn't find out. I think they were worried I went
15 after something in her will. I didn't bother.

16 "I have an Australian passport and I got a
17 Commonwealth pension. I applied for redress in 2009.
18 I received \$25,000 from the Christian Brothers and
19 \$45,000 from the government.

20 "When you left Nazareth House, you were hoping
21 things weren't going to be the same. Clontarf was
22 better than Nazareth House. It was still overcrowded
23 but not as harsh. I think I was treated fairly at
24 Clontarf. I didn't do any good at school. I worked but
25 I preferred that.

1 "I reckon it's had an impact because of the way
2 I brought the kids up. I was really hard on them. The
3 way I spoke to them, it was the same way as how I was
4 brought up. I eventually realised that that was wrong.
5 I didn't realise it at first. When you were brought up
6 by the nuns and the brothers you were not treated well
7 so that's how I brought up my kids. I learned that was
8 the wrong thing to do.

9 "I would say that my life in care has had a little
10 effect on my mental health. I would say that it still
11 affects me now because of how I was treated there. They
12 wanted to show their authority. Otherwise, life must go
13 on as usual.

14 "When you are on your own, you think about it.
15 I don't watch TV much. If it's cold, I go to bed.
16 I get up in the morning, go for a walk. What I do to
17 keep myself occupied is I get sand filters and cut them
18 in half and put flowers in them. Nearly all my back
19 yard is covered in flowers. I have 70-odd pots filled
20 with all sorts of flowers. The last ones I put in are
21 petunias.

22 "If I'd had a better education, that would have
23 helped me and if the places hadn't been so overcrowded.
24 They were getting money from the government for the
25 amount of kids that were in these places. When Pippa

1 from Tuart Place contacted me, I wanted to speak to you.
2 It's a lot easier now. I feel good. It helps me to
3 talk about these things. It feels a lot easier now to
4 talk about it and I feel good. It helps to speak to
5 people.

6 "I have no objection to my witness statement being
7 published as part of the evidence to the inquiry.
8 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
9 true."

10 Tony signed his statement on 10 March 2019.

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

12 MS RATTRAY: My Lady, that concludes the evidence for today.
13 We resume tomorrow morning again at 8.00 when there will
14 be two oral witnesses by video link and three statements
15 will be read in.

16 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

17 I will adjourn now until tomorrow morning at
18 8 o'clock and I very much hope we will have no
19 difficulty in starting at 8 o'clock tomorrow morning.
20 I have no reason to think there will be. Thank you.

21 (12.19 pm)

22 (The inquiry adjourned until 8.00 am on
23 Thursday 5 December 2019)

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I N D E X

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