
HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE INQUIRY

being heard before:

SIR ANTHONY HART (Chairman)

MR DAVID LANE

MS GERALDINE DOHERTY

held at

Banbridge Court House

Banbridge

on Monday, 8th September 2014

commencing at 10.00 am

(Day 46)

MS CHRISTINE SMITH, QC appeared as Counsel to the Inquiry.

1 Monday, 8th September 2014

2 (10.00 am)

3 WITNESS HIA 273 (called)

4 CHAIRMAN: Good morning. We will resume. Can I remind
5 everybody when the Inquiry is sitting, please ensure
6 phones are turned on "silent" or "vibrate" and no
7 photography is permitted anywhere within the chamber or
8 the premises in any form whatsoever.

9 Yes, Ms Smith.

10 MS SMITH: Morning, Chairman and Members, ladies and
11 gentlemen. If we could just put the screen up.

12 Good morning or good afternoon to you, HIA273. Can
13 you hear me okay?

14 **A. Good afternoon. Yes, I'm okay.**

15 Q. HIA273, as you're aware, we had a discussion this
16 morning and you advised me you wished to maintain your
17 anonymity for the purposes of the Inquiry. Isn't that
18 correct?

19 **A. Correct.**

20 Q. I'm going to hand you over to the Chairman who is going
21 ask you about taking the oath or affirming.

22 I understand from my discussion with you that you choose
23 to affirm rather than take a religious oath. Isn't that
24 also correct?

25 **A. Oh, definitely.**

1 Q. Thank you.

2 **A. That is correct.**

3 CHAIRMAN: Good morning, HIA273. Can you hear me?

4 **A. Yes, sir.**

5 Q. Would you --

6 **A. I can hear you.**

7 Q. Thank you very much.

8 WITNESS HIA 273 (affirmed)

9 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

10 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

11 MS SMITH: Thank you, HIA273. Now I have confirmed we have
12 a number of documents that we have -- some of which we
13 looked at this morning. I'm just going to ask that your
14 witness statement be pulled up on the screen, and that's
15 at AUS10041, and if we could go to the last page of your
16 witness statement -- you do have a copy of it there,
17 don't you, HIA273, of your witness statement?

18 **A. Yes, I do.**

19 Q. If I can ask you if you wouldn't mind looking at the
20 last page of your witness statement for me. That's at
21 11... -- sorry -- 10050.

22 **A. The last page. Where is it?**

23 Q. The last page of your witness statement.

24 **A. 10051. There it is. Yes, I've got it.**

25 Q. That's great. Can you just confirm you have signed the

1 witness statement and it is dated 9th June 2014?

2 **A. Correct.**

3 Q. And can I just ask you also then to confirm that this is
4 the evidence that the wish the Inquiry to consider as
5 well as anything else that you tell us today?

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. Thank you. Now you, in fact, HIA273, were not born in
8 Northern Ireland. You were born in [REDACTED] in the
9 Republic. Isn't that correct?

10 **A. Correct.**

11 Q. And your personal details are set out in paragraphs 1 to
12 3 of your witness statement, which are being pulled up
13 on the screens in the chamber now, where you set out
14 about your parents. You were the eldest child. You had
15 two brothers and a younger sister. Excuse me. You
16 remember being at home with your mother in [REDACTED]
17 and you remember a particular incident where there was
18 a fire in the house which was an accident, but that you
19 always blamed yourself for that and thought that that
20 was maybe the reason why you and your family were put
21 into care.

22 You also remember there being a knock at the door,
23 a man coming and a woman in, as you describe, a funny
24 black outfit, grabbing you by the arm, taking you away
25 from your mother, and you were put in a black car and

1 driven away and taken to what we now know was Nazareth
2 House in Belfast.

3 **A. Yes. I think it was Nazareth House, yes. I'm not sure.**
4 **It was a big place with a big stone wall, broken glass**
5 **on the top of the wall.**

6 Q. And --

7 **A. I think it was Nazareth House.**

8 Q. Well, you didn't know it at the time, but, in fact, your
9 sister, who was younger -- she was 18 months old -- was
10 already in Nazareth House in the baby section and your
11 brothers were in Nazareth Lodge, and even though you
12 were in close proximity in Belfast to them, you never
13 saw them again?

14 **A. No.**

15 Q. And you didn't see your sister again while you were in
16 Ireland?

17 **A. No.**

18 Q. And that was -- you describe how difficult that was for
19 you, because you had, in fact, been looking after your
20 two little brothers while you were living at home with
21 your mum.

22 **A. That's right.**

23 Q. And coming from [REDACTED] you were a native Irish
24 speaker, and you felt that you were laughed and pushed
25 around and made a joke of because of that when you were

1 in Belfast?

2 **A. That's right.**

3 Q. And you say that you had been an extrovert before you
4 were placed into the home, attending feises and Irish
5 dances with your dad, but because of the treatment you
6 received in the home you then became an introvert and
7 used to sit in the corner with your knees under your
8 chin, your arms folded across your shoulders and would
9 sit there for days on end?

10 **A. That's right.**

11 Q. Now in paragraph 7 of your witness statement you say
12 that life was very difficult, and you describe that the
13 nuns relied on older girls to look after you, and that
14 they bullied you and that they were the ones that did
15 the damage, but, as you say in your statement, the nuns
16 must have trained them and you thought that these older
17 girls were just doing as they were told?

18 **A. That's right.**

19 Q. And you also go on to describe both in paragraphs 8, 10
20 and 13 that you were always hungry, but that you didn't
21 feel it was fair to put that at the hands of the nuns,
22 because of the time that it was and there was rationing
23 going on during the war?

24 **A. That's right. Uh-huh.**

25 Q. Although sometimes you remember the public donated some

1 food. You describe that in paragraph 10, and you
2 remember getting a chocolate drink before going to bed?

3 **A. Cocoa, yes.**

4 Q. And sometimes -- you said in paragraph 13 that the
5 public would sometimes come in and bring dry hard cake
6 or little tubs of ice-cream for you. So you do remember
7 those little treats that you got then?

8 **A. Oh, for sure.**

9 Q. You also said that -- you described the routine in the
10 home at paragraph 9, where you say that:

11 "Every morning we got up to pray. There was
12 a church there and you went down the stairs from the
13 dormitory. There was morning mass said by a Father
14 Flynn. After mass we went for breakfast",

15 which you describe. That's where you saw the nuns.
16 You describe them as good teachers and you felt that the
17 educational standard that you received while in Belfast
18 was good?

19 **A. Oh, yes, definitely.**

20 Q. You describe again in paragraph 13 about the chores that
21 you were expected to do in the home -- excuse me -- and
22 you talk about Saturday being a work day and you had to
23 work polishing the floors and those days were different
24 to week days?

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. Do you remember, HIA273, whether you ever had to do
2 chores during the week days or was it just on
3 a Saturday?

4 **A. Not that I remember. I think the worst thing we ever**
5 **did was either set a table or make a bed.**

6 Q. So no -- just Saturday was the major job of polishing
7 the floors. Is that right?

8 **A. Yes. Cleaning up the place, yes.**

9 Q. You also talk at paragraph 15 about the difference that
10 you noticed occur in your life in the home during the
11 war years and then when the war was over. You were
12 given a deal more freedom and were able to go down to
13 the park on a Sunday, for example?

14 **A. That was right, yes, once a month.**

15 Q. But you -- at that stage you didn't know at the time
16 that the park you were sent down to that your brothers
17 were on the other side of the park, but you never mixed
18 with them and you didn't -- you weren't allowed to see
19 each other?

20 **A. It was just their policy. We weren't allowed to have**
21 **our family. It was their policy.**

22 Q. And you talk in paragraph 16 about the fact that you had
23 a uniform which, while it was a pretty dress that you
24 were given to wear, meant that you had no individuality
25 in the home?

1 **A. Oh, no, definitely not.**

2 Q. Now you remember in paragraph 17 it was just after your
3 birthday in 1946 -- but may I just pause there, HIA273?
4 Was your birthday celebrated in the home?

5 **A. No. You're joking. Birthdays? You've got to be**
6 **joking.**

7 Q. You say that this was just after your birthday. You
8 were aware that it was your birthday or is this
9 something that you realised later, that it was just
10 after your birthday?

11 **A. No, I realised later on in life, yes, yes.**

12 Q. You were told that you were leaving and you thought that
13 meant you were going back home to your family?

14 **A. Oh, that was a happy day. I thought I was going home,**
15 **yes.**

16 Q. And you describe in paragraph 18 of a visit from your
17 father's sister, your aunt [REDACTED] coming on -- you
18 actually have the date there, [REDACTED] 1947, and
19 a time. How can you be so sure that that was the date
20 and time, HIA273?

21 **A. Because it was the date I left Ireland. I left Ireland**
22 **on August 28 and I left at 3.00 pm in the afternoon.**

23 Q. And she came that morning?

24 **A. So that's how I know. Came that morning. Uh-huh.**

25 Q. Prior to that visit by your aunt had you ever had any

1 other family members visit you while you were in
2 Nazareth House?

3 **A. You weren't allowed to have family. They had to make**
4 **appointments or get permission to see you. They just**
5 **couldn't come and see you. That was their policy.**
6 **Families were split. End of story.**

7 Q. And do you ever remember any visits by any members of
8 your family by appointment before your aunt coming?

9 **A. No. They weren't allowed.**

10 Q. And what you remember about this particular visit was
11 that your aunt came and brought two cousins to see you
12 and that your younger sister was there at the time too
13 and you were told she was your sister, but you didn't
14 recognise her, because when you'd last seen her, she was
15 just a little baby.

16 **A. That's right, yes.**

17 Q. And --

18 **A. She was six years old when I saw her.**

19 Q. Then you were told that it was time to go and you
20 thought you were going home and you needed to go the
21 other way out of the building with your family, but they
22 walked out the front door and you were put with the
23 other girls who were being sent to Australia, and you
24 were very sad, because that wasn't what you were
25 expecting?

1 **A. No, definitely not.**

2 Q. Now you talk in paragraph 19 of your statement about
3 going to Belfast Hospital to get medical check-ups and
4 needles and jabs in your arm in 1947 and you say that
5 your medical --

6 **A. Uh-huh.**

7 Q. -- examination form is dated 15th July 1947. Just --
8 first of all, can we just look at, please, 10061 and
9 10062? Do you have those documents there, HIA273?

10 **A. Yes, I've got it here.**

11 Q. And just this is the medical examination form that we
12 have in the Inquiry in respect of the medical
13 examination that was carried out before you left for
14 Australia. You do remember undergoing that and you say
15 it was in the hospital in Belfast?

16 **A. Yes. Belfast Children's.**

17 Q. And you say that it is your understanding that no papers
18 were to be signed authorising child migration from
19 Northern Ireland to Australia prior to 1st January 1947,
20 and when we spoke earlier this morning, I asked you what
21 the source of that information was, and perhaps you
22 could repeat that for us.

23 **A. In the autumn sitting of the Federal Parliament of**
24 **Australia in Canberra in the August of that year they**
25 **debated the Child Custodian Act and that was to**

1 determine who was going to be our guardians upon arrival
2 in Australia. That was only the debate. In the debate
3 and when it became law it was to become law on December
4 31st, 1946 with forms to be signed after January 1st,
5 1947.

6 Q. This was an Australian Act about who was to be
7 guardian of children coming in from abroad and you say
8 that --

9 A. It was called the Child Custodian Act.

10 Q. Child Custodian Act?

11 A. It is called the Child Custodian Act.

12 Q. Of 1947 and --

13 A. Of 19... -- debated in August of 1946 to become law on
14 December 31st, 1946. Papers to be signed on
15 1st January 1947.

16 Q. And in the course of that --

17 A. When my papers were signed -- when my papers were
18 signed, it was not law.

19 Q. Certainly it would not have been legal under the Child
20 Custodian Act, although are you aware there may have
21 been other Acts prior to that which would have enabled
22 your migration?

23 A. The words "child migrant" first appear -- in the
24 Commonwealth of Australia Hansards first appear in 1945.
25 So there was no precedent set for child migration until

1 **then until the Child Custodian Act was passed and became**
2 **law on December 31st, 1946.**

3 Q. And that's --

4 **A. The others were different.**

5 Q. And that is the basis --

6 **A. Uh-huh.**

7 Q. -- for your statement in paragraph 19 that no papers
8 were to be signed authorising child migration until
9 1st January 1947, and as a result of that --

10 **A. That's correct.**

11 Q. And as a result of that you believe that your child
12 migration form was illegally signed?

13 **A. Correct, but also I am an Irish citizen. It was for**
14 **British children only not younger than the age of 6 and**
15 **not more than the age of 12. I am not a British**
16 **subject. I am and always will be to the day I die an**
17 **Irish citizen. It was for British subjects only.**

18 Q. And has caused you, if I may -- clearly it has caused
19 you resentment, the fact you were an Irish subject who
20 was migrated under a British scheme?

21 **A. I was an Irish citizen under a British subject scheme,**
22 **yes. I am Irish.**

23 Q. Thank you, HIA273. Now just before moving on, you do
24 remember that there were good times in Nazareth House.
25 You talk at paragraph 6 about a particular nun whom you

1 name there. You say she taught you to walk on stilts
2 and tried to keep you out of harm's way. She was very
3 nice, but she couldn't be there all -- 24 hours a day.
4 You also talk about trips out at paragraph 11. You were
5 allowed to go and ride on the trams in Belfast, allowed
6 to see the Christmas decorations and a big nativity.
7 Sometimes people would give you pennies and you took
8 pennies back and then you gave them to the nuns.

9 So apart from what we have already talked about you
10 do have some fond memories of your time there?

11 **A. Life is balanced. It's not all bad and it's not all**
12 **good. So when you are turning the bad, you must balance**
13 **it with the good. So that's what I've tried to do.**
14 **I've tried to balance my life in Belfast, yes.**

15 Q. Thank you, HIA273, and if we just then go back to your
16 trip to Australia, you talk about this from paragraph 20
17 on. You remember getting on to the ship and going to
18 England. You remember being cold, being on the top deck
19 of the boat and they took your coats off you even though
20 you were cold, though you don't know why. They were
21 piled up beside a nun who -- you later found out her
22 name. You had nothing to eat or drink on the boat. You
23 got off in Liverpool, then got on to a train, went to
24 Hammersmith where you still hadn't eaten or had anything
25 to drink, and you went into Nazareth House in

1 Hammersmith where you slept in a big room on canvass or
2 hessian beds. At that stage you got some cake and milk
3 and you went to bed very late that night.

4 You then got up.

5 **A. Yes, we did.**

6 Q. The next day you got on a bus, and you remember there
7 were children from Derry as well as from Belfast, and
8 you believe you went to the docks in Southampton where
9 you were taken to cabins and locked in and were given
10 tea in the cabins. You don't remember the trip as being
11 too bad, although you woke up pretty upset as you
12 realised each morning you were still at sea. You
13 sometimes went to school and sometimes did drills.

14 At paragraph 23 you say:

15 "I had no idea at any stage prior to the sailing
16 date that I was being sent to Australia. No-one had
17 ever asked if I wanted to go there or told me prior to
18 my departure that it was their intention to send me
19 there."

20 Was there --

21 **A. That's right.**

22 Q. Was there ever any discussion when you were undergoing
23 the medication examinations about what they were for or
24 anything like that?

25 **A. I had a cut on my knee which I've still got the scar**

1 today, and I was going to the Children's Hospital anyway
2 to have it dressed, and it just became going to the
3 hospital. So it never entered my mind, no.

4 Q. You didn't see your brothers during the trip to
5 Australia, but you were left in charge of your younger
6 sister, **AU 63** and you say people were very nice to you
7 on the boat.

8 "They gave us breakfast, lunch, tea, and sometimes
9 supper as well."

10 You remember a sports day. You say you were allowed
11 to win as you weren't very good at sports.

12 Then you were called up in the evening of
13 21st September 1947 and were told that whoever spotted
14 land first was going to get a pound. You say one of the
15 boys managed to get that.

16 You then packed your cases, and there was
17 an envelope taped into the inside of your cases which
18 the nun took from you, and you found out later that
19 those envelopes contained your birth certificates and
20 baptismal certificates?

21 **A. That's right.**

22 Q. And you remember there was a great fanfare when you got
23 off the boat. There were dignitaries and the archbishop
24 there to welcome you, and you were told that you were
25 there to fill the empty cradles of Australia, and you

1 went into a big shed where you were fingerprinted and
2 given a bunch of oranges, three oranges on a stick.

3 Now can I just pause there and ask this term -- we
4 have heard this term "empty cradles of Australia". Is
5 that something that you actually remember being said on
6 the day or what you've learnt since, HIA273?

7 **A. No. I remember that day very well. The red carpet.**
8 **I remember everything about that day, coming down the**
9 **plank of the ship and all that, and Archbishop**
10 **Prendiville after Arthur -- not Arthur Calwell --**
11 **Senator Tangney gave a speech, archbishop Prendiville**
12 **then gave another one and gave a blessing and told us we**
13 **were here to fill the empty cradles of Australia.**
14 **I remember it like it was yesterday. I have got a very**
15 **good memory, a very detailed memory.**

16 **Q.** HIA273, you were then taken to St. Joseph's Orphanage in
17 Subiaco, and, as we have spoken about and you are aware,
18 what happened to you in that home is outside the scope
19 of this Inquiry, but the complaints that you have about
20 your time there, if I may summarise them, are
21 essentially that you were separated from your sister and
22 you never saw her again, despite the fact that you had
23 to look after her on the journey over. You were told
24 that your father was dead, which was incorrect. You had
25 a very onerous job of having to look after babies in

1 that orphanage and looking after them at night alone.
2 You witnessed the public floggings of girls and you were
3 put -- placed in solitary confinement. You complain
4 about the lack of education, and you were engaged in the
5 child labour force essentially that helped build the
6 home.

7 **A. That's right.**

8 Q. Now if we could then move on to paragraph 44 and onwards
9 in your witness statement. You then talk about life
10 after you left the home, and you trained as a nurse
11 there, but paragraph 46 you talk about the difficulties
12 that you had with obtaining a passport. If you would
13 like to maybe explain to the Panel just what the major
14 difficulty for you was.

15 **A. Because no Irish children were allowed to come to**
16 **Australia, and that was by the government of Ireland,**
17 **when I tried to go home, I was told that it was not my**
18 **birth certificate that I had, although I had immigration**
19 **papers, a consent form and my medical, and it said**
20 **a different address to where I was born on that one. My**
21 **birth certificate told me where I was born and that was**
22 **[REDACTED] No Irish children came to**
23 **Australia was the catch cry out here. So therefore, as**
24 **that was not my birth certificate, although I know it**
25 **was mine, I was not allowed to have a birth --**

1 a passport.

2 In 1994 with the help of the ambassador to Australia
3 and the Christian Brothers and the Catholic Immigration
4 I was able to get a passport and they were able to
5 confirm that Irish children did come out to Australia,
6 but that was in August of 1994.

7 Q. Just talking about your child migration form, if I may,
8 for the moment, HIA273, if we could look at 10060. Now
9 you and I have discussed this earlier today, HIA273, and
10 the document that we have, and which, as I understand
11 it, we received in Australia from yourself, you say that
12 is not the document that you obtained from the national
13 archives of Australia. Isn't that correct?

14 A. That is -- that -- I did not give any documents of mine
15 to the Inquiry.

16 Q. Although is it correct -- is it not correct --

17 A. I asked Dr Pippa White not to.

18 Q. Yes, but is it not correct that you, in fact --

19 A. Yes. Oh, you brought them?

20 Q. But is it not correct that you --

21 A. You did give them.? Yes. Okay. Dr Pippa White just
22 said she did hand over my documents, yes.

23 Q. And this, as I say, is what was handed to the Inquiry
24 and it clearly shows on that that it was, in fact,
25 signed by your father whose name is on it as consenting

1 to your migration. I know you have an issue about the
2 address. I'm not going to -- as you've asked for
3 anonymity, I am not going to give your father's name or
4 the address --

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. -- other than to say it gives an address at a number 13
7 at a particular street in Belfast and you say that
8 address was incorrect, that the address, in fact, was 9
9 in that street. So although --

10 **A. Correct.**

11 Q. -- although his signature appears on it, it may be that
12 someone else filled in the incorrect details of his
13 address?

14 **A. Well, I can tell you for a start that that's not his
15 signature -- okay -- and I won't elaborate any further
16 as it will involve my family. That is not his
17 signature.**

18 Q. So you dispute the fact -- although there's a signature
19 there, you dispute the fact that your father actually
20 did sign it?

21 **A. I'm not disputing it. I am stating it. It is not his
22 signature.**

23 Q. Okay. Just coming on then to -- back to your witness
24 statement at page 10049, you talk about when you
25 eventually managed to get the passport difficulties that

1 you had sorted out, you made your first trip back to
2 Ireland in August 1994, and you talked to many people
3 during this trip to find out more about your past. You
4 wanted to trace your mother, but you were unfortunately
5 unable to make contact with her, find out anything about
6 her. One of your brothers you never had the opportunity
7 to meet again. You did manage to meet one of your
8 brothers when he was 21, but sadly he died at a young
9 age also. They were both taken to Australia and sent
10 to -- one to -- both initially in Castledare and then
11 one -- they were split after that. One went to Bindoon
12 and one went to Clontarf. Your sister **AU 63** --

13 **A. That's correct, yes.**

14 Q. -- dad health difficulties and you nursed her until she
15 died at 62 years of age, and you and your brother took
16 her ashes back to Ireland and you also brought your
17 brother's ashes back, because none of them wanted to be
18 buried on Australia soil. Isn't that so?

19 **A. That's correct, yes. I took them both back.**

20 Q. At paragraph 51 you say:

21 "I think when I returned to Ireland that I was
22 trying to 'find myself'. I went everywhere on foot and
23 met people and asked questions about my past, but I did
24 not get the answers I was looking for. I still feel
25 that I don't belong anywhere and that I don't belong to

1 anyone. My time in care has always made me feel
2 throughout life as if I am on the outside looking in.
3 The road of the abused child never ends. It is
4 continuous because the mind does not let you forget."

5 In that paragraph --

6 **A. That's right.**

7 Q. -- HIA273, you have been summing up your feelings of how
8 your life has been affected by the fact that you were
9 both placed in care and then migrated to Australia.

10 **A. I don't know what people were thinking of. The whole**
11 **lot of bloody bastards they were. They just ruined our**
12 **lives.**

13 Q. HIA273, one of the matters that we discussed earlier, it
14 is clear from your witness statement that you received
15 some form of redress under the West Australian Redress
16 Scheme, and, as I've explained to you, this Inquiry has
17 to make recommendations to the Northern Ireland
18 government about what should happen next, and they are
19 very interested to know what your own views are with
20 regard to issues of redress and memorials and what your
21 own view is, particularly in light of your own
22 experience.

23 **A. Well, for a start I don't want no bloody memorial like**
24 **we've got here in Australia. The pigeons shit all over**
25 **the memorial all the time. No. Memorials don't do**

1 anything.

2 I think for those that are getting on in years
3 I think compensation to help them through the medical
4 problems they've got. Me, I want justice. I want
5 somebody made accountable for the deaths of my two
6 brothers, the suicide they both committed through the
7 poke rapes that happened, and I want to die in peace, if
8 nobody minds. Just give me some peace of mind. That's
9 what I want, and I'm not asking too much of Ireland or
10 Australia or anybody else of this world to let me die in
11 peace, please. Finish this once and for all and then
12 leave us alone. Just leave us alone.

13 Q. HIA273, thank you very much. I have no further
14 questions for you. Unless there's anything that you
15 feel that we haven't covered in going through your
16 evidence that there's -- now is your opportunity to say
17 it here today.

18 A. I think the Child Migration Scheme to which Ireland was
19 a signatory or Northern Ireland was a signatory was the
20 most bombastic thing that ever happened to a child that
21 walked the face of this earth. To put that signature to
22 a piece of paper and send children 30,000 miles across
23 an ocean, to take away their country, their very
24 identity, their family, their traditions, to take it all
25 away from them and leave them with nothing but abuse at

1 the other end of that trip, that is wrong and should be
2 rectified, and there needs to be an apology of something
3 of some description so that we do become part of the
4 history of both countries, both of Northern Ireland and
5 Australia. We are not nobodies. We are somebodies, and
6 for the rest of the world to know I am the best that God
7 ever put on the face of this earth. I am the best and
8 nobody will tell me different.

9 Q. Well, HIA273, thank you very much. As I say, I have no
10 further questions for you, but I'm sure the Panel
11 Members may wish to ask you some things.

12 **A. They can go ahead.**

13 **Questions from THE PANEL**

14 CHAIRMAN: HIA273, thank you for coming to speak to us. Can
15 I say, first of all, the documents that came from you
16 were extremely helpful to us at an early stage of our
17 investigations.

18 Can I ask you a number of specific questions just
19 about what you have said to us about your time in
20 Nazareth House? You remember saying you were laughed at
21 and pushed and pulled by people because you were
22 an Irish speaker? Were the people --

23 **A. That's correct.**

24 Q. -- who did this, were they the other children, or were
25 they the nuns, or were they lay workers in the home?

1 Who were the people who behaved like that?

2 **A. They were the -- they were the older girls who looked**
3 **after us.**

4 Q. Did the nuns know of this, and if they did, did they try
5 and stop it in any way?

6 **A. The nuns stop anything? Not on your nelly. No.**

7 Q. A different question is you've told us how your aunt
8 [REDACTED] came to see you with your cousins and with your
9 younger sister **AU 63** who was there as well. Did you
10 discover either years later or some time later whether
11 your aunt [REDACTED] knew at that meeting that you were
12 going to Australia?

13 **A. I never did find out. By the time I was allowed out of**
14 **Australia with a passport most of them were dead by the**
15 **time I got home. There was a few alive in [REDACTED],**
16 **some people that knew my family that gave me some**
17 **inlight -- insight into them, and some down in Dublin,**
18 **but there seems to have been not much information**
19 **around. So ...**

20 Q. Thank you very much. No, my colleagues have no
21 questions to ask you. So it just remains for me to
22 thank you very much for taking the trouble to come and
23 speak to us and to say that as far as you're concerned
24 that's the end of your engagement with us today. Thank
25 you very much indeed.

1 **A. Okay. Thank you for listening.**

2 MS SMITH: Thank you, HIA273.

3 (Witness withdrew)

4 MS SMITH: Chairman, it may be appropriate just to take
5 a very short break before we start with the next
6 witness.

7 CHAIRMAN: Yes.

8 MS SMITH: I imagine it will take about five minutes just to
9 set it up.

10 CHAIRMAN: Very well. We'll rise for five minutes or so.

11 (10.42 am)

12 (Short break)

13 (10.47 am)

14 WITNESS HIA308 (called)

15 MS SMITH: Good morning, HIA308. Can you hear me? HIA308,
16 can you hear me?

17 **A. Yes, Christine. Hello.**

18 Q. Hello again. I'm just going to hand you over to the
19 Chairman, first of all, HIA308, who is going to ask you
20 about taking the oath or affirming, and before I do that
21 I just want to let the Panel Members know that you have
22 agreed that your anonymity can be waived. So you're
23 happy for your name to go out into the public domain.
24 Isn't that correct?

25 **A. That's correct, yes.**

1 Q. Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN: Now, HIA308, I want to ask you whether you wish
3 to take a religious oath or to make an affirmation.
4 They have the same legal effect. It's entirely for you
5 to choose.

6 **A. I'll take a religious one. (Inaudible) move on.**

7 Q. An affirmation is a solemn promise. A religious oath
8 obviously explains itself. So you wish to take an oath.
9 Is that correct?

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. Very well. There should I hope be a bible there on the
12 table beside you. Is there?

13 **A. No. In that case I'll take the affirmation.**

14 **WITNESS HIA308 (affirmed)**

15 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

16 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

17 MS SMITH: Thank you, HIA308. HIA308, you have a number of
18 documents with you this morning and we have copies of
19 them here, but the first one I'm going to ask you about
20 is your witness statement and it's headed AUS10577.

21 **A. I'll get the suduko out of the way. I was doing my
22 suduko during the break. Sorry about that.**

23 Q. No. That's okay. You found it. If we could just go to
24 the last page --

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. -- which is 10588 --

2 **A. ...588, yes, where I signed.**

3 Q. Yes. I just was going to ask you that. That's where
4 you've signed the witness statement and it's dated 11th
5 June 2014 and can I just --

6 **A. Correct.**

7 Q. -- confirm, HIA308, you want the Inquiry to consider
8 this witness statement along with whatever you tell us
9 this morning, or this afternoon in your case, as your
10 evidence to the Inquiry?

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. Now in your witness statement, if we could go back to
13 the first page of it at 10577, it records your personal
14 details there and it says that you were placed initially
15 in the Babies' Home on the Ravenhill Road in Belfast
16 just after your birth and from there on you were moved
17 into -- transferred into Nazareth Lodge on

18 [REDACTED] 1952. You do have some memories of your
19 time in the home. You remember four nuns who you name
20 there and you believe one of those might have been the
21 Sister in charge of the home. You don't really remember
22 anything about the daily routine, but you have a memory
23 of the Circus coming to town, about everybody being so
24 excited they couldn't get up -- get to sleep and the
25 next morning you'd lost your voice and so you had to

1 stay at home when everybody else got to go to the Circus
2 and you felt that was very cruel.

3 You also remember taking part --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. Sorry -- taking part in concerts at the home with your
6 friend whom you name and who is also -- someone who is
7 also an applicant to this Inquiry. You were a -- you
8 describe a sketch called "Jammy Face" where you dressed
9 up as a girl and -- he dressed up as a girl and you were
10 a boy eating a jam sandwich as he was singing to you.
11 You say you had to have a kiss at the end before the
12 curtain came down and everybody laughed and after the
13 concert you were given lollies as a treat.

14 Now can I just pause there? Lollies are what the
15 Australians call sweets. Isn't that right, HIA308?

16 **A. Sweets, yes.**

17 Q. What we -- yes, sweets.

18 **A. They're not what the -- yes, Northern Irish call sweets.**

19 Q. Yes.

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. They are not ice lollies or anything like that that we
22 would have here. So you took your sweets --

23 **A. Oh, I see what you mean, yes. Unwrap them, yes.**

24 Q. So you took your sweets up to bed and you took the paper
25 off it, but instead of throwing the paper out of the

1 window you, in fact, threw the sweet out the window and
2 you came back with only the paper in your hand, and you
3 remember crying that night because you didn't get to eat
4 your sweet, and you remember trying to look for it in
5 the snow the next day, but I take it you didn't find it,
6 HIA308?

7 **A. No. It must have been one of those hard ones that**
8 **cracked when it hit the bitumen and with the snow all**
9 **around the place I had Buckley's chance of finding even**
10 **scraps of it. So yes, yes. Love's labours lost. Yes.**

11 **Q.** Okay. You remember as a child in Nazareth Lodge that
12 some of the other boys told you that you had a sister
13 and you were introduced to her. Can I ask you who
14 introduced you to her? Do you know? Was it one of the
15 other boys or how did you come to meet her in the home?

16 **A. I've no idea who it was, because I think a couple of**
17 **boys came up to me and said, "HIA308, HIA308, you've got**
18 **a sister. You've got a sister", and I had no idea what**
19 **a sister was, let alone anything else. I presume that**
20 **she must have been of the other sex, female sex. I knew**
21 **about girls but didn't know much about them, but this**
22 **girl was -- I think she was called **HIA 224** and I gave her**
23 **a push on the swing. I don't remember asking her any**
24 **questions. I don't remember giving her any information**
25 **about me either, and I think I would have been 5, 6, 7.**

1 I don't really know. She was a year younger than me
2 I think.

3 Q. And you know --

4 A. I can't really --

5 Q. But you know that -- certainly from later that she was
6 actually in Nazareth House?

7 A. Oh, yes. I guess I had heard there was another school
8 for girls. I didn't know that it was called Nazareth
9 House. Apparently the lodge was in Ravenhill Road and
10 behind it I think was the home, Nazareth House on Ormeau
11 Road, Ormeau Road. They run parallel, something like
12 that --

13 Q. And certainly --

14 A. -- and **HIA 224** apparently was there.

15 Q. So what -- the fact that you met her while you were
16 still in the home is suggestive there was some sort of
17 contact between the two homes?

18 A. Yes, I believe so, because I think both were run by the
19 Sisters. It is just I think in those days in
20 institutionalised care they separated the boys from the
21 girls. I'm surmising this. I'm presuming that's the
22 way, because after all in my school there were only
23 boys, and the girls apparently came over to visit under
24 supervision of the nuns, of course. Not that we could
25 get any -- do anything about it, and then we were -- as

1 young kids we didn't know, but yes, apparently, yes,
2 they visited us and maybe -- maybe we visited them. I
3 don't know.

4 Q. Well, you talk a little bit more in that paragraph about
5 **HIA 224** but apart from that you don't remember anybody
6 else visiting you while you were in the lodge in
7 Belfast?

8 A. None whatsoever. I do remember -- I remember being
9 taken out once and I think it was Christmas time.
10 I don't really know about this. This is a vague memory,
11 and I remember being in a large room and I was sat on
12 a sofa, and I remember turning round behind the sofa and
13 seeing all these balloons, and then someone came out and
14 said "Here, HIA308. Here's a little toy to play with".
15 This is embarrassing. Pardon me. And I got this little
16 toy. He said, "Play with that". I knew I went like
17 this, "Pu-pu-pu-pu-pu". Now normal kids would go,
18 "Broom-broom-broom-broom-broom", like that, but I don't
19 know why, but I went, "Pu-pu-pu-pu". I think on
20 reflection many, many years later maybe I was up for
21 adoption and maybe these people thought, "We're not
22 having this little funny kid who goes 'Pu' when he gets
23 a car". You know what I mean? Forgive the humour but
24 at the same time it was a realisation that's about the
25 only other time I can remember contact outside the

1 school of a if you can call it "family", but I do think
2 when I -- when I reflected, that maybe I was being
3 chosen for adoption and I failed the test.

4 Q. Well --

5 A. Maybe, maybe. Maybe not.

6 Q. -- you do have some good memories of your time in
7 Nazareth Lodge in Belfast?

8 A. Yes, yes.

9 Q. You talk about making your first communion and that
10 being a nice day there?

11 A. Yes. We received an orange afterwards. That's why it
12 was a nice day. They -- they gave us all an orange and
13 we -- that was the good part.

14 Q. Then if I can --

15 A. We were dressed up to the nines by the way, suits and
16 tie and, you know, all this, but I don't remember.

17 Q. Well, if I can move on to talk about how you came to go
18 to Australia. You say in paragraph 11 that you do
19 remember when you were about 8 or 9 the nuns saying,
20 "Who wants to go to Australia?" and you say there were
21 fifteen children in front of you and thirty hands went
22 up. You remember looking at the globe of the world to
23 see where Australia was located and saying to yourself,
24 "If it's under there, why don't people fall off?" but
25 you reckoned if they didn't fall off, it should be okay,

1 but you complain that the Northern Ireland authorities
2 and institutions just essentially uprooted you one day
3 and landed you in Australia without regard to the effect
4 of that displacement.

5 A. I guess yes, that's correct. I didn't know, of course,
6 that I'd been chosen. Firstly, there might have been
7 sixteen kids and thirty-two hands went up or whatever.
8 I don't remember the exact number of kids who were
9 there. That's the first thing. The other one, I wasn't
10 thinking that then, but my complaint when I said
11 I wanted to go -- I didn't complain about going. Look,
12 they could have asked me, "Do you want to go to
13 Zimbabwe?" Sorry. Zimbabwe didn't exist. "Do you want
14 to go to Rhodesia?" or "Do you want to go to
15 Afghanistan?" I would have put my hand up, you know.
16 I think it was the sort of -- it didn't -- you'd
17 probably call it a rhetorical question, but it was the
18 sort of question that most kids -- you know, "Who wants
19 to go to the circus?" "Yes, I do." "Who wants to go
20 here?" We were only 8, 7. So the actual displacement
21 statement that I make there, I didn't think of that
22 then. It is once again a reflection later on.

23 Q. Well, I'm going to go through -- we have documentation
24 which you were good enough to bring to the Inquiry,
25 which I'm going to go through with you. If we could

1 look at the first of these documents. This relates to
2 your medical examination, which can be found at 11845.
3 Now you won't have those numbers on the documents that
4 you have --

5 **A. Oh, no.**

6 Q. -- HIA308, because unfortunately they only went into our
7 bundle after we sent out to you what we would be talking
8 to you about, but you are aware --

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. -- there's a document there which you should have,
11 Commonwealth of Australia, Department of Immigration,
12 Australia House, London Medical Examination.

13 **A. Yes. That's LEM -- LEM13, I think, 8.**

14 Q. Can we just --

15 **A. I have it, yes.**

16 Q. Can we just call this up on the screen, please? I don't
17 know if there is a problem with this, but it should be
18 11845. That's it.

19 **A. I don't have page 11845.**

20 Q. HIA308, don't worry. It is for the benefit of the
21 people in Northern Ireland --

22 **A. Must be your paper.**

23 Q. -- that I am calling up so they can see on this screen
24 in front of them --

25 **A. Okay.**

1 Q. -- the document we're talking about, but can I just be
2 clear to you this is the one that I'm talking about
3 here. Can you just -- can you see that clearly?

4 **A. Yes-ish. It is pretty well the same as mine I think.**

5 Q. I think -- no, I think it might be a different form.
6 That's why I just wanted to check with you.

7 **A. Oh, hang on. Okay.**

8 Q. There might be a little numbered page 2 in the corner.
9 In the top right-hand corner there's a number 2.

10 **A. Hang on. Here we go. A-ha! Yes.**

11 Q. It says:

12 "Declaration by applicant.

13 Name: Master HIA308".

14 and your surname there.

15 **A. Oh! Da-da-da-da-dum. This is an Australian one
16 I think.**

17 Q. Yes.

18 **A. Oh, hang on. There's -- ah, here we are. Case history.
19 Bear with me. Okay?**

20 Q. Okay, and that's --

21 **A. Look, address it and I'll see how I go.**

22 Q. HIA308, the document I pulled up, you are aware we have
23 applied redactions to a lot of documents. This document
24 will be redacted later. Just to be clear to those
25 present in the chamber that although you have waived

1 your anonymity, it is preferable details of this are not
2 given out. There are other details on the form which
3 ought not to be disclosed.

4 HIA308, this is the medical examination which you
5 talk about in your witness statement as having been
6 carried out on 26th March 1956, and you said that this
7 form states that neither of your parents were still in
8 contact with you or the home, although I think that
9 actually comes up on the child migration form. Can I
10 just ask do you remember undergoing the medical
11 examination? Do you remember that happening?

12 **A. Not really, no. I think I remember I got a jab,**
13 **a scratch on my arm, which became a little bit infected**
14 **but healed up. I think that was -- everyone had one of**
15 **those. I think there was a --**

16 Q. BCG?

17 **A. I don't know. Yes, yes. I think it was -- yes, yes.**
18 **Everyone had to have one --**

19 Q. Okay.

20 **A. -- before migrating to Australia. I remember the**
21 **scratch, but I don't remember --**

22 Q. Any of the details?

23 **A. -- any other examination at all.**

24 Q. Do you remember undergoing an IQ test? Do you remember
25 doing that? You talk about that in paragraph 13 of your

1 statement where you say that:

2 "Intelligence tests" --

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. -- "were carried out on me and another eight children
5 from Nazareth Lodge and those took place on 27th and
6 28th August 1956."

7 Now do you --

8 **A. Yes, I stated that.**

9 Q. I am going to call up another document here in the
10 chamber, and you should have a letter which is addressed
11 to "Dear Mr Armstrong" and it's dated
12 6th September 1956. That's AUS11839, please. Can you
13 find that letter in the papers that you have, HIA308?
14 I apologise that we don't have a better --

15 **A. Don't apologise. What page number?**

16 Q. It's a letter. It says "Copy only", from the Queen's
17 University of Belfast, 7 Lennoxvale, Belfast, Department
18 of Psychology, 6th September 1956, and it accompanies
19 other documents but that is the first page.

20 **A. I ... What's the document number?**

21 Q. There's a little number 8. I beg your pardon. There's
22 a little number 8 up in the right-hand corner that might
23 assist you, little page number 8.

24 **A. Is this the photocopy ones or the ...? Well, all my
25 pages -- all my pages are numbered from 10577 to --**

1 Q. Yes. I think this -- do you remember when we spoke
2 earlier, HIA308, you had an envelope full of material
3 including photographs?

4 **A. Yes, yes.**

5 Q. It would have been in that bundle of material.

6 **A. Okay.**

7 Q. Well, let's --

8 **A. Case -- is it case report?**

9 Q. No.

10 **A. Department of Education.**

11 Q. It talks -- the case report I think is a different
12 document.

13 **A. 8. A-ha! Yes, Mr -- I have found -- what was lost now
14 I've found. I was lost, but now I'm found. Yes, the
15 Queen's University of Belfast. Sorry about that.**

16 Q. No problem. No problem at all. It's our -- it's
17 because we haven't given you the numbered documents to
18 make it easier for you.

19 I'm just going to read this out if you bear with me,
20 please, HIA308. It says:

21 "Dear Mr Armstrong,

22 I am sending you now the report of our examination
23 of the nine children in Nazareth Lodge, Belfast, whom
24 you referred to us.

25 The examinations were carried out in Nazareth Lodge

1 on Monday, 27th and Wednesday, 29th August 1956. All
2 intelligence quotients reported were obtained on the
3 Terman Merrill Binet scale (Form L). In qualification
4 of the actual IQ figures it should be noted that all the
5 results were in our opinion somewhat lowered by the
6 limited range of experience in this group of children
7 due to their prolonged institutionalisation. In all
8 cases report from the staff of Nazareth Lodge and our
9 own observation of the children would not suggest any
10 marked degree of emotional maladjustment in any of these
11 cases. All the children cooperated well in the test
12 situation and we formed a very good opinion indeed of
13 the care and training that had been provided for them.

14 Some comment on the lowest result obtained -- that
15 on ...", and a name is given there, which will be
16 redacted, "IQ 80, is perhaps in order. This child was
17 very well adjusted in the test situation, but he is very
18 young and at several points in his performance there
19 were suggestions that this result falls short of
20 representing his effective intelligence.

21 If there are any points about which you would care
22 to have fuller information, we shall be happy to try to
23 amplify this note."

24 It is signed George Seth and it gives his
25 qualifications there and he was Head of the Department

1 of psychology at Queen's. It's addressed to R.E.
2 Armstrong, who is the Chief Migration Officer in
3 Australia House in Strand Road, London.

4 Then if we can go to the next page, which is 11840
5 -- and you should have this also with you -- again it's
6 a document that will be redacted, because there are
7 a number of names given there, and this is "Intelligent
8 Test carried out on 27th and 29th August at Nazareth
9 Lodge, Ravenhill Road, Belfast" and telephone number is
10 given. It says "Children to be tested". I think that's
11 "Binz (sic) IQ", "date of birth" and you are the second
12 name down there, HIA308. You received an IQ of 90. It
13 gives your date of birth, and I wish to emphasise that
14 document will be redacted in due course.

15 The final accompanying document, if you like, there
16 is at 11841. This is described as a school report. You
17 are aged 8 and it gives your standard and attainment in
18 basic subjects. Your application to work was splendid
19 and your special aptitude was singing but your reading,
20 writing and arithmetic were all very good and your
21 handwork was good.

22 Then there is a further note and it's at 11842,
23 which seems to be a note that accompanied your migration
24 form, and it says:

25 "Regarding HIA308, his mother was unmarried when he

1 was born, is still his legal guardian and has already
2 signed the consent form."

3 Just then if you can go to the child migration form,
4 which is at 11855 through to 11857 --

5 **A. Right.**

6 Q. -- this is a bit I think you were holding up earlier
7 that is headed in bold writing "Commonwealth of
8 Australia, Child Migration".

9 **A. Yes. "Medical Examination".**

10 Q. You have got that?

11 **A. Yes, yes.**

12 Q. I'm just going to go through this, HIA308, because it is
13 one of the most complete forms that we have seen in that
14 all of the sections are there.

15 "Section .

16 **A. To be completed by voluntary organisation in
17 conjunction with parents or guardian."**

18 Your name is given, where you are living and your
19 date of birth, place of birth and nationality, your
20 religion. Your father's name is not recorded. Your
21 mother's name is given. Her address is unknown.

22 If we scroll on down, it says the name and address
23 of the guardian is the Mother Superior of Nazareth
24 Lodge. It records your educational standard and the
25 intelligence quotient is also to be stated there, but in

1 **passing I would note that it says you obtained**
2 **a quotient of 80 when, in fact, according to Professor**
3 **Seth your reading was 90. So that has been incorrectly**
4 **--**

5 **A. Might be, yes.**

6 Q. -- put down.

7 **A. Yes, yes.**

8 Q. If we can scroll on down to the next page, then it says:

9 "State whether parents are still in contact: No.

10 Has the child been committed to the care of any
11 person or body as a fit person?"

12 Originally it was put down "Yes", but the answer is
13 "No".

14 "If so, has the required consent of the Secretary of
15 State to the child's emigration been obtained?"

16 The answer to that is "No".

17 If I may just pause there, HIA308, because you were
18 not the subject of a Fit Person Order, a court order
19 when you were placed in care, it was not necessary for
20 the Sisters of Nazareth to obtain the consent of the
21 Secretary of State for your migration.

22 Then the medical history is recorded there. It
23 includes the illnesses. You had had measles and you had
24 had chickenpox. You were 3 foot, 8 and a half inches,
25 weighing 3 stones, 9 pounds. You had been vaccinated.

1 That's dated 18th November '55. The name of your
2 medical doctor is there. You didn't need glasses then.
3 You don't wet the bed.

4 Then about family history is "unknown". As to
5 parents or near relatives: "Not so far as we know".
6 They don't know what your medical history or your
7 parents' history would be.

8 If we can scroll on down to the next page, you will
9 see it is to be completed by parent or guardian and it
10 is signed by your mother and her address is given.

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. And she describes herself as your mother, and that's
13 then witnessed, that signature, again by the Reverend
14 Starkie of [REDACTED] in Belfast. He describes
15 himself as a clergyman.

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. If we scroll on down section C then, which is to be
18 completed by the voluntary organisation, it is signed --
19 if you just pause there, please -- it's signed by Sister
20 **SR 104**. That appears maybe to have been scored out and
21 there is a name above it which looks like Charles --
22 it's difficult to make out the signature -- Charles Hood
23 perhaps, 14th December 1953, and it's the Federal
24 Catholic Immigration Committee are the sponsoring
25 organisation for your emigration.

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. So I've taken some time to go through that, HIA308,
3 because it is quite a complete version of the form, and
4 you talk -- if we go back to your witness statement, you
5 talk in paragraph 14 about the fact that that signature
6 is on that form, and you say that you doubt if that is,
7 in fact, your mother's signature. You asked her in
8 later life whether she knew you were being sent to
9 Australia and she said she had received a letter from
10 the nuns:

11 "... but told me that she did not respond to them,
12 and that is the reason why I doubt that that was, in
13 fact, her signature."

14 **A. Yes. I stated that and that is what I say is correct,**
15 **that my mother did tell me she did not respond. I --**
16 **because I did have the time to ask her a few questions.**
17 **Like, for example, I asked her, "Who was my father?" but**
18 **she wouldn't go there. I asked her, "Did you know I was**
19 **coming to Australia?" She said -- I think she said, "I**
20 **don't know". I'm not absolutely sure, but she said,**
21 **"They sent me a letter and I didn't sign it", or I even**
22 **doubt if she read it, but what -- her reply was she**
23 **didn't respond. I do state that as an occurrence. It**
24 **happened in [REDACTED] in 1977 when I visited for the first**
25 **time, when I first found my mum, the first and only time**

1 I met her actually.

2 Q. And that's when she told you she had received a letter
3 from -- about you going to Australia but she didn't
4 reply to it?

5 A. Yes, yes. I do note, if I might point out, there was
6 a comment there about mother's address unknown. Hang
7 on. See section B. Then they do find her address.

8 [REDACTED]. That's in [REDACTED] I think.
9 I went swimming there. Is there a beach there? Yes.

10 [REDACTED]. That's in [REDACTED], but when I drove mum
11 around a couple of times, you know, we touched on a few
12 touchy subjects.

13 Can I just mention an aside? I remember I bought
14 her -- she bought an ice-cream. We stopped -- we were
15 driving around. We stopped to have an ice-cream, and
16 I inadvertently, just because I was getting used to her
17 I guess, I said -- she handed it to me and I said,
18 "Thanks, mum", and she -- she didn't say "Shut up", but
19 she gently chided me, "Don't call me mum".

20 I understood that, because mum had a -- mum was
21 married. Her husband died, but a respectable woman.
22 She was a very respectable woman I believe, a registered
23 nurse, a travelling nurse, what they have in those days.
24 So I learn -- immediately understood her side of the
25 story and I acquiesced. I didn't call her mum any more.

1 I called her [REDACTED]

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. Sorry about that.

4 Q. That's quite all right. That's quite all right. I'm
5 just going to ask you about a little bit more then,
6 going back to your statement.

7 At paragraph 15 you talk about you have a copy of
8 the passenger list showing all the boys who went out to
9 Australia with you. I am just going to pause there to
10 say -- ask that a photograph be pulled up, which is
11 AUS11801. You have this photograph. This is the
12 photograph that I'm talking about right here, HIA308.

13 A. Ah, yes, yes. I know it very well.

14 Q. This is the photograph showing some 13 boys I think,
15 isn't it? Yes. 13.

16 A. Yes, 13.

17 Q. And --

18 A. 14 of us came. 13 in the photograph, yes.

19 Q. 13 in the photograph and you are in that photograph and
20 you are second in from the right on the front row.
21 Isn't that so?

22 A. Second from the right, front row, yes.

23 Q. And that's you with your arms folded.

24 A. I think I recall the bloke as being handsome. Yes,
25 indeed. Very authoritative, very assertive. Sorry

1 **about that.**

2 Q. Just while we are -- no. While we are on the
3 photographs we will look at another one, which is 11805,
4 and this is a group of boys outside Nazareth Lodge and
5 I think you were somewhat younger in this one. You are,
6 as you described it, the little boy with his legs
7 crossed in the front row.

8 **A. Yes, yes. I don't have that here, but I know the one**
9 **very well, yes. A couple of boys later on is another**
10 **friend who came with me.**

11 Q. And just --

12 **A. I don't seem to have that one, because I --**

13 Q. We looked at it this morning anyway.

14 **A. Okay.**

15 Q. I know you know the photograph I am talking about.
16 There was a further photograph you supplied to us. It
17 is on the same page as your mother's memory card, and
18 it's just so that -- as Nazareth Lodge no longer exists,
19 it is one of the few photographs that we have of the
20 lodge. That's at 11803.

21 **A. Yes. I know that photograph well too, yes.**

22 Q. Yes, that's -- and I think --

23 **A. I can't see it from here.**

24 Q. Yes. Well, I'll just -- sorry. I'll just pull it up so
25 that you can see it.

1 **A. I seem to -- I seem to have misplaced that.**

2 Q. We looked at it earlier.

3 **A. Yes. I remember that, yes.**

4 Q. Just one of the things you said to me is it was from
5 that third floor window that you dropped the sweet
6 instead of the paper.

7 **A. The third floor was the guests. It could have been the
8 second; it could have been the fourth.**

9 Q. But it was high up?

10 **A. I am not specifying, but it was outside the window.
11 I know it was more than two stories high at least,
12 because we always climbed -- we were always climbing
13 stairs.**

14 Q. Okay. Well, if we can just go back to your statement,
15 you talk about you went by ship from Southampton. You
16 remember going to London. This is at paragraph 16, and
17 seeing escalators for the first time in your life in
18 London, and it was all brand new to you.

19 You went out to Australia then on the Strathnaver
20 with 13 other boys from Nazareth Lodge under the Child
21 Migration Scheme and the respective governments at the
22 time you say promoted the "populate or perish"
23 philosophy, which ensured continued emigration to
24 Australia from the early 1930s to the late 1960s. You
25 do remember two ladies looking after you during the

1 journey. You remember a party when you crossed the
2 equator. You remember running all over the ship and you
3 think you sailed at Tenerife or the Canary Islands down
4 the coast of Africa to Cape Town, up to Durban and then
5 across to Fremantle, arriving there on 22nd January
6 1957.

7 Now do you remember going to those places or do you
8 just think that's the route you must have taken?

9 **A. I -- that's fair. I really don't remember Tenerife. I**
10 **am thinking maybe I'm thinking Cape Town in South**
11 **Africa. I remember there was a mountain with a flat top**
12 **as we approached it. I do remember that. I cannot**
13 **remember Tenerife.**

14 The reason why we took the ship down the west coast
15 of Africa instead of going through the Suez Canal like
16 all the other ships did is because at that time in 1957
17 there was a bit of a war going on between the Egyptians
18 and the Israelis. I think there was the Suez crisis at
19 the time and the Suez Canal was closed.

20 Forgive me for saying this, but I didn't so much do
21 research but I came across it in my interest in history,
22 because do I love history. I enjoyed world affairs and
23 especially history.

24 **Q. You think that's the explanation why you took that**
25 **route?**

1 **A. Yes, yes. That was -- I reasoned it, yes, and I talked**
2 **it with other boys and we sort of came to the same**
3 **conclusion. Yes. No, that's why we didn't -- because**
4 **with other boys at the school they had gone through the**
5 **Suez Canal. We hadn't, and they were telling us stories**
6 **of how when they went through the canal, they throw**
7 **coins over the side of the ship and the Egyptians would**
8 **jump in and get the coins, but that didn't happen with**
9 **us, so -- but that's just an aside again, of course.**
10 **Forgive me for that. I do tend to wander into the bush**
11 **every now and again.**

12 **Q. Okay. Well, let me pull you back then from the bush.**
13 **You -- at paragraphs 19 to 36 in your witness statement**
14 **you talk about your time in homes in Australia and we**
15 **have discussed the fact that that's outside the scope of**
16 **this Inquiry, but essentially what you allege is that**
17 **certainly in Castledare you were subject to physical**
18 **abuse. You had no knowledge of when your birthday or**
19 **birth date was or what, in fact, your name was.**

20 **At Clontarf when you were moved there, you were**
21 **subject to sexual abuse and physical abuses in that**
22 **home.**

23 **Did you ever at any stage in your time in either**
24 **home in Australia ever come across anyone from the**
25 **authorities in Northern Ireland or in the UK? Did**

1 anyone ever come to visit you there?

2 A. Not at all. Sticking to the period of time span that
3 you went through, the birthday one, I did not know when
4 my birthday was when I was -- when I arrived. Some boy
5 said, "You were born on [REDACTED]" and I took that
6 as a given. Now what happened is we had third Sundays
7 where people came to the school and took us out for the
8 day and I told these people it was my birthday -- this
9 was in November -- my birthday and they bought me
10 a cake. I took it back to Castledare that night and
11 I celebrated with the boys. BAU7 came out and rather
12 bluntly, putting aside -- this is the following day --
13 said, "HIA308, number one, your name is HIA308". I
14 don't -- I'm not going to -- I think I knew that, but he
15 didn't tell me about the middle name. That's another
16 story. He said, "You are 12 or you are 11 and you were
17 born on [REDACTED] 1947". That's when I was told
18 when my birthday was by a Christian Brother, BAU7 at
19 Castledare, and this was in December -- December 1957 or
20 December 1958. I forget, because they were the two
21 years I was at Castledare. I don't know which
22 particular year it was, but I know for quite a while
23 I thought I was born on [REDACTED] because some kid
24 just said it.

25 Q. So those --

1 A. But that is the thing is my name, my full name. You
2 will notice a lot of documents don't contain the words
3 HIA308. They just say HIA308, HIA308, HIA308. Even the
4 ship has got HIA308, [REDACTED], not [REDACTED]., etc. Somewhere along
5 the way HIA308 got dropped from my name. I never knew
6 I had a middle name. It wasn't until I was confirmed in
7 the Catholic Church, in the rites of the Catholic
8 church. We could choose a patron saint's name to be
9 an example for our lives. So I took [REDACTED], because he
10 was the patron saint [REDACTED] and I thought, "That's
11 a nice name. I like that and I'm Irish". I went from
12 then on thinking that was my official name. I signed
13 all documents. I have got a letter from -- it wasn't --
14 after I left school in 1965 I think, after I had been
15 out of school -- till my employer came up to me and
16 said, "This is your name. Drop the [REDACTED]. Put in the
17 [REDACTED]

18 Q. So there was certainly confusion over your name and your
19 date of birth and you were eventually ... (overtalking).

20 A. Date of birth and (inaudible), yes.

21 Q. Well, then if we can just --

22 A. I don't know why (inaudible) triangle (inaudible).

23 Q. Well, HIA308, if you --

24 A. I don't know why we went on that (inaudible).

25 Q. Okay. Sorry. The delay is causing us a little bit of

1 problems. We are speaking over each other. So we will
2 have to try to be careful not to do that or I will have
3 to be careful not to do it.

4 **A. I'll have (inaudible).**

5 Q. Can I just come on to your life after you left
6 institutions in Australia you describe in paragraphs 37
7 through to 50? You describe how you got work in the
8 post office, and then you say in paragraph 38 how you
9 remained unmarried. At one stage you thought that you
10 might have a vocation for the priesthood and you
11 resigned your job and went to the seminary to train.
12 You say that you felt that you were indoctrinated by the
13 Christian Brothers, but you don't attend church very
14 often now.

15 You say that the abuse that you suffered whilst in
16 care had an adverse effect on your life for almost
17 thirty years, leaving with you an inferiority complex
18 when you were dealing with people in general and you
19 felt you were especially insecure around women. You
20 were afraid of them and felt you were not good enough
21 for them.

22 At one stage you wrote to the Sisters of Nazareth in
23 Belfast and you kept some of their letters. One nun
24 wrote back to you on 27th September 1964. We can find
25 that on AUS11823. You had been asking about your

1 parents. Again you won't have the reference number,
2 HIA308, but I know you do have the letters there with
3 you.

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. And in that letter she noted that your mother brought
6 you to Nazareth Lodge when you were only seven days old.
7 You were born in the [REDACTED] here on
8 [REDACTED] baptised in [REDACTED]
9 and brought here on [REDACTED]. Your mother was ...
10 and she named her and said there was a [REDACTED] address
11 provided. Your mother never came back to visit you.
12 She did not even write. All your certificates went to
13 Australia with you.

14 "Do well for yourself. Be faithful to your Irish
15 Catholic faith and prayers and all will be well for you.
16 Make your own life in Australia and one day you will
17 come back and see us all -- all of us."

18 You say that the tone of that letter annoyed you.
19 You didn't like the tone that she had used against your
20 mother and you felt that she was being judgmental, harsh
21 and vindictive towards your mother and that upset you.

22 **A. Yes, yes. I have the letter in front of me here.**

23 **I always smile when I see the words:**

24 **"Be faithful to your Irish Catholic faith."**

25 **There's a bit of BAU7 in that in many respects, but**

1 **yes.**

2 Q. Then in paragraph 42 of your statement you talk about
3 receiving a letter from your cousin, the little girl you
4 had been pushing on the swing. You -- she had actually
5 written to the Sisters of Nazareth to find out and you
6 got a letter from her when you were about thirty. You
7 then travelled to London and you met up with her, but
8 sadly she felt unable to meet with you and was actually
9 in hospital having attempted to take her own life, and
10 you went to visit her and then you and she set about
11 trying to locate your families. You said that she was
12 not very worldly wise, that she had not received a good
13 standard of education and you felt that she had received
14 worse treatment than you yourself had received in
15 an institution here.

16 After a couple of weeks you managed to find and
17 locate an uncle by looking in the telephone directory
18 and the electoral roll. You met him and his wife.

19 **A. Couple of days.**

20 Q. A couple of days later.

21 **A. It was a couple of days, not a week, because I think on
22 day 2 of my arrival in Dublin we found -- not weeks.**

23 **Sorry.**

24 Q. I meant a couple of weeks after you met **HIA 224** you then
25 were able to get this information and link up with

1 an uncle, and you then -- HIA 224 then met her mother soon
2 after that in Dublin and you met your mother in [REDACTED]
3 She had married and she had had quite a few children.
4 So you had about eight half brothers and sisters. You
5 stayed with her and got to know her and met your half
6 brothers and your half sister and the others were no
7 longer living with her. You got on well and you went
8 for a drive and this is -- you were telling us about the
9 incident over the ice-cream when you called her mum and
10 she asked you not to do that, but you left -- you parted
11 on good terms.

12 On another occasion -- well, sorry. Later the same
13 trip I think you had gone out with somebody else and you
14 went to [REDACTED] and you met one relative, had a cup of
15 tea, didn't -- your mother didn't want you meeting too
16 many people or asking too many questions as she felt she
17 was still being judged by Catholic Ireland for having
18 illegitimate children.

19 You visited an old graveyard in [REDACTED] and you saw
20 your surname on a grave there and I know you have
21 provided us with photographs of that event. You say
22 that that was the first moment in your life when you
23 felt:

24 "... as if I was somewhere I belonged. It was
25 a poignant moment for me, that moment. Seeing my name

1 gave me an identity. Up until then even after meeting
2 my mother I was nobody."

3 So I think the word you described to me when we
4 spoke earlier, HIA308, was that it was like an epiphany
5 for you to find your name was a proper name and existed?

6 **A. Yes. You are quite right about that. Even though I did**
7 **meet mum and my family, I don't know why it is it didn't**
8 **twig, but seeing my name on that grave -- one of the**
9 **greatest acts of my life -- it was a heartwarming for**
10 **me, yes. Sorry.**

11 Q. You are okay. Take your time, HIA308. We appreciate
12 this is difficult for you to do. Going back to your
13 statement, you talk about your mother died in 1983 when
14 you were at the seminary at that point in time, but you
15 kept in touch with your cousin, the little girl you had
16 pushed on the swing all those years ago, and her -- she
17 and her friends were both in care in Nazareth House and
18 you say they were ill treated by the nuns. They were
19 poorly educated, suffered worse abuse in care than you
20 did. They were sent to work in the kitchen or laundry
21 or made to polish floors rather than receiving
22 an education. You stayed with them in London.

23 You then sent them money so that they could come out
24 to Australia to visit and they were timid, not
25 adventurous, and you felt that they might have been like

1 that all their lives. You say that you would like to
2 see them compensated for their pain and suffering as
3 a result of this Inquiry.

4 If I might just pause there --

5 **A. Yes, indeed.**

6 Q. -- the conversation that we had earlier today was that
7 you felt that you had tried to encourage them to come
8 forward to speak to the Inquiry, and I know from what
9 you said that you would not like the fact that they felt
10 unable to do that, you wouldn't want them to be excluded
11 from any recommendations that are made by the Inquiry.
12 Is that a fair way of putting what you said to me?

13 **A. Yes. Yes, it is. It's one of those situations**
14 **unfortunately where their witness, if you like, could**
15 **not speak for herself. She was incapable because of**
16 **she -- because of her emotional state, her fear of the**
17 **publicity, if you wish, her fear of having to go through**
18 **it and even perhaps even meeting the Sisters again.**
19 **They -- yes. That along with their nature. I mentioned**
20 **the timidity, and they were timid. They were lovely,**
21 **but they were in their 60s now, bless them. They are**
22 **still timid, but they didn't want to go through that**
23 **hoo-ha of all of this Inquiry, and sometimes I felt the**
24 **only way I could get them to speak to the Inquiry was**
25 **through me, and you will notice that's why I emphasise**

1 **and push the point even though I'm not speaking for**
2 **them. They dare not speak.**

3 Q. You just think it is important that their experiences
4 are taken into account also?

5 A. **Yes, and -- the problem I am having here is I -- when**
6 **I spoke with them, they did not indicate that they**
7 **wanted to be involved.**

8 Q. Yes.

9 A. **Have you -- do you have their addresses? There are two**
10 **addresses. One is in London. [REDACTED] is in London and**
11 **HIA 224 and [REDACTED] are in Belfast.**

12 Q. Well, certainly we can check whether any of them have
13 come forward when we look at the next -- when we come to
14 consider what happened to children in those homes in
15 Belfast.

16 A. **Yes. I wonder if I can be kept in the loop on that one**
17 **if you do.**

18 Q. I can't make any promises, HIA308, but no doubt if you
19 are in touch with your cousin, she will be able to
20 inform you if that's the case.

21 A. **Yes.**

22 Q. Now can I just move on through your witness statement?
23 You talk about you, in fact, yourself received redress
24 in the course of the Western Australia redress scheme
25 and also some from the Christian Brothers in Australia

1 under their "Towards Healing" scheme.

2 If I can just read paragraphs 49 and 50 of your
3 statement, you say that you:

4 "... feel that primary responsibility for the fate
5 of the child migrants rests with the governments of the
6 United Kingdom and Australia. Secondary responsibility
7 lies with how we were treated by the respective
8 institutions that were supposed to care for us in
9 Australia. The third area where responsibility lies is
10 in the methods used in selecting the child migrants for
11 transportation in their countries of origin.

12 I feel that child migrants should be assisted to
13 return to their county of birth with the necessary
14 financial assistance to find their family, pursue their
15 personal history or simply enjoy being in the country of
16 their birth. Counselling should be provided free and
17 confidentially to any former child migrant who desires
18 to use this service. Financial compensation should be
19 given to help make up for what might have been and the
20 amount may well differ in each case depending on their
21 personal circumstances."

22 Now those are your views about what should happen in
23 respect of child migrants, and I know that you did get
24 some regress, but the Inquiry will have to make
25 recommendations not just about child migrants but about

1 the other children, such as your cousins who were in
2 homes in Northern Ireland, and I want to ask with your
3 experience of what you have received in Australia and
4 what you have witnessed and the effect of that what --
5 is there anything further that you'd like to say about
6 what you feel ought to be done now other than what
7 you've said in your statement, HIA308?

8 **A. Yes. I would like the Inquiry to make recommendations**
9 **for financial compensation to those kids who suffered**
10 **abuse as a result of them being sent to Australia, not**
11 **because they were in Australia, but as a result; in**
12 **other words, they were plucked from their lives and**
13 **plonked into another country without their consent, per**
14 **se consent, because children don't consent to things,**
15 **because they don't understand. I never understood. It**
16 **took me a while to understand Australia and things like**
17 **that. What might have been, the lives these kids could**
18 **have had, had they not been sent to Australia,**
19 **certainly, most certainly would have been very, very,**
20 **very different. Sure some may have gone this way, some**
21 **may have gone that, some may have gone to be rich, some**
22 **may have gone a bit poor, but they did that in**
23 **Australia, not their country of birth. There's certain**
24 **compensation -- I think the -- I use the terminology**
25 **"what might have been" or, if you like, "a future denied**

1 or diverted". Certainly if one were to ask me where
2 would I prefer to live, would I prefer to live in
3 Belfast or in Perth, of course I will say Perth. I live
4 here now. I made my home. I am at peace with myself in
5 this country and I love it.

6 So the compensation factor is what might have been
7 and that's a big question mark.

8 Q. Well, thank you very much for that, HIA308. I just want
9 to give you this final opportunity while I am asking you
10 questions to say anything else that you'd like to say if
11 you feel that we haven't sufficiently covered what's in
12 your witness statement, or anything else that you want
13 to say to the Inquiry, now is the time to do so.

14 A. Okay. Yes. For the Inquiry to -- to give redress to
15 those people who were hard done by, to have a special
16 consideration of those who are not able emotionally to
17 present themselves, for example, as well as I am. I am
18 presenting myself reasonably well here. I am asking
19 that the Inquiry consider those children, those people
20 who are now full grown adults, that they approach these
21 people if they have to in the first place suffice to get
22 proof they were there, but compensate them quietly
23 without them having to go through the ordeal of being
24 a witness or being under public scrutiny, whether it is
25 private scrutiny in the Inquiry or whether it's public.

1 Somehow or other the message be given to them or just
2 quietly, "We know you were there. Here. We'll
3 compensate you. Let's not make a fuss of it." I don't
4 want the Inquiry making their names, well, as broadcast
5 as mine. Like I say, I don't mind my situation being
6 made public and I still don't mind that, but for these
7 girls and their -- and their situation I ask that the
8 Inquiry provide compensation accordingly.

9 Q. Well, I think I explained to you that the Inquiry cannot
10 provide any compensation. They can simply make
11 recommendations to the government.

12 A. Okay.

13 Q. But --

14 A. Okay. In all of that -- in all of that is the word
15 "recommend". Okay?

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. I understand the Inquiry cannot do that. They can
18 recommend and I'm asking that the Inquiry make that
19 recommendation.

20 Q. Okay. Thank you very much, HIA308. I'm going to hand
21 you over now to the Panel and see if they have any
22 questions they wish to ask you.

23 CHAIRMAN: Well, HIA308, we don't have any questions to ask
24 you. Thank you very much. Thank you for speaking to us
25 and it is, of course, rather later in the day where you

1 are in Perth than it is here. So I'm sure it's been
2 a long day for you, but thank you very much for taking
3 the trouble to speak to us. Thank you.

4 **A. Thank you, Mr Chairman, and I thank the Northern Ireland**
5 **Inquiry for listening to me and listening to other**
6 **people, and I certainly hope you have success in your**
7 **endeavours and that justice is served. Thank you very**
8 **much and thank you, Christine.**

9 MS SMITH: Thank you very much.

10 **A. Good questions.**

11 Q. Thank you.

12 (Witness withdrew)

13 MS SMITH: Chairman, there a number of statements that
14 I propose reading. There are eight in total, and I was
15 thinking if we took a break until 12 o'clock, I could
16 start with reading some of them. There is another
17 witness who will attend in person this afternoon.

18 CHAIRMAN: Very well. We will start again at 12 o'clock.

19 (11.45 am)

20 (Short break)

21 (12.00 noon)

22 MS SMITH: Good afternoon, Chairman, Panel Members.

23 I propose to read some other witness statements that we
24 have received from applicants to the Inquiry who were
25 migrated to Australia.

1 Reading of statement of WITNESS HIA285

2 Q. The first of these is HIA285. It can be found at
3 AUS10187, and the documentation in -- the only
4 documentation we have in respect of this applicant is
5 a child migration form, which can be found at 10191. If
6 we could just look at that for a moment.

7 CHAIRMAN: Can I just ask you, Ms Smith, if we can check
8 what was the date on which this applicant sailed,
9 because he is slightly vague about it, but I think it
10 must be 28th January or 6th or possibly 8th May 1953.

11 MS SMITH: He travelled on the New Australia. So it would be
12 whatever date that ship sailed on.

13 CHAIRMAN: Yes. I didn't have that.

14 MS SMITH: So I would need to check that, but I can check
15 that and give the --

16 CHAIRMAN: Looking at our chart, there were only I think
17 three sailings in 1953. So it is one of the three.

18 MS SMITH: Yes. I will double-check that for you, Chairman.

19 This is the migration form, which appears to be
20 incomplete. It is in respect of HIA285. Postal address
21 is given, his age, date of birth and place of birth, his
22 sex. His weight is not given. His education is the
23 third standard.

24 If we can scroll on down, you will see that no-one
25 appears to have signed this giving consent for him to

1 go, whether a parent, mother or father or guardian,
2 although it anticipated by the looks of things that it
3 would be signed by a guardian.

4 If we can just scroll on down, and again section C
5 is not complete. So it may be that this was either
6 a draft or a copy that was kept on file, but certainly
7 we are not sure as to what has happened with it.

8 CHAIRMAN: Well, it is extremely unlikely that the
9 Australian authorities, judging by the other documents
10 we have seen, would have accepted an incomplete
11 documentation.

12 MS SMITH: Would have accepted that. I think that's
13 correct, but it is the only document we have in respect
14 of this applicant, Chairman.

15 If we could go back to the statement at 10187, HIA
16 285 says he was born in [REDACTED] in County
17 Fermanagh. His mother was from County Fermanagh:

18 "... and she had me out of wedlock. When she
19 brought me home, her mother wouldn't let her in, so she
20 gave me to my uncle to look after me.

21 My uncle looked after me until I was five months old
22 but then he couldn't afford to keep me any longer.

23 I was placed in Termonbacca in 1944 when I was five
24 months old. I stayed there for nine years until I was
25 sent to Australia in/around 1953.

1 My first memories of Termonbacca are from when I was
2 about 6 or 7 when you were big enough to fight another
3 child and fend for yourself. There was one big room we
4 all played in and then we would go out to the paddock to
5 play. The nuns had a farm at Termonbacca. The only
6 nuns' names I remember are SR86 and SR98.

7 We used to play musical chairs outside and that was
8 brilliant. Somebody would have a whistle or a drum and
9 when the music stopped we all had to jump on to bales of
10 hay. I remember the nuns brought us to the seaside as
11 well. We had never been to the beach before and we were
12 frightened of the water. It was a beautiful day and we
13 all got a stick of rock.

14 I went to a Christian Brothers School in Derry with
15 two other boys. We walked from Termonbacca to the
16 school. It was about a mile away. I hated school and
17 I never did my homework. Every Monday I would get hit
18 in school. I used to get walloped. The nuns taught us
19 music, dancing and singing.

20 On one occasion when we were walking home from
21 school, a doctor threw a cigarette butt on the ground.
22 We picked it up and all had a puff each. I then gave it
23 to my friend to put in his pocket but it burned his
24 trousers off. I didn't realise. I thought it would
25 keep us warm when we got back to the home. I got blamed

1 for that incident. We were always in trouble. We were
2 like little pups. We didn't know right from wrong.

3 I was always hungry in Termonbacca. I remember
4 going to bed hungry all the time. I played the hornet
5 in the band and after rehearsal we could always smell
6 steak and chips coming from the kitchen but we weren't
7 allowed to have it. It was for the people who were
8 there after us. We could smell it but we couldn't have
9 any of it.

10 My mother never visited me in Termonbacca. She
11 ended up marrying a [REDACTED] and having nine children
12 with him. He told me later that he had gone to
13 Termonbacca looking for me but the nuns slammed the door
14 in his face. I don't think my mother knew I was sent to
15 Australia. I never asked any questions about my mum.
16 I thought I didn't have one. You don't miss what you
17 never had, and because I had never seen her I never got
18 attached to her. We only grew up with nuns. When
19 somebody dies, you grieve for them but we were grieving
20 all the time; we just didn't know what -- excuse me --
21 apologies -- we just didn't know what we were grieving
22 for."

23 CHAIRMAN: Would you like to take a short break?

24 MS SMITH: I think I might be okay now. Thank you.

25 "One day when I was eight or nine a priest came in

1 and asked us who wanted to go to Australia and all the
2 children put their hands up. The priest said we would
3 ride horses to school every day and pick fruit off the
4 trees. We didn't know what Australia was; we thought it
5 was just down the road. We were so excited because we
6 just wanted to go somewhere. Before that we didn't know
7 there was anywhere else.

8 I always remember one incident that happened just
9 before we went to Australia. The priest came in and I
10 was playing with him. A nun walked in and said, 'I hope
11 you don't do any badness in Australia'. The priest made
12 me touch his penis but he didn't touch me. I was only
13 a kid. I think it was 1952, so I was about eight years
14 old. I didn't know right from wrong. That was the only
15 time I was sexually abused in Termonbacca.

16 We all had to go to the doctor before we went to
17 Australia. I remember the doctor told me I was the
18 skinniest boy he'd ever seen. He said there wasn't
19 a pick of meat on me. We were all branded and I had to
20 be branded on my leg as it was the only place there was
21 enough skin.

22 I sailed to Australia on the SS New Australia in
23 1953 when I was nine years old. I went with two other
24 boys called ..." -- names are given -- "HIA311 and
25 another boy. I still keep in touch with them. We got

1 the boat to England and collected people in London.
2 Then we sailed from Southampton to Australia. When we
3 landed in Fremantle, we were met by the Brothers. They
4 separated us from our friends and took all our
5 belongings from us. I thought that was cruel. I didn't
6 arrive at the orphanage until 3.00 am in the black of
7 night. I didn't know where I was and I wanted to get
8 out."

9 Chairman, I am pausing to say that the SS New
10 Australia sailed on 26th January 1953, arriving in
11 Fremantle on 22nd February of that year.

12 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

13 MS SMITH: Paragraph 15:

14 "I checked the archives in Ireland and England to
15 try to find out about my family but I found nothing.
16 Then I went to Fermanagh and by chance I found out I was
17 Protestant. I also learned I have six uncles and
18 a priest brought me out to visit my uncle. He gave me
19 a big hug when he realised who I was. I met all my
20 uncles then and they all made me feel welcome.

21 I flew to Wales to meet my mother after that. My
22 brother and sister were there too. There was no
23 excitement when my mother met me. All she said was,
24 'I knew you'd find me'. Then she said she couldn't tell
25 anyone else who I was. I said that was fine. I did

1 what I set out to do. I found her. I met my half
2 siblings but they don't really mean anything to me.
3 I don't have a relationship with them.

4 I returned to Termonbacca for a visit when I was in
5 my mid-30s. I was greeted by a nun who told me she had
6 cradled me as a baby. It could have been SR98. I asked
7 her where the photos of the boys who went to Australia
8 were but she said they were all gone. That was sad that
9 there was nothing to remind us.

10 I now live in the outback about 300 kilometres from
11 Perth. I look after a farm of 10,000 acres. I'm the
12 caretaker and I look after the sheep and grow wheat.
13 I make sure everything is running smoothly. I never
14 married or had any family but I have a lot of friends.
15 I have six dogs and I enjoy feeding the birds. I have
16 always loved animals."

17 He has signed and dated the witness statement on
18 18th November 2013.

19 Reading of statement of WITNESS HIA288

20 Q. The next statement is that of HIA288 and it is to be
21 found at 10207. The documents relating to this
22 applicant, Chairman, can be found at AUS10212 to 10221.
23 However, there's no child migration form included in
24 that bundle of documents. However, it does give
25 an account of his life which was reported in the

1 Christian Brothers' ex-residents newsletter and that can
2 be found at 10218 onwards.

3 HIA 288 says:

4 "I was born in [REDACTED]. My mother
5 was", and he gives her name. "Ii don't know much about
6 my father but I think my mother was a single mother and
7 unable to look after me. Life was difficult for her.
8 She probably fell on hard times after the war. I was
9 placed in St. Joseph's Children's Home, Termonbacca when
10 I was nearly five years old.

11 I was in Termonbacca from when I was almost five
12 until I was eight years old. I had several visits from
13 my mother whilst I was in the home. I still recall the
14 little visiting room there. She never abandoned me.
15 When I met my mother in later years, she told me that
16 when she came to the home to see me, she was told by the
17 nuns that I had gone to Australia and that it was none
18 of her business.

19 I do not recall a great deal about my time in
20 Termonbacca as I was only a child when I left the home.

21 No-one spoke to me about Australia or asked me if I
22 wanted to go there. It was just like a raffle. You got
23 picked out and that was it.

24 I cannot recall whether or not we had a medical
25 examination prior to departure.

1 I left Southampton on the SS New Australia on 26th
2 January 1953. We were bundled on to the ship like
3 a herd of cattle. We had carers on the ship with us but
4 I never took much notice of them. I remember stopping
5 at Port Said at the Suez Canal. I was told not to but
6 I got off the ship at the port and got lost. It was
7 a huge experience for a young boy and some of us just
8 ran amok around the ship.

9 We arrived at Fremantle, got picked up in groups and
10 transported to Clontarf. Some of the other children
11 went to Bindoon or Tardun. They separated friends and
12 even brothers were part. I think I was brought to
13 Clontarf initially by mistake as it was for older boys
14 and I was still a junior. I was then taken to the
15 junior school called Castledare. I went there for
16 a little while and after several months I was moved to
17 Clontarf."

18 In his statement at paragraphs 8 to 14 he relates
19 his time in Australia, but he essentially complains of
20 poor education, of child labour, and at paragraph 13 he
21 says:

22 "I did not see or have any contact with anyone from
23 the British government or authorities in Northern
24 Ireland throughout my time in care. We were like wards
25 of state and the Australian government had a guardian

1 role over us until we reached adulthood at 21."

2 He then sets out his working life and in
3 paragraph 17 he says:

4 "I eventually found my mother in 1994 through the
5 Catholic Welfare Association (Guardian Authority
6 Catholic Episcopal Migration and Welfare Association)
7 located at Victoria Square, Perth. My mother was living
8 in [REDACTED]. She had migrated in the 1960s when
9 she was married. She had stepchildren but no children
10 of her own and was widowed. I got in contact with her
11 and we exchanged cards and had telephone conversations.
12 I didn't cry when we met but I cried the whole journey
13 on the plane home. At Christmas 1995 my mother came and
14 stayed with me. We got on very well together despite
15 many lost years in our relationship. Sadly my mother
16 passed away in 2009 when she was 86 years old. I
17 attended her funeral.

18 I have returned to Derry twice. In 1999 I stayed in
19 Termonbacca and I found it very eerie. I did a radio
20 interview with Radio Foyle appealing for relatives and
21 through this I found several cousins. I stayed with my
22 cousins and was warmly welcomed. I visited Termonbacca
23 and Nazareth House, Bishop Street where I went to
24 school. It was a rewarding trip and my sense of having
25 Irish roots was strengthened and became more definite.

1 However my discovery of relatives did engender sadness
2 at the lost years and the prospect of never seeing them
3 again when I returned to Australia. I began regular
4 telephone contact with my new-found relatives and it
5 gives me a very good feeling to know that I have
6 a family even though they are so far away.

7 I have poor health now unfortunately and have had
8 heart bypass surgery with two stents, cancer of the
9 stomach, neck and leg. My leg has been operated on six
10 times in nine months and unfortunately I could not fly
11 to Ireland because of it when the British government
12 allowed us to travel back to our place of birth.

13 I received 40,000 AUD from the Christian Brothers
14 and I had to sign a confidentiality agreement.

15 I received \$45,000 from the Australia government
16 under their redress scheme.

17 None of the child migrants from Ireland were given
18 Australian citizenship during their time in care. They
19 had to sort this out for themselves in later life.

20 I also had to sort out obtaining a birth certificate
21 when I had to obtain a passport to get to Ireland in the
22 mid '90s.

23 I attend reunions. I had lost touch with a lot of
24 the guys I went to school with until we had reunions in
25 recent years. It is good to get together and talk about

1 the old days but it is entirely different to having your
2 own family.

3 My only complaint about my time in Termonbacca is
4 the manner in which they bounced us all out of there
5 with no regard for parental consent or the impact it
6 would have on family life. The way they handled it and
7 the way they told my mother was awful.

8 I have lived a solitary life. I like the open space
9 of the country and my independence. I have worked hard
10 and I own my own home in Perth. The thing that hurts
11 most is the lack of family. I was deprived of knowing
12 my family. I never married but I saw my friends who
13 married and had children and I know what a family should
14 be. I have missed years of being with my family or
15 having my own family.

16 I never had any photos of my mother until I found
17 her. You had no way of keeping personal items as
18 a child in those homes."

19 He has signed the witness statement on
20 23rd October 2013.

21 Reading of statement of WITNESS HIA295

22 Q. Then, Chairman, the next statement is at AUS10222 and
23 there are a suite of documents from 10229 to 10254. If
24 we could look at the child migration form, which is at
25 10235, and you see here that it describes him -- gives

1 his age in years, although it is not clear from that,
2 but it seems to have been amended from four years to
3 five years, and his date of birth is in [REDACTED]. His place
4 of birth is recorded and his weight denomination. Then
5 in the section for the parent or guardian's consent it
6 gives the name of -- just bear with me until I --
7 I don't think I have the actual unredacted version
8 there, but it's one of the sisters I believe. It is
9 described as "the guardian" of HIA295 has signed it.
10 There is a signature of the -- AU102 -- I am just -- if
11 you bear with me, Chairman -- yes, is his mother's name,
12 AU102. However, it's claimed by his mother that she did
13 not sign this form and that that is not her signature,
14 and it is witnessed by the head teacher of the Christian
15 Brothers in Derry. Just scroll down please for
16 completeness. The Catholic Child Welfare Committee have
17 signed it on behalf of the sponsoring organisation in
18 Australia.

19 So if we could go back, please, to 10222, and the
20 statement reads:

21 "I was born in [REDACTED], County Derry.

22 My mother was named X. I had a sister who was three
23 years older than me. When I met my mother about seven
24 or eight years ago she told me that my father was
25 a soldier in the British Army. They were not married.

1 My mother told me that she was going through hardship
2 and could not look after my sister and me at that time.
3 My sister went to live with her grandparents and I was
4 placed with neighbours. The neighbours then had a baby
5 of their own and could no longer keep me. The parish
6 priest became involved and I was placed in St. Joseph's
7 Children's Home, Termonbacca on [REDACTED] 1948 when I
8 was two and a half years old. My mother later married
9 and had two sons.

10 I was placed in Termonbacca when I was two and
11 a half years old. The nuns in the home were vicious. I
12 do not recall any of the nuns' names. The nuns
13 physically abused me. They pulled and hit my arms which
14 left me in pain. They used their hands to beat me.

15 I wet the bed nearly the whole time I was in
16 Termonbacca. I did so out of fear of being beaten.
17 I recall the nuns making me stand outside in the
18 courtyard with a wet sheet around me. I was shivering
19 because I was so cold. All the boys who wet the bed
20 were made to do this. It was degrading. As we stood in
21 the courtyard the nuns would hold a cage which had a rat
22 in it up to our faces saying, 'Don't you ever do that
23 again'. I was terrified. My most vivid memory of
24 Termonbacca is standing in that damp courtyard.

25 My teeth were so bad in the home that I was in

1 constant pain. I think they were rotting. I never saw
2 a dentist. The more I cried with the pain, the more
3 I got beaten by the nuns. When I went to the army when
4 I was 20, I had all my teeth pulled out. I recall
5 always being hungry in the home. We never had enough
6 food.

7 I did not suffer any sexual abuse in Termonbacca.

8 I never received any visitors during my time in
9 Termonbacca. Termonbacca was frightening. The nuns had
10 so much aggression. It felt as though they didn't want
11 to be there looking after children. There was no love
12 or affection shown to us.

13 I was discharged from Termonbacca on 26th
14 January 1953 and I was shipped to Australia on 28th
15 January 1953 when I was seven years old. I sailed on
16 the New Australia from Southampton. I found out the
17 name of the ship and the port years later. I wasn't
18 aware of any boys from the home going to Australia
19 before me. I was never asked by the nuns if I wanted to
20 go to Australia. I was never given any warning that
21 I was being sent. There was no discussion. I just
22 remember being taken away from the home and I think
23 I went on a train for the first time. My certificate of
24 migration states that I had a medical examination but
25 I do not recall this. I do not recall who supervised us

1 on the ship. I do remember that I was very seasick on
2 the journey. I was nervous and scared as I didn't know
3 where I was going or why I was being sent away from the
4 only home I knew."

5 He then describes his time in Tardun in Australia.
6 He complains about having no education, about excessive
7 labour and being physically and sexually abused by the
8 Brothers in that home.

9 Paragraph 12, he talks about leaving Termonbacca --
10 Tardun, going to a farm and then working on crayfish
11 boats until he joined the army, where he stayed for
12 three years, then working on mines. He came back to
13 Western Australia where he met his wife and their
14 daughter was born in 1972. He married in 1979.

15 "I have two stepsons called" and he names them.
16 "I enjoy an excellent relationship with my stepsons and
17 my daughter. From 1977 I travelled around the world
18 with my job in the [REDACTED]. I retired in 2009 and I am
19 enjoying life fishing and being at home. I have worked
20 and held good jobs in my life, but I think if I had
21 a better education, I could have achieved more.

22 About 35 years ago I contacted the authorities in
23 Perth to find out about my family. They gave me the
24 address of the parish priest in [REDACTED] and somehow
25 my sister intercepted the letter and thought that I must

1 be her brother. She wrote back and we corresponded for
2 a while. She came out to visit me about ten or
3 twelve years ago. She stayed for three months. We
4 enjoyed a good relationship. Unfortunately she has
5 passed away. About eight years ago I went to
6 [REDACTED] to visit my mother. The meeting didn't go
7 well as I felt she was embarrassed and ashamed about the
8 situation. She told me that she put me in Termonbacca
9 so I would be looked after and adopted by a family. She
10 said she didn't know I was sent to Australia. My
11 migration form is purportedly signed by my mother. She
12 said she didn't sign any documents and was never
13 contacted about me. After the visit I did not have any
14 further contact with my mother. I had no contact with
15 my half brothers.

16 I was given a birth certificate while I was
17 a child -- I was never given a birth certificate while I
18 was a child and I had to request one years later. I was
19 30 when I found out my christian name was X. I was
20 always known as Y, which is in fact is my middle name.

21 I feel that each institution lied to us. They told
22 me I had no parents and I was made to feel that I was
23 not wanted as a child. I have never felt part of
24 society. I feel that I don't fit in. I feel I am on
25 the outside looking in. In my younger days my past and

1 what happened to me as a child brought out so much
2 aggression in me I was hard to live with but I never got
3 in trouble with the law."

4 He has signed that statement on 25th October 2013,
5 but if can we could go on to the next page, he then
6 provided the Inquiry with a signed addendum, which he
7 has headed "Things not addressed in interview":

8 "Personal details.

9 When I met my mother for the first time she told me
10 her family friends wanted to adopt me but when they went
11 to the orphanage to collect me I was not there to be
12 collected. While in Ireland I had the pleasure to meet
13 the couple who confirmed they wanted to adopt me. I was
14 with my sister.

15 Life after care."

16 He says:

17 "I believe I have suffered with undiagnosed
18 depression my whole life. I have attempted suicide at
19 least six times, which I relate directly to my time in
20 the institution and the abuse I was subjected to. I
21 have used alcohol to self-medicate and had an alcohol
22 problem for a number of years. I am now sober and have
23 been for twelve years. I was physically abusive to my
24 wife which led to the breakdown of our marriage and
25 separation many times throughout our relationship, the

1 longest being ten years. We have been reunited for
2 thirteen years."

3 He signed that on 25th October 2013.

4 Chairman, there are four more statements, which
5 I propose to read later this afternoon, but there is
6 a gentleman who will give evidence now. I am aware he
7 is present in the building. So I wish to speak to him.

8 CHAIRMAN: Very well. We will rise early to allow you to
9 speak to him and we will sit again at 2 o'clock.

10 MS SMITH: Thank you.

11 (12.27 pm)

12 (Lunch break)

13 (2.00 pm)

14 WITNESS HIA306 (called)

15 MS SMITH: Good afternoon, Chairman, Panel Members, ladies
16 and gentlemen. The witness in the witness box this
17 afternoon is HIA306. He is "HIA306". I have checked
18 with HIA306 and he is quite content for his name to be
19 in the public domain and waive the anonymity we have
20 afforded him. He is aware that you are going to ask you
21 whether he wishes to take the oath or affirm and he
22 wishes to take a religious oath, Chairman.

23 CHAIRMAN: Very well.

24 WITNESS HIA306 (sworn)

25

1 Questions from COUNSEL FOR THE INQUIRY

2 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. Please sit down.

3 MS SMITH: Now, HIA306, if you feel you need a break at any
4 time, please just say and we can take a break if you
5 need it.

6 **A. Thank you, Christine.**

7 Q. Can I ask you, first of all, if your witness statement
8 can be put up on the screen? It is 10514. If we go to
9 the last page of that statement, which is 10520 -- you
10 should have a copy of the document before you, HIA306,
11 and can I just ask you to confirm on the last page you
12 have signed the witness statement on 23rd October 2013?

13 **A. Uh-huh. I have.**

14 Q. And can I also then ask you to confirm that this is the
15 evidence which you wish the Inquiry to consider along
16 with whatever you tell us today?

17 **A. I do.**

18 Q. Now in your witness statement, if we go back to the
19 first page of it, in the first few paragraphs there you
20 set out your personal details and how you came to be in
21 Termonbacca. You were placed initially in Fahan in
22 County Donegal. You were then fostered by an elderly
23 couple, but then eventually you were placed into
24 Termonbacca in April 1946.

25 If we look at paragraph3, you say that you had no

1 contact with your mother throughout your childhood:

2 "I always wondered who my mother was but knew there
3 was no point asking the nuns at Termonbacca."

4 Now can I just pause there and ask you why you say
5 there was no point in asking them?

6 **A. Well, the first place I went to was Derry to try to get**
7 **information. So they told me to go to Belfast. So I**
8 **went to Belfast and they said, "No. You have to go back**
9 **to Derry". So they just kept pushing me back and**
10 **forward all the time. So I just gave up. There was no**
11 **use trying to find out anything, because they wouldn't**
12 **give you any information and that was it.**

13 Q. This was in later life, though, but when you were in the
14 home --

15 **A. That was -- no, that was back in 1995 when I first came**
16 **to Ireland.**

17 Q. But when you were a child in Termonbacca --

18 **A. Uh-huh.**

19 Q. -- I maybe misread what you were trying to get at there
20 in paragraph 3 when you said:

21 "I knew there was no point asking the nuns at
22 Termonbacca."

23 **A. Oh, no. Well, I was too young. So I really couldn't**
24 **understand anything.**

25 Q. Then paragraph 4 you describe a few things, what you

1 remember about your time in Termonbacca. You start that
2 in paragraph 4. You say:

3 "I recall being beaten with a leather strap by
4 a nun", who you name there and to whom we have given the
5 designation SR86. "She is the only nun whose name I can
6 recall. About two years after I was sent to Australia
7 I recall she visited Clontarf for a holiday and she
8 recognised me from the home in Derry."

9 We spoke about this earlier and you say that she was
10 not actually staying in Clontarf. Isn't that correct?

11 **A. That's true.**

12 Q. But she came along to Clontarf?

13 **A. Yes, just for a visit I think.**

14 Q. Uh-huh, and you say she recognised you. Did she speak
15 to you?

16 **A. Ah, yes, she spoke to me, yes, just asked me how I was
17 and how I was well treated, but I couldn't say nothing
18 because the Christian Brother was with her. So
19 you couldn't say anything, not to Brothers, those days.**

20 Q. As far as you were aware she was simply there on
21 a holiday and came to see how the boys they had sent
22 were getting on?

23 **A. That's right, from Termonbacca, yes.**

24 Q. But it wasn't -- to your knowledge as a child you didn't
25 see it as some sort of official visit?

1 **A. No, it definitely wasn't official, no.**

2 Q. Why do you say it wasn't official, HIA306?

3 **A. I don't really know. I mean, I think if it was**
4 **official, we would have been dressed up in our suits and**
5 **that to visit the nuns, because anyone who was important**
6 **that came to Clontarf, we had to get dressed up in our**
7 **suits, but after that you were back in your work clothes**
8 **again. So ...**

9 Q. So you weren't dressed up on the day this nun called?

10 **A. Definitely not.**

11 Q. If I can back then to your memories of Termonbacca,
12 paragraph 5, you remember one occasion when you were
13 about 8 and she saw you lifting up a mattress looking
14 for a comic book which you knew this other boy kept
15 there and she accused you of fiddling. I had no idea
16 what she was talking about and I told her I was trying
17 to get a comic book from under the mattress but she gave
18 you a hiding. You think she was the head nun in the
19 home at the time?

20 **A. Yes. I think it was Sister (inaudible), if I recall.**

21 Q. Then you talk about the chores and lack of medical
22 treatment. You say in paragraphs 6 and 7 you worked
23 hard scrubbing floors on hands and knees. On one
24 occasion you got a splinter from the wooden floor stuck
25 under your big toenail. You were going to see a silent

1 movie that day and the nun said if you couldn't put your
2 shoe on you couldn't go. So you forced it on. They
3 ended up they had to cut the shoe off when you got back
4 from the cinema --

5 **A. Uh-huh.**

6 Q. -- but you didn't receive any medical treatment?

7 **A. No, as far as I know. No, definitely not.**

8 Q. Then there was another injury you sustained at
9 Termonbacca which involved getting three holes in your
10 knee, but you don't remember how you got that?

11 **A. No, I don't know.**

12 Q. But do you have a memory of getting injections for that
13 injury?

14 **A. And healing apparently putting in holes.**

15 Q. That was done by nuns --

16 **A. By the nuns, yes.**

17 Q. -- themselves. You don't remember any doctor ever
18 coming to the home?

19 **A. No, not that I can recall, no.**

20 Q. Can I just pause there? Those are the sort of memories
21 that you do have and that you've told us about in your
22 statement.

23 **A. Uh-huh.**

24 Q. But are there any good memories of your time there?

25 **A. Oh, we had some good -- yes, we had some good memories.**

1 I remember walking to school and back and chucking snow
2 at the nuns, at the back of their heads and that, and
3 having a bit fun in Termonbacca itself, like, you know,
4 slowing down in tyres and stuff like that. So there was
5 good memories. It wasn't all bad. I was well educated
6 in Ireland, I know that, and well fed and well clothed.

7 Q. You told me about you were told not to talk to people on
8 your way to school.

9 A. Oh, yes. We used to go -- we used to call it
10 (inaudible) -- from Termonbacca to Bishop Street there.
11 There was gypsies there. So we weren't allowed to stop
12 and talk to them, otherwise they would kidnap you and
13 kill you or something, you know, but ... That's what we
14 were told by the nuns anyway.

15 Q. So those are some other memories you have of your time
16 there.

17 A. Uh-huh.

18 Q. I think, just to be clear -- I know what you were
19 saying, but I am not sure if everybody picked up that
20 you talked about you were throwing snowballs at the back
21 of the nuns' heads --

22 A. Ah, yes. yes.

23 Q. -- when you were walking to --

24 A. When we walked to school, just for a bit of fun. You
25 know what kids are like.

1 Q. You left Termonbacca then in 1953. I'm going to talk
2 now about the whole process of you leaving.

3 **A. Uh-huh.**

4 Q. And if we go to paragraph 8, you will see there that it
5 says:

6 "About a month or so before we departed for
7 Australia we were told that we were being picked out to
8 go on a trip."

9 You remember being lined up and the nuns saying,
10 "You, you, you, you, you're for the hall". You had no
11 idea where you were going. You can't remember which nun
12 or nuns broke the news to you or selected you for
13 migration.

14 **A. No, I don't know.**

15 Q. You're not aware of any other boys from the home being
16 sent out when you went -- sorry -- before you?

17 **A. Oh, yes. There's about -- there's about another six or
18 seven of us Irish boys went and then there was English
19 boys and Scotch boys. They all went on the same ship as
20 me.**

21 Q. Uh-huh.

22 **A. Yes. So there was eight of us. I think about eight
23 Irish kids.**

24 Q. But you think you were the first to go from Termonbacca?

25 **A. Oh, no, no, no, no. There was more -- I know a young**

1 boy. He came out here in 1948. I didn't know him in
2 Ireland --

3 Q. At the time?

4 A. -- but in Australia I did, and we're still very close
5 friends. So he was five years old when he was shipped
6 off to Australia.

7 Q. But when you say in your statement then:

8 "I was not aware of any other boys from the home
9 being sent out to Australia before me",

10 is that because although you're now aware --

11 A. I didn't really know, no, no.

12 Q. -- but at the time --

13 A. That's true, yes.

14 Q. -- it was the first you had ever heard of Australia was
15 whenever --

16 A. Oh, yes. I thought Australia was just up the road
17 somewhere. You know, if only!

18 Q. You say you never knew about it?

19 A. No.

20 Q. You were never asked if you wanted to go?

21 A. No, I don't.

22 Q. You say your mum's consent, mother's consent was not
23 sought?

24 A. Uh-huh. No. Well, my mum was in England living in
25 [REDACTED] since I was born like, you know. So ...

1 Q. Just I am going to call up the child migration forms and
2 I am saying two, because in your case we seem to have
3 two different forms. Those are at 10529 through to
4 10930. So if we can just call up the first one, please.
5 In fact it is 105... -- yes -- ...29 first of all. This
6 is -- you should -- I know you have a copy of this and
7 you can see what I was talking about about the black
8 redactions that blocks out details on the screen.

9 **A. Uh-huh. Ah, yes, yes.**

10 Q. But I think we are going to have to discuss the year and
11 date of birth which is on this particular form in your
12 case --

13 **A. Uh-huh.**

14 Q. -- HIA306. It says [REDACTED], and then if I can just
15 scroll down this, it shows that it's signed by --

16 **A. [REDACTED] SR 85**

17 Q. -- Mother -- yes, Mother -- who is the Mother Superior
18 of St. Joseph's, Termonbacca at the time, and it's
19 witnessed -- sorry, Chairman.

20 CHAIRMAN: Sorry. It is [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]?

21 MS SMITH: On this form it is [REDACTED]. There are two forms.

22 CHAIRMAN: It is clearly that, is it?

23 MS SMITH: It is clearly that on the --

24 CHAIRMAN: Yes. We can't see it, of course.

25 MS SMITH: No, not on this screen, but on the unredacted

1 version it is clearly a number ■. Then it is witnessed
2 by Fr Stinson, who is a Catholic priest, and he gives
3 an address in Westminster, but we believe he may have
4 been an Australian priest.

5 **A. I think he would have been, yes.**

6 Q. He, in fact, has signed section C, if we can just scroll
7 down through that document, on behalf of the Australian
8 Catholic Immigration Committee on 25th November 1952.

9 CHAIRMAN: He may have been an Australian priest but he
10 appears in quite a number of the documents --

11 MS SMITH: Yes.

12 CHAIRMAN: -- making arrangements in the United Kingdom.

13 MS SMITH: Yes. When I opened it, I indicated that he was
14 involved in --

15 CHAIRMAN: Yes, that's right.

16 MS SMITH: -- two bodies that were involved in the
17 emigration -- in the migration of children from the UK
18 to Australia, Chairman.

19 CHAIRMAN: I think he was secretary of the ACIC at one stage
20 and then he was replaced by someone else.

21 MS SMITH: I would have to check the papers for that, but
22 certainly he was heavily involved in the migration
23 schemes.

24 So this is one child migrant form in relation to
25 you, but if we could look then at another document,

1 which is at 10528, and again this is a -- purports to be
2 another child migration form, and it's related to -- it
3 relates to you also, but the year and date of birth,
4 again you can't see under the black box there --

5 **A. No.**

6 Q. -- but it looks as though it has been typed [REDACTED]
7 with the [REDACTED] stroked out, crossed out and a [REDACTED] written
8 above it. So there seems to have been some confusion
9 over when exactly in [REDACTED] you were born.

10 **A. I'm an old man now.**

11 Q. You believe it was [REDACTED] because you've since got
12 your birth certificate. Isn't that right?

13 **A. I have, yes.**

14 Q. So that may well -- it's impossible to know who actually
15 scored that out or crossed it out, but it's also
16 witnessed -- it's signed by SR85 and it's signed by
17 [REDACTED] Fr Stinson. We only have one page of this particular
18 document. Now we're speculating at this point, but if
19 may be that there was a handwritten form that was
20 subsequently typed up to keep a copy for someone's
21 records and at that stage when it was being typed up
22 that the date of birth then was checked and found to be
23 incorrect and altered.

24 **A. Uh-huh.**

25 Q. But the other details seem to be the same on both forms.

1 Now then in paragraph 10 you do -- you don't
2 remember any medical examination -- or you do
3 remember -- I beg your pardon -- you do remember taking
4 part in a medical examination about a week or two before
5 you go, but you don't remember where you went for you.

6 **A. Where. No, I don't remember that.**

7 Q. Do you ever remember taking part in any IQ test, any
8 intelligence test?

9 **A. No, I didn't. No, I didn't at all. No, nothing at all.**

10 Q. What you do remember is being fitted out with nice
11 clothes, given 2 pounds each --

12 **A. Very nice, yes.**

13 Q. -- two pounds each by the nuns.

14 **A. That's right.**

15 Q. That's each child.

16 **A. True.**

17 Q. Taken by train to Belfast or Larne, catching a ferry,
18 and then **Fr Stinson** coming to the station with you and he
19 took two pounds the nuns had given to you from you and
20 the other boys and you never saw that money again?

21 **A. That's true.**

22 Q. You then got a ferry to Southampton and stayed overnight
23 there, got on the ship the next day. It was called the
24 SS New Australia and it sailed on 26th January 1953.

25 You say:

1 "There were about eight Irish boys, eight Scottish
2 boys and eight English boys on the trip. A lot of the
3 boys were crying as they got on the ship as we didn't
4 know what was happening, where we were going or why we
5 were going there."

6 You remember three civilian women accompanying you
7 on the ship. You don't know who they were --

8 **A. No.**

9 Q. -- but you thought they might have been linked to the
10 government.

11 **A. Yes. They could be Child Welfare Department I think.**

12 Q. And you say one -- were they -- you say Child Welfare
13 Department. That would be the Australian social
14 services?

15 **A. Just saying yes, I think it was the Australian, yes.**

16 Q. So these women, were they Australian do you remember or
17 --

18 **A. No. I was too little to really know like, you know, but**
19 **-- yes.**

20 Q. You don't know who they were at all?

21 **A. No, I don't, no.**

22 Q. And one stayed with the Irish boys and the other two
23 looked after the Scottish and English boys separately?

24 **A. That's right, yes.**

25 Q. You have no recollection of any priests or nuns

1 travelling with you from the home?

2 **A. No.**

3 Q. On the ship you were well treated. The food was good.

4 There was a swimming pool, cinema. You would sneak into
5 dances, but you weren't supposed to be there.

6 **A. That's true, yes.**

7 Q. Is that because it wasn't -- this wasn't like a ship of
8 children; there were other people travelling to
9 Australia, grown-ups?

10 **A. Oh, yes, adults. There were families and that, yes.**

11 Q. You remember being allowed to sit with the captain,
12 which was exciting?

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. Mass was organised on the ship, but you had to be bribed
15 with sweets to go, as you didn't like going to mass.

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. You got very bad sunburn, having red hair and fair skin.

18 **A. Actually I've got to correct that, because not on --**
19 **I~didn't get sunburn on the ship or anything. It was**
20 **when I went to Clontarf.**

21 Q. Okay.

22 **A. Yes. I will have to tell you about that.**

23 Q. So that's --

24 **A. Yes, that's a bit (inaudible).**

25 Q. We can delete the words "on the ship"?

1 **A. Yes, yes.**

2 Q. But you turned 9 during that journey?

3 **A. That's right. Turned 9 only.**

4 Q. You arrived in Fremantle when it was extremely hot and
5 that's where you started to get the sunburn.

6 **A. [REDACTED] after I turned 9.**

7 Q. 22nd February 1953.

8 **A. That's it, yes.**

9 Q. Now you are aware -- you talk about what happened to you
10 in Australia at paragraphs 16 through to 24, HIA306, and
11 you know we've talked about this and you are aware that
12 the Inquiry can't --

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. -- look at what happened to you there, but what you have
15 said happened to you is recorded and I'm simply going to
16 summarise it.

17 You saw brothers and sisters -- brothers being split
18 from their siblings?

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. You were subject to physical abuse and you were also
21 subject to sexual abuse by an employee of the Brothers?

22 **A. That's true.**

23 Q. And during your time in care in Australia did you ever
24 see anyone from the authorities in Northern Ireland or
25 the UK?

1 **A.** I think the Child Welfare now -- they come once every
2 few years, but when they did come, we knew there was
3 somebody important coming. So we were dressed up in our
4 nice suits and that, but after that (inaudible) -- but
5 they stayed for a little while to visit, but other than
6 that I can't recall anyone coming to us at Clontarf.

7 **Q.** Again when you are talking about the Child Welfare,
8 these were Australian inspectors. Is that what you are
9 talking about?

10 **A.** **Yes. Australian ones, yes.**

11 **Q.** Apart from this particular nun who called that day, you
12 didn't see anybody else from Northern Ireland come to
13 visit?

14 **A.** **No, I didn't, no, no.**

15 **Q.** You joined the army after you left care, and you talk
16 about your life in paragraphs 25 through to 32. You got
17 married. If we go to paragraph 26, you married a
18 lady. You were 20. She was 18. You were married
19 15 years and then sadly she died.

20 **A.** **Yes.**

21 **Q.** You started drinking at that stage but then convinced
22 yourself to give up the drink?

23 **A.** **That's right, yes.**

24 **Q.** And you have the odd pint now?

25 **A.** **Uh-huh.**

1 Q. You had two sons and a daughter and you looked after
2 your children and you now have grandchildren?

3 **A. Uh-huh.**

4 Q. You have great relationships with all of those, all of
5 your children?

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. But you say:

8 "I found it difficult to show affection after my
9 time in care but having grandchildren has softened my
10 personality over the years. I am now retired and
11 enjoying my grandchildren."

12 **A. That's true, and I have got two great grandchildren now.**

13 Q. Congratulations! But whenever you went to Australia,
14 you didn't have a birth certificate.

15 **A. No, I had nothing. I didn't know how old I was or when
16 my birthday was until about three years later. A
17 Brother asked me, "When is your birthday?" and I used to
18 say 25th December all the time, just a lucky -- just
19 hoping to get a couple of presents, you know. Little
20 did I know.**

21 Q. Eventually you contacted the Child Migrants Trust in
22 1994 and they were able to locate papers for you?

23 **A. That's right, yes.**

24 Q. They also found your mother in [REDACTED] --

25 **A. Uh-huh.**

1 Q. -- and advised you who your father was.

2 **A. No, they didn't, no. That's a mistake, that one.**

3 Q. Okay.

4 **A. I didn't find out until 2012.**

5 Q. But was that through the auspices of the Child Migrant
6 Trust?

7 **A. No. This was through a friend of mine in [REDACTED]**
8 **He died last year. He was an elderly fellow.**

9 Q. So you later found out who your father was?

10 **A. It was too late. Yes, yes.**

11 Q. You first came back to Northern Ireland in 1995?

12 **A. Uh-huh.**

13 Q. You stayed in England, first of all, near the Migrant
14 Trust offices and that's --

15 **A. I stayed in Ireland three or four weeks first before**
16 **I went to England. So I went -- I met my mother on her**
17 **birthday, [REDACTED] 1995.**

18 Q. And you say that during that first meeting with her she
19 was cold towards you and the meeting didn't go well?

20 **A. Yes, yes. I was a bit ...**

21 Q. She told you that your father was dead, but you weren't
22 sure whether or not she was telling you the truth?

23 **A. That's true, yes. Well, I didn't believe a word of she**
24 **said anyhow, you know.**

25 Q. Was he dead at that stage?

1 **A.** Well, I don't know, but anyway I found out who he was in
2 2012. So -- and a good friend -- he should have told me
3 years ago really, but -- you see, I don't know. He
4 could be still alive yet.

5 Q. You don't know?

6 **A.** We don't know. See?

7 Q. Uh-huh. So you then went to Ireland to visit family and
8 you stayed at Termonbacca, as you had nowhere else to
9 go.

10 **A.** That's true, yes.

11 Q. You stayed there almost six months --

12 **A.** Uh-huh.

13 Q. -- as you were trying to re-establish contact with
14 family in Ireland and you knew it would take time. You
15 say the male residents in Termonbacca were awful to you.
16 You remember one guy who worked as a cook who was there
17 and he and another married guy were particularly nasty.

18 **A.** Oh, yes.

19 Q. You say they would have stabbed you in the back?

20 **A.** That's right. Yes, they would.

21 Q. Now one of the things that I wanted to ask you about is
22 that you had -- I will just go through your statement
23 and then I will come back to it.

24 **A.** Uh-huh.

25 Q. But before you say you went to visit your mother you

1 went on Radio Foyle and the editor of the Derry Journal,
2 Mr McArk, contacted you. He came to the home and
3 visited you and you stayed with him, in fact, for the
4 week-end and you still are good friends as a result of
5 that.

6 **A. That's true, yes.**

7 Q. He passed on your details to a social worker called
8 SND483.

9 **A. Uh-huh.**

10 Q. She came to see you and as a result of that meeting she
11 located two uncles and a aunt.

12 **A. That's true.**

13 Q. These were your mother's brothers --

14 **A. Uh-huh.**

15 Q. -- and her sister.

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. You got a great reception from one brother and sister
18 but not other one --

19 **A. That's very true.**

20 Q. -- although you stayed with him for a couple of weeks,
21 but your mother wasn't too happy that you had done this?

22 **A. No. Very true, yes.**

23 Q. You came back to Ireland again in 1998 and you stayed
24 with a cousin?

25 **A. Very true, yes.**

1 Q. And again in 2004, and you've made two further trips to
2 here in 2010, '12 and you are obviously here now.

3 **A. Back again, yes.**

4 Q. And you were here for a cousin's wedding --

5 **A. Uh-huh.**

6 Q. -- which I understood took place a couple of weeks ago.

7 **A. Two weeks ago, yes.**

8 Q. And it was a good day?

9 **A. Lovely day, yes, except the bride was three-quarters of
10 an hour late.**

11 Q. As they say, it is her prerogative I think, HIA306.

12 **A. Ten minutes late, not three-quarters of an hour.**

13 Q. But in any event you kept contact with your mother by
14 letter --

15 **A. Uh-huh.**

16 Q. -- and tried to build up a relationship with her, but
17 she died in December 2009?

18 **A. That's true, yes.**

19 Q. She left --

20 **A. Uh-huh.**

21 Q. -- her brother and niece everything in her will and then
22 you contested that?

23 **A. Yes. Well, I didn't -- I didn't find out until about
24 the second week in January that my mother had died. My
25 Uncle [REDACTED] wife [REDACTED] she rang me up in Australia.**

1 She said, "I think -- heard that your mother had died".
2 I said, "Well, I don't know". So I rang the Child
3 Migrant Trust up in Nottingham to Margaret Humphreys and
4 she rang me up a few hours later and confirmed that she
5 did die. So it was her brother that kept it a secret
6 from all -- never told none of the family in
7 [REDACTED] Kept it to himself, him and his daughters.

8 Q. That caused you some annoyance?

9 A. Oh, yes, I hurt, yes.

10 Q. And you and he fell out effectively?

11 A. Yes. We don't see eye to eye, as they say.

12 Q. Well, you made contact -- I am just going to go to some
13 of the documents we have got here. If we could look at
14 10534, and this is a letter to the Catholic Family Care
15 Society -- sorry -- from the Catholic Family Care
16 Society and it is addressed to the nun who was then in
17 charge of Nazareth House Children's Home asking her to
18 give details about you.

19 In the last paragraph you asked for details of your
20 stay in Nazareth House prior to going to Australia.

21 "If you have any details of his admission, I would
22 be grateful to get them from you. I have written to him
23 and advised him that Nazareth House Sisters live in
24 Bishop Street, which is close by to Termonbacca."

25 She goes on to say that this particular nun in

1 Bishop Street was the contact person for you to contact
2 when you were in Derry.

3 **A. Uh-huh.**

4 Q. And if we look, then there's a letter that you have
5 a written on the next page, which is 1... -- which is
6 535, 10535. Just scroll down. This -- you don't
7 remember writing this letter. Isn't that right, HIA306?

8 **A. No, I don't remember, no. It is definitely my writing.**
9 **I know that.**

10 Q. It definitely is your writing?

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. So we can't be sure when exactly you wrote it --

13 **A. No.**

14 Q. -- although it probably is --

15 **A. I usually write the dates on it really, but this time**
16 **...**

17 Q. Yes. It must have been in and around '94.

18 **A. It must have been '94 I think, yes, because I come to**
19 **Ireland in '95.**

20 Q. So it's in the context of you arranging to come?

21 **A. That's right, yes.**

22 Q. You're writing to Sister Noeleen there and thanking her
23 for the prompt reply and saying that you have located
24 your mother living in [REDACTED].

25 **A. Uh-huh.**

1 Q. You will be visiting there for the first week. You
2 wanted to find out about your grandparents and whether
3 you had any other relatives, aunts or someone, and gave
4 your mother's full name. Said she would be 71 in
5 July 1995 --

6 **A. Uh-huh/**

7 Q. -- and she wasn't married so you have her maiden name
8 and if you could -- grateful if she could help trace
9 anybody else in Ireland.

10 **A. Uh-huh.**

11 Q. Then at another letter then on the next page where
12 Sister Noeleen is again writing to the head of Nazareth
13 House Children's Home in Derry giving whatever
14 information that she has managed to discover --

15 **A. Uh-huh.**

16 Q. -- and says:

17 "HIA306 has written to our society requesting help
18 in tracing his family tree and for information on him
19 prior to going to Australia.

20 I would appreciate you researching old records for
21 any additional information you may hold ..."

22 The reply then comes from SR2 on 12th June '95,
23 which is about a month before you went to England --

24 **A. Uh-huh.**

25 Q. -- to Nottingham and it gives the details there that

1 they have on records for you.

2 **A. You see, this adopted one, I wasn't actually adopted.**

3 **I was fostered. It's been proven that I was fostered.**

4 Q. There was never any formal adoption. Is that right?

5 **A. No, there wasn't.**

6 Q. Now you say -- it's a letter that you wrote later and it
7 is at 10532. This -- I think you have written it to the
8 Mother Superior. Again do you remember writing this
9 one?

10 **A. No, not really.**

11 Q. But I just -- I'm read... -- I think this must be some
12 time later than the earlier --

13 **A. Oh, yes, I do remember that one. I was at one of my
14 friends in Derry, but he already died, yes.**

15 Q. It says in the body of it:

16 "I have been home twice now, once in July '95" --

17 **A. Uh-huh.**

18 Q. -- "and then again January '98."

19 So it is obviously some time after that. It says:

20 "Sister, would you be able to do me a huge favour?
21 I have got a good friend back in Derry", and you give
22 his name, "and [your other friend] who works with you
23 may be able to give you some information about his
24 whereabouts."

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. So you were trying to get details to find out about this
2 person.

3 **A. That's right, yes.**

4 Q. Can I just -- I just wanted to ask about this. This was
5 someone you met during the six months that you stayed in
6 Termonbacca?

7 **A. In '95. When I was in '95 I met him, yes. He was one
8 of the good ones. There wasn't many of them. There was
9 two good ones, yes.**

10 Q. And these two were the two of good ones?

11 **A. That's right, yes. I kept in contact with them.**

12 Q. And these were not people who you had -- these were old
13 boys who had been in Termonbacca themselves?

14 **A. And they were younger than me, but they lived there.
15 So, I mean, I didn't know them until I actually went to
16 Termonbacca in '95.**

17 Q. I just wanted to check that with you, HIA306. Then if
18 we can just go back to the last page of your statement,
19 which is 10525, you say there in the last paragraph that
20 you went to counselling for twelve months to try to cope
21 with your feelings about your past, but you didn't
22 consider it a very helpful experience.

23 **A. No, I didn't, no.**

24 Q. And you now prefer to turn to your family. Spending
25 time with the children is what makes you happy?

1 **A. Yes. Uh-huh, yes. I am very close to my grandchildren**
2 **and my kids.**

3 Q. HIA306, just one final matter that I want to ask you
4 about.

5 **A. Uh-huh.**

6 Q. The Inquiry has to make recommendations to the Northern
7 Ireland government --

8 **A. Uh-huh.**

9 Q. -- about what should happen, and you yourself obtained
10 redress in the Western Australian scheme.

11 **A. Uh-huh.**

12 Q. Isn't that correct?

13 **A. That's true, yes.**

14 Q. And obviously you are aware that there is a statue in
15 Fremantle and you're -- you will have been aware of the
16 apologies from the Australian government and the UK
17 government.

18 **A. That's true, yes. I went to the UK government one.**

19 Q. You were there?

20 **A. 2010 I think it was. Yes, I think -- yes.**

21 Q. So when Gordon Brown was then Prime Minister?

22 **A. Gordon Brown, yes. Good man.**

23 Q. So you were actually present, one of the people there?

24 **A. I was there, yes.**

25 Q. So what I wanted to ask you --

1 A. Uh-huh.

2 Q. -- having had that experience of the redress and the
3 apology --

4 A. Uh-huh.

5 Q. -- I want to know and the Inquiry wants to know --

6 A. Uh-huh.

7 Q. -- from you what your experience of all of those things
8 is, first of all, and whether -- which was positive,
9 which was negative in your opinion?

10 A. I think the conversation has to come out for a start.

11 You know what I mean? There's no -- I mean, the
12 government has to apologise to the Irish people, you
13 know, but I think compensation would be -- benefit a lot
14 of boys. I mean, I know a lot of them are just battling
15 alone. I mean, they get nothing. They never married.
16 I mean, I was one of the lucky ones who got married.
17 So, you know -- but most of them just live by themselves
18 and, you know, they are just desperate for money and a
19 bit of help, you know. They need some help, you know.
20 They can't live, you know. The cost of living in
21 Australia is very expensive. So they can't afford to
22 have meals half the time, you know. I know that,
23 because I know a few of them like that. So, you know,
24 a bit of compensation would help them.

25 Q. What about the apologies? Were they beneficial or not?

1 A. The Australian one, well, I only saw that on television
2 and I didn't really think much of it. I think Gordon
3 Brown was very genuine, because I was at that apology,
4 and I reckon he was real genuine, and he gave the Child
5 Migrant Trust so much money for us boys to be able to
6 come back home, you know.

7 Q. Uh-huh.

8 A. I always think we should be entitled to come back to
9 Australia -- to Ireland every five years at least, you
10 know, while we can, you know, because, I mean, it costs
11 a lot of money and the boys just haven't got that sort
12 of money, you know. So I'd love them to come back
13 again. Love Ireland. It's my home, this one, not
14 Australia. This is my home, you know. I would have
15 been -- I reckon if I had stayed in Ireland, because
16 I had a good education, if I had stayed in Ireland,
17 I think I would have done well, you know. I mean, I
18 have done well in Australia, but it was hard, you know.
19 I think if I was in Ireland, I could have found my
20 mother years and years ago and my father and [REDACTED]
21 is not far away from Derry. So I could have found
22 family back in the '60s or '70s even, you know, but it
23 just wasn't to be. So it's just life.

24 Q. Well, thank you very much, HIA306, for what you've told
25 us today.

1 A. Thank you. Uh-huh.

2 Q. I have no further questions for you --

3 A. Uh-huh.

4 Q. -- but if there's anything you feel we haven't covered
5 --

6 A. Uh-huh.

7 Q. -- and there's something else you would like to say,
8 then now is your opportunity.

9 A. Well, there is one thing I would like to say is about my
10 family in [REDACTED] my Uncle [REDACTED] side. They've --
11 ever since I first met them -- I didn't have much time
12 to do with them in '95, because I stayed at [REDACTED]
13 place for a couple of weeks and went back to
14 Termonbacca, but the second time in '98 my cousin [REDACTED]
15 (inaudible), which I stay all the time, every time
16 I come over here, and they are so close to me, you know,
17 and I really love them. They'd do anything for me, you
18 know. So at least I've got a good family in Ireland.
19 So ... Thank you.

20 Q. Thank you very much. The Chairman and Panel Members may
21 have some questions for you, HIA306. So if you just
22 stay there.

23 Questions from THE PANEL

24 CHAIRMAN: HIA306, you may remember telling us that you
25 remember a visit from the Sister when you were in

1 Australia and you didn't think it was official for the
2 reasons you gave.

3 **A. Uh-huh.**

4 Q. Can you remember -- and I appreciate as a young person
5 it mightn't have been easy to understand this -- but did
6 she seem to be more important than she had been in
7 Derry? The reason I ask that is we've heard that the
8 Mother General of the Order would go on a visit to all
9 the homes --

10 **A. Uh-huh.**

11 Q. -- every so many years and I just wonder had this lady
12 become higher up in the Sisters or did she just seem to
13 be a nun coming?

14 **A. Just -- yes, just a nun. Just saw me on the quadrangle
15 and she told BAU6 -- she says, "That's HIA306". She
16 knew me, you know. Anyone would know me in Ireland. I
17 was a bit of a rat bag when I was a little kiddie in
18 Ireland, because I remember back in '95 I went back to
19 [REDACTED] where I went to school. It is not a school
20 now. There is a chappie the same age as me now. He
21 knew me when I was going to Term... -- to [REDACTED]
22 school there. He says, "You were a bit of a handful,
23 HIA306, but ...", and they give me a little certificate,
24 but it was in Gaelic, so -- and I've lost it. I don't
25 know where it is now. I think it was some school thing,**

1 **yes.**

2 CHAIRMAN: Yes, and you thought the nun's visit was just
3 an informal holiday visit?

4 **A. Yes, yes, as far as I know, yes.**

5 Q. If it had been formal, you would all have been dressed
6 up --

7 **A. Oh, definitely, definitely. Oh, yes, definitely.**

8 Q. -- putting your best foot forward I am sure.

9 **A. That's true, yes.**

10 Q. Yes. Thank you.

11 MR LANE: You mentioned that SND483 helped you. Do you know
12 had she known your family before you went out to
13 Australia?

14 **A. No, no. Oh, no, no, no. I only met SND483 back in '95**
15 **when I first came --**

16 Q. Right.

17 **A. -- to stay here, because I was on Radio Foyle and then**
18 **Patrick McArk from the Derry Journal, he must have been**
19 **listening to the radio, and he called me up at**
20 **Termonbacca and he said, "I have got a social worker**
21 **that will come out and see you". So she came out on a**
22 **Friday morning -- I remember this -- Friday morning**
23 **about 11 o'clock and then I gave her all the details**
24 **that I could. Then she said, "Leave it for me until**
25 **Monday". Friday afternoon she rang me back and said,**

1 "I've found two uncles and an auntie for you in
2 [REDACTED]. So I went and saw them on the Tuesday.
3 I remember, yes. So that was good.

4 MR LANE: Thank you very much.

5 **A. Thank you.**

6 CHAIRMAN: Well, HIA306, thank you very much for taking time
7 out of your visit to Ireland to come and speak to us.
8 We very much appreciate it.

9 **A. Thank you very much. Thank you.**

10 MS SMITH: Thank you, HIA306.

11 Chairman, there are some other statements which I
12 propose to read.

13 CHAIRMAN: Yes. You can gather your papers and go now,
14 HIA306, if you wish to do so.

15 **A. Thank you.**

16 CHAIRMAN: You are welcome to stay, of course, if you want
17 to.

18 (Witness withdrew)

19 Reading of statement of WITNESS HIA303

20 MS SMITH: Chairman, the next statement is that of HIA303.

21 It can be found at AUS10471, and what documentation we
22 have is at 10477 through 10493, but we do not have
23 a copy of the child migration form. So if we could call
24 up, please, 10471.

25 HIA 303 says:

1 "I was born in Belfast.

2 I was the oldest of five children, four of whom were
3 migrated to Australia from Northern Ireland. My brother
4 was born a year after me in 1946, my sister was born in
5 1948 and my other sister was born in 1950. I found out
6 in later years that I had a younger brother who was born
7 in 1952. I lived with my mother for the first year of
8 my life. My mother was unmarried. My cousin told me my
9 mother was my father's housekeeper and he was the father
10 to all my siblings. He was a married man. My
11 grandfather helped my mother until he died. My brother
12 was then put into Nazareth Lodge and my sisters were
13 placed in Nazareth House. My mother worked in the Good
14 Shepherd Laundry in Newry and then in Dublin until she
15 died in 1999 aged 72.

16 I was placed in Nazareth House, Belfast in 1946 and
17 remained there until I was deported to Nazareth House,
18 Camberwell, Victoria, Australia in 1953. As I was so
19 young, I have very little memory of my time in Nazareth
20 House. I recall it being a very cold place where I was
21 expected to do a lot of hard work. I recall scrubbing
22 concrete and wooden floors, tying rags to my feet and
23 skating over the floors to ensure they were properly
24 polished and peeling potatoes in the kitchen.

25 I recall my aunt, my mother's sister, visiting

1 Nazareth House, Belfast on occasion and bringing fruit
2 with her, which I assume was for me, but do I not recall
3 getting to speak to her at any stage.

4 I was deported to Australia when I was eight years
5 old. The records from Nazareth House show that I left
6 the home in Belfast on 6th May 1953 and I know from
7 seeing my documents from the Australian authorities that
8 my sail date to Australia was 8th May 1953. I travelled
9 on the Otranto, arriving in Australia on 10th June 1953.
10 I recall very little about the actual voyage to
11 Australia. I cannot recall ever being asked whether or
12 not I wanted to go to Australia. I just recall being
13 told by the nuns that I would have a better life there."

14 She then talks about her time in Australia and she
15 complains of being made to work very hard, of poor food,
16 of being sexually abused by an employee of the nuns, of
17 the separation from her sisters and brother when one
18 sister -- two sisters were placed with adoptive families
19 and she was left behind. She complained that letters to
20 her sisters and to her brother, who was in Bindoon, were
21 not received and she didn't discover that until later
22 years. So she didn't hear from them and didn't see her
23 sisters again for over thirty years. She talks about
24 the emotional abuse that she suffered in the home in
25 Australia and the humiliation that she sustained as

1 someone who wet the bed, and she complains of the
2 physical abuse, being often beaten by the nuns there,
3 and of the lack of education. She doesn't recall anyone
4 in authority checking up on her and her progress
5 throughout her time in residential care in Australia.

6 At paragraph 17 she says:

7 "I tried for many years to find my brother but the
8 Christian Brothers at Bindoon had changed the spelling
9 of his name -- of his surname from one version to
10 another version, which made my search almost impossible.
11 It was not until I got in touch with the Child Migrants
12 Trust in the late 1980s that I was able to locate him in
13 the early 1990s in Western Australia. The Trust also
14 located my sisters. I made contact with one of them in
15 1997 and we now have a good relationship. I have never
16 met my other sister. It came as a total shock to me
17 when I found out in 2002 that I had another brother in
18 Northern Ireland who had been adopted.

19 I had contacted the Child Migrant Trust initially as
20 I wanted to find my mother. The nuns did not give the
21 Child Migrant Trust any information on my mother in
22 sufficient time, despite the fact that she worked in the
23 Good Shepherd Laundry all her life, and unfortunately
24 I was not able to make contact with her before she died.

25 I married in 1964 but my husband was abusive to me,

1 so I only stayed with him for a few years. I moved to
2 Perth in my 20s and my daughter was born in 1968. She
3 has three children, so I am now a grandmother, and I
4 have a close relationship with my daughter and her
5 children. I had a son when I was only 17 and I was
6 forced to give him up for adoption. The Australian
7 government apologised last year to all those affected by
8 the issue of forced adoption. The Child Migrant Trust
9 helped me to locate him. He lives in [REDACTED] as he was
10 adopted by a [REDACTED] family. Although there is
11 an obvious language difficulty, I was able to visit him
12 in [REDACTED] and we keep in touch.

13 In 2002 Vincent Kearney from the BBC made
14 a Spotlight documentary on child migration and
15 interviewed my brother and I as well as other child
16 migrants. My cousins in Belfast saw the programme and
17 got in touch with the Child Migrants Trust. I visited
18 Northern Ireland and met my cousins in 2002. It was
19 a successful trip but unfortunately the second trip home
20 was not so successful. For some reason my cousins had
21 seemed to turn on me and we did not get on so well on
22 this occasion but there were many -- there were many
23 different strains on our relationships."

24 She talks about the work that she has done in
25 Australia and then she says:

1 "I received 20,000 AUD about six years ago from the
2 Sisters of Nazareth under their 'Towards Healing'
3 scheme. Although I never felt their apology was
4 sincere, I have never taken a civil claim against the
5 nuns.

6 I have suffered from severe depression and anxiety
7 at various periods throughout my life. I feel as if
8 everything I ever loved was taken away from me and all
9 I was left with was hard work and never-ending sadness
10 through no fault of my own."

11 She signed that witness statement on 4th June 2004.

12 Reading of statement of WITNESS HIA305

13 Q. The next statement is that of HIA305. It can be found
14 at 10501 and his documents are at 10507 through to
15 10513. If we could call up the child migration form
16 first of all, please. It is at 10508 and 10510.

17 Chairman, you will see that this is signed by the
18 Mother Superior. It is signed on behalf of the Catholic
19 Child Welfare Committee in 1949 as the sponsoring
20 organisation by a NM. I think it is hard to quite make
21 out but it might be Madden or -- I think it's Madden
22 most likely. It's signed by the Mother Superior and
23 it's witnessed by the head teacher of the Christian
24 Brothers (Brow of the Hill, Derry).

25 If we can scroll down, please, I think we go to the

1 section -- that document is irrelevant. It relates to
2 another person. So if we could just go to the next
3 page, the 110 (sic), you will see the signature here on
4 behalf of the Catholic Child Welfare Committee is dated
5 19th October 1949 and it looks -- quite hard to make
6 out. I wasn't sure if it had been Brother Conlon, but
7 I don't believe it is, although it is quite hard to make
8 out the signature.

9 If we could then go back to the witness statement,
10 please, at 10501, HIA305 says that he was born on --
11 gives his birth date in [REDACTED]. He gives his
12 mother's name. Says that she was a single mother. She
13 died in [REDACTED] I only met her once since leaving
14 care.

15 I do not know the identity of my father. I met my
16 cousin later in life and she had looked after my mother
17 during the last ten years in of her life and my mother
18 had told her that my father was either a British soldier
19 or a jockey", and she named him.

20 I was placed as a baby in Nazareth House in Derry on
21 [REDACTED] 1947 when I was seven months old. I was
22 then moved to Termonbacca two years later in 1949.

23 My only memory of Termonbacca is that the toilets
24 had a black floor and I was caught licking the floor
25 once and punished. I think I was 3 or 4 at the time.

1 I also recall being punished for wetting the bed. The
2 nuns put me in the parlour with the door locked and all
3 I could see was the light from the Sacred Heart picture
4 fluttering and the eyes from the picture staring at me.
5 It scared me so much that I screamed until they let me
6 out. I met the Mother Superior of Termonbacca during my
7 first trip back to Northern Ireland in 1979. She
8 recognised me but I cannot recall her name now.
9 I reminded her of that punishment and she said, "I know.
10 That was so bad. We don't do those things these days".

11 I recall there was a woman at either Nazareth House
12 or Termonbacca who was always there for me and we bonded
13 with each other when I was a child. She was always
14 smiling, helping and coming to see me and then she
15 seemed to disappear out of my life with no explanation.
16 I think her name was", and he gives two possible names.
17 "I remember being very fond of her and feeling it was
18 a great loss to never see her again.

19 I only remember little things like suffering from
20 earache, the rows of cots in the nursery and peeling
21 icicles off the window in the home. I also remember
22 being called cruel names by the other boys like 'flannel
23 face'.

24 I sailed to Australia on 28th January 1953 on the
25 New Australia. I do not recall anything about why I was

1 chosen to go to Australia. I think I was only five
2 years old at the time. My migration form is signed by
3 SR85, who was the Mother Superior in Termonbacca. It is
4 dated 25th November 1952. Before boarding the ship
5 I was dressed in a little grey suit and I was so proud
6 of my appearance. I recall very little about the ship
7 or the journey. I know we came via the Suez Canal and
8 I can recall some of the tourists on the boat throwing
9 pennies over and local children diving in to get them.
10 I arrived in Fremantle on 22nd February 1953.

11 There were women sent to look after us and I recall
12 a nun who called -- Sister X who came on the ship with
13 us. I recall the heat upon arrival. It was 40 degrees
14 and my face burned and my lips cracked and we were not
15 given any cream to protect ourselves from the heat."

16 He then describes being taken to Castledare where he
17 was ridiculed and he was sexually abused by the older
18 boys. He was then moved at the age of 10 to Clontarf
19 where he was subject to physical abuse. At paragraph 13
20 he says:

21 "When I was about 13 or 14 I wrote a few letters to
22 the nuns and the Child Migration Centre in Perth whilst
23 I was at school in an attempt to learn more about my
24 background, but I did not find out anything about my
25 family at that stage. I never received any response and

1 am not entirely sure that my letters were ever forwarded
2 on to the correct address."

3 He goes on to describe his time there later.

4 Described the emotional abuse, the lack of educational
5 opportunity, despite the fact that he passed exams. He
6 was denied the opportunity to proceed in his education.
7 He gives his work record at paragraph 17 and 18 and at
8 paragraph 19 he says:

9 "I returned to Ireland in 1979. At that time I had
10 no idea where to go or how to trace my relatives.
11 I travelled around on a motorbike and slept rough.
12 I located the priest who was named on my birth
13 certificate and he told me how to find my mother.
14 I found my mother in [REDACTED] She had never married.
15 She was taken back when she saw me. She did not want me
16 to take a photo of her but I did. She denied that she
17 was my mother but then asked me how things were going
18 for me in Australia. The Child Migrants Trust hold
19 a copy of a letter sent by my mother to the nuns putting
20 me in their care. My mother and I did not keep in touch
21 and we never met or spoke to each other again after this
22 trip.

23 During my trip I visited the Reverend Mother in
24 Termonbacca and she recognised me. I cannot recall her
25 name now. She told me that I would never go to sleep as

1 a baby unless I was picked up from the cot and cuddled.

2 I funded my first trip to Ireland myself but
3 returned in 2006 as I was assisted financially by the
4 British government. On that trip I met some of my
5 relatives that the Child Migrants Trust had traced on my
6 behalf. My cousins were extremely happy to see me and
7 they welcomed me with open arms.

8 I am usually the life and soul of the party and
9 I know a lot of people, but at times I feel that it is
10 superficial contact with -- it is all superficial
11 contact with people. I get angry at times and go on
12 drinking binges. I am off alcohol at the moment.

13 I loved being allowed out on visits to families from
14 the home. I have always missed out on that feeling of
15 family and the closeness that you develop with family
16 members. I miss never having any family feeling and the
17 lack of warmth. I remain single and I am a bit
18 circumspect about relationships in general. It would
19 have been nice to have known that you belonged
20 somewhere. I do not really allow myself to get close to
21 anyone because once you grow fond of someone they tend
22 to disappear, or that is what happened a lot throughout
23 my childhood.

24 My feelings towards the Brothers remain conflicted.
25 After all they were the only family I had for many

1 years."

2 He has signed the statement and dated it 29th May
3 2014.

4 Reading of statement of WITNESS HIA311

5 Q. The next statement is that of HIA311, which can be found
6 at 10615. The documents relating to this applicant can
7 be found at 10620 to 10622, but we do not have a copy of
8 the child migration form.

9 The body of the statement reads:

10 "I was born in [REDACTED] in Donegal. My mother was
11 unmarried when I was born. When I met my mother in 1990
12 she told me that she wanted to look after me but her
13 mother wouldn't let her so my mother placed me in
14 Termonbacca.

15 I was placed in Termonbacca when I was nearly
16 two years old.

17 I remember we had work to do in the home. We had to
18 clean and polish the floors on our hands and knees to
19 the chant of 'River back, river back, I will put the
20 broom across your back" by the older boys who were
21 supervising us with a broom in their hands. I recall
22 two nuns visited me in the home. I think they may have
23 been from [REDACTED] where I was from. They were the
24 only visitors I ever had in Termonbacca. My mother
25 never visited me in the home.

1 I used to wet the bed in Termonbacca. There were
2 several of us bed -- boys that used to wet the bed quite
3 a lot. We had to stand up in the dormitory in
4 a line and wait until we had a bath and got washed. It
5 was humiliating.

6 I recall the food was not good in the home. We
7 seemed to eat soup and bread all the time. I hated the
8 soup. We ate in a big dining room. It was cold in
9 Termonbacca and we only wore short trousers all year
10 round.

11 We went to school in Nazareth House in Bishop
12 Street. I recall one day in school being beaten very
13 hard by a nun. She held me with one hand and hit me
14 with her other hand -- I think she may have used a cane.
15 I do not recall any of the nuns' names. One day when it
16 was very cold I tried to stay behind large pillars at
17 the building for warmth but the nuns hunted us out to
18 play.

19 I was not very good at school. I think I moved from
20 Nazareth House to a Christian Brothers School which was
21 called St. Peter's. I remember it was on a hill and
22 I used to look out the window during class. I was only
23 there for a short time.

24 I don't remember being picked to go to Australia.
25 I received new clothes and a suitcase and I didn't know

1 what they were for. I was never told I was going to
2 Australia. I don't remember having a medical
3 examination before going, but I have seen a certificate
4 of a medical examination. It states that I needed
5 glasses. I never got a pair of glasses until I was 21.
6 This explains why I struggled at school and have
7 difficulty reading and writing to this day.

8 I left Termonbacca on 26th January 1953. I think
9 about 16 of us left at the same time. When we left
10 Derry, we travelled to England. I had no idea what lay
11 ahead. We stayed overnight in a girls' home which
12 I think was in Hammersmith in London. We left
13 Southampton and sailed to Australia on the SS New
14 Australia. We stayed in cabins which had double bunk
15 beds. The food wasn't bad. A civilian woman
16 accompanied us on the journey and looked after us.
17 I think she went on to Sydney. I was happy on the ship
18 as we could run around and have fun. We arrived in
19 Fremantle on 22nd February 1953."

20 He talks about his time in Tardun, about which he
21 makes no complaint, and then, paragraph 12, he says:

22 "When I was 12 or 13 in Tardun, I received a letter
23 from my mother. That was the first I had heard from her
24 since I was a small boy. We then corresponded with each
25 other. She had moved to England."

1 He said -- then "Life after care", he got a job and
2 relates how he worked. Then he said he was lonely and
3 lost when he left Tardun. At paragraph 18 he says:

4 "I never had a birth certificate as a child. When
5 I was getting married I had to ask my mother to send me
6 my certificate. I married my wife in 1971 and we have
7 three sons. We also have four grandchildren. Two of my
8 sons have their own business and the other son works for
9 one of them. I am very proud of them. I would do
10 anything for my boys. When my three sons and I are in
11 the workshop together, I am happiest. When I married,
12 I left the farm and worked for the city of Geraldton.
13 I drove a vehicle for a [REDACTED] company
14 until I retired."

15 He talks about still being friendly with someone
16 from the Tardun Old Boys' Association who was
17 a groomsman at his wedding.

18 "I saw my mother for the first time in 1975 when she
19 came to visit me in Australia. She stayed with me for
20 about three months. I have been back to Ireland three
21 times. In 1990 I saved up and went to visit my mother
22 in England. She told me that I had a half sister. My
23 mother told me that she gave consent for me to be sent
24 to Australia and signed the migration form. She said
25 that my aunt and uncle had wanted to adopt me but she

1 said over her dead body. So I was sent to Australia to
2 prevent my aunt and uncle adopting me. I asked her who
3 my father was and she said, 'No-one knows and you will
4 never know'.

5 I came to Ireland again in 1995, which was paid for
6 by the Christian Brothers, and again about ten years
7 ago, which was paid for by the Australian government.
8 When I was in Ireland, I visited my aunt and uncle in
9 Donegal and cousins in Bundoran and Sligo. I would love
10 to go back to Ireland to visit my relations. They were
11 very good to me and I had a great time. My mother
12 passed away about ten years ago. To be honest I didn't
13 really have any feelings for her. She never showed me
14 any affection. My aunt was more of a mother to me and
15 I was sad when she passed away. I have no contact with
16 my half sister.

17 In 2010 I received 15,000 AUD under the redress
18 scheme set up by the Australian government.

19 I missed having someone to talk to about my past.
20 I missed out on having an extended family and someone to
21 share my feelings with. While I have my own family and
22 my wife's family, it is not the same. I still feel
23 there is a part of my life that is missing. I am
24 emotional when I think about being taken away to
25 Australia. I was deprived of the opportunity to have

1 a family in Ireland. I try and provide for my sons to
2 ensure that they will never miss out as I have done."

3 He signed his statement on 2nd January 2014.

4 Reading of statement of WITNESS HIA319

5 Q. The final statement which I propose reading today is
6 that of HIA319. It can be found at 10699. Again there
7 are documents relating to this applicant from 10704 to
8 10709, but there's no child migration form.

9 HIA319 says that he was born in [REDACTED] His
10 mother was 24 years old and not married when she had
11 him. She married a man in 1943 when he was two years
12 old and they had four children.

13 "I was admitted to St. Joseph's Children's Home,
14 Termonbacca on 30th August 1943 when I was two years
15 old. I do not know why I was admitted to care, but I
16 have assumed it was because I was the child of a single
17 mother.

18 I was placed in Termonbacca when I was two years old
19 and stayed in the home until I was 11.

20 I recall only three nuns' names from the home while
21 I was there -- SR87, SR87, SR16, SR12 and SR12 (sic)."

22 Sorry. "SR12 came from [REDACTED] and would
23 often threaten to hit you with a stick but she never
24 caught me. Once I played up and was placed in a bath by
25 a nun and it was full of Jeyes Fluid. I cannot be sure

1 now but I think it might have been SR12 who did this to
2 me. The nuns put fear in us. If we were misbehaving
3 they would threaten that the boilerman would come and
4 lock us up.

5 I was not sexually abused in Termonbacca. I was not
6 ill treated there, but I was denied an education as the
7 standard of teaching whilst I lived in the home was
8 extremely poor.

9 We used to sing and have concerts in the home and
10 I enjoyed my time there.

11 I recall on one occasion I received a visit from my
12 mother and a couple of my aunts who lived in Scotland.
13 I only recall one visit from my mother.

14 I recall there being talk in the home about boys
15 going to Australia. They said that in Australia you
16 would ride horses, eat apples and oranges and go to the
17 beach. I recall a priest saying to me that I would love
18 it there. I do not recall the name of this priest.

19 I knew other boys from the home had gone before me and
20 it sounded exciting. I do not recall being asked but
21 I must have agreed to go.

22 I remember having a medical examination in
23 Termonbacca prior to departure. I don't believe they
24 conducted this examination properly as I later
25 discovered I was cross-eyed and probably should not have

1 passed the medical examination.

2 I was very excited on the date of departure and four
3 other boys from the home came with me", and he names
4 them, two of whom are applicants to the Inquiry.

5 I was deported to Australia without my mother's
6 consent or knowledge in 1953 when I was 11 years old.
7 I travelled to Australia on 8th May ..."

8 Sorry. I have lost my place there:

9 "... travelled to Australia on 8th May ..."

10 Sorry. Paragraph 11, please, just.

11 "... on the SS Otranto.

12 We were supervised on the ship by a priest and
13 a woman. There were 19 boys on the ship from Scotland
14 and 14 girls from England. We had a great time on the
15 ship playing games.

16 When we arrived at Fremantle on 4th June 1953 we all
17 knew immediately that the holiday was over. They
18 brought us to Clontarf where I stayed overnight and the
19 next day the Head Brother from Bindoon came to collect
20 three of us and we were taken to Bindoon."

21 He then goes on to describe the physical abuse, the
22 mental abuse and sexual abuse he sustained at the hands
23 of the Brothers there. He said that in the home he was
24 known by a number. At paragraph 16 he said:

25 "There was never any contact to my knowledge from

1 the British government or authorities from Northern
2 Ireland to check on our progress or welfare."

3 At paragraph 18 he talks about leaving Bindoon and
4 doing various jobs. At paragraph 19:

5 "I married my wife in 1974. We had a son who died
6 at nine months old. We have two daughters and I retain
7 a good relationship with both my daughters and my two
8 grandchildren.

9 I had a problem with alcohol from the age of 14 to
10 26 and would describe myself as being an alcoholic at
11 that time. However, one day I decided that I was better
12 than my past and stopped drinking there and then. I
13 have not had a drink in over 50 years.

14 I attempted suicide when I was 24 and could not
15 discuss the abuse I had suffered with anyone.

16 I contacted the Catholic Diocese Office in Perth to
17 obtain details about my background and any relevant
18 papers and they wrote to my mother's parish priest in
19 Derry. He replied and told me where she was living.
20 I was in shock at this response as I was not even aware
21 at that stage that I had a mother. I met my mother when
22 she was 70 during my only trip to Northern Ireland and
23 I told her that I did not hold her responsible for the
24 past. She told me that she had no idea that I was still
25 alive or in Australia as she had never been informed.

1 I also met my half brother and sisters during this
2 visit. Since then I have kept in regular contact with
3 my mother by telephone. She is now 94 and living in
4 a nursing home in Derry. I still maintain contact with
5 my nieces.

6 As a result of being sent to Australia without my
7 mother's consent or knowledge I lost my identity and all
8 connections to my family, my home and my country for
9 many years. I lost out on a family life and the love
10 and affection of a family. I never had a birth
11 certificate or passport or a sense of identity over the
12 years. We were taught to be honest, yet the authorities
13 were not honest with us in relation to how they
14 presented our opportunities in Australia. I have
15 learned to live with my past, but it never really leaves
16 you. It is permanently with me. In my view I was
17 deported from my own country without parental or the
18 appropriate consent being sought and the authorities
19 should be held accountable for our treatment over the
20 years."

21 He has signed that statement on 23rd October 2013.

22 Chairman, those were the statements that I proposed
23 reading today, but I see that it is quite early, and if
24 the Panel are content, if we were maybe to take a short
25 break, I could maybe read some more today or we can

1 leave them to tomorrow. There are seven to be read
2 tomorrow and then four on Wednesday.

3 CHAIRMAN: Well, there are some things we need to do to
4 catch up. So I think we'll stop today and we will
5 resume tomorrow at the usual time, tempting as it is to
6 anticipate ourselves. Thank you.

7 (3.05 pm)

8 (Hearing adjourned until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning)

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