

STATEMENT FOR THE NORTHERN IRELAND HISTORICAL ABUSE
INQUIRY.

HIA 337
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Tel [REDACTED]

1. My name is [REDACTED] HIA 337 [REDACTED] I was born on the [REDACTED] in Derry. I first got my birth certificate in 1977 when I wrote away for it. I found out that my mother's name was [REDACTED] In the 1990s I asked The Child Migrants Trust to help me find my family and I finally met them about thirteen years ago. Aunt [REDACTED] wrote to me that I was born when my mother was around 18 years of age. My father was an American sailor. I lived with my mother and her father in [REDACTED] until my mother's father died in 1945. They told me my mother was unable to cope on her own and I was removed from my mother's care when I was around 18 months of age. [REDACTED] told me she didn't know why I had been admitted to Nazareth House because my family were Protestant. [REDACTED] didn't know where my mother was.
2. I have always had a memory of a lady who I believe was my mother coming to visit me in Nazareth House, Londonderry, when I was around 3 or 4 and she said "Are you happy here?" and "I'll be back next year". I have always thought that my life in Nazareth House was full of chores, and rough treatment, but I don't have specific memories of experiences. I stayed there until I was deported at aged eight to Western Australia Catholic institutions Castledare, Clontarf and Heathcote (Psychiatric Youth Detention). My mother did not sign her consent for me to be migrated.
3. I remember thinking that I was coming on a holiday. After we arrived they took my friends to different places and I was lonely and scared. Then they told me that my parents were dead and I had no-one. They changed my name to [REDACTED] HIA [REDACTED]
4. Life in Castledare and Clontarf was hard and brutal. It was like a prison. I had to do hard physical work. The Brothers used leather straps on me and I have a scar on my face from a belting. I wet the bed and the Brothers treated me badly for it but I couldn't help it because it was bad nerves. The Brothers punished me by putting me out on the balcony

where it was cold and dark. The bed wetters had to hang our heads in shame and keep our heads down while the others ate their dinners.

5. I was often too scared to close my eyes because I got teased and bullied by the boys. They would deliberately come up behind me and make a loud noise to scare me – most times I just fell to the ground with fright. That made them laugh. One day they made me watch while they slaughtered a sheep – they cut its throat and then they made me sit on it and I stayed there for a long time and they came and laughed at me sitting there. I was too frightened to complain.
6. I remember feeling frightened and confused most of the time so it was hard for me to learn anything at school. I liked writing but I worried about the Brothers pulling me from my desk and the boys laughing. I was too frightened to talk to people and ask things. I was also too frightened to eat the meals. I did not like stew because I did not know what was in it but they made me sit there hour after hour until I ate it – flies and all. I felt hungry most of the time. Most of the time I had bare feet and got blisters. Other boys would pierce my feet with nails to relieve the puss and pain.
7. At around 12 years of age, I was sent from Clontarf to live with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] a childless couple and local Catholics. I was told they were going to adopt me. They lied to me again because this family changed my name to [REDACTED] HIA 337 but they only fostered me. Then when I was 14 or 15, I had a serious bicycle accident and went into hospital and from there, I was admitted to a psychiatric hospital where they gave me shock treatment. I was frightened and ran back to the [REDACTED] but they just took me back to hospital where I stayed as an inpatient and in rehab for the next year or so.
8. At age 16, I began boarding and I worked on and off and then I went on a disability pension. Life has continued to be hard for me. I have had several admissions to psychiatric hospitals and I take medication for schizophrenia. I also take medication since suffering a heart attack in 1983. I am married and look after my wife [REDACTED] who also has a psychiatric disability.
9. In 1999 the Child Migrants Trust found out that my mother had another child named [REDACTED], known as [REDACTED] on the [REDACTED] in Belfast who was adopted in 1956. It was also very painful to get the news that my mother had died. This was also the year that I finally got back to Northern Ireland for the first time, sadly to visit my mother's grave and to meet my family that I never knew I had; sister [REDACTED] Aunt [REDACTED], Uncle [REDACTED] and cousins. I went once more

in 2004. Both those visits were funded in Australia, and I could never afford another trip back.

I would like to thank the Northern Ireland Inquiry for giving me the opportunity to make this statement. I am still sad about the lies that I was told and that deportation cost me the chance to meet my mother. She died on the [REDACTED] 1994, five years before I finally found her. My family embraced me with open arms and [REDACTED] assured me that my mother would have done the same. I was never kept a secret from the family, they always knew about me but thought that I had been adopted as a child in Northern Ireland. My Aunt was furious and wanted to know why she hadn't been given the chance to raise me as one of her own. I'd like the Inquiry to understand that it is still painful to have been removed from my homeland as a boy and how I felt just left alone all my life.

The Child Migrants Trust has helped me to write this statement because I am not well enough to speak directly with the Inquiry. I have given permission for the Trust to also forward the Psychiatric Report prepared for Western Australian Redress Scheme which awarded me the maximum redress - \$45,000 dollars. This sum, has gone some way to assisting my day to day needs as I have been a disability pensioner on limited means for most of my life.

Addition - 1/11/13

I had bad nightmares all my life

[REDACTED]
HIA 337

have been because it was **HIA 332** who sailed in August 1947. At 92:15 HIA 235 states that they wanted to take him with **HIA 332** but his mother wouldn't allow it

10/10/47 sailing

[REDACTED] 10/10/47

[REDACTED] 10/10/47

8/2/50 Sailing

On 8th February 1950 2 Sisters left on the Asturias accompanying a group of girls from Birmingham, Belfast, Aberdeen, Isleworth and Cardiff. It may be that further scrutiny of the records reveal the names of these children. 4 to 5 pages of records are missing and we are trying to find these.

28/1/53 sailing

On 28th January 1953 16 boys from Termonbacca sailed on the New Australia. Page 33. 17:6 the chapters at 1953. Show "16 boys left -- this year left for Australia."

HIA 337 28/1/53

[REDACTED] 28/1/53

HIA 285 28/1/53

HIA 295 28/1/53

AU 28 28/1/53

AU 31 28/1/53

AU 8 28/1/53

HIA 306 28/1/53

AU 29 28/1/53

HIA 305 28/1/53 **AU 25** 28/1/53

AU 30 28/1/53

AU 27 28/1/53

HIA 288 28/1/53

HIA 311 28/1/53

HIA 301 28/1/53

10/3/53 sailing

HIA 331 10/3/53

HIA 298 10/3/53