
HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE INQUIRY

being heard before:

SIR ANTHONY HART (Chairman)

MR DAVID LANE

MS GERALDINE DOHERTY

held at

Banbridge Court House

Banbridge

on Tuesday, 2nd September 2014

commencing at 10.00 am

(Day 43)

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

1 Tuesday, 2nd September 2014

2 (10.00 am)

3 CHAIRMAN: Now before we resume this morning, ladies and
4 gentlemen, let me just remind that you when the Inquiry
5 is sitting, please ensure that your mobile phone has
6 been switched off or is on silent, vibrate.

7 Secondly, no photography of any sort is permitted
8 anywhere on the premises or indeed within the perimeter
9 wall of the premises.

10 Now, Ms Smith.

11 MS SMITH: Chairman, Panel Members, I am just wondering if
12 we can get the link, the Livelink, up to Australia,
13 please.

14 **HIA 301** (called)

15 MS SMITH: Good morning again, **HIA 301** Can you hear me okay?

16 **A. Good morning, Christine.**

17 **Q. **HIA 301****, I'm going hand you over now to the Chairman, who is
18 going to ask you to take the oath.

19 **A. Very well.**

20 **HIA 301** (sworn)

21 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

22 **A. Thank you.**

23 **Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY**

24 MS SMITH: **HIA 301**, just so that I can confirm for the benefit
25 of the Inquiry Panel Members, we had a conversation this

1 morning and you told me that you are quite happy for
2 your anonymity to be waived. Isn't that correct?

3 **A. Say that again.**

4 Q. Sorry, [HIA 301]. You're aware that we have given everyone
5 who speaks to the Inquiry a designation in place of
6 their name to protect their identity, but you have
7 indicated --

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. -- that you are quite happy for your identity to be
10 known?

11 **A. Yes, yes.**

12 Q. Thank you. Now, [HIA 301] you have a set of documents in
13 front of you and I'm going to be showing people in the
14 Inquiry chamber those documents on the screens that we
15 have in front of us. The first document I want to call
16 up is the witness statement that you provided for the
17 Inquiry, which can be found at AUS10400.

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. Now you'll see, [HIA 301], as I explained to you, that what is
20 being shown in the chamber in place of your name has the
21 designation we have given to you, which is HIA301. I'm
22 going ask that we go to the last page of the statement,
23 please, which is 10409.

24 **A. Yes, I have.**

25 Q. And, [HIA 301] I'm just waiting for it to come up on our

1 screens. It's not quite as quick as it is for you to
2 pull it up going from the page, but here -- the last
3 page of your statement is there and your signature is on
4 that page and it's dated 25th November 19... -- 2013?

5 **A. Just a moment. The last page -- the last page is 10450**
6 --

7 Q. No. | [REDACTED] --

8 **A. -- and it's my birth date and it's got -- the page you**
9 **were talking about, 1449, it is the Reverend Mother,**
10 **Nazareth House, Termonbacca, Derry, that one?**

11 Q. No, **HIA 301** I'm just talking about your own witness
12 statement that you gave to the Inquiry and if you can
13 just look at --

14 **A. Oh, right, yes.**

15 Q. -- The tall number, the last page of that witness
16 statement is page 10409.

17 **A. Just one moment. I've got it now. Yes, I have.**

18 Q. Okay, and --

19 **A. Yes. That's signed on 25/11/9 -- 13.**

20 Q. 2013.

21 **A. That's the one, yes.**

22 Q. Yes. Can I just confirm with you, **HIA 301**, that this is
23 the witness statement -- this is the evidence that you
24 wish the Inquiry to consider?

25 **A. Yes, or any other consideration they feel need**

1 **considering.**

2 Q. Yes. Well, we're going to go through some of the things
3 that are in your statement now.

4 **A. Very well. Fire away.**

5 Q. Okay. Well, can I just confirm, **HIA 301** that you're now
6 aged 70?

7 **A. Yes, 70 years young.**

8 Q. And looking very well on it too, if I may say so, **HIA 301**

9 **A. Oh, okay. You'll do well, girl! Oh, sorry.**

10 Q. Well, **HIA 301** just you went into Termonbacca in Derry in
11 1946?

12 **A. Correct.**

13 Q. And you were there until you migrated to Australia in
14 1953?

15 **A. Correct.**

16 Q. And in Australia you spent time in Clontarf and you were
17 there --

18 **A. Clontarf Boys' Home, yes.**

19 Q. -- and you were there until you left in 19... -- 1960?

20 **A. 1960, February 1960.**

21 Q. Well, can I just go back to your statement and to the
22 first page of your statement, **HIA 301** and we'll go through
23 it paragraph by paragraph? So if we can look at
24 paragraph 1, please --

25 **A. Very well. Very well.**

1 Q. -- which is 10400.

2 **A. Yes, yes.**

3 Q. As I say, **HIA 301**, you're much quicker than we are in
4 the chamber pulling up the correct page. If we could
5 just go back a page in the statement, please.

6 Now in paragraph 1, **HIA 301** -- I'm using your full
7 title rather than **HIA 301** -- but you say that you -- you
8 give your date of birth and you were born and it is
9 clear that you were born in **[REDACTED]** You give the
10 circumstances there --

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. -- of how you came to be in Termonbacca. You say that
13 your mother wrote to the Reverend Mother at St. Joseph's
14 Home, Termonbacca and requested that she take you under
15 her protection for a few months. You actually have
16 a copy of that letter. You should have a photocopy of
17 it there and we can call that up.

18 **A. Yes, I have. I have given it to the Commission, yes.**

19 Q. Yes, we have it --

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. -- and it is in the bundle at AUS10443.

22 **A. Yes, yes.**

23 Q. I'm just getting that called up on the screen --

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. -- screen here. You should have a photocopy of the

1 letter in the bundle of material that you have.

2 **A. I have. I've actually got the actual -- yes. I've**
3 **actually got the real letter at home.**

4 Q. Yes. Well, we have a copy of it, and although it's
5 quite faded, it's quite clear that it's handwritten, but
6 in that letter she says that -- she asks that she would
7 take you -- oops -- if the Reverend Mother:

8 "... would take the little boy whom I" --

9 **A. "... take my little boy ..."**

10 Q. -- "who I leave, will you take under your protection
11 for a few months?",

12 and she goes on to say:

13 "It would ease my mind considerably to know that my
14 little boy would be in good hands."

15 You have the original of that letter, HIA 301?

16 **A. Correct. I do have.**

17 Q. And she said that there was no-one at home to take care
18 of you and she went off to nurse in London. Isn't that
19 correct?

20 **A. That's correct. [REDACTED].**

21 Q. In paragraphs 2 to 4 you talk about other family members
22 that you discovered that you had. In 2012 you found out
23 that you had some half siblings, and I'll come back --

24 **A. Yes. I found out I had four half brothers and four half**
25 **sisters. One passed away. She was alcoholic or**

1 **something, but one of them lived in Australia and**
2 **I visited him, [REDACTED], and he remembers me as**
3 **a child.**

4 Q. And I'm going to come back to how you came to locate
5 your family, but I just wanted to check you have now
6 been in contact with your mother and she is still alive?

7 A. **Yes. She's in [REDACTED] [REDACTED] in England.**
8 **I'm visiting her in a month's time actually.**

9 Q. Yes. You say --

10 A. **I ring her up about every fortnight.**

11 Q. You're coming over to visit her and she is now aged 91.
12 Isn't that correct?

13 A. **91. Correct.**

14 Q. Now at paragraph 5 of your statement, if we can just go
15 to talk about your time in Northern Ireland, you say:

16 "I was born in [REDACTED] and placed in a home in
17 another jurisdiction. In my view I was a Southern Irish
18 citizen and should not have been selected for migration
19 to Australia under a British migration scheme. I want
20 the Inquiry to investigate who gave the order for
21 a child from the Irish Republic to be deported under
22 a Commonwealth programme."

23 You make it quite clear that this is an aspect of
24 your migration that causes you concern?

25 A. **Yes. Some things are very interesting and I would**

1 request to the Commission if they would look into it for
2 me, because I am born in what they call Green or South
3 Ireland, geographically north but politically south, and
4 my mother abandoned me in a home in Londonderry/Derry
5 and yet -- so by birth I'm Irish. I'm what they call
6 Eire or South Ireland, but it was the British authority,
7 because Northern Ireland is British, British, United
8 Kingdom, who gave the order to send me out. I'm just
9 a very -- I would like to know that. If I may ask the
10 Commission to look into that for me or us, please.

11 Q. Certainly that request has been received and I have no
12 doubt that the Panel will want to consider what the
13 position was at that time, and I just want to confirm it
14 wasn't until 1953 that you actually left to go to
15 Australia. Isn't that correct?

16 A. That's correct.

17 Q. Now if we can just talk for a while about your memories
18 of your time in Termonbacca, at --

19 A. Certainly.

20 Q. -- paragraph 6 in your statement you talk about your
21 first memory and that was of a time in the nursery. You
22 say that:

23 "They had female civilian employees looking after us
24 there and I can recall them picking us up, throwing us
25 into the air and then waiting for the ground to hit you.

1 You would line up and they would do it again and the
2 fear was unbelievable. We were standing there waiting
3 on this to happen and we were totally helpless. They
4 were brutal people. The full horror of being thrown
5 into the air and allowed to fall to the ground was
6 vividly recalled as an adult in an incident when I fell
7 from a roof on a building site and the impact on landing
8 caused me to have flashbacks of this particular type of
9 childhood abuse in Termonbacca."

10 When we were speaking earlier this --

11 **A. Yes. I'd like to -- I'd like it reiterate on that it**
12 **wasn't when I hit the ground. What it was when I was**
13 **a kid and they were throwing us up and you were waiting**
14 **for the ground to come up and hit you, actually the**
15 **floor, you know, the polished floors -- I can remember**
16 **it vividly -- and the fear of helplessness, total**
17 **helplessness. It was when I was falling from the roof**
18 **to the ground that the flashback came, and in that**
19 **20 foot you don't have time to choose what to think.**
20 **It's come back. It's something that's in your -- the**
21 **back of your mind, and it's the helplessness of it.**

22 If I can say this, when I was a young bloke, I did
23 some sky diving, and at one stage the canopy came up
24 between my legs and the strings grabbed it. I was
25 hanging by my feet thousands of feet in the air.

1 I never panicked. There's a point here. I am not
2 painting a picture of myself, and I had to get those
3 strings undone. I was doing things and I finally got
4 them down and I landed okay. but the point about that
5 when I fell through that roof, I didn't -- that didn't
6 come to me. It was the helplessness of the being thrown
7 in the air waiting for the ground. You see, what I was
8 doing in the air, I was doing things -- a bit like the
9 military they call AIs, what they call immediate -- IAs,
10 called immediate actions. You have things to do. You
11 weren't helpless, even though you might be in the shit,
12 you know, but just helplessness of it.

13 The thing about that, the extension of that as well,
14 what I want to say is that feeling goes right through a
15 lot of those childhood in those institutions, you know.
16 That's the point I'd like to make, the helplessness of
17 it. That was a very strong memory, for it to come back
18 at a time between 20 foot, and that flashback -- as
19 I say, you don't choose what to think. It comes to you
20 and it's sitting in there and, bang, fear. It makes
21 that fear, because there was nothing I could do. I was
22 just waiting for bits of glass and things and bang.

23 Q. So this particular incident, when you were having the
24 accident, is what triggered that memory of your time in
25 Termonbacca?

1 A. Yes, on the way down, in that flash... -- we are talking
2 about seconds or part thereof. You don't have time to
3 choose, but that fear came back then, not about hanging
4 by my feet thousands of feet in the air. That didn't
5 come into it. It just shows you the level of fear it
6 was and the helplessness of it.

7 Q. HIA 301 if I can go on to talk about some of the other
8 things that you do remember about Termonbacca and your
9 time there, at paragraph 7 you talk about bath time in
10 the home and what you remember about being bathed.
11 This -- when we were speaking this morning, you say this
12 was when you were in the nursery, when you were still in
13 the nursery?

14 A. Yes. In the nursery they used to bath us once a week.
15 They only did baths once a week in Ireland, but over
16 here you showered every day, different, you know. They
17 have showers and baths, but the water they have used as
18 jade and it used to form a ring. However deep the water
19 was there was a red ring that burnt you, and the girls
20 used to push you under the water and hold you under.
21 They are bitches, you know. That was the lay girls, you
22 know, and bathtime was a dreadful time. There was fear,
23 but in the upper place you were bathed differently.

24 Four of you stood in a bath with a slip-on. They
25 had a graph -- a thing -- it was like the mattresses --

1 you know those mattresses with the thin strips on, the
2 black and grey stripes? They were cut up, and it was
3 sort of I suppose modesty for the nuns, and you would
4 stand up and be washed. You know, you would wash
5 yourself in the bath half full with water. That was
6 okay. It was just in the nursery where there was just a
7 dread waiting -- you know, bath time was a fear.

8 Q. Can I just check, HIA 301, when you say "the other place",
9 you are talking about moving from the nursery to the
10 junior dormitory?

11 A. Yes, the jun... -- there was two sections. There was
12 more at the top. There was a whole different
13 section where you played around and all the rest of it
14 and the quadrangle where the other one had a different
15 quadrangle. The nursery had everything different, you
16 know. There was the whole two different sections within
17 one. They call it a nursery. We were shifted up there
18 when we were 5, 6 years of age.

19 Q. You talk about moving to the senior section at
20 paragraph 9 --

21 A. The other one.

22 Q. -- when you were about 5 or 6 you believe. You say
23 there were different nuns there to look after you.

24 "There were different nuns there to look after us
25 and they were brutal. I recall an occasion when we

1 found a jar of lollies outside a nun's room and one of
2 the boys stole one and we were caught by a nun", who is
3 named in your statement and whose name the Panel will
4 know, but I am not going to give it. We have given her
5 a designation in the statement.

6 **A. Very well.**

7 Q. You say she was --

8 **A. The significance of that -- the significance of that and**
9 **why the memory is so strong, this big, tall, thin nun**
10 **picked up one of the other kids there, a little skinny**
11 **kid, picked him up off the ground and flogged him, and**
12 **I'm sitting with there with some of the others waiting**
13 **for our turn, and the fear was just unreal, because she**
14 **was a big, tall thing, and picked you off the ground.**
15 **You were dangling in the air and getting the Christ**
16 **beat -- sorry about that -- getting the hell beat out of**
17 **him with a big wadi -- with a big stick. Sorry.**

18 Q. You -- in fact, you also say she picked you up by the
19 wrists and flogged you?

20 **A. Yes, yes. There was a number of us.**

21 Q. You say you were often beaten at Termonbacca and you
22 still have lumps on your head from being bashed on the
23 head so often by the nuns.

24 **A. Yes. They are just gradually going now, but there was**
25 **there for years and years where there was indentations**

1 **from bashings on the head.**

2 Q. And you talk about how -- the effect that this had on
3 you in paragraph 10, where you say that the burning
4 injustice of violent bullying has stayed with you all
5 your life. You say you were neither valued, regarded
6 nor respected as a vulnerable child or human being, and
7 the consequences of that have been with you all your
8 adult life and at times have caused you acute stress.

9 **A. Well, the consequences have been --**

10 Q. Are you okay, HIA 301 You can take a break if you want.
11 Can you hear me?

12 **A. Yes, I can hear you. The consequences have been with me**
13 **all my life. Only once in my life have I ever put**
14 **myself in for counselling. It's because of my anguish**
15 **about child abuse or child being -- children being hurt,**
16 **you know, and damaged, and I thought it was normal to**
17 **have this feeling, but it got worse and worse, and I put**
18 **myself in for counselling, volunteered it, you know, and**
19 **-- yes. So it affected me, and even though I've had**
20 **counselling, it's still with me to some degree and**
21 **a degree enough to give me anguish quite often about**
22 **children being mistreated.**

23 Q. If I can just speak about what you say in paragraph 11,
24 this -- you went from Termonbacca down to Bishop Street
25 to go to school. We know that Bishop Street was where

1 the girls' orphanage was and where the school was, and
2 you went down there to school with the other boys?

3 A. Yes. We went to school. We stayed in the boys'
4 orphanage. Then we went to the -- walked about a mile
5 to the girl -- Bishop Street. It was a nuns' -- it was
6 a girls' orphanage, and the -- there were some brutal
7 things happened there I witnessed.

8 One of them --- one of them was -- it was unreal.
9 This girl came into a classroom all sort of leaning over
10 and inverted looking and sad. The nun gave her
11 a belting and made her take her underwear off and show
12 us her soiled underwear and that's why she was getting
13 belted. Then she put them back on and that girl lent
14 over with her short cut hair -- it is branded in my mind
15 -- in the humble state and frightened state she was in,
16 and she gave her another clip around the back of the
17 head or something and sent her on her way. You know,
18 that's not an act of a person who has done their -- that
19 is an act of an evil person. It is, and I remember that
20 there.

21 But the funny thing about that school there, the
22 nuns were very good to us boys, but treated the girls
23 quite sort of sternly and cruelly in some instances, and
24 yet they treated us fair to the point sometimes I would
25 get sick to the stomach having to go back to the other

1 nuns in the boys' orphanage. It was a strange thing,
2 but I noted a difference. The same nuns brutal to the
3 girls and yet so nice to us there, and then going back
4 to the other nuns. Mind you, there was some good nuns
5 there anyway, but that's the story. That's the strong
6 memory of that.

7 Q. You just said there there were some good nuns in
8 Termonbacca and you recall one nun in particular, who is
9 given the designation SR11. You say she was kind and
10 communicative and didn't have the disciplinary attitude.

11 A. Yes. [REDACTED] SR 11 [REDACTED], she was a lovely person. She
12 was communicative. Other nuns had what I might --
13 I have termed -- I have coined this term myself --
14 utility conversation, and I had the same thing with the
15 Brothers in Australia, where there'd be church time,
16 refectory or whatever, whatever, whatever. There was
17 not communication, just utility conversation. That's my
18 own coin -- terminology. This nun was just
19 communicative. [REDACTED] SR 11 [REDACTED] was her name, by the way.
20 There was another one there. I don't know. I forget
21 her name. She was just kind. She didn't have
22 that strict disciplinarian attitude and you felt
23 comfortable and safe in her environment, and, you know,
24 where other nuns as soon as you see them a black cloud
25 hung over the room, you know.

1 Q. Yet at the same time even though she was a nice person
2 you say, she simply stood by whilst children were abused
3 and did not act to protect you?

4 A. Yes. This is interesting. It's all very well that she
5 was a nice person, but then again -- how can I say this?
6 There is probably a room full of Catholic people here.
7 The Catholic Church is very powerful and I can see the
8 constriction she would have been under to shut up
9 and get on with it type of thing. However, it does make
10 one think, you know.

11 Q. Well, you go on in your statement at paragraphs 14
12 through to 16 to describe quite graphically the sexual
13 abuse that you suffered at the hands of older boys at
14 Termonbacca. I don't think it's necessary --

15 A. Yes, yes.

16 Q. -- to read that out, **HIA 301** although I understand you are
17 quite happy for the details to be spoken.

18 A. I am, because -- look, I am, because whenever you asked
19 me if I would like to use the bible and I said to you
20 I prefer to use the bible, because I want my report to
21 be as sound as possible and whatever I have written on
22 there it's okay to show it. I want this to be -- my
23 whole report to be sound so that your people, the
24 government, whoever, can see, you know. I have no --
25 this drive for me doesn't bother me.

1 Do you want me to explain some of the memories of
2 that abuse?

3 Q. It probably is better coming from you than from me, HIA 301.
4 So if you are content to do that, then please do it.

5 A. Very well. There was one there -- one incident there.
6 One night I woke up face down on the bed, my bed, woke
7 up face down, and someone had taken my pyjamas down and
8 opened my cheeks you call them or anal cleft as it might
9 be called as an adult now, and I remember him saying --
10 he had a broken voice -- it was one of the older boys --
11 you know, a male voice saying, "He's green". Of course
12 I didn't know what he meant by that then, because, as we
13 know, "green" is one of those portable words, and
14 proceeded to rape me.

15 At another night I was woken up and my chin was held
16 like this here, and some -- one of the boys masturbated
17 into my mouth, ejaculated in my mouth. I remember the
18 liquid that I know now is sperm and all the rest of it
19 going into my mouth.

20 Another time, this other time, one other time, was
21 day -- bright daylight. I must have been crook or
22 something and stayed back from school, you know. This
23 bloke came out, older boy, fat, dark-haired, white skin,
24 because everyone is white over there, white as white,
25 you know. They don't get any sun over there. He had

1 a towel only around him. He sat me on his lap and
2 proceeded to abuse me sexually, and I remember that.
3 I can remember the smell of him, because he smelt as
4 I know now someone who has washed but hasn't washed
5 properly. That smell stuck with me, you know. It is
6 like someone who hasn't washed properly. I smelt it.
7 You go bang. That's ones I remember quite clearly.

8 Q. You also talk at paragraph 17 about physical abuse by
9 older boys.

10 A. Oh, yes, yes. They went -- sometimes the nuns would go
11 on excursions or retreats or whatever and the older boys
12 would have to look after the dormitories, and one of the
13 things they used to come -- there was a belt that you
14 would -- through the blankets and we learnt to stretch
15 our feet and hands up so whenever the broom or whatever
16 they used -- it looked like a broom -- hit it, it would
17 bounce and wouldn't hurt you, you know.

18 The older boys were cruel, you know. There were
19 some very nice ones by the way. There was one chap they
20 called [REDACTED]. He was a very -- he was a lot
21 older boy, and years -- about ten years ago I contacted
22 him. He works for [REDACTED]
23 [REDACTED] He is married with six kids, very Catholic.
24 Millions of kids, Catholic people, and the -- and he was
25 very nice. He was -- there was nice ones, you know, and

1 -- but they would do that.

2 When we sort of used to polish the floors on
3 Saturdays -- you would clear the rooms, and a lot of
4 wooden polished floors. You would have a rag in each
5 hand. We would line up there, all the little kids.
6 There was a river on one side, on the left-hand side,
7 and it was, "River, back, river, back, 'cos I've got
8 a broom to break your back". That's my Irish accent by
9 the way.

10 Q. You did -- I mean, that was one of the chores you had to
11 do in the home. You describe that in paragraph 18.

12 A. Yes, that was one of the chores, but they didn't make --
13 they didn't make work enjoyable, the older boys.

14 Q. You talk about the facilities that there were in the
15 home at paragraph 19. For example, you say that there
16 was just a bucket in the dormitory where you had --
17 which you had to use in the middle of the night.

18 A. Yes. That's right. Instead of going to the toilet,
19 which was down the hallway and to the left and right and
20 then right again, they would put a bucket on some paper
21 at the end of the dormitory. They used to have a dim
22 light on. There was always a dim light on at
23 night-time, and then you would use that for urination
24 and defecation or whatever. Some mornings it was
25 absolutely full and spilling over, and you had to carry

1 it down and empty it out, you know. It was
2 a convenience thing I suppose. I don't ... Yes.

3 Q. Just going back to what you said about there being kind
4 nuns there, were there good times also in Termonbacca?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. What are your good memories of Termonbacca?

7 A. Well, there's -- there was -- it wasn't all -- you know,
8 they weren't all perpetually 24 hours a day bad. I
9 mean, some of the older boys were very nice. There was
10 a couple of nuns that were very nice. By and large
11 there was more pain than there was good times.

12 On Orangemen's day the nuns would get us to march
13 around the home in columns of three like little
14 Christian soldiers to fight off the Orangemen, because
15 they are very, very what we call Catholic or green.
16 I tell you they hated them bloody Orangemen. They
17 really did. It was unreal. Are you an Orangeman?

18 Q. I am actually asking the questions here, **HIA 301** rather
19 than you.

20 A. Oh, I know. That's a good way out of it.

21 Q. **HIA 301**, can I just take you back to your time in
22 Termonbacca? You talk in your statement about making
23 your first communion and confirmation and you remember
24 Christmas in the home also. At least one occasion you
25 remember Christmas.

1 A. I tell you what, I remember my first confession.
2 I~said -- I went to the priest and I felt really good.
3 I thought, "The sun is shining out of my arse. I've got
4 no sins". So I go in there and I say to the priest,
5 "Bless me, Father, for I have sinned. I've got no
6 sins", feeling all good, and he turned round and said --
7 this is my Irish accent again: "Are you sure now, boy?
8 Are you sure you haven't been cursing the nuns and
9 saying bad things with the other boys?" and gave me a
10 decade of the rosary. One minute here I am thinking,
11 "God's going to be shining down on me and lights coming
12 out of my ears and my arse and the priest is going to
13 say I'm wonderful". No. Gave me a bloody decade of the
14 rosary for lying.

15 Q. You did remember a particular Christmas and getting
16 a particular toy. Isn't that correct?

17 A. Well, I did. I remember we got this little plastic car.
18 It was divid... -- it was between four of us, one toy
19 present between four, and I can remember getting --
20 rolling it on the ground and the wheels fell off. It
21 really broke my heart, you know. That's all we had.
22 That was a toy and it just broke down. You know, some
23 kind soul probably donated it with a good heart, but it
24 broke my heart, because that was the one toy between
25 four and it just fell apart in front of us.

1 Q. Can I ask you **HIA 301**, do you ever remember celebrating your
2 birthday in the home in Termonbacca?

3 A. No. I never had a birthday till we were at Clontarf in
4 Australia, where they lined us up one day and told us
5 how old we were. We didn't have birthdays or I didn't
6 even know I had a birthday. I didn't even know how old
7 I was until I was about 12.

8 Q. What about -- some of the boys have told us that music
9 was a feature of the home in Termonbacca. Do you ever
10 remember that or having concerts for visiting
11 dignitaries?

12 A. Remember what?

13 Q. Sorry. Do you ever remember taking part in plays or
14 concerts for the bishop or anybody like that?

15 A. Oh, there was a lot -- one of the very good things about
16 the Irish, they are very big on music, and I love the
17 Irish music, you know. You have got those wonderful
18 compositions that -- that they are original, you know.
19 You get a lot of folk countries. They have got one beat
20 and every folk song sounds the same, but the Irish,
21 they've got some wonderful -- you know, Mother Machree
22 and Danny Boy, which is probably not Irish but from
23 a Spanish opera many years ago actually where the music
24 -- the composition came from, and Kerry Dancing, all
25 beautiful compositions.

1 **They used to have concerts. That's right, yes.**

2 **Music was a big thing in Ireland. It was lovely.**

3 Q. And you remember actually --

4 A. **Wonderful composition.**

5 Q. But do you remember music being a feature of your time
6 in Termonbacca?

7 A. **It was one of the lovely features of my time in
8 Termonbacca.**

9 Q. Now if I can move on, **HIA 301**, to talk about the
10 circumstances of you going to Australia, at paragraph 22
11 you recall a particular teacher in the school who taught
12 you something about Australia and you were given new
13 clothes.

14 A. **Yes. [REDACTED]. She was a lay teacher. Very nice
15 soul she was, really nice. You know, I felt so
16 comfortable with her. She was talking about Australia,
17 about sheep and all the rest of it there.**

18 I remember having a dream one night where
19 aboriginals carried me into the sea to bury me. I don't
20 know why. I don't know what convoluting -- that came
21 about, but that memory is there, you know. It just --
22 it just -- I remember it clearly. A group of
23 aboriginals carried me into the sea to bury me. I was
24 dead. They weren't throwing me in the water. They were
25 burying me in the sea. I remember that.

1 Q. Can I ask --

2 **A. They are from those four.**

3 Q. Can I ask, [REDACTED], what you remember about your selection
4 for going to Australia?

5 **A. Well, I didn't -- I wasn't selected. I just was -- we**
6 **were given these new clothes, all thing up there, and**
7 **one day we get on what we call a station wagon over**
8 **here. I don't know what you call it over there, you**
9 **know, those -- and taken by a fella we used to call**
10 **[REDACTED]. It was a green station wagon, green, and he**
11 **took us to the -- to a railway station where we caught**
12 **a train to -- and then caught a boat across the Irish**
13 **Sea to Liverpool and we all got crook on there. We were**
14 **all seasick on the boat, yes.**

15 Q. You don't remember anybody ever saying --

16 **A. And they can't --**

17 Q. Sorry. You don't remember anybody --

18 **A. Say again.**

19 Q. -- saying anything to you like, "You are going to go to
20 Australia" or any conversation or discussion about it?

21 **A. No, no, no. As a matter of fact we got on this boat and**
22 **then we were going to Australia. Even when we got off**
23 **in Fremantle I can remember this morning. There was all**
24 **these suitcases with the word "Fremantle" on it.**
25 **I didn't even know we were getting off there.**

1 **Everything was sort of -- you know, there was not a lot**
2 **of communication. We were just sort of shifted around.**

3 Q. You talk about the some of the documentation that we
4 have in relation to you, and it is clear that there was
5 a medical examination carried out before you went. Do
6 you remember that?

7 **A. Not at all, not at all.**

8 Q. You know that from the documentation we have seen that
9 the consent for you going to Australia was signed by the
10 Mother Superior of Termonbacca?

11 **A. That's right, yes. I know from -- not from knowing at**
12 **the time, but from facts later on, yes.**

13 Q. Just to be clear, for the benefit of the Inquiry Panel
14 Members and those who need to find these documents, the
15 medical form to which you referred that was dated 12th
16 February 1951 can be found in the bundle at AUS10416 and
17 it records you were aged 6 at the time.

18 There seem to be some documents which are out of
19 sequential order in our bundle, but it seems the consent
20 was signed in October 1949, which seems to suggest you
21 had been selected as a candidate for an earlier sailing
22 perhaps, but I take it there was -- you have no memory
23 of being told --

24 **A. That's what I got from records. I wouldn't have --**
25 **I got that from records. I didn't know that then. Now**

1 they might have examined me, but I wouldn't have known
2 I was being examined for anything. I can't remember
3 being examined medically. I wouldn't have known what it
4 meant anyway.

5 Q. Okay. Just for the benefit of the Panel Members, those
6 documents are at AUS10417 and AUS10414. There's
7 a second medical at AUS --

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. -- 10415, which is dated in 1952, which would have been
10 just before you went to Australia?

11 A. That's right, yes.

12 Q. Were you ever interviewed by anybody? I know this --
13 I probably know the answer to this, but do you ever
14 remember being interviewed by anybody about whether you
15 wanted to go to Australia?

16 A. No, not at all, not at all. I can't -- not a single
17 thought there. Now if you were to look -- there is
18 a motion picture out called "Oranges in the Sunshine"
19 and I'm there -- the movie was named after the fact that
20 a lot of kids were told, "How would you like to go to
21 Australia and ride about -- ride around on horseback and
22 pick oranges off the trees in the sunshine?" Now this
23 motion picture came out about six years ago, but I can
24 remember boys talking about that, other boys talking
25 about that riding round on horseback way back then in

1 the '50s, but I never had that. No, I never was told.
2 Yet other boys did have, and that's a true story, that,
3 because I have heard it so often as a kid, in my teens
4 in the orphanage, but I don't remember. No.

5 Q. Okay. You do tell us in your statement that you left
6 Southampton on 26th January 1953 on board the New
7 Australia.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. You tell us in paragraph 24 about the journey. You
10 remember a lady being in charge on the ship. She was
11 a very nice person, someone you had not met before.

12 A. Oh, yes.

13 Q. There were about 16 boys from Termonbacca on the ship
14 and you say she looked after all of you.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. You met up with English children.

17 A. That's right. That was her job.

18 Q. Is there anything else you remember about --

19 A. I got -- I had a crush on her. I can remember that, and
20 she was as terribly nice and she looked after us and --
21 you know, and bathed us and made sure we were bathed,
22 that sort of thing, and took us down to the refectory
23 for meals and all of that sort of -- all the --
24 whatever, the mess, whatever. Yes, [REDACTED], a wonderful
25 person. It broke my heart when I had to leave her.

1 Q. Yes. I think you do mention that about the journey when
2 you discovered that she wasn't coming on the bus with
3 you when you got to Fremantle.

4 **A. On the bus. Oh, yes, yes. I was torn inside. This**
5 **wonderful person is leaving, not there.**

6 Q. **HIA 301** in paragraphs 26 through to paragraph 30 you
7 briefly relate your time at Clontarf and there is some
8 detail in the statement which you gave to us, but
9 there's also more detail about what happened to you in
10 the statement that you prepared for the Western
11 Australian Redress Board, which can found at 10437, and
12 I've explained to you and you're well aware that what
13 happened to you in Australia is outside the ambit of
14 this Inquiry, but --

15 **A. Quite. Yes, of course, yes.**

16 Q. -- but it's fair to say that the details are there for
17 the Inquiry Panel to have a look at and so they know
18 what happened to you there.

19 **A. Yes. Very good. Very good.**

20 Q. One thing that I do want to ask you about your time in
21 Australia was were you ever aware of any contact between
22 Northern Ireland and Australia about you?

23 **A. Not a fraction.**

24 Q. Or did you ever see anyone --

25 **A. Not a fraction. I only heard years later that -- there**

1 was a bus smash, a pretty bad one by the way with about
2 eight legs chopped off, you know. I got ninety stitches
3 in my knees and all that sort of stuff. It really was
4 -- one kid died, you know.

5 I can remember I was talking to Margaret Humphreys
6 once and she said, "Did you report it? Did they tell
7 your parents?" I said, "Why, Margaret? We are all
8 orphans. No-one to tell", you know. So there was
9 no-one to tell, but I heard later they reported it to
10 the institution, the Termonbacca home, but that was
11 years and years later I heard that, but as far as I was
12 concerned then no, you know.

13 Q. Just for the benefit of the Inquiry, at AUS10449 we have
14 a letter which is from the Catholic Child Welfare
15 Council to the Mother Superior, the Reverend Mother in
16 Termonbacca telling her about the bus accident and the
17 fact that you were one of the people involved in that --

18 A. Yes, yes, yes.

19 Q. -- and you had lacerations to both knees but your
20 condition was excellent. So there was some
21 communication obviously.

22 A. After I was fixed up I was excellent. I was very, very,
23 very fortunate, because there was eight legs cut off if
24 you count the bloke that died, the boy (inaudible) that
25 died and my knees got badly cut. So I was pretty close.

1 I might have been -- a little bit more and I might have
2 been one of the amputees, but I wasn't. I ended up
3 a beach champion, surf club. That was all.

4 Q. At paragraph -- from paragraph 31 onwards, [REDACTED], you talk
5 about your life after care. You left Clontarf and you
6 spent time in the citizens' military forces and then --

7 A. Yes, yes.

8 Q. -- you describe your life as having a good life now, not
9 having married, but you are content, financially sound,
10 and you made a good life for yourself. You talk about
11 sponsoring young adults and they see you as a sort of
12 father figure.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. It's clear from what you relate in that that despite the
15 fact that you have made a successful life for yourself,
16 you say that doesn't take away from the effect of the
17 time that you had in care.

18 A. Well, you know, I like -- you know, society has
19 yardsticks which it measures us by, you know, with
20 status, money or whatever, but very rarely, if ever,
21 does it tell a true story of a person by half. You
22 know, you can still be affected even though outwardly
23 you are very successful. I do feel inwardly I am, but
24 I have got a fix, my concern for children being hurt.
25 So, as I said, the yardsticks by which society measures

1 you, you know, they don't tell a true story. That goes
2 for everyone. No offence meant to anyone.

3 Q. HIA 301 can I -- at paragraph 35 you describe the fact that
4 you had always wondered about your mother and her
5 whereabouts, especially on your birthday, and you
6 yourself had made inquiries about her over the years,
7 and you had, in fact, written to a parish priest in
8 ██████████, and he replied giving a contact address for
9 someone who might have known her. You describe some of
10 the things that you did to try to find your mother, but
11 it was only after you contacted --

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. -- the Child Migrants Trust in the late '80s that their
14 efforts were able to find her --

15 A. Yes. Well --

16 Q. -- and they --

17 A. -- they did. The Child Migrants Trust was something
18 that was never on the radar, and this woman came across,
19 Margaret Humphreys. When I first met her, it took me
20 a little while to realise she was dinkum, you know, and
21 the organisation specialises -- her core work is to find
22 the filial lineage, you know, our parents, whatever.

23 Yes, she found my mother and as a matter of fact in
24 the motion picture "Oranges in the Sunshine" it shows
25 where you take her down where I meet my mother. My big

1 concern was that she wouldn't accept me, but she did,
2 you know, and the first three things she said to me when
3 I met her -- the first thing she said was, "Forgive me",
4 the second thing she said, "Forgive me", the third thing
5 was "Forgive me", and, of course, we as child migrants
6 we were just pleased to meet them. They didn't have any
7 negative about it.

8 So, yes, the Trust did all the homework, did the
9 counselling both sides before, which they do for
10 everyone, get the money to send people across. I had
11 a few extra quid, so I could pay my own way.

12 I made one mistake there where as soon as Margaret
13 rang me and said, "We found your mother", I just hopped,
14 because I had a few bob, you know, and I just hopped on
15 a plane across. I should have waited for more
16 counselling, but that's to be whatever it is, which
17 I realise now I should have accepted, you know, but,
18 yes, there is all this work beforehand that they do on
19 both sides and all the work after, sometimes knowing the
20 work that's -- one person they took fourteen years
21 before they got the mother to accept their son -- their
22 daughter. So yes, she -- that organisation there is
23 some -- it's a godsend from -- something that was never
24 even thought off. It was wonderful.

25 Q. And you have indicated that you are I think still in

1 touch with your mother. Can you hear me, **HIA 301**, because
2 there's a bit of a difficulty with the picture?

3 **A. I can hear you.**

4 Q. Yes. I think we're back now.

5 **A. Okay.**

6 Q. There was -- we froze for a moment there. You're still
7 in contact with your mother to this day --

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. -- and you are going to see her next month?

10 **A. Oh, yes, I am still in contact. As a matter of fact I'm**
11 **going visit her in about a month's time.**

12 Q. **HIA 301**, one --

13 **A. Going across --**

14 Q. I have covered a lot of the material that is in your
15 statement with you and you have spoken yourself about
16 your time in Termonbacca. Can I ask you is there
17 anything that you feel that I haven't covered with you
18 or anything else that you want to say that you feel is
19 important to say at this stage?

20 **A. I feel very satisfied. The points I've brought out**
21 **covers enough to satisfy me. I mean, I can go on for**
22 **a long, long, long time, because I've got a very strong**
23 **memory of my childhood, but what I say is enough to**
24 **cover the area and the feelings. The big thing I want**
25 **you to remember is the helplessness factor and sort of**

1 emotional neglect and that sort of stuff there. The
2 other stuff there I've managed to contain, the
3 paedophilia and such, because I had a lot more of it
4 over here, but from the Christian Brothers in Perth in
5 Australia, but over there, which is your jurisdiction,
6 no, I feel satisfied with the questions you've asked and
7 how you've allowed me to answer them.

8 Q. I'm grateful for that. There are a couple more
9 questions that I did want to ask you. One of the things
10 that's clear from your statement --

11 **A. Fire away.**

12 Q. One of the things that's clear from your statement is
13 that you have received financial redress from the
14 Australia Government and --

15 **A. Yes, from the West Australian --**

16 Q. Yes, the Western Australia Government.

17 **A. Yes. From the Western Australian Government I received**
18 **40 -- sorry.**

19 Q. Sorry. No. I think the delay is causing both of us
20 a little problem, but you certainly received some --

21 **A. That is the leprechauns there. It's the leprechauns.**

22 Q. What I wanted to ask you about was how you -- as
23 I explained to you earlier, this Inquiry has to make
24 recommendations to the Northern Ireland Executive about
25 what should happen now. So I wanted to ask you about

1 your experiences of memorials and redress and what your
2 views are on those. I know that you were part of the
3 group that was present when Gordon Brown made his
4 apology on behalf of the United Kingdom Government, but
5 can you please tell us what your --

6 **A. Well --**

7 **Q. -- sorry -- what your --**

8 **A. May I respond to that? When the redress came along, it**
9 **wasn't compensation. It was redress. There was**
10 **a political background to it, and we got a small sum of**
11 **money. Then the Federal Government, the Australian**
12 **Government, decided to put an apology in. I was asked**
13 **to go across because of my work with the International**
14 **Association. I wouldn't go, because an apology was a**
15 **waste of time. It wasn't enough. A bit of validation**
16 **there, but what happened, the government actually got**
17 **more out of it from kudos than the former child migrants**
18 **got. I wouldn't go across.**

19 **Then the English Labour Government decided to do the**
20 **same thing and I wouldn't go across for that until I was**
21 **told they were giving the Trust £6 million to help us**
22 **find -- their core work -- a child migrant's parents and**
23 **so much money per annum for a while.**

24 **So I went to that and what I'm saying -- because**
25 **an apology on its own is nothing. People have taken**

1 away things from people that I feel they must do more
2 than just apologise. They must give something, and it
3 doesn't matter if people even waste that, money or
4 whatever. Then we'd feel -- I would feel that the
5 apology is real. It's not just some kudos.

6 You know, if I have an accident, if I do some damage
7 on the street there, I go, "Sorry, mate. You know I'm
8 sorry". It's not enough. It's nothing. It's just
9 words and something's got to go with it to complete it,
10 to make it feel like as if they are sorry. So that's my
11 take on that.

12 Q. Thank you very much for it, HIA 301

13 A. By the way, I have worked with child migrants now for --
14 it is a side organisation to the Child Migrant Trust and
15 this is the opinion of a lot of former child migrants.
16 I meet a lot more child migrants than most people
17 because of this work with the International Association.
18 So I know the feeling of the community, the child
19 migrant community, that is. So I am speaking as
20 an individual here and I am also speaking
21 representatively as well on that issue.

22 Q. Well, thank you very much for that, HIA 301. I have
23 finished all the questions that I want to ask you, but
24 the Panel Members may have some questions for you. So
25 I'm going to hand over to them, now.

1 **A. Thank you very much, Christine.**

2 **Questions from THE PANEL.**

3 CHAIRMAN: Good morning, **HIA 301** I wonder -- or at least good
4 morning from our part of the world. There are one or
5 two things --

6 **A. Yes, yes.**

7 Q. There are one or two things I want to follow up from
8 what you said. You described the accident in which you
9 and a number of other boys were travelling in a vehicle.
10 Do you remember that? You were quite badly injured I
11 think.

12 **A. I do remember it. I remember it well. I can
13 remember --**

14 Q. The letter that was sent --

15 **A. I remember hearing this thud and the -- and glass. Next
16 thing I know I'm waking up, because I was knocked out at
17 the back of the bus. I was buried under the chairs.
18 I was one of the last ones off, because I was buried.
19 The chairs came back on me --**

20 Q. Well, it's clear --

21 **A. -- and --**

22 Q. It's clear from what you said it was a very bad accident
23 and a lot of people were hurt quite badly. Isn't that
24 right?

25 **A. Oh, yes, it was a bad accident. Eight legs lost, except**

1 **the fella that passed away.**

2 Q. And one died. Isn't that right? Now the letter --

3 **A. That's right. AU 94 passed away.**

4 Q. Now the letter that you were shown on and we were shown
5 on the screen was written not just about you but about
6 all the boys involved. Isn't that right?

7 **A. Well, that's the letter that -- that's historical.**
8 **I've learnt that later on, you know. Yes, yes.**

9 Q. So that would seem to suggest that because one boy died
10 and another -- and several others were very badly hurt
11 that a report was sent back to the United Kingdom about
12 that.

13 Do you know of any other reports that were sent
14 other than that one?

15 **A. None at all. I've been searching records for that.**
16 **None at all. I remember one time Margaret Humphreys**
17 **asking me, "Did you inform your mother?" and I said,**
18 **"No, Margaret. I'm an orphan". There was no-one to**
19 **inform, but that's about it really.**

20 Q. That leads me on to the next question. Did you ever
21 receive or did you know of any other boys receiving
22 letters from home, letters from their mother --

23 **A. No.**

24 Q. -- or a brother or a sister, anything like that; not
25 just you but anybody else?

1 A. Not at all. Not -- no-one. Myself and no-one else,
2 because if it was someone else, we would have heard
3 about that. In that closed environment I felt we would
4 have heard. No, I have no -- nothing like that at all
5 that I can remember or recall. Not -- there's nothing
6 to recall. It just didn't happen.

7 Q. Now you didn't contact your mother or weren't -- I'm
8 sorry. You weren't able to find your mother or speak to
9 her for many years, but when you did speak to her, did
10 she say anything to indicate that the Sisters had tried
11 to contact her before you went to Australia? Did they
12 know where she lived, for example? Was she in contact
13 with them?

14 A. Well, she told me once that she came back all the way
15 from London to Londonderry, knocked on the door and
16 asked the nuns to see their boy -- her boy and she said
17 a nun said, "He's asleep. You can't see him". So she
18 went back -- she packed up and went straight back to
19 London, which in those days, if you can remember --
20 well, if you can imagine that someone travelling all
21 that way just wouldn't do that. So she probably -- in
22 there she is probably somehow satisfying her guilt,
23 because no way would a working class woman travel across
24 like that and then say, "Oh, sorry. He is asleep.
25 I will go away". So that's what she told me. I don't

1 believe it, but I don't tell her I don't believe it.

2 I just allow it. You allow these things to go, you

3 know. You must do.

4 Q. May we take it from what you have said that nobody asked
5 your mother for her consent or did anybody explain to
6 her afterwards that they had not been able to find her?

7 A. That they hadn't been able to -- no, there was no --
8 nothing whatsoever, nothing whatsoever. I had no --
9 look, at the age of 48 when the Trust found my mother,
10 up till then when I met her, she was the only relation
11 I met in my life. If I hadn't met her through the
12 Trust, I would probably have lived this whole world
13 without meeting a single relation. So nothing, nothing,
14 your Honour.

15 Q. You learnt later on that you had a number of siblings,
16 but were you the only member of your family that was
17 placed in Termonbacca or any of the other institutions?

18 A. Well, what -- it's an interesting story. My mother told
19 me that the chappy who was my father was a soldier in
20 the bogs of [REDACTED] Then when she got pregnant, he --
21 she said he wanted to live with her and she said, "No,
22 no, I have nothing to do with [REDACTED]". [REDACTED]
23 [REDACTED] was his name.

24 When I met my brother, who was 9 at the time, he
25 remembers me as a child. He told me, "No, your mother

1 came down to live with us and I remember you as
2 a child". Again it is one of those things I don't say
3 anything to my mother about because she's got to defend
4 herself, you know. A woman abandoning a child, it is
5 not something they like to carry and talk about. So
6 I let it go. So she did live -- I did live with my
7 father for a short time and she shot through and
8 abandoned me in Termonbacca, Derry and life went on.

9 Q. Thank you very much, HIA 301

10 MS DOHERTY: Hello, HIA 301 Can I just ask did you grow up
11 thinking you were an orphan? Did you grow up in
12 Termonbacca --

13 A. Yes, I did.

14 Q. That's what you had been told?

15 A. Well, I grew up -- to the age -- to the age of 48 I had
16 no other reason to think that I wasn't an orphan. I had
17 not seen a single relation in my life. I was brought up
18 in an orphanage. I went from one orphanage to another
19 orphanage in Australia. I was an orphan until the Trust
20 under Ms Humphreys, Margaret Humphreys -- I'm used to
21 calling her Miss Humphreys -- I must get out of that --
22 Margaret Humphreys found her. Otherwise I was
23 an orphan.

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. 48 years of age.

1 Q. Okay. Can I just ask, going back to your time at
2 Termonbacca, one of the issues we have heard from other
3 people who were in Termonbacca was about the ratio of
4 nuns to children, the number of nuns that were available
5 to look after the children. Do you have any memories of
6 that, of how many nuns were around?

7 A. No, no. I remember different nuns, but the -- but down
8 in the nursery they used to have lay women looking after
9 us there. So the nuns would be there, sort of like
10 disciplinary sort of thing there. They had very little
11 communication with us. Some of them did, but as far as
12 numbers, no, I haven't thought of that, the ratio,
13 because in Australia we had 250 boys and there was 7 or
14 8 brothers and a couple of lay brothers looking after us
15 24 hours a day, but I wouldn't be able to sort of work
16 out the numbers from my childhood in Ireland.

17 Q. Okay. Thank you very much, HIA 301.

18 CHAIRMAN: Well, HIA 301, thank you very much. We don't have
19 any more questions for you. Thank you for speaking to
20 us. We are very grateful, and I know it's getting on in
21 the evening now where you are in Australia, but thank
22 very much for coming to speak to us. Thank you.

23 A. Thank you, sir.

24 (Witness withdrew)

25 MS SMITH: Chairman, there is another witness who is to give

1 evidence in person today, but I haven't had the
2 opportunity to speak to him yet. So I would be grateful
3 for some time.

4 CHAIRMAN: Will 12 o'clock give you time?

5 MS SMITH: That should be sufficient, yes.

6 CHAIRMAN: Well, if we can sit earlier than that, ladies and
7 gentlemen, we will, but we will hopefully resume at
8 12 o'clock. As you will appreciate, the time difference
9 between Northern Ireland and Western Australia is very
10 considerable and that makes it logistically rather
11 difficult to organise this. So we will break now for
12 three-quarters of an hour or so.

13 (11.17 am)

14 (Short break)

15 (12.00 noon)

16 WITNESS HIA296 (called)

17 MS SMITH: Good afternoon, Mr Chairman and Panel Members.

18 Our witness present in the chamber today is HIA296, who
19 is to be known as "HIA296", and HIA296 wishes to
20 maintain his anonymity, Chairman.

21 He knows you are going to ask him about taking the
22 oath.

23 WITNESS HIA296 (sworn)

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

25

1 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

2 MS SMITH: HIA296, sorry. Just take your time, HIA296.

3 I know that this is difficult for you, but just take
4 your time, and if at any stage you feel you need
5 a break, please just tell us. Okay?

6 First of all, HIA296, you spoke to the Inquiry legal
7 team who went out to Australia, and you prepared
8 a statement for them of your experiences both in
9 Northern Ireland and in Australia. If we could call up
10 your statement, please. It is AUS10255. You will see
11 this is the statement that you have a copy of there,
12 HIA296, but you will see in place of your name we have
13 your designation, which is HIA296, and we blocked out
14 the names of various people in the course of the
15 statement in black.

16 If we could just go to the last page of the
17 statement, which is 10262, and can I just ask you to
18 confirm, HIA296, where we see that great big black box
19 with "HIA296" on it, that your signature is there and
20 you signed your statement this year on 3rd June 2014?

21 **A. I did.**

22 Q. Can you confirm that this is the evidence that you wish
23 the Inquiry to take into account as to what happened to
24 you both in Northern Ireland and in Australia?

25 **A. It is.**

1 Q. Now the other document that the Inquiry Panel will want
2 to have a look at, but I don't need to call up is your
3 Personal History Index or your PHIND, which is prepared
4 in Australia. That can be found at AUS10272 through to
5 10277. The reason that it is longer than some people's
6 is because it also covers your brothers as well as
7 yourself.

8 Now you are now aged 68. Is that correct?

9 **A. That's correct.**

10 Q. And if we just go back to the first page of your
11 statement at 10255, it sets out in the first
12 paragraphs 1 and 2 there your family history and
13 background, and shows that you were the second youngest
14 in a family of eight. You had brothers and sisters.
15 You lived with your parents. Sadly your mother died
16 when you were age 2 and your father was unable to care
17 for you. So the family were put into the care of the
18 Sisters of Nazareth. You went to Nazareth Lodge in 1949
19 and your brothers also went there and your sisters went
20 to Nazareth House, but it is correct, is it not, that
21 you didn't know that you had brothers in Nazareth Lodge?

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

23 Q. And until later you didn't realise that you had sisters
24 in Nazareth House either? You were only a 2 year old
25 when you went into the home?

1 **A. That's also correct.**

2 Q. You were told subsequently by your sisters that they
3 used to come to visit you and your brothers in the
4 Lodge, but you have no recollection of that?

5 **A. No.**

6 Q. And again do you recall any visits from your father at
7 any stage?

8 **A. No.**

9 Q. Although your sisters did say to you later that he did
10 come to visit you?

11 **A. They visit -- yes, that's right. He said they went to
12 see them more than us I think.**

13 Q. I will come back to what contact you later had with your
14 father in due course, but I am going to deal
15 specifically with the complaints you have about your
16 time in Nazareth Lodge in Belfast.

17 At paragraph 4 -- sorry -- 5 through 8 you
18 describe -- I should say that you left Nazareth Lodge
19 when you went to Australia in 1956 and until that time
20 you lived in the Lodge in Belfast, and between
21 paragraphs 5 and 8 you give descriptions which I am not
22 going to go into, because they are there and can be read
23 by the Panel, about sexual abuse that you suffered in
24 the Lodge at the hands of older boys.

25 At paragraphs 9 through to 11 you talk about

1 a particular nun who was in the Lodge who you say
2 sexually abused you also, and you describe what she did
3 to you in those paragraphs. You also say in
4 paragraph 11 that you wrote to this particular nun
5 afterwards for years and you say that you can't believe
6 how long it took for the penny to drop that she was in
7 reality a child abuser.

8 Now can I just ask you, if I may, HIA296, why were
9 you writing to this nun? Why do you think you were
10 doing that?

11 **A. Well, I think at the time I probably saw her as like**
12 **a motherly figure or something, not having known**
13 **a mother is all I can say. I couldn't really think of**
14 **any other reason. She may have cared for me better than**
15 **some of the other boys. I'm not sure.**

16 Q. But you did -- you did write to her in any event?

17 **A. I did for many, many years, yes.**

18 Q. Can you recall how you came to stop writing to her?

19 **A. I think when I came home in '95, I went to see her and**
20 **I asked her -- I know this is not in the statement --**
21 **but I went to the Lodge, which was still standing, and**
22 **said, "Sister, would you do me a favour? Could you**
23 **please look and see if you can find a chap called** **NL 74**
24 **██████" "Oh, just a moment." She went away and she**
25 **came back five minutes later and said, "No, I'm sorry.**

1 We're not allowed to give out any details. Why do you
2 want to know?" I said, "Well, I would just like to go
3 and see him if I could, just pay him a little visit",
4 and she said, "I'm terribly sorry". I didn't tell her
5 what I had in the back of my mind, but -- as he was one
6 of the instigators of the abuse, I thought he may be
7 still alive, I've never found any record of him. So
8 I thought, "Well, sister, if you don't want to help me,
9 I'd sort of stop writing" and moved on with my life.

10 Q. Can you say was it before or after this that you
11 realised that what she had been doing with you or to you
12 was inappropriate?

13 A. It was quite a while after actually when there was all
14 sorts of reports coming out about child abuse in
15 institutions all over the world and then, as you said
16 earlier, the penny dropped and I thought, "My God!
17 That's what that nun was doing to me" and then I had
18 a very different view of her then.

19 Q. This was after you had stopped writing to her?

20 A. Yes. Well, that was all around about the same time.

21 Q. In paragraph 12 you also say that you were physically
22 abused by the nuns in Nazareth Lodge and you give
23 descriptions of that. At the end of that paragraph you
24 say that sometimes it happened because nobody owned up
25 to some misdemeanour or someone failed an underpants

1 inspection.

2 I want to ask you, HIA296, if you could perhaps give
3 us a little more detail about what you meant by the
4 underpants inspection. What did that involve?

5 **A. It -- it involved the nuns lining up and we'd have to**
6 **remove our pants and hold them in front of us. The nun**
7 **would then go along and inspect the pants, and if they**
8 **were soiled, another lady or a nun was behind us and she**
9 **would give us a strap on the bare buttocks and then we'd**
10 **have to go and stand in a trough and be hosed down.**

11 Q. Take your time, HIA296. You do give some more details
12 about being hosed down in paragraph 15 and you describe
13 there what happened when you had to stand there.

14 **A. We had to stay in the trough until all the faeces was**
15 **washed down.**

16 Q. Just take your time. Sorry, HIA296. When you were
17 speaking to me earlier this morning, you said that this
18 was a regular occurrence, that it wasn't just a once
19 a week thing. It happened --

20 **A. No.**

21 Q. -- more than once a week.

22 **A. Well, most children probably soil their pants every day**
23 **I suppose at that age. So it was regular.**

24 Q. You would have been -- can you recall what age you would
25 have been at this stage?

1 A. It would have been, well, obviously between 5 and 9.
2 I probably stopped maybe 7, but from the trough we were
3 then put into these tubs -- best describe them as tubs
4 -- filled with a white milky fluid which had a horrible
5 smell.

6 Q. And you say that that stung also?

7 A. It did. It's a stinking smell, and then we'd be hosed.
8 That would be taken out of there and hosed down again
9 and then moved on.

10 Q. At paragraph 14 you talk about what happened if you wet
11 the bed. You were one of the boys who did wet the bed.
12 Is that right, HIA296?

13 A. Yes, I was unfortunately, and that entailed getting out
14 of the bed and having the sheets hung over your head.

15 Q. And you were also physically chastised for wetting the
16 bed?

17 A. Not so much chastised but flogged. You stood there till
18 the nuns got around to removing them and we'd go off
19 then and do whatever they wanted.

20 Q. One of the other things that you say was at Nazareth
21 Lodge there was a school attached to the Lodge. Isn't
22 that correct?

23 A. A nursery you mean?

24 Q. A school.

25 A. Oh, the school was inside the building itself. That's

1 **correct.**

2 Q. And you went to that school?

3 **A. I did, yes.**

4 Q. And you complained about a male teacher at paragraph 16
5 who was at the school and the fact that he also
6 physically abused you by striking you.

7 **A. He did. I must have got something wrong one day and
8 I saw the canes. I didn't think too much of them,
9 because they were fairly thin, but I soon realised the
10 extent of pain they could inflict. I screamed that much
11 a nun took me out of the school and I never saw him
12 again.**

13 Q. HIA296, you say that at paragraph 17 -- I mentioned to
14 you earlier that your sisters who were in Nazareth
15 House, that you learned later that they came down to
16 visit you once a month. You never knew they were your
17 sisters, and their visits consisted of walking down to
18 the Lodge and passing you bread and jam through the
19 fence.

20 **A. It was roughly, yes, roughly monthly and, as you said,
21 I had no idea and whether all four of them came at the
22 same time or not I don't know, but I had no connection
23 whatsoever.**

24 Q. Do you remember any interaction between the boys in the
25 Lodge and the girls in the House? Was there ever any

1 getting together for play time or anything like that?

2 **A. No, no. They stayed on their side of the fence. They**
3 **only stayed for around about half an hour anyway I think**
4 **and then marched back, but no, they never mixed in the**
5 **field that we were in.**

6 Q. Do you remember any joint concerts or anything between
7 the two homes?

8 **A. None whatsoever.**

9 Q. If I can ask you do you have any good memories of your
10 time in Nazareth Lodge?

11 **A. I am not being facetious when I say the day I left was**
12 **probably one, but other than that I've got none.**

13 Q. Well, in 1956 you were one of the children who emigrated
14 to Australia. Do you remember anything about being
15 selected to go to Australia?

16 **A. No, I don't. I think we were just called or whatever**
17 **and given new clothes and a little suitcase and dressed**
18 **up. I believe there was photos taken and we were gone.**

19 Q. You say there were photos taken and you have provided
20 the Inquiry with some photographs which were given to
21 you many years later by someone who had been in the
22 Lodge with you.

23 If we could look at AUS10295, now this is
24 a photograph that you have since learnt was of the group
25 that went in 1956 from Nazareth Lodge and you are in

1 that photograph. Isn't that correct, HIA296?

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

3 Q. Can you maybe just indicate? I think we've got the
4 numbers. You seem to be the small boy in between the
5 four nuns, as it were --

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

7 Q. -- in the second row there.

8 **A. Bottom row, yes, in the middle.**

9 Q. And there's -- your brother is also in that photograph.

10 **A. That's correct, yes. He is right above me --**

11 Q. And --

12 **A. -- and SR 71 is on the extreme right as you
13 look at it.**

14 Q. So that's -- you had a third brother who went with you
15 to Australia. He isn't in that photograph. Isn't that
16 correct?

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

18 Q. Because at this time, which the Inquiry will learn, at
19 the time this photograph would have been taken, he would
20 actually have been in a different children's home in
21 Rubane?

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

23 Q. There is also just another photograph that will be of
24 interest to the Inquiry, which is at AUS10296, and this
25 is a photograph of the boys in Nazareth Lodge.

1 CHAIRMAN: Whose mobile phone is on? Somebody's mobile
2 phone got a text or a call. Turn it off, please.

3 MS SMITH: We can see there is an arrow on that photograph,
4 HIA296. That's you?

5 **A. As best as we can make out, that's me, yes.**

6 Q. If I can just ask too there is another photograph you
7 have provided the Inquiry with at AUS10294, and as far
8 as you are aware this is a photograph of girls in
9 Nazareth House, although there seem to be boys there.
10 You think there is photographs there of your sister.
11 There are two Xs marked on two little girls there.

12 **A. Yes, that's right. This photo was provided to me again**
13 **from that chap in England, [REDACTED] and we did indicate --**
14 **we did find out that two of my sisters were there.**

15 CHAIRMAN: Do you know what occasion this photograph was
16 taken on? Is it a group going to Australia or what is
17 it? Do you know?

18 **A. Oh, no, definitely not, Mr Chairman. My sisters didn't**
19 **come to Australia with me at all.**

20 CHAIRMAN: It is just I am trying to work out what brought
21 everybody together for that photograph. Do you know?

22 **A. I've got absolutely no idea.**

23 MS SMITH: Chairman, there seems to be a date that is
24 handwritten on it --

25 CHAIRMAN: Yes.

1 MS SMITH: -- of 1946, but other than that --

2 CHAIRMAN: So I see.

3 MS SMITH: -- it is hard to tell where it was, but you
4 believe these are photographs of your sisters. Might
5 that have possibly been a school photograph?

6 **A. Did you say it was 1946? I was born in '46 myself. So**
7 **obviously that's --**

8 Q. Before --

9 **A. -- long -- the girls were all older than me.**

10 Q. If I come back to your move to Australia, do you
11 remember having any medical checks, for example, before
12 you went?

13 **A. No.**

14 Q. In paragraph 18 you don't recall saying goodbye to your
15 sisters, because at that stage you weren't aware of who
16 they were anyway --

17 **A. No.**

18 Q. -- and you left for Australia on 24th December,
19 Christmas Eve, 1956 on the SS Strathnaver. Do you have
20 memories of leaving Belfast before boarding that ship?

21 **A. I do recall getting on to some sort of a boat to travel**
22 **to Southampton. The only memories I have were that we**
23 **were -- most us were violently ill with sea sickness,**
24 **but other than that, no.**

25 Q. When you were on the boat you discovered that you had

1 two brothers on the boat with you?

2 **A. On the boat the Strathnaver was when I discovered they**
3 **were my brothers, because we were all 14 of us locked in**
4 **a couple of small cabins.**

5 Q. And did they tell you that you were their brother or did
6 they know?

7 **A. I'm not -- sorry -- I'm not quite sure how it came**
8 **about, whether it was the two ladies who were escorting**
9 **us, but exactly how I found out I don't know.**

10 Q. You say you were escorted by two civilian women on the
11 boat?

12 **A. I believe they were civilians, yes. I didn't -- if they**
13 **were nuns, they didn't have any habits on. So they**
14 **could have been nuns. They could have been just ladies.**

15 Q. And at paragraph 20 you make a complaint about sexual
16 abuse which you say you also suffered on the boat from
17 crew members.

18 **A. As young fellows on the boat we were wandering wherever**
19 **we felt like. The ladies didn't have total control of**
20 **us, and one of these tall fellows in a white suit**
21 **befriended me and invited me back down to his cabin or**
22 **his berth, whatever it is. That happened for two and**
23 **three days, and another chap became friendly with me as**
24 **well, but I can't actually say what they did to me,**
25 **because the visits stopped quite abruptly after three or**

1 **four visits.**

2 Q. Now when you arrived in Australia, you, in fact, were
3 separated from your brothers?

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

5 Q. You first of all were taken to Castledare and after
6 a year there you moved on to Tardun. Now just for the
7 benefit of the information for the Inquiry St. Joseph's
8 was a home where very young children were -- went to,
9 both boys and girls. Is that correct?

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

11 Q. The older boys went to Castledare until about the age of
12 10?

13 **A. Between 10 and 12 I believe.**

14 Q. And then after that you were moved to Tardun?

15 **A. Moved to Tardun, yes, or Bindoon, or Clontarf.**

16 Q. In your case it happened to be Tardun that you went to.

17 **A. It happened to be Tardun, because my brother -- my
18 eldest brother had gone there before me.**

19 Q. From paragraphs 22 through to 27 you describe in detail
20 the time you spent in care in Australia and I have
21 explained to you that that falls outside the scope of
22 this Inquiry. We can't look into what happened to you
23 in those homes, and essentially what you have told the
24 Inquiry is you were sexually abused in those homes both
25 by older boys and by the Christian Brothers into whose

1 care you were placed, and you were also subject to
2 serious physical abuse?

3 **A. It was Christian Brother singular rather than Brothers,**
4 **but the physical part of it was definitely other**
5 **Brothers, and, yes, the sexual abuse was by the older**
6 **boys.**

7 Q. Now at paragraph 28 -- sorry. Just one thing. You say
8 -- well, it is part of paragraph 28 actually. You talk
9 about meeting your family in Northern Ireland for the
10 first time, but you say you don't remember how your
11 sister got in touch with you originally, but before you
12 left Tardun you were writing to her. So there must have
13 been some knowledge certainly when you got to Australia
14 that you had sisters back home in Ireland.

15 **A. On my first trip home?**

16 Q. No. Sorry, HIA296. I don't mean to confuse. As
17 a child still in Tardun you must have become aware you
18 had sisters still at home in Ireland?

19 **A. Yes, at some stage. I can't actually tell you when, but**
20 **I think most of the contact I made with them was after**
21 **I left school, joined the work force, and then I seemed**
22 **to pay more attention that I had sisters, and I was**
23 **contacting them with a view that we would be returning**
24 **to see them at some stage. The Troubles in Ireland were**
25 **fairly spoken about then too. So the two older boys,**

1 **HIA 279** and **HIA 309**, weren't really in a position to come home
2 with me. We talked and hmm-ed and ha-ed about it, but
3 it had always been my intention to come home to see
4 them.

5 Q. Uh-huh, but just if I can go back to before you left
6 Tardun, was there any -- I mean, were you aware of
7 contact -- you obviously got a letter from your sister,
8 and do you remember writing to her or being told to
9 write to her or anything along those lines when you were
10 there?

11 A. I'm pretty sure that the Brothers did encourage us to
12 write and anything we did write was -- they read it
13 first, made sure it was okay, but I'm pretty sure that
14 must have been towards the end of my time at Tardun,
15 because when I was there at 10 and 12 and so forth up to
16 13, 14, letter writing wasn't, you know, a massive thing
17 in my life.

18 Q. Well, can I ask when you were in Australia, do you ever
19 remember being contacted by anyone official from Ireland
20 or Northern Ireland or from the UK government, for
21 example?

22 A. No. Absolutely not, no.

23 Q. Or do you remember -- are you aware of whether any
24 reports were sent back about you and your brothers to
25 anywhere here?

1 **A. Not that I was aware of, no.**

2 Q. Your father was still alive when you and your brothers
3 went to Australia and you spoke to him by telephone, and
4 thanks to the restoration fund, family restoration fund,
5 the assistance of the Child Migrants Trust and your own
6 -- at your own expense you have now visited Northern
7 Ireland some six times?

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

9 Q. Can I just ask did you ever receive -- remember
10 receiving any letters from your father when you were in
11 Australia?

12 **A. To be honest I don't think I did. I received one from**
13 **my older brother, who stayed behind, but in the main it**
14 **was my sister [REDACTED] that wrote.**

15 Q. Well, obviously there were three of you went out to
16 Australia together and I have suggested to you that,
17 given that your father was still alive and all of your
18 family were in the care of the Sisters of Nazareth, that
19 -- certainly your sister has said he was visiting the
20 home -- that it would have been possible for the nuns to
21 contact him, and it may have been possible for him to
22 give his consent to you going. What can you say about
23 that? What do you know about whether or not he
24 consented to you going?

25 **A. Despite the fact that when I spoke to my father he was**

1 **deaf, the only thing that I recall hearing him say ...**

2 Q. Take your time, HIA296. I think you mention this in
3 a paragraph in your statement.

4 **A. I --**

5 Q. Beginning of your statement at paragraph 3, where you
6 say that you had no contact with him until years later
7 when you traced him and spoke to him on the phone.

8 "He was deaf and it was very difficult to
9 communicate with him and he did say to me, 'I never
10 wanted you all to go'."

11 You say it was very upsetting to hear this and sadly
12 he died before you were able to make your visit home to
13 Northern Ireland, the first one.

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

15 Q. So as far as you're aware your father didn't want you to
16 go to Australia?

17 **A. I clearly remember him telling me that.**

18 Q. HIA296, in paragraphs 29 through 31 of your statement
19 you describe the effect that your time in institutions
20 has had on your life. In paragraph 29 you say:

21 "I would sum up my life in Nazareth Lodge as hell.
22 I lost my family and identity. I was constantly beaten
23 and sexually abused. The nuns were brutal. I lived
24 a life of terror, terror if I wet the bed or soiled my
25 pants, terror at night that the older boys would come

1 for me. It makes the sexual abuse by the nun which was
2 masked as affection all the more sinister."

3 You believe that nun died when she was 80 years old
4 in the '90s.

5 "I have been profoundly affected by my traumatic
6 childhood. Institutional care has had a devastating
7 effect on my family."

8 You say you have never spoken to your wife or your
9 two daughters about what happened to you. The only
10 people you have spoken to before you came to speak to
11 this Inquiry was the Child Migrants Trust. Is that
12 right, HIA296?

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

14 Q. You talk about the difficulties when you only received
15 a copy of your birth certificate when you joined the
16 army, and you had to educate yourself. You have always
17 worked. You feel you have a deep-seated resentment at
18 what happened to you both in Nazareth Lodge and in the
19 home in Australia and you have lived with that
20 resentment all your life and feel you will continue to
21 do so?

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

23 Q. Now there is one other matter that I'm going to talk to
24 you about in a moment, HIA296, but as far as your
25 experiences in Belfast and later in Australia are

1 concerned do you feel that we have covered the matters
2 that you want the Inquiry to know about?

3 **A. Yes, I think so.**

4 Q. Is there anything else that you feel you want to say to
5 the Inquiry, because this is your opportunity to tell us
6 now if there's something you feel we've left out?

7 **A. No. I think you've covered it fairly well, to be
8 honest. I don't think I'd like to recall anything else.**

9 Q. One thing, that when we were talking earlier, you kind
10 of compared your life in an institutional care to having
11 the disease of cancer. You said to me that being in
12 Nazareth Lodge was like having a disease. You went to
13 Castledare where you felt it was like being in
14 remission. Although there were physical punishments
15 meted out there, it wasn't what you had experienced
16 previously or subsequently?

17 **A. That's correct, yes. I have been thinking about this
18 for some months now to try and sum up my existence and
19 those places and that was the best analogy I could come
20 up with.**

21 Q. And if -- there was one other matter that we discussed
22 that is not technically relevant, because it happened in
23 Australia, but you felt was illustrative of some feature
24 of your experience, and that was -- and correct me if
25 I've got this wrong -- but that one of the things that

1 happened when you were in care in Australia was that you
2 were fostered out to families at holiday time, and the
3 Inquiry will be aware that was something that happened
4 to children here also, but that one of those families
5 who you went to wanted to adopt you, and yet when she
6 went to Social Services, was told if she wanted to take
7 you, she had to take the entire family.

8 **A. That's correct, yes, and there were eight of us at the**
9 **time. So that was never going to happen.**

10 Q. But you see that as somewhat ironic, given the fact that
11 you and your brothers were sent to Australia to keep you
12 together, and yet you were immediately split when you
13 arrived there?

14 **A. Yes. That thought came to me much later, because at 9**
15 **and 10 obviously I wouldn't have thought it then, but it**
16 **did seem a bit strange.**

17 Q. The one other thing -- the final thing I want to discuss
18 with you, HIA296, is that we know -- the Inquiry knows
19 that there have been various forms of redress and
20 memorials in Australia and we are aware of the national
21 apologies that were made to child migrants by both the
22 UK government and the Australian governments.

23 You have had experience of all of that, and I wanted
24 to know what your views were, because one of the things
25 that this Inquiry will be doing at the end is making

1 recommendations to our government, to the Northern
2 Ireland government, about what should happen next. So
3 if you could please tell us what your views are.

4 **A. I have heard all the apologies and got copies of them on**
5 **DVDs, etc. Most of them came across as being very**
6 **sincere.**

7 Q. Now, HIA296, take your time.

8 **A. Most of them came across, as I say, as being very**
9 **sincere at the time, but after thinking about it for**
10 **a little while, it was only words. It was never**
11 **followed up with anything apart from a compensation**
12 **system that they had in Australia to try and compensate**
13 **boys or people on the severity of the abuse that they**
14 **suffered.**

15 Q. Sorry, HIA296. I appreciate this is very difficult for
16 you. Perhaps -- I know from the discussions we had that
17 it came as a shock to you personally to learn that
18 your -- the abuse you suffered was deemed to be of the
19 highest tier in that scheme.

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

21 Q. But can I just ask you do you feel that redress it is
22 a good thing? Do you think that it is an appropriate
23 way to deal with what happened to you and to others?

24 **A. I think it is definitely to the extent that we are**
25 **getting some sort of -- I don't like to say compensation**

1 **but restitution I guess for what did happen to us.**

2 Q. What about statues and memorials? We know there's
3 a statue to the child migrants in Fremantle. What's
4 your view about those?

5 A. **I've seen the particular statue you're mentioning. It**
6 **never did anything to me emotionally or otherwise. It**
7 **was just there. I thought it was -- at first it was**
8 **somebody's gimmick, you know, to put that up. I don't**
9 **really see that walls or statues really do a lot to ease**
10 **any burden. If anything, it's probably a bad reminder**
11 **of how poor those children looked. So I wouldn't --**
12 **I wouldn't go along with any memorials to dedicate**
13 **something for abuse. I can't see myself doing that or**
14 **liking that idea. I wouldn't go and visit any myself**
15 **and I'm pretty sure I wouldn't take my family to see**
16 **them either.**

17 Q. Well, HIA296, thank you very much. I have concluded the
18 questions that I want to ask you, but the Panel Members
19 may have some things they want to ask you. So if you
20 just stay there, please.

21 A. **Thank you.**

22 **Questions from THE PANEL**

23 MS DOHERTY: HIA296, thanks very much. We appreciate you
24 coming and giving your evidence. Can I just talk about
25 the time in Nazareth Lodge? In relation to the abuse by

1 the older boys, both the bullying, the physical abuse
2 and the sexual abuse, did you have any sense of the nuns
3 being aware of that, that they seen had or were aware of
4 it in any way?

5 **A.** I think on more than one occasion when this activity was
6 going on that -- it was usually in the bedrooms -- a nun
7 would come in and we would be at the other end of the
8 bedroom and she would call out to this particular
9 fellow, **NL 74**, what's going on down there?" and he would
10 give her some excuse and she would then just move on.

11 Again when we were lined up for standard canings, if
12 someone did a misdemeanour, everybody copped it. The
13 boys would be lined up on a veranda and the older boys
14 would be physically pushing each boy into the boy in
15 front of him, and I'm fairly sure the nuns were well
16 aware of that as well as the times in the toilets at
17 night. I clearly remember hearing nuns calling out,
18 "What's going on in there?" and the older boy saying,
19 "It's all right, Sister. It's under control". I'm
20 fairly sure they knew, as did the Christian Brothers
21 later on, but they did very little about it.

22 **Q.** Thank you very much.

23 **A.** Thank you.

24 **Q.** Thank you.

25 **MR LANE:** You mentioned -- excuse me -- you mentioned that

1 you were wanting to contact **NL 74** . What actually
2 would you like to have achieved then?

3 **A. Well, probably a little bit of vengeance I think.**
4 **I might have just lost my control and reminded him of**
5 **what he did to me.**

6 **Q. And do you think that's what the nuns realised when they**
7 **wouldn't give you his details?**

8 **A. I learnt later that several other boys had made attempts**
9 **to find out information on other boys and the nuns were**
10 **reluctant to give any information about anyone that had**
11 **been in their care.**

12 **Q. Looking back on things now, how do you feel about the**
13 **older boys who abused you?**

14 **A. Well, I think it was just something that seemed to go on**
15 **and still goes on I think in my belief in most schools**
16 **or organisations. I think it's just a nature thing with**
17 **a lot of boys. Young boys just -- you know, that's what**
18 **they do until they grow up, but this was organised at**
19 **the Lodge. It was definite organisation. These boys**
20 **had a system and it just seemed to go on forever.**

21 **Q. When the older boys were in charge of you, were they**
22 **actually picked by the nuns to do that or was it**
23 **something you always did when you were an older boy?**

24 **A. I'm not sure. These particular boys that I had in mind**
25 **that I can see seem to have been there. Whether the**

1 nuns selected them to help them control the boys,
2 because five or six nuns are not going to control 60 or
3 70 boys, and I think these older ones were there to help
4 them.

5 Q. Yes. Thank you very much.

6 A. No worries.

7 CHAIRMAN: Well, HIA296, thank you very much for coming in
8 person to speak to us today. We're very grateful for
9 that indeed, but I'm sure you'll be glad to hear that
10 that's the end of it as far as we're concerned. We
11 don't need to keep you here any longer. Thank you very
12 much indeed for coming.

13 A. Thank you very much for listening to me.

14 CHAIRMAN: Now can I just remind everybody that there were
15 two names mentioned. These are covered by the
16 designation policy. They must not be reported or
17 repeated outside this room.

18 Thank you very much, HIA296.

19 A. Thank you.

20 (Witness withdrew)

21 MS SMITH: Chairman, I see it is lunchtime --

22 CHAIRMAN: Yes. Shall we begin again at 2 o'clock?

23 MS SMITH: -- and there are a number of statements. Yes.

24 (1.00 pm)

25 (Lunch break)

1 (2.00 pm)

2 MS SMITH: Good afternoon, Chairman, Panel Members. This
3 afternoon I propose to read six witness statements in
4 total from a number of people who have spoken to the
5 Inquiry. There are some documentation to which I am
6 going to refer in respect of some of them. However, it
7 is true to say that I have not either discovered or
8 received any of the migration forms that show whether or
9 not parental consent was contained in any of these six
10 cases.

11 Reading of statement of WITNESS HIA278

12 Q. The first statement I am going to read is that of
13 HIA278. It can be found at AUS10128. If that could be
14 put up, please. If I could just ask you first of all to
15 go to the last page of that statement, which is 10136.

16 CHAIRMAN: Yes.

17 MS SMITH: Chairman and Panel Members, you will see that
18 unfortunately the witness herself has died and the
19 witness statement was signed by her husband and he has
20 put a note on the statement which reads:

21 "My wife, HIA278, passed away on [the date that she
22 died in] 2003 (sic) and as her husband I have signed the
23 statement on her behalf. She instructed me that she was
24 in agreement with the contents of this statement prior
25 to her death."

1 CHAIRMAN: This is one of the cases where I think the legal
2 teams spoke to the witness in Australia --

3 MS SMITH: That's correct, yes.

4 CHAIRMAN: -- but we were aware that sadly her health was
5 not good.

6 MS SMITH: That is the position. You will see, in fact,
7 this was signed -- I will tell the Inquiry. I don't
8 know why it has been redacted, but she passed away
9 a week before her husband signed it on her behalf. So
10 it had been prepared. She was one of the people who was
11 seen in 2013 --

12 CHAIRMAN: Yes.

13 MS SMITH: -- by the legal team in September of that year.

14 CHAIRMAN: And this statement was therefore prepared on the
15 basis of her account?

16 MS SMITH: It was prepared -- yes, she had been interviewed.

17 CHAIRMAN: Well, I'm quite satisfied it is appropriate to
18 admit her statement in those circumstances. Sadly there
19 are a small number of cases where the person who has
20 made a statement has died since. We made very
21 considerable efforts in one or two instances where this
22 was notified to us to ensure the person was seen
23 beforehand, but it wasn't always possible to complete
24 the formalities before they died.

25 MS SMITH: Thank you, Chairman. If we could go back to page

1 10128, please, and the witness statement reads:

2 "I, HIA278, will say as follows.

3 I was born on a date in Londonderry. My mother died
4 when I was five years old. She died in the Waterside
5 Hospital but I am not sure if she died in childbirth as
6 I have never been told the cause of her death. My
7 father took care of me on his own for three years. My
8 father was an ex-serviceman in World War One. He had a
9 leg injury from the war and he became ill with an ulcer
10 on his leg and was hospitalised. I ended up running
11 around the streets asking people for food.

12 I had two brothers", whom she names, "and a sister",
13 again whom she names. "I was the youngest in the
14 family. One brother was a soldier in the British Army
15 and was stationed in [REDACTED] at that time. He came home
16 to sort things out. As my father was ill in hospital my
17 brother was made my legal guardian and he placed me in
18 Nazareth House, Derry. I was eight years old when I was
19 placed in care and my brother was eighteen.

20 3. I was cared for quite well at Nazareth House.
21 They used to take us to Fahan on holiday and we slept in
22 a barn and thought it was great at the time. We also
23 went to Bunrana and Merville.

24 The home was regimented in its routine. They made
25 you line up for baths and you would have been smacked if

1 you misbehaved but I do not remember the regime being
2 excessively harsh.

3 I also recall being hit by a lay teacher", whom she
4 names, "on the hands with a bamboo stick. She was trying
5 to teach me left and right and North, South, East and
6 West and I could not understand it so she beat me in
7 frustration. One of the nuns spoke to her about this
8 incident and told her not to hit me.

9 We had to scrub and polish the floors in Nazareth
10 House on our hands and knees. On one occasion when I was
11 about nine years old I missed a patch when I was
12 scrubbing the floor as I was really tired and another
13 nun belted me for this. She also hit me over the head
14 with a bunch of keys. I remember having nightmares and
15 walking in my sleep as a result of that particular
16 incident.

17 I also recall having to often ask permission to
18 speak in the home. Older girls would eat at our table
19 and they would give you a clout if you made noise or did
20 anything wrong. I remember one of them, I think she was
21 called", and she gives the name, "slapping me across the
22 face. I~did not like being treated in this way by the
23 older girls.

24 I do not recall anyone from the welfare authorities
25 ever coming to visit me in the home.

1 When my father recovered from his illness he went to
2 Nazareth House on several occasions with my sister to
3 get me out of the home as he wanted to take me back to
4 live with him. He would start a rumpus every time when
5 he realised he was not allowed to take me home because
6 my brother was still my legal guardian and he had not
7 signed me out. On one occasion my brother returned to
8 the home when I was about nine or ten because he was
9 getting married and thinking of moving to Canada. He
10 told me that if he moved he would take me with him.
11 However, this plan fell through as his wife decided she
12 did not want to emigrate and in the end they settled and
13 had a family in England. My brother told me that he
14 made regular contributions to the nuns for my upkeep and
15 he always visited me every time he was on leave."

16 I just pause there, Chairman, to say that the
17 Sisters of Nazareth have been asked if they have any
18 records of the contributions being made by her brother
19 and that is going to be checked.

20 CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

21 MS SMITH: "I recall someone, I think it was Brother Conlon,
22 coming in to a room and calling out my name. I cannot
23 recall ever being asked whether I wanted to go to
24 Australia but the next thing I knew there were eight of
25 us from the home chosen to go to Australia.

1 I recall we had a medical examination prior to our
2 departure. It was held in the Mercy Convent on Pump
3 Street. They gave us a thorough examination and also
4 examined our teeth. The only other time I saw a doctor
5 at Nazareth House was when I had my tonsils removed.

6 The nuns took us to Fahan for a holiday before we
7 departed for Australia. I remember I left on 28 August
8 1947 and I kept looking out the window that day to check
9 if my father would come to say goodbye to me. I was
10 fourteen when I left Northern Ireland.

11 I checked the archives years later and saw that the
12 consent form for my being taken to Australia was signed
13 by" and she names a particular nun. My father and
14 brother visited me frequently when I was in Nazareth
15 House but at no stage were either of them asked for
16 their permission or consent to my being sent to
17 Australia. I never saw my family for thirty years apart
18 from one brief visit from my brother in/around 1956. My
19 father died in 1948, one year after I was sent to
20 Australia.

21 We got a ferry from Larne to Stranraer and then we
22 met the children from Belfast at the port. We took a
23 train to Hammersmith and stayed there overnight. I sat
24 up all night. We went the next day to Southampton. We
25 were all lined up in groups. There was a Derry group, a

1 Belfast group and a group from Wales. One girl was
2 mixed race so she was taken away. I think she was in
3 the Wales group. It was referred to as the "White
4 Australia Policy".

5 We sailed on the SS Asturias. Two nuns travelled
6 with us to Perth. They were called ", and she gives the
7 names of the two nuns, who are given designations SR132
8 and SR133. SR132 was not very nice and she cut my hair
9 on the ship from ear to ear because I had curly hair and
10 she said the boys were looking at me.

11 We sailed on 29 August 1947 and arrived on 23
12 September 1947. I felt sad throughout the journey as I
13 did not get a chance to say goodbye to my father.

14 There were eight of us in one cabin. One night
15 around 3.00 am I woke up and there was a young man at
16 the end of our bed. I tried to find someone to report
17 him to but I could not find anyone as no-one was really
18 looking after us properly.

19 A lot of the children on the ship suffered from sea
20 sicknesses -- sea sickness.

21 There were novice nuns on the ship who were coming
22 over from Ireland and they took us for lessons even
23 though they were not there as our teachers.

24 When we arrived in Fremantle I asked SR 132 if she
25 knew when I would be returning home and she hit me a

1 clout over the ear and told me to get in line. We did
2 not even realise how far Australia was from Ireland. We
3 never at any stage realised that we would not be going
4 home. No-one ever told us that we were going to stay
5 for good. We were just orphans in their view and had to
6 do what we were told.

7 We were transported by bus from Fremantle to St.
8 Joseph's Orphanage in Subiaco which was run by the
9 Sisters of Mercy."

10 She goes on there to describe chores that she had to
11 do in the home. She says:

12 "I do recall social workers paying visits to St.
13 Joseph's. They were employed by the Australian
14 authorities. There was never any representative from
15 the British Government or Northern Irish authorities
16 checking on our progress. I do recall receiving one
17 letter from SR84 on the first Christmas after I had left
18 the home.

19 I was in the orphanage when my father died and they
20 gave me an opened letter from my sister informing me
21 that he had passed away. My father was a World War One
22 veteran who died a year after I arrived in Australia. I
23 had dearly wanted the opportunity to go back home and
24 see him but I never got the chance to write to him or
25 meet him. I cannot recall receiving any other mail

1 during my time in care in Australia."

2 She then describes how she was 17 and a half when
3 she left the orphanage and the work that she was engaged
4 in thereafter, attending nursing college. She then
5 became friendly with a girl who had come from Derry with
6 her, a girl from [REDACTED]. She had sailed with her
7 sister -- this other girl had sailed with her sister and
8 two brothers whom she names.

9 She says that when she was 21, she was contacted by
10 Mr~Young from the Child Welfare Department and advised
11 that she was no longer under their care. She hadn't
12 known that she was even in the care of the Child Welfare
13 Department in Australia.

14 She moved to Melbourne in 1956 and stayed there for
15 seven months before returning to Western Australia and
16 married there in February 1958.

17 In her "Life after care" section she says:

18 "I became an Australian citizen when I started
19 nursing. The process was relatively easy for me. I went
20 to an immigration van in the city in which I was living.
21 It was parked near my work, and I signed a form and
22 became an Australian citizen there and then. I did not
23 have a birth certificate or any documents as a child.
24 When I was getting married I think the priest must have
25 written to the authorities in Derry and obtained it on

1 my behalf.

2 My brother left the Army in 1956 and worked his way
3 over on a ship as a steward so he could visit me in
4 Australia. He could only stay for a day and then he had
5 to move on with the ship. When I was nursing he used to
6 send me money orders out of his wages so that I would
7 have the fare to travel back to Northern Ireland.

8 However, I had no idea how to organise a trip home.
9 I~always got queried in the bank about the money orders
10 and where I was getting the money from and I then told
11 my brother to stop sending them to me.

12 Being in care left me extremely sensitive. When I
13 met my husband he wanted to look after me but I did not
14 really want to be looked after. I was quick to take
15 offence and my husband had to watch what he said in case
16 I took it up the wrong way. At Nazareth House we almost
17 had to request permission to speak so I think my
18 sensitivity was influenced by my treatment in care. I
19 often felt as if I needed counselling due to all the
20 different things that happened to me along the way. I
21 should probably have gone for counselling prior to
22 getting married.

23 I met my brother and sister when I visited England
24 and Ireland in 1978. They both lived in England at
25 that time. I then flew to Ireland and reconnected with

1 many extended family members and friends and I have
2 maintained these contacts. I have three nieces in
3 London and I have been visited in Australia by two of
4 them so far. They make a fuss of me when they see me
5 and it makes me think of what my family ties would have
6 been like if I had remained in Northern Ireland.

7 I have been back to Derry several times since my
8 migration to Australia. I returned in 1997 as part of
9 the 'Sentimental Journey' that was organised by the
10 Sisters of Saint Joseph and Sisters of Nazareth in
11 conjunction with the Child Migrant Trust and other
12 fundraisers. I went with forty other child migrants and
13 it was a wonderful experience. We stayed at the St.
14 Clement's Retreat Centre in Belfast and we visited
15 Nazareth House in Derry and the nuns were very
16 hospitable during our visit. I have made further visits
17 to England and Ireland in 2008 and 2011.

18 My youngest brother died in 1944 and is buried in a
19 grave in Normandy and I have been twice to view his
20 grave. I first visited with my husband and my nephew
21 and niece from London. On the second occasion I went
22 with my husband.

23 I am continually trying to re-establish contact with
24 my wider family. In recent times I have discovered more
25 relatives on my mother's side. My grandfather moved to

1 Detroit and I have American relatives. I have also
2 visited my father's grave in Derry. My sister is also
3 deceased and buried in Derry. My brother placed her in
4 care in the Good Shepherd Laundry in Derry. I am not
5 entirely sure but she was probably about eleven when she
6 was placed there. My brother is also now deceased and
7 buried in England. When a crisis such as ill health
8 affects extended family members I have to overcome an
9 unfair financial burden as I cannot help the fact that I
10 have family in both countries. I was called on to
11 assist my sister-in-law who was seriously ill and died
12 shortly after my visit. Three months later when my
13 brother was ill I was not in a financial position to
14 visit and look after him. This tyranny of distance
15 means that I will continue to carry these burdens as
16 long as our families live.

17 I now have four sons and two daughters. I also have
18 sixteen grandchildren and a great grandchild. When I
19 was having my fourth child I was experiencing
20 difficulties with the pregnancy and my husband was
21 called to the hospital. I remember asking him to ensure
22 that if anything ever happened to me he would never
23 allow any of my children to be placed in a home. Whilst
24 I harbour no ill towards the Sisters of Mercy this
25 experience obviously left its mark on me as indicated by

1 the total fear of my children ever being placed in care.

2 My complaint concerns mainly the manner in which I
3 was selected for migration to Australia, the fact that I
4 was sent there when I clearly had a brother and father
5 who did not give permission for this move and neither
6 myself nor my family members were informed of our rights
7 in advance of my departure. Indeed many child migrants
8 were shipped without parental approval, signature or
9 permission and officials signed these approvals ignoring
10 the rights of these children to be brought up in their
11 own culture and in their country of origin which I
12 consider to be fundamental human right. I discovered in
13 later years that it was possible to apply to return home
14 if you had been transferred as a child migrant.

15 However, after I left the home there was no-one to
16 explain any of these rules to me or how I or any member
17 of my family could go about doing this. In my view I
18 should never have been selected as an appropriate
19 candidate for migration in the first place."

20 Reading of statement of WITNESS 283

21 Q. The next statement which I propose to read to the
22 Inquiry is that of HIA283, which can be found at
23 page 10142 in the bundle. The final page of that is
24 10150, and it was signed by the applicant on
25 21st October 2013.

1 If we could go back to the first page, please, the
2 statement reads:

3 "I, HIA283, will say as follows.

4 I was born on", and he gives his date of birth,
5 "near [REDACTED] in County Fermanagh. I think the
6 townland was called" and he gives the name. "My mother
7 was called" and he gives a former name for her. My
8 father's name" is recorded there also. I never met my
9 mother.

10 I recall a woman nursing me. She had one arm and
11 when I checked with my sister in later years, I realised
12 this was my Aunt [REDACTED]. According to my birth
13 certificate she was present at my birth and she was
14 called [REDACTED] X. I do not know if X was her married or
15 maiden name. She is now deceased.

16 I had a brother [REDACTED] -- sorry -- I had a brother who
17 was three years older than me and a sister who was one
18 year older than me. They were both placed in care in
19 Northern Ireland. I had two younger brothers", and he
20 gives their names, "who were not placed in care. I also
21 have three half brothers" and he gives their names.
22 "They were my older half brothers from my mother's first
23 family.

24 I was placed in St Joseph's Home, Termonbacca when I
25 was almost five years old. I have no idea why I was

1 placed in care. I left this home when I was almost ten.

2 My brother was also placed in Termonbacca. I had
3 very little to do with him as we were separated most of
4 the time and I only ran into him occasionally. It was
5 strange how they separated us. He used to tell me
6 things that he thought were happening in the home but I
7 did not realise what was happening and now I have more
8 or less forgotten all the stories he used to tell me.
9 He died some years back now in or around 1993/1994 when
10 he was sixty years old.

11 I remember a few things about my time in
12 Termonbacca. I remember being beaten on the legs by a
13 nun SR82 with a belt that had three strands of leather
14 and four or five knots along its length. I thought that
15 was a bit cruel. She is the only nun that I remember.

16 I also recall my best friend in the home at the time
17 was a boy called", and he gives the name. "We used to
18 play a lot together. One day we were playing 'chasies'
19 in the hall in the home as boys do and I jumped over a
20 desk and landed on my feet but he chased me, jumped over
21 a desk and fell and broke his leg. He was taken away
22 immediately after this incident. I asked after him
23 again and the nuns said he would not be coming back and
24 I never saw him again. I still do not know whatever
25 happened to him.

1 I had another accident at the home when I tripped
2 and hurt my knee on the corner of an old milk crate
3 coming home from school. I was probably skidding along
4 the snow at the time and I took a large chunk out of my
5 knee and had to miss a couple of weeks from school. The
6 nuns fixed it up for me but I did not go to hospital for
7 treatment following this incident. I had a scar there
8 for years but it has almost gone now.

9 I remember how the nuns used to bathe us and we had
10 to wear these slips at the time. Before they put you in
11 the bath you had this slip around you. They would then
12 bathe you and dry you off but it was natural for them to
13 do that and I never thought anything of it.

14 The Christian Brothers came to the orphanage to
15 select children to go to Australia when I was about nine
16 years old and they asked me if I wanted to go. I recall
17 asking where it was as I had never heard of it before.
18 The Brother replied, "Never mind where it is. Do you
19 want to go?" I said, "No, I don't want to go to
20 somewhere I don't know". I left it at that but a couple
21 of days later they returned and told me that I had no
22 choice and that I had to go as my brother was going and
23 they did not like to split up brothers. I cannot recall
24 the identity of the Brother who said this to me. I had
25 no choice in the matter and the next thing I recall is

1 that a few days later we were packing and getting ready
2 to go.

3 My father turned up at the orphanage the day before
4 I left for Australia. I had never met him before. He
5 said he was my father so I took him at his word. I
6 spent my last day in Ireland with him. He bought me
7 sweets and ice cream and I recall" -- excuse me -- "I
8 recall he told me not to worry about going to Australia
9 as he would be moving there himself and he would pick me
10 up and look after me but of course that never happened .

11 I never had another visitor throughout my time in
12 care in Derry.

13 My sister was in another orphanage close to me. I
14 think she was in Nazareth House, Bishop Street. I
15 recall walking to school and going through the back door
16 of the school and sitting next to my sister in the
17 classroom. I returned to England in 2000 and met her.
18 She told me that most of my relations are no longer in
19 Ireland and have since passed away." Excuse me. "She
20 also told me that she was supposed to be selected to go
21 to Australia" -- excuse me. Sorry. "She also told me
22 that she was supposed to be selected to go to Australia
23 also but there was a mix up with her name as they had
24 her surname noted in the records as [REDACTED] They said to
25 her, 'Only X is entitled to go to Australia and you're

1 [REDACTED] so you don't go'.

2 I do not remember if I ever received a medical
3 examination prior to departure."

4 Apologies.

5 "I recall getting on a ship. I don't know if we
6 caught the ship in Belfast or Larne but I know we went
7 to a port in England and caught a train from there. I
8 remember going through London for some reason as I
9 recall seeing a red double decker bus. I do not recall
10 if we got off at any point between London and
11 Southampton.

12 We got on the SS Asturias ship at Southampton. I
13 had no idea where I was going or what was going to
14 happen next. I do not recall if any adult came with us
15 or supervised us. There might have been a Brother but I
16 don't know. I am not sure because we were just a bunch
17 of kids and being that young we probably did not take
18 much notice of them. I recall the crew of the ship
19 taking care of us.

20 All the boys were on the same deck and it was fairly
21 low down the ship. I shared a cabin with my brother. I
22 remember seeing milk and sugar on board. The food on
23 board the ship wasn't too bad. I don't remember
24 thinking it was slop or anything like that and it was
25 much better than the food in the orphanage. I recall in

1 the orphanage in Derry when you didn't like a certain
2 food they would serve it up to you more than once --
3 serve it up to you more often and force you to eat it."

4 He then describes disembarking in Australia and
5 being taken to Clontarf. He talks about being allocated
6 to someone in Clontarf.

7 At paragraph 20 he talks about:

8 "The next day a bus arrived ... and if your name was
9 called out you were told to get on the bus. My brother
10 [REDACTED] was called and got on the bus. I got on with him
11 like a little brother would do even though my name had
12 not been called out. A Brother noticed there was one
13 too many boys on the bus and I was told to get off.

14 My brother was moved to a farm school ... and I
15 never saw him for six years after that. This had
16 a lifelong relationship -- impact on our relationship.
17 Even though I got to know him when I left the home,
18 I~treated him like a friend rather than a brother and we
19 were never really that close because of the separation
20 we experienced in our childhood."

21 He then goes on to describe the treatment that he
22 received in the home in Australia and describes a lot of
23 physical abuse by the Christian Brothers.

24 At paragraph 25 he said the only time he met with
25 the Child Welfare Department was when he was leaving the

1 home and they arranged for a job for him as
2 an apprentice carpenter. He got a carpentry job.

3 Then at paragraph 27 he states:

4 "Eventually carpenters had to decide if they wanted
5 to be building carpenters, cabinet makers or wood
6 machinists and I chose the latter. I then had to do
7 national service and enjoyed the experience so I joined
8 the Army when I was 18. I had not experienced the same
9 camaraderie since leaving the boys in the home."

10 He describes where he worked in the army, eventually
11 having served 20 years.

12 Married when he was 35.

13 "I had one son who is now 41 years old and lives in
14 New Zealand. I have one grandchild. My marriage broke
15 down as I had no idea how to behave around women and I
16 did not know enough about women given my background in
17 care.

18 I drank socially when I was in the Army in order to
19 fit in with the other soldiers but I never had a problem
20 with alcohol and I drink very little now. I have
21 diabetes so I try to be careful with my alcohol
22 consumption.

23 I used to visit my older brother when I got leave
24 from the Army and I spent Christmas with him over the
25 years. Every time I came home he had found another

1 relation. He told me he had traced a younger brother
2 and the following year he had located another brother
3 who was a soldier [REDACTED]. They
4 were coming out to Australia at one stage to exercise
5 with the Australian forces so I met him in Sydney. I
6 went out to Williamstown and although I had never met
7 him I picked him out immediately when I saw him coming
8 down the gangway. I wanted to take him on a night out
9 in King's Cross as it was the liveliest area in Sydney
10 at the time but he did not turn up at the arranged time.
11 I went looking for him and he said he did not come as he
12 had no money. I gave him money and took him out but he
13 would not buy anyone a drink and he was argumentative
14 and contrary; a bit of a mongrel really. I got fed up
15 and went home and my friends -- and my friends made sure
16 he got home safely.

17 When I arrived in Australia I did not have a birth
18 certificate and I did not even know my own date of
19 birth. I recall a Christian Brother at Clontarf asking
20 me how old I was and I was not able to tell him. He
21 said, "You've got to have a birthday", so he looked me
22 up and down and said, "You look about ten, yeah"? He
23 knew my name was ... so he said my date of birth would
24 be ...", and he gave my date of birth, "as that was the
25 feast day of that name. In later years when I

1 eventually located my birth certificate I discovered
2 that my correct date of birth was the same month so his
3 guess was quite accurate. Also, on my birth certificate
4 it states my mother. She must have been married before
5 otherwise it would have noted a second name as her
6 maiden name so she must have been married to someone by
7 that name. In later years my older brother told me that
8 I had three half brothers. They were older than me and
9 one died before I ever got a chance to meet him but I
10 attended his funeral. Another died before I got a
11 chance to meet him. I met one but he has since passed
12 away. My full brother is also deceased. He passed away
13 when he was only forty years old. I never met him
14 either so that has always left me feeling a bit mixed
15 up.

16 I asked my sister in later years if there were any
17 photos of my mother but nobody has any and no-one seems
18 to want to discuss her. Family members seem to clam up
19 when her name is mentioned. My aunt had photographs but
20 she is now deceased and no-one knows what happened to
21 the photographs or to her belongings. I can only assume
22 it was all burned. Unfortunately my other sister has
23 also passed away. I had contacted her in recent times
24 to find out how she was feeling as I heard she had been
25 in hospital. I received a Christmas card last Christmas

1 from a niece in England and she referred to her death.
2 That was when I first realised she had passed away. She
3 was the last immediate family member I had in England.

4 I received \$28,000 compensation under the Australian
5 Child Migrant Redress Scheme."

6 Reading of statement of WITNESS HIA286

7 Q. The next statement is that of HIA286 and it can be found
8 at AUS10194. This statement reads:

9 "I, HIA286, will say as follows.

10 I was born on a date in [REDACTED]. I was placed in
11 Nazareth House, Bishop Street when I was a baby.

12 I have a brother who is about six years older than
13 me and a sister who was four years younger than me.
14 Unfortunately my sister passed away in 1998. My mother
15 was in the nursing home in Nazareth House because she
16 had a stroke and she was crippled. My sister was also
17 placed in Nazareth House but I didn't know this until
18 years later. My brother was placed with an aunt in
19 Derry called [REDACTED] I don't know anything about
20 my father.

21 I was placed in Nazareth House when I was a baby. I
22 remained there until I was fourteen years old. I never
23 had any visitors all the time I was in the home.

24 I recall that the nuns beat me with a belt almost
25 daily. They did this when I answered back or spoke out.

1 They didn't like children answering back to them. I was
2 a bit of a live wire. The nuns that were in Nazareth
3 House were called" and she names several nuns. We liked
4 SR24. She was a young nun and she was nice to us. SR84
5 and SR94 beat us. They both used a big thick strap and
6 a bamboo cane to hit us. They also used their hands to
7 hit us a clout across the ear.

8 In the home I slept in a big dormitory and I think
9 there were over one hundred girls in it. I recall the
10 beds were warm enough and the food was good. I don't
11 know if the food was enough -- we didn't know any
12 different at the time and took what we got.

13 On a typical day we got up at 6am and went to Mass.
14 After Mass we got breakfast and then we had to do our
15 chores before school. My job was to scrub the floors on
16 my hands and knees. I cleaned the passageways which
17 were tiled and other girls waxed and polished other
18 floors. Everyone had their job to do. A nun supervised
19 us while we worked and hit us with a stick if we weren't
20 doing the job correctly. It may have been hard work but
21 I got used to it.

22 After we finished our chores we went to school. The
23 school was in Nazareth House. The nuns in the home were
24 also the teachers. SR84 was my teacher and she also hit
25 me in school with a strap whenever I spoke back. After

1 school we went to chapel and then to bed. I was a good
2 scholar and I did well at school.

3 In the home I took every day as it came. I got on
4 with it. Every day was the same. Life in the home
5 didn't change .

6 One day when I was fourteen the nuns went around and
7 picked out a certain number of girls to go to Australia.
8 The nuns didn't ask me if I wanted to go; they just told
9 me I was going. I think about thirteen girls were
10 picked. Of those, about five were aged between four and
11 seven years old. I recall that the nuns told us that
12 Australia was a beautiful country with plenty of
13 activities in the outdoors. I cried for weeks after
14 being told I was going to Australia .

15 I think I had a medical examination in Nazareth
16 House before I left. I think about four weeks passed
17 between being told I was going and boarding the ship.
18 We travelled to Southampton and sailed on 29th August
19 1947 on the SS Asturias. I arrived in Fremantle on 22nd
20 September 1947. I was sick the whole journey; it was a
21 horrible trip. I cried the whole way. Most of the
22 girls did. I think there were about fifty boys and
23 girls on the ship from Ireland, Scotland and England.
24 Nuns travelled with us on the sailing. They were not
25 from Nazareth House in Derry. They were from a

1 different Order and I don't know who they were. On the
2 ship we went to school and were taught by the nuns. We
3 also went to Mass and we played games. The crew looked
4 after us well.

5 When we arrived in Fremantle the girls were split
6 up. My friends were taken to Geraldton with the nuns
7 who travelled over on the ship and I was taken to St
8 Joseph's Orphanage in Subiaco along with another girl
9 from Nazareth House in Derry, HIA278. HIA278" -- sorry.
10 She gives her married name there. "St. Joseph's was run
11 by the Sisters of Mercy."

12 She then describes her time in the orphanage in
13 Subiaco and she describes being physically assaulted by
14 the nuns in that home, and she said:

15 "We had to do work in St. Joseph's much like
16 Nazareth House. I helped out in the kitchen."

17 She says:

18 "I think officials from the Child Welfare Authority
19 may have visited the home but they never spoke to the
20 children.

21 I left St. Joseph's in 1949 when I was 16 years old.

22 When I was 16 I got a job in the Immigration
23 Department and I boarded in the home. It was a good job
24 because I had quite a good education. I loved working
25 there. Later the nuns found an Irish family for me to

1 board with. They were lovely.

2 After a few years I left the Immigration Department
3 and I became a nursing assistant. I travelled all
4 around the countryside working in various hospitals. I
5 wanted to see a bit of Australia.

6 I met my partner in the 1960s and we have one son.
7 Sadly my partner passed away many years ago. My son is
8 my carer and he looks after me very well. I live on my
9 own as I like my independence but my son doesn't live
10 too far away. I have two grandsons whom I used to
11 babysit when they were younger. They are now thirteen
12 and fifteen.

13 I never had a birth certificate as a child and I
14 only obtained it in recent years with the assistance of
15 Margaret Humphreys from the Child Migrants Trust."

16 This can be found, Chairman, at AUS10200. That's
17 10200.

18 "The Trust also found out about my family in the
19 late 1980s. I didn't know that I had a sister in
20 Nazareth House. No one ever told me. Also, we used to
21 go to sing and dance for the residents in the nursing
22 home in Nazareth House and my mother was there and I
23 didn't know it.

24 I have been back to Northern Ireland three times
25 since my migration to Australia. The first time I went

1 back was after I found out about my family in the late
2 1980s/early 1990s. I met my brother for the first time.
3 I also visited my aunt who looked after my brother as a
4 child. I asked my aunt for more information about my
5 family and in particular my father but she wouldn't tell
6 me anything. She has since passed away. My brother and
7 I have a good relationship and I stayed with him on my
8 visits. We keep in touch. However it is more difficult
9 now as he has Alzheimers. I have never met my sister.

10 In 1997 I returned to Derry as part of the
11 'Sentimental Journey' that was organised by the British
12 Government. I travelled along with a group of other
13 child migrants. I visited again in 2004.

14 I was out of touch with the girls from the home in
15 Nazareth House who had migrated. One day in the 1980's
16 HIA335 traced me and knocked on my door. From then I
17 have had good contact with them and we have reunions. I
18 stay with my friend HIA278 when my son goes on holiday.

19 I received \$13,000 in compensation under the Redress
20 Scheme in Australia in 2009.

21 I was upset leaving my home in Derry at the age of
22 fourteen although, looking back, I may have had better
23 opportunities in Australia."

24 The witness statement is signed and dated
25 23rd October 2013.

1 Reading of statement of WITNESS 299

2 Q. The next witness statement is that of HIA299. His
3 position is, Chairman and Panel Members, that this was
4 a witness we had intended calling to give evidence in
5 person. Unfortunately he was too ill to attend to give
6 his evidence, and therefore I'm going to read his
7 statement to you. It can be found at AUS10337, and
8 I should say he gave a number of documents to the
9 Inquiry when he was interviewed by the legal team, which
10 can be found at 10348 to 10375, and they include letters
11 about the Redress Scheme in Australia, and also a letter
12 that he wrote to David Cameron thanking him for his
13 efforts for child migrants.

14 It says:

15 "I, HIA299, will say as follows.

16 I was born in Belfast", and his date of birth is
17 given. My mother was called ... and she married when
18 she was very young; only nineteen years old. Her
19 husband was 40 when they married. He was a commercial
20 traveller. If he came home and found she was not in the
21 house he would get angry. He started to hit her until
22 she left him after five years and took my two older half
23 brothers", whom he names, "with her. I was not born at
24 this time.

25 My mother then went to work as a housekeeper for a

1 much older man who lived on his own and had a shop in
2 County Down. He was called", and his name is given,
3 "and he was 67 years old when my mother went to work for
4 him. She stayed there with her two sons and I was born
5 two years later. I was given the same surname as my two
6 half brothers but I found out in recent years that I had
7 a different father and my father had been in the Army.
8 I was born in 1937 and then I had a half sister born
9 after me. The man that my mother was housekeeper for
10 was her father. He was 73 when my sister was born. He
11 died when he was 83. He asked my mother to put my
12 sister in the bed beside him when he was sick and dying
13 and she woke up to find that he had passed away and it
14 was a very great shock for her. He had always treated
15 me well.

16 My mother's husband had harassed her a lot as he was
17 not happy about her wanting a divorce and giving other
18 children his surname when he was not their real father.
19 The parish priest and the police got involved at that
20 stage. In fact the parish priest and police had been
21 involved for some time as my mother had been subjected
22 to domestic violence and they had been involved in her
23 earlier marriage problems with my half brothers' father.

24 When we stayed with the man in County Down, he had
25 accommodation attached to his shop but there was only

1 one bedroom with a huge double bed and we all slept in
2 the same bed. He kept a shotgun in the shop behind the
3 counter. I recall one day I was inquisitive about the
4 gun and I pulled the trigger and the thing went off and
5 blew a hole in the ceiling and brought a tin of paint
6 down on top of me. It must have been reported by a
7 customer in the shop at the time and two weeks later the
8 police, the parish priest and someone from the welfare
9 authorities came and told my mother that if she did not
10 put me in care voluntarily they would come and take me
11 by force. We travelled to Nazareth Lodge on the
12 Ravenhill Road twice, in fact, as they were not prepared
13 for us on the first occasion. The second time we
14 returned and they were waiting for us.

15 I was then placed in care in Nazareth Lodge on the
16 Ravenhill Road, Belfast when I was seven years old.

17 In the Personal History Index notes provided there
18 is mention made of my being fostered to a couple but I
19 have no recollection of this whatsoever. It was always
20 my understanding that I was brought home by my mother
21 from the hospital when I was 2 days old and I was
22 baptised a week later. I was then placed in care when I
23 was seven. I had never been in foster care as far as I
24 was concerned and only saw reference to this couple when
25 I picked up these papers a few weeks ago.

1 SR100 was a big tall nun and she was in charge of
2 the junior group of children. She grabbed me by the arm
3 when my mother left me off at the home and she did not
4 even give my mother time to say goodbye. She just told
5 my mother not to come back to visit me as it would only
6 upset me. The day she placed me in care was the last
7 time I ever saw my mother. I never received any
8 visitors the entire time I was in Nazareth Lodge.

9 I was in a dormitory with a lot of other children.
10 The whole floor held about 120 kids in total. The beds
11 were warm enough but food was very scarce; the food we
12 got was bad and I was always hungry. We got bread and
13 dripping and porridge every third morning. The bread
14 and dripping was really poor quality food.

15 SR100 was in charge of us in the dining room. SR101
16 was a helper. SR101 was a good, kind person but SR100
17 would walk along the tables and if you weren't forcing
18 yourself to eat the bread and dripping she would give
19 you a crack across the head. She would do this with a
20 closed fist; she was really cruel. She would whack you
21 between the ears. If you were standing up and she
22 wanted you to do anything she would grab you by the
23 throat and lift you up off your feet. She was big and
24 strong and intimidating. SR101 used to feel sorry for
25 us sometimes and she would say to us, 'Don't worry.'

1 She'll settle down'.

2 We would get up and wash every morning. There were
3 no showers at that time, just baths in the wash house
4 and some hand basins. We went to church and then we had
5 breakfast. We all had chores to do six days a week. We
6 cleaned the windows in the dormitories and they were
7 extremely high windows and we made our beds. The walls,
8 floors, stairs and rails on the staircases in the home
9 were all made of timber and it was all highly polished.
10 The floors were waxed and polished. We were constantly
11 waxing and polishing the floors and all the wooden
12 surfaces in the home. When we completed the cleaning of
13 the home and the dormitories we then had to clean the
14 church, all the pews and the floors there also had to be
15 cleaned. The entire building was cleaned by children
16 aged between six and twelve. Sister 100 had a little
17 unit in the corner of our dormitory where she could
18 constantly watch us and that is where she used to lived.

19 Sister 100 was a cruel nun. I saw her hit a lot of
20 children. She would grab them by one arm and swing them
21 into the wall. She never used a strap or a stick to
22 punish me; she would use her hands or her closed fists.
23 Sometimes she would get you by the hand, stand you on
24 your feet and stretch you up. I recall one day we were
25 waxing a staircase and one of the spindles broke and was

1 put back in place again by one of the children. When
2 Sister 100 came to inspect our work, someone leant
3 against the rail and it fell down again. As I was the
4 closest to the rail she picked up the spindle and
5 cracked me across the knee with it leaving a scar that
6 is still there to this day. It was never x-rayed and I
7 was never taken to hospital as a result of this
8 incident. They took me to First Aid and administered
9 first aid themselves. I could not kneel on it as it was
10 so painful yet SR100 insisted on me kneeling in church
11 all the time. I suffered a lot of pain with that injury
12 and how it was treated.

13 SR100 was a cruel old mongrel. She grabbed me by
14 the left arm once when I was about 7 years old and threw
15 me against the wall and my arm was badly injured. It
16 was never x-rayed or put in plaster and I was not sent
17 to hospital for treatment. The nuns just put it in a
18 sling so that it was held at an angle for three or four
19 months. It never healed properly and still to this day
20 I cannot straighten my left arm out properly. I worked
21 as a truck driver in later years and there were only
22 manually operated trucks available at that time and I
23 always found it difficult to change gear. It continued
24 to cause problems for me throughout my life because the
25 wound did not receive appropriate treatment at the time

1 and never knit together properly.

2 SR100 was sent to New South Wales and I think she
3 died there in her 80s or 90s. They got rid of her and
4 sent her to retire in Australia.

5 We had no toys to play with and no playground within
6 the home. The only time I recall having fun in the home
7 were the two occasions when they took us by bus to
8 Newcastle for a day trip and we had ice cream. I do not
9 recall any special treats at Christmas and I was never
10 taken out of the home by my family at Christmas time.

11 I recall seeing other children in the home having
12 picnics in the grounds outside the home once a month but
13 my mother was warned not to come back to see me. I was
14 put in a classroom and told not to mix with those
15 outside and I was left to do homework or reading.

16 We then went to school on the premises. Everything
17 was done on the premises, and we rarely got outside the
18 four walls of the home. We only got to the playground
19 once a week if it was sunny.

20 I had gone to kindergarten in County Down. I then
21 went to a local school for a year before being placed in
22 care. I learned more in that year than I learned the
23 entire time I was in the orphanage. I was fairly good
24 at school before I went to Nazareth Lodge. SR101 and
25 SR100 taught us and there was one lay teacher who is

1 NL34. There were three classrooms in total.

2 NL34 always noticed that I looked a bit down every
3 Monday and that was because I had seen other boys in the
4 home spend time with their families on a Sunday and I
5 never received any visits. She asked me on one occasion
6 what was wrong with me and I told her how I felt and she
7 said she would see what she could do for me. She lived
8 closed to the school and she got permission to take me
9 home for the weekend and I stayed with her on three
10 occasions. She picked me up on a Saturday morning and
11 brought me back on Sunday evening. Once she asked me if
12 I knew where my home was and I told her that the nuns
13 had told me not to get in touch with my parents. She
14 told me she was going to try to have a look at my
15 records and locate my home address. The nuns found out
16 that someone had broken into the office and to their
17 files and I think NL34 had done this in an attempt to
18 try to locate my home address. She was only there one
19 week after this incident and then she got laid off.

20 When I was ten years old I recall that a Christian
21 Brother, Brother Conlon, came to talk to boys in the
22 home about going to Australia. He came in 1946 as soon
23 as the war had ended. We had to sit a test in order to
24 qualify to get to Australia. It was a three to four
25 page questionnaire that took about an hour and a half

1 (sic) to complete and all the boys selected for
2 Australia took the test. Brother Conlon brought books
3 about Australia and told us that it would be good there,
4 the aboriginals were great, there was plenty of orchards
5 and fruit and we would never go hungry, there was plenty
6 of open space and we would not feel confined by four
7 walls and that we should not worry about going there.
8 Noone ever asked me if I wanted to go to Australia. I
9 had no idea where Australia was but I was convinced by
10 his description of the country.

11 My mother was never told about my being transferred
12 to Australia and they never sought her permission.

13 The nuns fitted me out with clothes for the trip.
14 The last thing they did was change my name from X to Y.
15 I have no idea why they chose the name Y as it has no
16 connection to me but I think that they wanted to ensure
17 that I could not be traced. They told me not to change
18 my name back when I got to Australia as all my papers
19 had gone through immigration. However, I did stick with
20 my original name and I have X currently on my passport.

21 My child migration document notes my name as Y and
22 it has been signed by the Mother Superior of Nazareth
23 House, SR102. She has also signed the form for and on
24 behalf of the Catholic Council for Child Welfare,
25 Coleshill, Birmingham. My medical form was dated 15th

1 July 1947 and SR102 has again signed this form in place
2 of my parent or guardian."

3 I do believe, Chairman, that that consent form is in
4 the bundle of documents that I outlined the pages for
5 you. Unfortunately I haven't got the direct number to
6 pull it up today.

7 CHAIRMAN: Very well.

8 MS SMITH: "We got a ferry to Scotland and joined up with
9 a group from Londonderry in Scotland. We got a train
10 and did another pick-up in Wales and travelled on via
11 train to England. We stopped in London and picked up
12 other child migrants along the way. The group was
13 growing in size all the time. I do not recall doing any
14 overnight stopover in London but we got to Southampton
15 and sailed on the SS Asturias. This was an old troop
16 ship from the war. The front end of it had been
17 torpedoed and patched up but it was an old ship. It did
18 two further trips and they scrapped it after that.

19 I was often sea sick on the voyage. Brother Conlon
20 was the guardian on board the ship with us. The food
21 was good and we were treated well on the voyage. There
22 was no schooling for the boys on the trip and we just
23 ran around the ship most of the time.

24 We arrived in Fremantle and were taken by bus to
25 Clontarf for lunch."

1 Then he was one of a group of 20 boys who was taken
2 to Bindoon where he was put to work. He also complains
3 that in Australia his date of birth was changed to make
4 him appear older so that he could be put to manual work,
5 and he complains about the lack of education due to the
6 fact that he was put to work. He also notes that
7 Brother Conlon had also arrived at Bindoon and that he
8 worked there. In his time there he says that he:

9 "... never saw anyone from Northern Ireland or the
10 British Government come at any stage to find out how we
11 were getting on in Australia."

12 He then describes the physical abuse that he
13 sustained while in Bindoon. He says at paragraph 33
14 that at one stage he had saved up enough money to get
15 back to Ireland when he turned 18. He went to the Child
16 Welfare Department to arrange his return to Ireland and
17 they said they couldn't leave Australia as he was under
18 contract to remain there until he was 21.

19 He stayed another five years and he married
20 a [REDACTED] girl who was also a child migrant from her
21 country.

22 "We have been married for 54 years. We have four
23 children, eight grandchildren and two
24 great-grandchildren. I never had any love or kindness
25 shown to me in my early life so it was difficult to show

1 affection to my family but I never took my past out on
2 my family. I have always been very protective of them.

3 I suffered depression in the 1970s. It was fairly
4 severe and lasted for a number of years. I never
5 received any counselling.

6 I was assisted by Margaret Humphreys of the Child
7 Migrants Trust about thirty years ago when I tried to
8 trace my relatives. She gave my birth name and the name
9 Y to the Sisters at Nazareth Lodge but they said I was
10 never there and blocked my search. Margaret commented
11 that they had made things difficult for her to locate my
12 relatives.

13 My brothers had left Ireland and lived in England
14 for 25 years which complicated my search. My sister had
15 got married at 19 and I did not know her married name so
16 things were going against me. I traced one brother
17 first. I contacted him just before 2000 by phone. He
18 was pleased to hear from me and invited me to lunch not
19 realising that I was in Australia. He told me that my
20 other brother had died of a heart attack in 1960. He
21 never knew that I had been sent there and he had never
22 been told that I had been placed in care of Nazareth
23 Lodge, Belfast. I also contacted my sister. My brother
24 said that he and my other brother had been out looking
25 for me for two weeks after I disappeared. They had no

1 idea what happened to me.

2 My mother died in or around 1970 due to cancer. She
3 was in her 70s when she died. She was still living in
4 the house where I was born and my nieces live there now.
5 I go back and stay with my sister when I visit Ireland.

6 Following the apology by former British Prime
7 Minister Gordon Brown on 24th February 2010 a £6 million
8 Family Restoration Fund was established. The fund was
9 intended to restore family connections if possible. I
10 visited Ireland on two occasions via this scheme. I
11 have made five trips to Ireland in total. Two of these
12 trips were funded by the Christian Brothers themselves
13 from a fund they set up to assist child migrants. I
14 visited in 2000 and 2004 and these trips were funded by
15 the Australian government. They paid your air fare and
16 gave you \$2000 AUD spending money and we were allowed to
17 make two trips under this scheme.

18 I recall on one trip I met up with my sister who was
19 working in a hotel and she did late night shifts. She
20 would ring me to come and pick her up from work but she
21 wanted me to stay in the car and not come into the hotel
22 or tell anyone that we were related. She would not tell
23 her neighbours either if they met me because she was so
24 embarrassed about our history.

25 In 2010 I received \$45,000 AUD under the redress

1 scheme here in Australia for anyone who suffered
2 historical institutional abuse.

3 I also received \$10,000 AUD as a result of being a
4 beneficiary in the will of a lady who owned the land
5 where Bindoon was located. Those boys living in the
6 home from 1952-1956 were informed that they were to
7 benefit from her will.

8 For many years I could not sleep at night with the
9 nightmares I suffered about my time in care. I would
10 wake up in a cold sweat and was always glad to see the
11 daylight. In fact I used to sleep in the afternoons to
12 avoid the dreams and thoughts that always came to me at
13 night. This is the first time I have told my story in
14 over 70 years. I have never even told my own family the
15 full story about my past."

16 Reading of statement of WITNESS HIA300

17 Q. The next statement is that of HIA300 and it can be found
18 at AUS10376. This applicant also gave some documentary
19 material to the Inquiry, which can be found at 10384 to
20 10399, and out of interest it includes a newspaper
21 clipping from The Record which records the arrival of
22 child migrants in Australia and that can be found at
23 10389.

24 HIA300 says:

25 "I was born on", and he gives his date of birth, "in

1 [REDACTED] My mother was a domestic servant from a place
2 near [REDACTED]

3 I was placed in St Joseph's Children's Home,
4 Termonbacca when I was very young but I do not know what
5 age I was when I was placed in care. I do not know the
6 reason why I was placed in care. My mother must have
7 been aged somewhere between eighteen and twenty years
8 old when she had me and she was unmarried. In later
9 years she married and became known by her married name.

10 I remember very little about my time in Termonbacca.
11 I do not recall the name of any of the nuns or civilian
12 workers or the other residents. I cannot recall a great
13 deal about my time in care in this home. All I will say
14 is that as an adult I never swim in the ocean and I
15 never have a bath. I link this back to my time in care
16 as a child when we had a bath once a week in the home.
17 I recall that whatever the nuns put in the water had a
18 burning effect on my skin and I found out in later years
19 that it was a cleaning agent called Phenol.

20 I recall the nuns stating, "All those who want to go
21 on holiday put your hands up". We all put our hands up
22 as it sounded exciting but I had no idea at the time
23 where Australia was, and nor did the other boys. There
24 is a medical form dated July 1947 showing that I was
25 examined prior to departure although I do not recall

1 this examination. We were taken to Liverpool and I
2 thought that we had arrived at our destination when we
3 got to England. I had no idea that our journey was only
4 beginning.

5 On my migration forms it shows that SR81, the Mother
6 Superior of St Joseph's Home, Termonbacca signed in
7 place of my parent or guardian giving the authority for
8 me to be transferred to Australia.

9 We sailed on 29 August 1947 on the SS Asturias and
10 arrived in Australia on 22 September 1947. I do not
11 recall who went with us as a guardian on the ship but no
12 doubt there would have been someone travelling with us.
13 I cannot recall any members of the crew. I recall I did
14 not have my own cabin and that there were about twelve
15 of us sharing accommodation on board the ship. I
16 remember staying below deck a lot of the time. Some
17 boys went up on deck to be sick overboard but most of
18 the time I recall being confined to below deck so the
19 journey was not very enjoyable."

20 He doesn't recall how many children travelled but
21 remembers the arrival in Fremantle in February 1949 and
22 being taken on a 30-seater bus to Castledare, but
23 doesn't remember if any of the boys he travelled with
24 from Termonbacca went with him.

25 He then describes his time in Castle... -- sorry --

1 in Clontarf Boys' Town (sic) where he moved in 1949. He
2 was there for seven years and describes excessive
3 physical punishment.

4 He says at paragraph 11:

5 "When I arrived in Australia the Brothers changed my
6 date of birth. My real date of birth is a date in a
7 certain month but they changed it to different day that
8 month and then to another day. I think it was changed
9 initially to tie in with a feast day but eventually it
10 just caused confusion for me. I remember when I went to
11 join the Army it became a difficulty, and I had to apply
12 for a proper birth certificate to sort out the confusion
13 once and for all. Also, even after twenty-two years
14 service, I was never made an Australian citizen. I
15 wanted to extend my service by another three years and I
16 had to apply at that stage to become an Australian
17 citizen. It always made applying for jobs or promotion
18 very difficult when my paperwork was not in order.

19 I was never visited during my time in care in
20 Australia by the Child Welfare Department or anyone from
21 the British Government or Northern Ireland authorities."

22 He describes being physically and sexually abused by
23 Brothers in Clontarf. By the time he was 18 he decided
24 to join the army.

25 In his "Life after care" section he relates his

1 career after leaving and his progress through the army.

2 At paragraph 19 he says:

3 "I married my wife in July 1967 and we have been
4 together for 46 years. We have one son and he is
5 severely disabled with scoliosis.

6 I visited Ireland with my wife in 1974. I tried to
7 find my mother and we met a nun in Dublin, and she and
8 another nun drove my wife and I to [REDACTED] I was also
9 assisted by Mike Lyons who was linked to the Catholic
10 migration authorities in the UK. The nuns located my
11 mother in [REDACTED] and left me and my wife with her.
12 She lived in a very small house and I knew from her
13 circumstances that she did not have very much in life
14 and probably put me in care because she could not afford
15 to raise me.

16 My mother had married. I found it difficult to make
17 conversation with her that day. I asked her if she knew
18 who I was and she said the nuns had told her. She asked
19 me where I had been over the years. She had no idea
20 that I had been living in Australia. She said the nuns
21 in Derry had told her that I had been put in foster care
22 in Southern Ireland. I visited her the following day
23 and gave her an Australian cap and flag. Even though
24 the conversation flowed more freely on that occasion,
25 and she showed me around her house and garden, I didn't

1 think there was any mileage in asking her about my
2 father or why she placed me in care. I think she was
3 embarrassed by the situation and I did not want to push
4 her on the subject. I told her nothing about my life in
5 care and she did not question me about it and we left it
6 at that.

7 I was never told who my father was and I never
8 asked.

9 I visited Ireland again in or around 1993. This
10 trip was paid for by the Christian Brothers and they
11 also paid for my wife to travel with me. I returned to
12 [REDACTED] but my mother had been moved to a nursing
13 home in [REDACTED]. It was a high care facility and my
14 mother could only communicate on this occasion by
15 nodding her head. I had contacted the home in advance to
16 advise them of my visit and my mother had a carer who
17 told me that she had been waiting for us to arrive. She
18 may have been suffering from dementia. It was a wasted
19 trip and I only visited her once as we could not
20 communicate with each other.

21 My third and final trip to Ireland was in 1997. My
22 mother was still in the same nursing home and had the
23 same carer. I stayed quite a while with her on that
24 visit but visited her only once as she was still not
25 able to communicate with me. When I returned to

1 Australia she died three weeks later and I received an
2 e-mail from her carer advising me of her death. I was
3 also contacted by my mother's lawyer regarding her will,
4 but I told them that I did not want anything and that
5 anything left by my mother to me should go to her carer.

6 I was contacted about seven years ago by a man from
7 Canada. He said that we were related and he e-mailed me
8 about five times. I had asked my mother at one stage if
9 I had any brothers or sisters and she said no, so he was
10 probably related in some way to the man my mother
11 married and for that reason I did not follow up on these
12 e-mails. I think his name was", and he gives the name.

13 I received \$15,000 AUD under the Australian Redress
14 Scheme.

15 I have not maintained any links with ex-Clontarf
16 residents as I left Western Australia for twenty five
17 years and lost touch, and had no affiliation with any of
18 the other boys in care.

19 My philosophy is not to look back in life. My
20 childhood did not help me at all and I would have had
21 every right to sit back and blame my past but I feel
22 that life is what you make it so I just got on with it."

23 The statement is signed on 21st October 2013.

24 Reading of statement of WITNESS HIA304

25 Q. Chairman, the final statement that I propose reading

1 today is that of HIA304 and it is at AUS10494. This
2 statement reads:

3 "I was born", and the date of birth is given, "in
4 Belfast. My mother was unmarried. I was placed in
5 Nazareth Lodge as a baby. My mother wrote to me in 1980
6 and told me the reason why she placed me in care. She
7 worked at a home in [REDACTED] helping her elderly
8 mother and father -- worked at home", I should say, "and
9 she became pregnant after a relationship with a
10 protestant man. When her parents found out they called
11 the priest and she was put in a Laundry between
12 [REDACTED] She was later sent to Belfast
13 where I was born. After I was born, she was sent back
14 to [REDACTED] and remained in the Laundry until she was
15 twenty one. My mother later moved to [REDACTED] in
16 England.

17 I do not recall very much about my time in Nazareth
18 Lodge. I remember a well dressed lady visiting me once
19 or twice. I do not know who she was but she was not my
20 mother. Life seemed to be comfortable enough although
21 as a child I was hungry, but most children are. In the
22 home I never knew when my birthday was. I was never
23 told and I only found out when I was adopted in
24 Australia. I have no particular unhappy memories of
25 being in Nazareth Lodge.

1 I do not know how we were selected for going to
2 Australia. We were told by the nuns in the Lodge that
3 we were war orphans and that is why we were being sent
4 to Australia. We were given new clothes and a suitcase.
5 One day when we were playing up as boys do, I recall one
6 of the nuns saying something like, 'I hope that ship
7 sinks on the way out there' as punishment for
8 misbehaving.

9 We got a ferry from Belfast to England and we
10 travelled on a train to Southampton. I sailed on the SS
11 Asturias on 29th August 1947. There were paying
12 passengers on board as well as a large number of
13 children from other orphanages. I had a good time on
14 the ship. I think there were about five or six bunks in
15 a cabin. Two nuns travelled with us and they were SR132
16 and 133.

17 My migration form, which is dated 11th March 1947,
18 is signed by the Mother Superior of Nazareth Lodge,
19 SR102. My medical certificate is dated 15th July 1947.
20 However I do not remember having a medical examination."

21 He describes arriving in Fremantle in
22 September 1947, being taken to Castledare and then later
23 to Clontarf after some time there. He describes that as
24 a result of being sent to foster parents during holiday
25 times he was adopted together with another boy -- he was

1 sent with another boy to the foster family and he was
2 then adopted. He describes his life with his adopted
3 family. He says:

4 "I had a poor education. I struggled to read and
5 write."

6 This is at paragraph 11:

7 "I completed a correspondence course in farm
8 machinery which I was interested in. However, I am good
9 with my hands and I can fix most things and I feel that
10 if I had a decent education I could have been an
11 engineer.

12 I married my wife in 1971 and we have two children
13 -- a son and a daughter. I only obtained my birth
14 certificate when I was getting married. I was hard to
15 live with at first, as my upbringing was very different
16 to that of my wife's. She came from a family of seven.
17 I saw things as black or white and took things
18 literally. Thankfully I didn't have any problems
19 relating to my children and I am close to them and very
20 proud of them. I am very self-critical and I always
21 think I could do better. I become annoyed and
22 frustrated with myself easily and sometimes I feel
23 inadequate. I do not know how to accept praise. I
24 think this stems from my time in care when I never
25 received any praise as a child and I never felt valued.

1 When we had our first child, my wife wanted to know
2 about our family health history and that is when she
3 asked more about my family and the fact that I was a war
4 orphan. She wrote to the Sisters of Nazareth in
5 Hammersmith in the mid 1970s and they said they couldn't
6 give us any information. She then wrote to a priest in
7 ██ where I was baptised and
8 she gave me -- he gave me the address of my mother.
9 When I got her address I wrote her a letter and she
10 replied and said she was pleased to hear from me, but
11 also horrified. She had put a lid on her past and now
12 it was reopened. When my mother moved to England she
13 married and had two children. She never told her
14 husband or children about my existence. I was a secret
15 and only her sister knew about me. My mother's parents
16 had passed away at that stage.

17 We wrote letters back and forth to each other and
18 she told me that when she put me in Nazareth Lodge the
19 nuns told her that I would be adopted and brought up in
20 Ireland. She had no idea that I had gone to Australia
21 and she was never asked for her permission. We
22 exchanged letters for only a couple of months in the
23 late 1970s or early 1980s because she was terrified her
24 husband would intercept one of the letters and find out
25 about me. My mother died in 1986 aged sixty six from

1 bowel cancer. I never got the chance to meet her.

2 My mother told me I had a half-brother. She didn't
3 tell me I had a half-sister. I only found this out
4 after she had died. I visited England for the first
5 time in 2005 and met my half brother and sister. This
6 trip was paid for jointly by the British and Australian
7 Government. I am still in contact with my half brother
8 and half sister and we have a good relationship. I
9 visited Ireland for the first time about eighteen months
10 ago with my wife and children. This trip was paid for
11 me and my wife -- my wife and I by the British
12 Government after the then Prime Minister's apology in
13 2010. I went back to [REDACTED] where I was
14 baptised and visited [REDACTED] where my mother was
15 born."

16 The statement is signed and dated 11th December
17 2013.

18 Chairman, that concludes the evidence that I intend
19 to put before the Inquiry today. Tomorrow we will have
20 one person giving evidence by way of Livelink and then
21 I will read some more statements to the Inquiry.

22 CHAIRMAN: Very well. 10 o'clock tomorrow.

23 (3.20 pm)

24 (Hearing adjourned until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning)

25 --ooOoo--