
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, 9th September 2014

commencing at 10.00 am

(Day 47)

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

1 Tuesday, 9th September 2014

2 (10.00 am)

3 WITNESS HIA284 (called)

4 CHAIRMAN: Good morning.

5 MR MONTAGUE: Morning.

6 CHAIRMAN: May I just remind everyone when the Inquiry is
7 sitting please ensure that your mobile phones are either
8 turned off or placed on silent/vibrate and no
9 photography of any sort is allowed within the premises
10 or the Inquiry chamber itself.

11 Yes, Ms Smith.

12 MS SMITH: Good morning, Chairman, Panel Members, ladies and
13 gentlemen. The first witness this morning is HIA284.
14 He is to be known as "HIA284" but he wishes to maintain
15 his anonymity for the purposes of this Inquiry.

16 Good morning, HIA284. Sorry. Good afternoon,
17 HIA284.

18 **A. Yes, yes. Good afternoon. Yes, that's right. Correct.**

19 Q. You can -- you can hear me all right?

20 **A. Yes, yes.**

21 Q. I'm going to have --

22 **A. It's just the (inaudible).**

23 Q. I am going to hand you over to the Chairman who is going
24 to swear you in. I know you are going to take
25 a religious oath, HIA 284. So I will hand you over to

1 the Chairman for that.

2 CHAIRMAN: Good evening, HIA284.

3 **A. Good evening.**

4 Q. If you would just move slightly to your left as you look
5 at the screen. Bring you back into --

6 **A. Oh, yes. Got it.**

7 Q. -- into the picture.

8 WITNESS HIA284 (sworn)

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

10 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

11 MS SMITH: HIA284, we spoke earlier today and I know that
12 you have a copy of your witness statement that you
13 prepared for the Inquiry with you and I'm going to ask
14 that that be pulled up on the screens here, which is
15 AUS10151. If we go to the last page of that please,
16 10158, HIA284, can I -- have you got the last page,
17 HIA 284?

18 **A. Oh, sorry.**

19 Q. No, no, no. You are fine.

20 **A. Yes, I have got it here.**

21 Q. Can I just ask you to confirm --

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

23 Q. Can I just ask you to confirm that that's your signature
24 on the document and you've signed it on
25 22nd October 2013?

1 **A. Yes, that's correct, yes.**

2 Q. And also can I ask you to confirm that this is the
3 statement of evidence, your evidence that you wish the
4 Inquiry to consider along with anything you tell us
5 today?

6 **A. Yes. Most of what happened has already been said. So**
7 **...**

8 Q. Well, I am going to go through that with you now. Just
9 if we go back to the first page, which was 10151, and
10 you will see here it is the witness statement of HIA284
11 and, HIA284, you were born in in County
12 Derry, and the first three paragraphs of your statement
13 set out your personal details. You were born in the
14 workhouse where your mother was living. She was
15 unmarried. You don't know who your father is and you
16 have a brother and a sister. You are the eldest in the
17 family, being five years older than your brother and
18 three years older than your sister, and sadly your
19 sister passed away last year. Your uncle took charge of
20 the family in Donegal when your grandparents died and he
21 is the one who asked the Sisters of Nazareth to take
22 care of you.

23 Now you then went into Termonbacca and I'm going to
24 go through your statement about some of the things that
25 you say happened to you while you were there. You went

1 in when you were just almost 3 in October 1945. At
2 paragraph 5 while you say you don't remember any of the
3 nuns' names, you remember them as strict
4 disciplinarians.

5 "They had strict rules which we had to abide by and
6 any breach of these rules resulted in the nuns clipping
7 us around the ear or beating us with a strap. I'm not
8 sure whether they wore the strap around their waist or
9 kept it in the large pockets of their habits. I recall
10 one occasion when I was about 5 or 6 I was in the put in
11 the corner of a big room in the home and beaten with a
12 strap by a nun. I don't remember her name."

13 Is that -- that's correct. Is that so, HIA284?

14 **A. Yes, that is correct, yes.**

15 Q. And then if we move on, you talk about in paragraph 8
16 your sister was put into Nazareth House and she was
17 fostered during holidays and you were taken to that
18 house one day at Christmas, and both your brother and
19 sister were there in that home, but you didn't know at
20 the time that they were, in fact, your brother and
21 sister?

22 **A. No, I didn't. I just thought there were three of us,
23 you know, just went out just for Christmas Day.**

24 Q. You just thought they were -- you didn't realise they
25 were related to you in any way. They were just someone

1 else who had been sent to this home?

2 **A. No. Yes, because I didn't know that they sent us home.**

3 Q. At paragraph 9 of your statement, HIA 284, you talk about
4 remembering working on the farm in Termonbacca. You say
5 you worked in the fields cutting hay with a sickle. You
6 had to rake it up and put it into sheaves, and if you
7 didn't do the work properly, a person who was
8 an employee of the nuns:

9 "... would hit us around the legs or the body with
10 a short stick or his hands",

11 and you say he lived on the premises. He worked
12 on the farm and did odd jobs. Sorry.

13 **A. Yes. That's right, yes. He used to live right back of
14 the house there, and our work in the paper here is true.**

15 Q. He worked in the farm and did odd jobs about the home
16 and you remember him also being a bandmaster in the
17 home?

18 **A. Yes. He was, yes.**

19 Q. Now you also talk in paragraph 10 of your statement
20 about being made to attend Irish dancing classes and
21 that you would be beaten if you could not do the steps
22 properly.

23 **A. Yes, that's true too, yes.**

24 Q. And you were in a brass band in the home and you, in
25 fact, played the bass in the band. Is that right?

1 **A. Yes. I tried to play it. Yes, I did.**

2 Q. And then in paragraph 11 you talk about going to the
3 Nazareth House School in Bishop Street. You walked to
4 school in a line and were taken by the nuns. One nun
5 walked in front and one nun walked behind. They tried
6 to teach you there.

7 "There was a nice nun who taught me. However, if we
8 did anything wrong in school, we had to drop our
9 trousers and were beaten on the backside with a strap
10 and after school we had to go out to the farm to work."

11 Can I just pause there --

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. -- and ask you who would have carried out these beatings
14 if you got anything wrong?

15 **A. It was the -- one of the sisters.**

16 Q. Well, do you ever remember anybody visiting you when you
17 were in Termonbacca?

18 **A. No. The only person that visited me was a lady in black
19 and that -- she'd come at Christmas time.**

20 Q. Yes. I think you mention this in your statement at
21 paragraph 6 and you say you have:

22 "... a memory of an older woman dressed in black
23 coming to visit me around Christmas every year. She sat
24 in the garden and gave me fruit."

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. "I don't know who she was" --

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. -- "but looking back she may have been an aunt or some
4 other relative."

5 **A. Could have been. I can't really say if she was related
6 or not.**

7 Q. But she may have been?

8 **A. She could have been. She always seemed to visit me once
9 a year.**

10 Q. Can I just -- apart from the nice nun who taught you in
11 Bishop Street, do you have any other good memories of
12 your time in Termonbacca?

13 **A. Any other -- pardon?**

14 Q. Any other good memories, HIA284? Do you remember
15 anything else that might have happened that was fun
16 or -- when you were in Termonbacca?

17 **A. No, I can't just. Everything got sort of blocked out.
18 I don't know why. Because I was only a young buck and
19 that's nearly 62 years ago now.**

20 Q. And I know, HIA284 --

21 **A. (Overtalking.) That's true.**

22 Q. I know, HIA284, recently you have been in very poor
23 health yourself.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. So thank you very much for making the journey to come to

1 speak to us today. It is appreciated that it has been
2 difficult for you to do that.

3 Can I then move on to talk about your actual
4 migration? At paragraph 12 --

5 **A. Oh, yes.**

6 **Q.** Paragraph 12 you say:

7 "I recall a Brother Conlon coming to the home along
8 with official looking men. About 30 or 40 boys were
9 taken into a room. Looking back I think it might have
10 been all the boys whose mothers were unmarried when they
11 gave birth to them. They made three lines in the room,
12 one for Canada, one for South Africa and one for
13 Australia. We were told a bit about each country. In
14 Australia we were told that life would be wonderful and
15 that we would be able to pick oranges off trees and ride
16 to school on a kangaroo. In Africa we were told there
17 was always sunshine and we were told it was all snow in
18 Canada. We were then asked which country we wanted to
19 go to. I chose Australia."

20 You were told years later in Australia by a Brother
21 that they were migrating children as they wanted the
22 Catholic population to grow there in Australia.

23 Now if I could just pause there, I'm going to call
24 up a document in the screen, which is your child
25 migration form. That's at 10171, and we should have

1 given you a copy of this document. Again the number is
2 up in the top right-hand corner. It says AUS10171,
3 HIA284.

4 **A. Yes. It's -- this one here is 10167.**

5 Q. ... 171.

6 **A. 07. That's the next one up. Oh, yes, there it is.**

7 Q. Okay. This is your -- the child migration form, HIA284,
8 that was completed in respect of you going out to
9 Australia, and it gives your age there as 11 years and 4
10 months and your date of birth, your weight and the fact
11 that you were Catholic and your educational standard.

12 If we can scroll down through this document, this
13 consent was signed by the Mother Superior of Termonbacca
14 at the time and that was witnessed by Fr Stinson. If we
15 just pause there, we can see that he has stamped it
16 further up the page "Federal Catholic Immigration
17 Committee of Australia".

18 If we could scroll down on to the next page, we see
19 that SND220 has signed it again on behalf of the
20 Australian Catholic Immigration Committee. That was on
21 27th February 1953.

22 You remember having a medical examination before you
23 went to Australia. Isn't that right, HIA284?

24 **A. Yes, we did. We all had a big check, the lungs and all**
25 **that sort of stuff.**

1 Q. And you think that examination actually took place in
2 Termonbacca itself, that there were doctors came to see
3 you in the home?

4 **A. I think they did come to the home, to the house, yes.**

5 Q. If we just look at another document, and this is the
6 record of the medical examination, it is 10170. So it
7 might be on the page just before --

8 **A. Yes. Got it.**

9 Q. -- and it records there the results of the medical
10 examination in respect of yourself, and it looked like
11 --

12 **A. It is very hard to read, but yes.**

13 Q. It is. It is quite an elderly document. So it's hard
14 to make out.

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. But it seems to suggest that you were in good health.
17 There was nothing abnormal detected. That's what "NAD"
18 stands for, and your nervous system, mental condition,
19 intelligence were all normal. You were in good physique
20 and your skin was clear and your teeth were good. So
21 you were in good physical condition before you went to
22 Australia?

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. And that form is dated 11th April 1953 and --

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. -- it is hard to make out --

2 **A. Oh, there it is.**

3 Q. If you can just scroll down, please, it is hard to make
4 out who it is signed with -- if we just pause there --
5 but it certainly was approved, stamped "Approved" on
6 22nd April 1953, and that would have been by the
7 Australia migration -- immigration authorities?

8 **A. Okay. Yes.**

9 Q. Okay. If we go back to your statement, HIA284, at
10 paragraph 14 --

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. -- paragraph 14 of your statement, which is 10153, you
13 talk in that paragraph about being deported on 8th
14 May 1953 when you were ten years old, although this
15 seems to suggest you might have been older than you
16 thought. Certainly the form put you down as 11 years
17 and months.

18 **A. Yes. It just says here on the other page I was ten
19 years old. That's probably where I got it from.**

20 Q. So there is some dispute?

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. We have got your date of birth as 1942, 1942.
23 So that makes you now 72.

24 **A. No, not till . Don't rush it. Yes.**

25 Q. Apologies, HIA284, but this year you will turn 72

1 shortly?

2 **A. Yes, I thought so, yes.**

3 Q. Maths is not my strong point, as you have probably
4 discovered.

5 CHAIRMAN: Every month counts.

6 MS SMITH: The Chairman says "Every month counts", HIA284.

7 **A. Yes, it does.**

8 MS SMITH: But in any case certainly in May of 1953 you
9 would actually have been ten years old. You would not
10 have been 11 years and 4 months --

11 **A. 10.**

12 Q. -- in 1953?

13 **A. No.**

14 Q. In fact, would you have been --

15 **A. '53, yes.**

16 Q. No. Sorry. You would have been 11.

17 **A. I think the court document -- yes.**

18 Q. Again I am getting the maths wrong. In 1953 you would
19 have been 11 years and 4 months and not actually 10.
20 No?

21 **A. Okay. Yes. This has got --**

22 **CHAIRMAN: 10.**

23 MS SMITH: Just 10.

24 **A. This has got 10 (inaudible). I'm sorry.**

25 Q. I am being corrected. Sorry, HIA284. I am being

1 corrected all roads here. I have got the maths
2 completely wrong. You are quite right. In May 1953 you
3 would have been 10.

4 CHAIRMAN: And months.

5 MS SMITH: And months.

6 **A. Yes.**

7 MS SMITH: So that's the age you were when you sailed on the
8 SS Otranto along with five other boys from Termonbacca.
9 You know one of them is still living and he is another
10 applicant to this Inquiry, HIA319.

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. You have little memory of your passage to Australia.
13 You do remember that ^{Brother Conli} accompanied you on the journey
14 and you remember passing through London, seeing the
15 seats all set out for the Queen's coronation, and you
16 recall that you were put in a shed when you arrived at
17 the port and were stripped to stop you from absconding.
18 You remember ^{Brother Conli} saying, "We are going to Australia"
19 and you replied, "Yeah, right. Not me"?

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. You think there may have been Scottish children on board
22 the ship and you recall that the children who were being
23 shipped to Australia had to perform for the paying
24 passengers. You remember your faces being painted black
25 to make you look like Aborigines and you were made to

1 sing Irish songs to entertain the passengers.

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. Brother Conic -- Brother Conic told you what to do. You say you were also
4 locked in your cabins during the journey to stop you
5 running around the ship. You think you were always
6 locked up. You were kept together with the other boys
7 --

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. -- from Termonbacca, and you think you were on deck once
10 and that is when you threw your wire-framed glasses
11 overboard. Do you remember doing that?

12 **A. Yes, I remember, because I deliberately just -- they**
13 **were no good to me. Yes, I did throw them overboard.**

14 Q. Sorry, HIA284. Why did you say you threw them
15 overboard?

16 **A. I just didn't -- thought I didn't need them. I was too**
17 **young to be wearing glasses. So I just threw them.**

18 Q. And you don't -- you recall that you weren't given
19 enough to eat on the ship and you couldn't be seasick,
20 because you hadn't had enough food to be sick on?

21 **A. Yes. That's true, yes.**

22 Q. And you say that your time in Termonbacca has been --
23 the memory of your time in Termonbacca has been affected
24 because of what you describe as the horrific experiences
25 that you had in Australia when you got there.

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. Now I have spoken to you earlier, HIA284 --

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. -- and you know this Inquiry can't go into what happened
5 to you in Australia, but you were taken to Bindoon. I'm
6 going to summarise what is in your statement between
7 paragraphs 17 and 26. You were made the subject of
8 extreme physical labour. You had to engage in extreme
9 physical labour. You were sexually abused by both older
10 boys and Brothers. You were also sexually abused by
11 a nun when you were in Bindoon, and you were physically
12 abused by both the older boys and the Brothers, and you
13 received no education during your time there.

14 Can I just --

15 **A. No, that's true.**

16 Q. HIA284, can I just confirm that during your time in
17 Bindoon you never had any contact with anyone from
18 either the Northern Irish or the UK authorities?

19 **A. No, nobody at all. Only the social groups in Perth used
20 to come up and see us, the Fire Brigade and football
21 clubs. That was it.**

22 Q. And you talk -- if we move on through your statement,
23 you talk about after you left care, and in paragraph 28
24 you say that when you were 17, you wrote to the Mother
25 Superior in Termonbacca to ask about your family. She

1 replied stating that your mother had died and she
2 advised you to forget about her and get on with your
3 life, and you found out years later that your mother had
4 died from pneumonia in 1956 when she was only 26 years
5 of age.

6 You then talk about having left Bindoon and you had
7 no idea how to relate to people. You held the belief
8 that you had to take whatever you wanted because nobody
9 would do the right thing by you, and once you were
10 an adult and relatively free you say you went out of
11 control. You ended up in prison for three years where
12 you say you felt safe because it was better than any
13 home you had been in.

14 Then in 1969 you met your wife, who is from Belfast,
15 and you have been married for 42 years. You have two
16 daughters and sadly your -- one of those daughters has
17 passed away, but your other daughter and your son live
18 with you, and you worked right up until you were 70
19 until you retired, and even before you retired you were
20 working.

21 You talk in paragraph 33 and 34 about other attempts
22 that you made to get in touch with your family. In 1986
23 you wrote to a priest in and asked him if
24 he knew anything about your family. He replied again
25 advising you that your mother had died but that you had

1 a brother and sister. That's how you made contact with
2 your brother and with your sister. You came back in
3 1988 and met your brother for the first time. That
4 visit was arranged by the Child Migrant Trust.

5 Are you okay, HIA284?

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. If you need a break, please just say. If you want
8 a break at any time, please just let us know.

9 **A. I should be all right. Thanks. It's okay.**

10 Q. You were told -- you were told by the nuns in
11 Termonbacca when you were there as a child that you had
12 no family and your brother didn't know that he had any
13 family either. He was also in Termonbacca. You are
14 still in contact with him. You met your sister once
15 when she came to visit you in 2003. That visit didn't
16 go very well and you didn't really get on with her and
17 you didn't stay in contact, and sadly she died last year
18 in England.

19 You say that as a child you didn't have a birth
20 certificate. That was forwarded to you from the
21 Australian welfare authorities when you were in your
22 20s.

23 At paragraph -- if I can just look, there is
24 a letter from your brother at AUS10180 to 82. This is
25 just a letter from your brother setting out a few lines

1 -- it is quite difficult to read at times, but a few
2 lines in answer to your last letter. He says he was in
3 hospital and couldn't write to you.

4 **A. Oh, yes.**

5 Q. He then goes on to talk about how he went to Donegal and
6 the attempts that he made to find out details about your
7 family. I am not going to read it all out, but that's
8 essentially -- if we can just scroll down through the
9 letter, he talks about who your mother worked for and it
10 goes on through there. He recounts various uncles and
11 aunts that he has located. He says that this particular
12 uncle:

13 "... was the dominant force in the house as our
14 grandfather was on the road most of the time selling
15 cloth from the back of a bicycle."

16 So he has carried out some research into your family
17 background and he was relating that to you in this
18 letter that you received from him.

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. Paragraph 36, HIA284, you talk about, if we go back to
21 your statement -- it is 10158 -- you sum up in these
22 statements what life has been like for you. You say:

23 "I have been left with chronic anxiety and a lot of
24 anger. I have no idea how to relate to people or how to
25 relax in company. I am very wary of men, especially

1 loud, confident men. I had no idea how to parent my
2 children or even how to cuddle and love them.
3 I really -- I don't really know what love is; I just try
4 to do the right thing by people even though no-one did
5 right by me. Most of the time I feel more like I am
6 watching than joining in. I feel very ashamed at my
7 lack of education and wish I could have done more for my
8 family.

9 I have missed out on a life with my family in
10 Northern Ireland. I always wonder what my life would
11 have been -- could have been like if I wasn't migrated
12 to Australia. However, I know that other boys who have
13 been in institutions have not been as lucky as me."

14 Now, HIA284, we are aware from paragraph 35 of your
15 statement just further up this page that you received
16 compensation under the Australia redress scheme and in
17 that paragraph you say that it was initially supposed to
18 be 90,000 AUD but the Western Australian government
19 reneged on the promise and they essentially halved the
20 payments that were initially to be made to each of you,
21 and that many boys, including yourself, were hurt and
22 upset by that arbitrary cutting of the sums that had
23 been awarded to you.

24 Can I just ask you, because we are -- this Inquiry
25 has to make recommendations to our government, the

1 Northern Ireland government, about what should happen
2 next, you have had this experience of the redress scheme
3 in Australia and I know that you are aware of the
4 apologies that have been made on behalf of both the UK
5 and Australia governments, and living in Western
6 Australia, I am sure you have seen the statue in
7 Fremantle. So I wonder what your views are of what
8 helps to address some of the hurt that has been caused
9 to you and to others and what is not of any help to you,
10 HIA284?

11 **A. It's a really hard question to answer, because**
12 **everything seems to have come too late. A lot of -- and**
13 **--**

14 Q. Don't worry.

15 **A. Sorry.**

16 Q. You are okay. Take your time. Maybe if I ask you -- if
17 I break the question down. What is your view, for
18 example, of the statue -- the statue that was put up
19 indicating that child migrants arrived there?

20 **A. Well, to be quite -- to be quite honest, I haven't been**
21 **down there to see, because I just want to forget about**
22 **everything, whatever has happened, and just get on with**
23 **it. It's ...**

24 Q. So can I take it from that --

25 **A. Everything's come to ...**

1 Q. Sorry, HIA284. Can I take it from what you said then
2 that you are not in favour of memorials or statues or --

3 A. No, I'm not -- I'm not in favour of monuments or statues
4 of people as it was always people that have been done
5 wrong by. It's -- they just got to go and they look at
6 it and they think, "What the hell is all this about?",
7 you know. They don't really -- all they can see is
8 hurt. That's it.

9 Q. Do you feel -- I know that you were hurt by the fact
10 that the amount of compensation that was to be paid to
11 you was halved, but do you feel that nonetheless
12 compensation is a good thing?

13 A. It is good, because it makes your life a bit better than
14 what it is, and also it looks after, you know, the kids,
15 grandkids and that later on. As far as I am concerned I
16 am happy with my life. I have more or less done
17 everything I want to do. I would like to see my -- the
18 rest of my family get a better deal. That's -- that's
19 about it. Thank you.

20 Q. Well, HIA284, that's all that I want to ask you, but is
21 there anything that you feel that we haven't covered in
22 your evidence that you wish to say to the Inquiry or
23 anything else that you'd like to add? Now is your
24 opportunity to do so.

25 A. I think I've -- oh, yes. There is only one thing I

1 would like to raise. I don't think it's really -- it
2 concerns the immigration people. It's -- oh, sorry.
3 It's when that compensation -- we were all ready to, you
4 know, go to Ireland and that and have -- you meet all --
5 whatever family we had, and my daughter --
6 sorry.

7 Q. You are okay, HIA284.

8 A. She was all ready to go with us. She was all ready to
9 go with us and when I told her we didn't have enough
10 money, that's when she committed -- well, I think that's
11 what happened. I am not sure, but that was one of the
12 reasons. I will never forgive them for that, the
13 government.

14 Q. That's what you mean by the line in your statement that
15 many boys, including yourself, were hurt and upset by
16 the cutting of the compensation?

17 A. Yes, yes, we were. You know, we want it not to buy
18 silly things but to go back to Ireland and meet family
19 and stuff, you know, but it just didn't happen. So that
20 was it. The money -- I did get paying off a lot of
21 bills and things. So that was helpful in one way, but
22 on the other hand the other -- I would have had the
23 other. It would ...

24 I have a sis... -- I think -- I don't know whether
25 she's an aunt and that. She lives in . I was

1 supposed to go and see her, but I couldn't. I know that
2 they'd made a request for us to add to her one trip back
3 home. There is no point in going back there now. So
4 that's it. Thank you for listening to me.

5 Q. Thank you very much, HIA284. The Panel Members may have
6 some questions that they want to ask you. So I am going
7 to hand over to them now. So if you just stay there
8 please for a moment.

9 A. Okay. Thank you.

10 **Questions from THE PANEL**

11 CHAIRMAN: HIA284, can I just ask you something about what
12 you have said relating to finding out about your family?
13 You may remember you told us that the nuns in
14 Termonbacca told you that you had no family.

15 A. Yes, they did, yes.

16 Q. Was that when you were still a child in Termonbacca or
17 was it later in life, perhaps when you tried to contact
18 them?

19 A. Oh, no. That was -- I was working on a farm and I got
20 letters to the -- to the Sisters in Termonbacca and
21 that's when one of the sisters -- I wish I had the
22 letter today but it's gone -- she told me I had no
23 family whatsoever. That's why I was one of the boys
24 that was sent to Australia. I don't know. It's all
25 mixed up.

1 Q. So just so we are clear about this, later on in life you
2 were working on a farm. You wrote to the sisters in
3 Termonbacca and they wrote back that you had no family.
4 Is that right?

5 **A. Yes. That's true. Yes, that's right, sir.**

6 Q. And then later it was only when you wrote to a priest in
7 County Donegal that you learnt from him that you had
8 a brother and sister?

9 **A. That was what was in the births and deaths, you know,
10 the book they keep in the church.**

11 Q. Yes.

12 **A. That's where I learned I had a -- I didn't know I had
13 a sister, but I knew there was a brother there
14 somewhere, but I didn't know.**

15 Q. It was only because the priest was able to send you the
16 information that you found out the details about your
17 brother, his name and that you had a sister at all?

18 **A. I didn't even know I had a sister at the time. Sister
19 -- the priest told me ^{HIA 351} is working in -- on the road
20 at in England. That's where a priest got in
21 touch with me, wrote me a letter. I wish I had the
22 letters now. Sorry.**

23 Q. Thank you very much. No, we have no further questions
24 for you, HIA284. Thank you very much for coming to
25 speak to us. It's night-time I know now where you are

1 and I know you are not feeling very well. We can see
2 that it has been quite a strain from you -- for you to
3 speak to us, but thank you very much for doing so.

4 **A. Thank you very much, sir.**

5 MS SMITH: Thank you very much, HIA284.

6 (Witness withdrew)

7 MS SMITH: Chairman, we are using the same room in Perth.

8 So there will be a delay while we allow HIA284 to vacate
9 it and the second witness to come in. I imagine it will
10 only take about five minutes.

11 CHAIRMAN: Yes. We'll rise just for a few minutes.

12 (10.38 am)

13 (Short break)

14 (10.55 am)

15 WITNESS HIA266 (called)

16 CHAIRMAN: Yes, Ms Smith.

17 MS SMITH: Chairman, Panel Members, the next witness is
18 HIA266. He is to be known as "HIA266", and he wishes to
19 maintain his anonymity for the purposes of the Inquiry,
20 and he also wishes to affirm rather than take the
21 religious oath, Chairman.

22 HIA266, can I just check that you can hear me all
23 right?

24 **A. Yes, I can hear you. Thank you.**

25 Q. The Chairman is going to administer the affirmation.

1 CHAIRMAN: Good morning, HIA266.

2 WITNESS HIA266 (affirmed)

3 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

4 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

5 MS SMITH: HIA266, hello again. Can you hear me all right?

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. You should have some documents with you. The first of
8 those I am going to refer to is the witness statement
9 that you provided to the Inquiry. It is found at
10 AUS10001.

11 **A. Yes, that I have.**

12 Q. Okay. I'm going ask you if you would, HIA266, to go to
13 the last page of it, which is 10008.

14 **A. Yes, that I have.**

15 Q. Can I just confirm that you have signed the witness
16 statement there on 22nd October 2013?

17 **A. Yes, I did. That's correct.**

18 Q. And can I also ask you then to confirm, HIA266, this is
19 the statement of evidence that you wish the Inquiry to
20 consider together with anything else that you tell us
21 today?

22 **A. Yes, I do.**

23 Q. Now if we can go back to the first page of your witness
24 statement, it clearly says there that you were, in fact,
25 born in England, that your mother wasn't married and

1 that you were placed in Termonbacca on
2 14th September 1944 when you were aged 4. While you
3 were there -- you describe in paragraph 4 through to 6
4 that whilst you were there you suffered constant
5 physical abuse from the nuns, endured physical pain,
6 social and psychological harm and neglect whilst in the
7 nuns' care.

8 "I do not recall any of the nuns' names in
9 Termonbacca, but I do recall saying 'Yes, Sister', and
10 'No, Sister'. Beatings by the nuns were the norm and
11 almost daily. They were carried out with a bamboo cane
12 in order to inflict the most pain."

13 You say that:

14 "The nuns had many rules in the home and any
15 infringement or defiance of those rules earned the boys
16 a very harsh and severe thrashing."

17 You say that life in the home was controlled by
18 beatings.

19 You describe being required to keep your eyes
20 looking down towards the ground when speaking to a nun,
21 and if a boy was being defiant or challenging the nuns'
22 authority, if he didn't observe this rule, it resulted
23 in instant harsh punishment being inflicted.

24 You describe the nuns as:

25 "... carrying a cane in her belt and she was always

1 ready to use it at every opportunity",

2 and to exact most fear and terror you say that:

3 "... they administered beatings to the bare buttocks
4 in front of all children who were around and made us
5 listen to the crying and screaming of pain."

6 You say this was in order to essentially control you
7 and ensure that you didn't misbehave in the same way or
8 the same thing would happen to you.

9 If you tried to protect yourselves from the blows,
10 then your legs and knuckles were beaten, and you say it
11 took you a long time to be able to hold eye contact with
12 people, and you felt that was a direct result of this
13 particular rule of looking down all of the time and that
14 that held you back later in your life when it came to
15 job promotion.

16 You said you never knew when the nuns were around,
17 that they would suddenly come up and whack you across
18 the back with a cane saying, "You are not allowed to do
19 that here". It was frightening. They just appeared
20 like ghosts and you heard the swish of the sleeve of
21 their habit and the next thing you felt was a thump.
22 You say you spent most of your time in Termonbacca
23 living in fear of being beaten.

24 You go on in the next two paragraphs to describe
25 that you were forced to engage in hard and strenuous

1 manual labour from the age of about six years old, and
2 you describe the tasks in which you were engaged there,
3 the scrubbing of the floors and passageways, working in
4 the laundry and the scrubbing and washing -- waxing and
5 polishing of the floors, which you say was daily, and
6 you also say in paragraph 10 that you had to work in the
7 laundry along with about six other boys.

8 At the end of paragraph 9 you also complain about
9 the fact that you never received a word of praise from
10 the nuns. Never offered any encouragement even when you
11 did all of this work, and the nuns described you as bad,
12 disgusting, dirty or evil.

13 Now I know that I have been speaking for quite
14 a while there, HIA 266. Is there anything that you want
15 to add to what I've read out so far from your statement?

16 **A. No. Thank you.**

17 Q. You describe in paragraph 11 of your statement the
18 sleeping arrangements and how you were made to cross
19 your arms over your chests, and in the middle of the
20 night if your arms moved out of position, a nun would
21 come and hit you. They used to say things to you like,
22 'You're a bad boy and you're going to hell', and
23 although you can't remember any of these nuns' names,
24 you still have mental pictures of them. You are
25 nodding.

1 **A. That is correct, yes, yes.**

2 Q. You also talk about going to school in Nazareth House in
3 Bishop Street in paragraph 12, and you say that there
4 every day you witnessed the humiliating and degrading
5 treatment which the girls had to endure. You say they
6 were beaten, insulted, made to wear their soiled
7 underwear on their heads while standing in the corner of
8 the classroom. You say they were usually shivering and
9 cowering from fear. They were made to walk between
10 classrooms still wearing their underwear on their heads
11 and subject to insulting, enduring taunts from the
12 girls, the boys and the nuns. You found that treatment
13 of these girls particularly frightening and distressing
14 for those children, including yourself, who had to
15 watch.

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. And you describe how you felt guilty for not saying
18 anything and feeling sorry for the girls and you feel
19 that that was the beginning of your own feelings of
20 guilt and low self-esteem.

21 Paragraph 13 --

22 **A. Yes, that's correct, yes, yes.**

23 Q. Paragraph 13, you say that -- you complain about the
24 food that you were given and that you were hungry the
25 whole time. You say the older boys were in charge of

1 giving out the food in the dining room. They would take
2 the biggest and best bits of bread and then you were all
3 left to fight over what was left. If you were lucky,
4 you got a slice of bread. You remember walking to
5 school and being so hungry that you actually picked
6 turnips out of the fields as you were passing them and
7 ate those.

8 **A. (Nods.)**

9 Q. Can I just pause there, HIA266, to say that this would
10 have been a time when Northern Ireland was subject to
11 rationing just after the war, the Second World War here,
12 and the point has been made on behalf of the Sisters of
13 Nazareth that the children in the home were getting no
14 worse food and in fact in some cases maybe better food
15 than children in the community were getting, and is
16 there anything you want to say to that or would you
17 accept that?

18 **A. I'll accept that, yes, but the nuns seemed to eat very
19 well. They had fruit.**

20 Q. So you would say that there was a distinction between
21 what was eaten by the nuns and what was eaten by the
22 children?

23 **A. Yes, of course.**

24 Q. Paragraph 14, just going back to your statement, you say
25 that the older boys in the home were in charge of the

1 younger ones and that they used to beat you up. You say
2 that the nuns let them abuse you, because they were
3 doing their job and supervising you, but you did see the
4 nuns hit the older boys with a cane too and that no-one
5 escaped that abuse.

6 **A. Yes, that's correct, yes.**

7 Q. Can you remember -- maybe you can't remember, HIA266 --
8 but can you remember how many nuns would have been in
9 charge in the home at that time?

10 **A. No. Okay. There was probably two we were involved with**
11 **on the boys' side.**

12 Q. There would have been two nuns looking after --

13 **A. Of course there were more, yes. There was a lot more,**
14 **because you'd go to the meals and there'd be a lot more**
15 **there, or a church you would see them kneeling at the**
16 **front. There was a lot more nuns, but we only had**
17 **relationships, of course, with two of them.**

18 Q. Can you remember approximately how many boys might have
19 been in the home at the time?

20 **A. No, I can't. I don't know.**

21 Q. You describe in paragraph 15 that religion was a big
22 part of life in the home. You went to mass almost every
23 day and you say that you were an altar boy, so you were
24 always in the chapel. You also had to say the rosary
25 every night.

1 Paragraph 16, you never had any visitors during your
2 time there, although you do remember a particular
3 occasion when a woman came and met you when you were
4 walking from school. She asked to you sit down with her
5 and gave you what you describe as lollies, but in
6 Northern Ireland we would describe as sweets. You say
7 she was lovely. You don't know who she was, but she was
8 very friendly. She may have been your mother. You just
9 don't know. You looked forward to running into this
10 lady again, but sadly you never got the chance as you
11 then left for Australia.

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

13 Q. Do you remember anybody -- you just said there was never
14 anyone else visited you in Termonbacca. Do you ever
15 remember anybody from authority visiting the home when
16 you were there? Do you ever remember visits by senior
17 nuns or by any of the government inspectors, anything
18 like that, when you were in Termonbacca?

19 **A. They possibly did come, but we would be never introduced**
20 **to them. We would never see them, never speak to them.**
21 **I am not saying they didn't come, because I don't know.**

22 Q. You just don't have any memory of anybody in particular
23 coming. Do you have any good memories --

24 **A. I'm just saying we wouldn't have known if there were**
25 **anyone.**

1 Q. Do you have any good memories of your time in
2 Termonbacca, HIA266?

3 **A. After the time I spent at Bindoon I think Termonbacca**
4 **turned out to be a holiday camp basically. Bindoon was**
5 **a lot worse.**

6 Q. And you talk -- I'll come back to that shortly, but from
7 paragraph 17 you talk about going to Australia and you
8 say that you were taken along with five other boys and
9 told by the nuns you were going to Australia, but you
10 were never asked if you wanted to go. When you heard
11 that you were going, you felt shocked and horrified.
12 You didn't want to go to a place where convicts had been
13 shipped over the years. That was the impression that
14 you had of Australia back then.

15 Is that impression -- was that formed by something
16 maybe you had been told in school or can you even recall
17 why you came to form that impression of the country?

18 **A. That was possibly what we read in the history books**
19 **about the convicts -- many years as a convict**
20 **settlement. We didn't know too much about Australia.**

21 Q. But you were afraid of being moved so far away from your
22 family and friends and you didn't want to leave, even
23 though it wasn't a very happy place for you at that
24 time. You said that you were told that there were --
25 there was always sunshine and children rode to school on

1 horseback and there were lots of fresh fruit which could
2 be picked -- could be stripped -- could be picked
3 straight from the apple and orange trees, but you
4 weren't given any choice about whether or not you were
5 to go. You were just told you were going.

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

7 Q. You do remember --

8 **A. That's probably quite normal. I don't know. You can't**
9 **ask kids what they want or where they want to go. You**
10 **just do it.**

11 Q. You talk about the preparation for going and you
12 remember the dental and medical treatment that you had
13 prior to going, which you describe as a terrible
14 experience. You remember being told that you had had
15 your tonsils removed when you woke up in hospital, and
16 you were told that where you were going there were no
17 medical facilities. So they had to do the procedure
18 before you left so that you wouldn't have any problems
19 when you were out there.

20 **A. (Nods.) Yes. That's correct, yes.**

21 Q. Do you remember at all, HIA266, whether -- they
22 obviously -- they must have discussed this was for going
23 to Australia. Do you remember if there were any other
24 boys who underwent such treatment or was it just
25 yourself?

1 **A. I'm guessing the whole lot of us had to go through the**
2 **same procedure, but I don't remember any of them**
3 **actually talking about it.**

4 Q. Had you had throat problems before your tonsils were
5 removed? Had you had any tonsillitis or anything like
6 that?

7 **A. No, no.**

8 Q. No?

9 **A. I had no tooth problems at the time either.**

10 Q. And, as I said, you think there were five boys were
11 taken with you to Australia. You went on a ferry to
12 England accompanied by nuns from the home. When you
13 reached London, you say you tried to run away at the
14 train station but they caught you and dragged back. You
15 were then taken to port in Southampton and you were
16 shipped to Australia against your will on 6th May 1953.
17 You do remember that there was a man supervising the
18 boys and a woman supervising the girls on the ship,
19 although you don't know who they were.

20 **A. No.**

21 Q. You had fun on the ship. You played games with each
22 other. There were very few restrictions put on you.
23 You could go wherever you wanted. There was plenty of
24 food. There was food everywhere. There was the most
25 food you ever saw in your life. People were handing out

1 ice creams in small cups about three times a day. You
2 say you used to fill your shirt full of buns.

3 **A. Yes. I used to take the buns off the table when we went**
4 **out for a meal and take them back with me. We never had**
5 **buns before and I was very hungry.**

6 CHAIRMAN: Just before we turn to Australia, are there any
7 migration papers for HIA266?

8 MS SMITH: No, there aren't, Chairman. His documents can be
9 found at 10009 through to 10040, but there are no
10 migration forms or medical forms in that bundle.

11 CHAIRMAN: So it is not known who consented on his behalf?

12 MS SMITH: No.

13 CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

14 MS SMITH: HIA266, coming back to what you say then, you
15 arrived in Fremantle and you remember having your
16 photographs taken. Then you were taken initially just
17 for the night to Clontarf before being moved on to
18 Bindoon.

19 Now we have talked about the fact that what happened
20 to you in Bindoon is outside the scope of this Inquiry,
21 but what you describe in paragraphs 21 to 24 is that you
22 were subject -- you were part of a labour force, a child
23 labour force that really was employed by the Brothers in
24 Bindoon, and you were subject to physical and sexual
25 abuse in that home. Is that a fair --

1 **A. Yes, that's correct, yes.**

2 Q. At paragraph 23 you don't recall ever seeing any
3 inspectors or representatives from Northern Ireland or
4 the British government:

5 "... and I don't recall ever seeing any inspectors
6 from the Australia Welfare Authority."

7 You left there in 1956 when you were 16. Sorry. If
8 we could just put the statement up again, please. We
9 are at 10007.

10 In the next paragraphs you talk about what happened
11 to your life after you left, paragraphs 25 through 32.
12 You say that you got an apprenticeship first of all and
13 then you joined the Air Force. You were there for
14 a number of years and during that time you met your
15 wife. You had three children. Unfortunately one of
16 your sons passed away in a car accident when he was 28
17 and you then left the Air Force in 1988.

18 You say that you found family life difficult at
19 times. Your wife has had to intervene because you are
20 a strict disciplinarian with your children and you feel
21 that's because that's all you've known all your life.
22 You found it hard to have relationships, couldn't get
23 close to people, even your own family, but you feel that
24 things have improved as your grandchildren have come
25 along. You haven't trusted anyone in authority because

1 of your experiences and, as you indicated earlier, you
2 have always found it difficult to look people in the eye
3 because in Termonbacca that was deemed arrogant. As
4 a result you lack confidence in yourself. You have
5 suffered from bouts of depression over the years and you
6 have been for counselling. You found that helpful more
7 than the medication that you were prescribed and you are
8 no longer on any medication.

9 You talk at paragraph 29 about that you always hoped
10 that some day you would be released from the nuns to go
11 and live with your mother. Every woman you saw you
12 thought to yourself that she could be your mother. Once
13 you were taken to Australia you realised that getting
14 back to your mother wouldn't be easy. Many years later
15 you found out that she had died in a hospital in England
16 in December 1965. You say you always hold it against
17 the nuns for sending you to Australia and ruining any
18 chance you ever had of getting to see your mother and
19 getting to know her.

20 You never had a birth certificate and you managed to
21 get that later in life. You say:

22 "I will never understand how the nuns could have
23 been so cruel and sadistic to the young children who had
24 been placed in their care. They just didn't stop at
25 hitting once. They kept hitting us repeatedly as if

1 they were out of control."

2 You talk about a visit a couple of years ago now to
3 England and Ireland. You found where your mother was
4 buried. You went back to Derry and to Termonbacca and
5 you spoke to nuns in Nazareth House in Bishop Street and
6 you felt that that helped, as you were able to put
7 certain ghosts to rest when you did come back to
8 Ireland.

9 **A. Yes, it did help, yes, yes.**

10 **Q.** I have got -- as again I have been reading out what is
11 in your statement, HIA266, but I just wondered if there
12 is anything you wanted to add to anything you have said
13 there or if you wanted to expand upon anything that's in
14 your statement?

15 **A. Possibly the one thing that was the worst for me -- it's**
16 **still in my mind; I can't get over it -- was what they**
17 **did to the young girls back then. I felt totally**
18 **gutless because I did nothing or said nothing whatsoever**
19 **at the time. I was just a little kid. I couldn't have**
20 **done very much, but I possibly could have said**
21 **something. I thought about it later. If I'd spoken to**
22 **the parish priest, it would have gone back to the nuns**
23 **and I would have got a hell of a hiding. It would have**
24 **been worse if I'd spoken to any of the nuns about it.**
25 **They would have put me down as a dirty, nasty little boy**

1 making up stories. I couldn't speak to the Reverend
2 Mother, because we never went that high to speak to the
3 Reverend Mother. So I basically could do nothing
4 whatsoever, and I've lived with that feeling all my
5 life.

6 Q. You have lived with that feeling of guilt even though
7 you were only a child yourself?

8 A. Guilt at being gutless and, yes, I didn't have the
9 courage to do something, to say something and that's
10 remained with me now all my life. It is still there.

11 Q. Well, HIA266, one of the things that you also talk about
12 is paragraph 28 just there. You talked about the fact
13 that you received some compensation for what happened to
14 you in Australia from the Australian government. You,
15 like someone we spoke to earlier today, has said you
16 were to get a certain sum of money from the Australian
17 government but that was halved. I understand that was
18 as a result of a change of government at the time. One
19 government had set the compensation at a certain level.
20 When the new government was elected, they arbitrarily
21 halved that. Is that correct?

22 A. Yes, that is correct. I didn't expect money. I didn't
23 ask for money. I just wanted to put my story down in
24 writing, and the solicitor said at the time -- submitted
25 it through the -- wherever it was, and I ended up

1 **getting money, a cheque I think it was for about**
2 **\$40,000. I never asked for that. I didn't want that.**
3 **Money was no -- I just wanted to get that off my chest,**
4 **the whole episode.**

5 Q. Can I ask you then --

6 CHAIRMAN: Just before we go any further I don't think we
7 should describe the actions of the state government as
8 arbitrary.

9 MS SMITH: Sorry, Chairman.

10 CHAIRMAN: They -- we have seen correspondence that says
11 they felt it couldn't be afforded. That's a matter for
12 them. It is not for us to pass judgment on.

13 MS SMITH: I certainly was not meaning to use the term in
14 a judgmental sense, Chairman. I apologise.

15 HIA266, one of the things this Inquiry has to do is
16 make recommendations to our government as to what should
17 happen in terms of either redress or a memorial or any
18 other steps that it should take at this stage to deal
19 with the issues that it will be looking at in the course
20 of the Inquiry. We are interested in knowing because of
21 your experiences in Australia what your views are in
22 terms of what you think is beneficial for people in your
23 situation and others.

24 **A. Well, I can't really say very much. Well, what's**
25 **happening at the moment is fantastic, you know, these**

1 **inquiries, investigations going on there. Way back**
2 **I never, ever thought this could ever happen, but here**
3 **it is. It's happening and that's a good thing.**

4 Q. Thank you.

5 A. **But, no, I can't make any recommendations. I can't make**
6 **any recommendations, because I don't think I'm qualified**
7 **to do so.**

8 Q. Well, HIA266, is there anything you feel that we haven't
9 covered today that you wish to say to the Inquiry or
10 anything more that you feel that you want to say at this
11 point? This is your opportunity to do so.

12 A. **I appreciate that, but, no, everything is written down**
13 **there and you have it in front of you. That's my story**
14 **right from the start.**

15 Q. Well, thank you very much.

16 A. **I just want to put all this behind me now. I want to**
17 **put it behind me and move on.**

18 Q. HIA266, thank you very much. I have no further
19 questions for you, but I'm going to hand you over to the
20 Panel, who may have some questions for you.

21 Questions from THE PANEL

22 MR LANE: HIA266, thank you for your evidence. Just one
23 thing I'd like to hear a bit more about. You mentioned
24 that the nuns had better food than yourselves. We have
25 been told that they actually ate separately. How did

1 MS SMITH: Chairman, there are a number of statements to be
2 read to the Inquiry, but I just wanted to clarify one
3 matter that was raised in one of the statements that
4 I~read out yesterday. I can't recall whether it was
5 yesterday afternoon or yesterday morning. That was the
6 comment in one of the witness statements of -- it was
7 the statement of HIA285 where he talked about being
8 branded.

9 Obviously he was the only person who has made such
10 a complaint. So we contacted him yesterday to clarify
11 what he meant by that, and to the -- as far as we can
12 ascertain it would appear that when the doctors were
13 trying to give him a BCG, they were unable to do so in
14 the arm. They appear to have given him that in the leg,
15 which has obviously left a scar, an indentation there.
16 That was confirmed by HIA311, whom we also spoke to
17 yesterday in Australia, and he clarified that was the
18 only type of branding, as it were, that was carried out.

19 So I didn't want to leave anyone with the erroneous
20 impression that children who went to Australia had been
21 branded in any way. That would be incorrect.

22 CHAIRMAN: The word used by the witness carried very
23 dramatic connotations.

24 MS SMITH: It did.

25 CHAIRMAN: So it's as well that that was clarified.

1 MS SMITH: Chairman, I am content to commence to read the
2 batch of statements that we have for today. I am not
3 sure if the Panel wishes to take a short break or not,
4 but I am certainly ready to start.

5 CHAIRMAN: No, we are happy to carry on if your vocal cords
6 will stand it, Ms Smith.

7 MS SMITH: I will certainly carry on for a few and see how
8 far we get.

9 Reading of statement of WITNESS HIA325

10 Q. The first of those is HIA325. The statement can be
11 found at AUS10746. The child migration form can be
12 found -- if we can pull that up, please -- just at
13 1073 -- sorry -- 10753. This, Chairman, as you can see,
14 is completely different from any other child migration
15 form that we have seen. It strikes me that as we scroll
16 down through this, this appears to have been a typed
17 preparation of something that may well have been in the
18 format that we have seen from the other applicants to
19 the Inquiry. Just scroll down. You can see that
20 section A, section B is set out there.

21 It appears, just if I can pause there, to show his
22 mother consented to him emigrating. The witness' name
23 is given there. It appears to be his mother's consent
24 on that form and --

25 CHAIRMAN: It looks as if whoever has typed this has not

1 done so very well, because the witness -- the mother's
2 signature is described as "Kein", K-E-I-N, "Donsilly".

3 MS SMITH: I think that's the witness to the signature, yes.

4 CHAIRMAN: I suspect it's -- that sounds rather Germanic.

5 It seems a little unlikely.

6 MS SMITH: It does, but here are the --

7 CHAIRMAN: The address, 73A South Parade, is the same as the
8 address for the Reverend Starkey yesterday.

9 MS SMITH: Yes.

10 CHAIRMAN: Maybe it was -- maybe it was the parochial house
11 at the time.

12 MS SMITH: It may well have been. It may well have been.

13 I~would imagine that would be "Kevin" rather than
14 "Kein".

15 CHAIRMAN: I would have thought so.

16 MS SMITH: And obviously "South Parade", there's an A
17 missing from that. So there are obviously typographical
18 errors in the typing of it.

19 CHAIRMAN: Can we find out the date he actually sailed?

20 MS SMITH: He sailed, Chairman, in 1953, in April 1953, on
21 the SS Moyola I think it might have been, although the
22 --

23 CHAIRMAN: Yes. They arrived on 11th April. So he probably
24 sailed some time in March, about a month before that.

25 We can check that.

1 MS SMITH: It says here that migration date was 18th April
2 1952. That was obviously a year prior to the actual
3 migration.

4 CHAIRMAN: If you just scroll back up to the top, please,
5 yes, there are quite a few typing errors there.

6 MS SMITH: It looks as though someone has prepared this and
7 we are unclear as to who may have done that, but it
8 certainly seems to have been typed from what might have
9 been the pro forma with handwriting thereon.

10 CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

11 MS SMITH: Just for completeness if we look at 10757, and
12 this is again a typed version of the medical
13 examination, but it may well be -- in fact, just looking
14 at this, this is obviously dated in Perth in 1965. So
15 it isn't actually the medical that would have been
16 prepared prior to migration. This seems to have been
17 something that was prepared in Western Australia, but it
18 is the only medical that is in the --

19 CHAIRMAN: In his case it appears that he had 311 pounds and
20 6 shillings standing to his account. That was a very
21 substantial amount in 1965. It would have paid one's
22 way through university, as I well remember.

23 MS SMITH: It certainly wouldn't do so today, Chairman.

24 CHAIRMAN: No. The current -- the present day value would
25 be really quite substantial.

1 MS SMITH: I know Mr Aiken, my junior, is very good at
2 working out the current day values of such sums, but
3 sadly I'm, as had been admirably demonstrated this
4 morning, not very good with figures, Chairman.

5 CHAIRMAN: We have heard from other witnesses that some
6 received rather more modest amounts, some received no
7 amounts at all, despite the fact that they had been told
8 that deductions were being made and put aside. That's,
9 of course, a matter for the Australian authorities to
10 consider, if they ever do. Thank you.

11 MS SMITH: If we could return to 10746, please, HIA325 says:

12 "I was born in Belfast. My mother was unmarried
13 when I was born. She was a domestic servant in
14 Artillery Barracks", in a location that he identifies.
15 "She couldn't look after me and I was placed in Nazareth
16 Lodge, Belfast. I don't know anything about my father.

17 My first memory is of waking up and seeing a nun's
18 face. I must have been very young at the time. I think
19 I may have been about two years old when I was put in
20 the home.

21 There was a nun called SR100 in Nazareth Lodge.
22 SR100 was in charge of the home. She was pretty rough
23 and strict. If you did something wrong, she hit with
24 you a black belt which she carried with her. Even if it
25 was something minor or you didn't know what you were

1 doing she would hit us. She used a plain strap to hit
2 us. She hit us mainly on the hands and usually six
3 times on each hand. Sometimes she would hit you on the
4 backside depending on how serious the misdemeanour was.
5 I was beaten every couple of days.

6 I slept in a big dormitory in Nazareth Lodge.
7 I think there were approximately 100 children in it.
8 The building was a couple of storeys high. From what I
9 remember the food in the home was all right. I don't
10 remember going to school whilst in the lodge. We had to
11 go to mass every Sunday which I hated. You had to keep
12 quiet all the time which I didn't like. We had to say
13 prayers and the rosary every night and we had to kneel
14 down on the wooden floor.

15 I was never taken on any holidays while I was in the
16 home. Christmas was the only time we had treats.
17 I received some lollies and that was all we got.
18 I didn't get any presents. I didn't even know when my
19 birthday was while I was in the lodge. I only found out
20 the date of my birthday when I came to Australia.

21 I never had any visitors while I was in the lodge.
22 I recall asking the nuns about my mother and the nuns
23 told me she was dead. I later found out that she wasn't
24 dead. She had moved back to live in the Artillery
25 Barracks.

1 One day in Nazareth Lodge the nuns came along and
2 said, "You, you, you, off to Australia". I kept quiet
3 and didn't say anything and when they told me, because
4 if I did -- when they told me, because if I did speak,
5 I would have been hit with the belt. I think there was
6 about four of us that were sent. They described what
7 life would be like in Australia. They said we would be
8 riding donkeys to school. They said that Australia was
9 a good place.

10 My child migration form is signed by my mother on
11 18th April 1952 stating that she gave her consent for me
12 to be sent to Australia. I also have a certificate of
13 medical examination dated 11 December 1952, but I don't
14 remember having the examination."

15 That may well be in the bundle, Chairman, and
16 I called up the wrong document in respect of it, because
17 11th December would be obviously more pertinent than the
18 medical examination that was called up.

19 MS DOHERTY: That sheet, the top of the sheet, it looks as
20 if it has been typed from records, because the top of
21 the sheet is dated like that and talks about his ear.

22 MS SMITH: It may have been that it is the first half of
23 that page.

24 MS DOHERTY: Somebody has typed it. The first half of that
25 page is noted.

1 MS SMITH: "We travelled to England to meet the ship.

2 I sailed to Australia on the SS Moyola. There was a man
3 and woman who travelled with us and they were good to
4 us. I can't recall their names. There were other
5 children on the ship. There was a boy from Northern
6 Ireland but he wasn't in Nazareth Lodge. I was quite
7 naughty on the ship. When we arrived at a port which
8 I think was in India, I was told not to get off the ship
9 but I did. I wanted to go for a walk. When I was
10 caught I was punished for disobeying the rules. I was
11 not beaten but I had to stay in the cabin all day.

12 We arrived in Fremantle on 11th April 1953."

13 He then describes his time in Castledare Boys' Home
14 where he experienced physical punishment. The food was
15 poor, and later in paragraph 27 he talks about how he
16 was denigrated while in Castledare.

17 He then moved to Clontarf when he was nearly
18 11 years old and remained there until he was 16. Again
19 he complains of physical abuse, the lack of education,
20 the poor food, the manual labour, and in his particular
21 case he had a particular skin condition which meant that
22 he suffered in particular from the lack of sun
23 protection.

24 He then describes his life after leaving care from
25 paragraph 20 onwards. He says:

1 "I left Clontarf on 2nd August 1960 when I was 16.
2 I went to work for the Benedictine Community in New
3 Norcia as a farm hand. New Norcia is about 150
4 kilometres north of Perth. The job was arranged by the
5 Child Welfare Department. My employer had to sign
6 a service agreement with the Department which set out
7 the terms of my employment. The agreement stated that
8 if the employer wished to dispense with my services, he
9 was to notify the Guardian Authority Catholic Episcopal
10 Migration and Welfare Association in Victoria Square in
11 Perth. From my wages a sum of 25 shillings was deducted
12 which was placed in a bank account by the Child Welfare
13 Department. I was to receive the money from the account
14 once I reached 21 years old."

15 That would appear to be the sum that mounted up to
16 form the 3 -- over 300 pounds, Chairman.

17 "Since my arrival in Australia under the migration
18 scheme I was under the guardianship of the Assistant
19 Director of the Child Welfare Department. The
20 guardianship ended when I turned 21. My trust account
21 which was held by the Department was made available to
22 me on my birthday. When I went to work I was provided
23 with clothing from Clontarf. The money for the clothing
24 was deducted from my trust account.

25 I stayed at the farm for nine years. They were not

1 very good to me. The only time I was taken anywhere was
2 to church on a Sunday. If I wanted to go anywhere else
3 I had to cycle on a push bike. I used to ride for nine
4 miles to Kalingiri to go to the pictures once a week.
5 I think the welfare authorities visited me once or
6 twice."

7 He eventually goes on to talk about eventually
8 settling in the place where he has worked for the last
9 29 years which he enjoys and he talks about,
10 paragraph 24:

11 "As a result of what happened to me as a child I
12 have given up religion. When I was young religion was
13 pushed on me and I didn't like it.

14 I tried to find out about my family. I went back to
15 Ireland in 1978. I went looking for my mother.
16 I couldn't find out any information other than she was
17 born in Dublin. I don't even know if my mother is still
18 alive. I don't know anything else about my family. I
19 went back again to Ireland in 2000 for a holiday. The
20 Christian Brothers paid for my airfare. I went to
21 Belfast and I met a nun called Sister Nolene in the
22 Nazareth Care Village and she was very good to me.

23 I had no birth certificate as a child and I only
24 obtained it in recent years. Every year I attend
25 a reunion barbecue with the boys who were child migrants

1 in the Christian Brothers' homes.

2 My life in institutions was an ongoing battle for
3 survival. I was molested, physically and mentally
4 abused and degraded by the Christian Brothers. They
5 taunted us with names such as 'scum of the earth' and
6 'bastards'. I also had to look out for the older boys
7 who were on the prowl for younger boys to molest and
8 abuse. I had lack of education, decent food or
9 clothing. I have no self-esteem. I was not cared for
10 in the way that children should be. I have tried to put
11 my experiences in institutions aside and get on with my
12 life as best I can.

13 I received £45,000 -- sorry -- 45,000 AUD from the
14 redress scheme following the Australian government's
15 apology to former child migrants in November 2009."

16 The statement is dated -- signed and dated 24th
17 October 2013.

18 Reading of statement of WITNESS HIA331

19 Q. The next statement is that of HIA331 and if we go first
20 of all to the child migrant form, which is at 10820, and
21 it is in a bundle of documents from 10817 to 10832
22 relating to this applicant, but it is clearly -- this is
23 the child migrant form with which we are now familiar.
24 She was aged 7. She was born in 1945 in Belfast and
25 the -- her guardian was the Mother Superior of Nazareth

1 House, who has signed there at the end of section A.

2 If we can scroll down, please, she has also signed
3 in lieu of the parental consent. It is witnessed by
4 Fr Stinson

5 If we could just scroll further down, we will see
6 that he also signs it on behalf of the Australian
7 Catholic Migration Committee and it is dated 25th
8 November 1952.

9 Then if we look at 10822, which is the next page --
10 sorry. Just if we can just go back to that. Sorry.
11 No, I don't believe that is the right number I have
12 given. If you go back to 1082, if we just scroll down
13 slightly, please, you can see there is a handwritten
14 note there which says:

15 "Appears to be an average type of little girl.

16 Clean and neat.

17 Speech: average for age

18 Eyesight: appears normal

19 Education: appears average for age."

20 She is the sister of another child. The stamps
21 recommending her for immigration are there.

22 There are two medical examinations. I thought one
23 -- if we could just scroll down to the next page,
24 please. No. I think this is -- relates actually to --
25 this is actually -- there is a redaction required on

1 this, Chairman, which I will ensure is done later, but
2 you will see, if we just pause there, it is noted that:

3 "The medical officer in England on 15th
4 December 1952 noted that the child's lungs may be
5 abnormal, indicated that she had not been x-rayed and
6 'Remarks' is:

7 'The child is rather underweight, is coughing.
8 There is a slight dullness to base with numerous
9 crepitations. Condition possibly transient. No history
10 available.'.

11 I note too that the doctor's report indicates the
12 child's heart to be normal.

13 In 1953 it is noted that she has a slightly enlarged
14 heart, which was revealed at an X-ray.

15 In view of the doctor's report concerning the
16 child's lungs I would appreciate you making arrangements
17 for her to be medically examined and an assurance given
18 to the Department that there is no need for concern
19 about the child's health."

20 So it would appear that this letter and I think
21 there may be -- if we can scroll down to 10824, this is
22 the note of the medical examination there. Can we just
23 come out of the highlighting, please, and just put the
24 whole page up? If -- it says -- this here again -- this
25 document will need redacting and I will just remind

1 people that although there are names given on that, they
2 are not to be repeated outside of the chamber.

3 The results of the medical examination are there and
4 it is noted that essentially what was said in the letter
5 is noted on this medical report. I am highlighting this
6 particular medical, Chairman, because it is clear from
7 documentation which I will -- I have already opened in
8 the opening but I will refer to again tomorrow that
9 children who were sent to Australia were supposed to be
10 in good physical health and this child obviously had
11 some difficulties which may otherwise have precluded her
12 from being selected for migration, but in any event we
13 know that she did, in fact, go.

14 I think if we can -- there is another medical that I
15 think is at 10832. This is obviously a document that
16 has been received from the Commonwealth of Australia or
17 the national archives of Australia. If we can just
18 scroll down through that, you can see there that -- just
19 the "Remarks":

20 "This child is rather underweight, is coughing.
21 There is slight dullness to [something] with numerous"
22 -- I think that's -- "to base with [something] --
23 dullness to base with numerous crepitations. Condition
24 possibly transient. No history available."

25 So it's clear that the actual concern about this

1 child's health was given to the Australian authorities
2 when that document is stamped as something that has come
3 from their archives.

4 CHAIRMAN: It looks as if the child may have signed it
5 herself.

6 MS SMITH: Indeed.

7 CHAIRMAN: A childish signature.

8 MS SMITH: Yes. So if I may then return to the witness
9 statement, which is at 10808, and it reads:

10 "I was born in Belfast." She gives her maiden name
11 and her father's name and mother's name. "I have one
12 sister, HIA298, who is 18 months older than me. We
13 lived at home with our mother. I believed that my
14 mother was unmarried. However, I have seen a letter
15 dated 15th February 1988 stating that my parents married
16 in St. Anne's Cathedral in 1932. However, I am not sure
17 whether X was in fact my father. When I was reunited
18 with my mother in 1990 she told me that she used to
19 leave with us a lady while she went to find work.
20 I don't think we were well looked after as I have
21 permanent scars on my body and we were never changed out
22 of dirty clothes even though our mother left clean
23 clothes for us. I believed that my sister and I were
24 placed in care because our mother could not look after
25 us and that someone told her to take to us Nazareth

1 House even though she wasn't a Catholic. She was told
2 they would take us if she was in desperate need of help.

3 I was placed with my sister in Nazareth House when
4 I was four years old. The only nun's name I recall is
5 SR101, who I called [a name]. I called her this because
6 she had a long, grey, thick stick which she used to hit
7 children. I never got hit, but I used to cower from her
8 out of fear of a beating.

9 One day we went for a picnic and I soiled myself by
10 accident. The nuns called my sister over and she had to
11 clean me up. Then the nuns left me sitting on a bus
12 with no clothes on and just a towel around me. I was
13 freezing cold. When I was young, I remember that I
14 wasn't able to put my mittens on. The nuns found my
15 sister and brought her to help me. I don't have many
16 memories of my sister and I playing together in Nazareth
17 House even though we were so close in age. I think the
18 nuns must have kept us apart.

19 When I was five years old I recall being left in
20 a dark room which was like a dungeon because I wouldn't
21 eat my bread and butter pudding as it was too lumpy.

22 I was left there in the room for a long time.

23 Eventually one of the older girls came and said it was
24 okay and I didn't have to eat it and she took me out of
25 the room.

1 I recall a lady asking" -- sorry -- "taking my
2 sister and I out of the home on day trips. This lady
3 lived in Nazareth House and I think she was our
4 godmother. Sometimes she had to go to the doctor and we
5 went with her. We used to press our noses up against
6 the window on the bus.

7 Years later my sister told me how we ended up in
8 Australia. She said that the nuns asked us who wanted
9 to go to Australia. I think my sister put her hand up
10 and we were chosen to go. I think we were the only two
11 that went from Nazareth House. I do recall that when
12 they came to take us I was screaming. They said, "Come
13 on, you. You are coming with us" and they grabbed me by
14 the hand. I was pulling and screaming, "I don't want to
15 go. I don't want to go", but they just took me and my
16 sister. I think they may have told us they were taking
17 us for a holiday.

18 I remember being taken to a large wharf with lots of
19 people around. There was a woman on the ship who was
20 supposed to be looking after us but she didn't look
21 after us very well. I have a scar on my stomach because
22 I burnt myself with a iron because I wanted to iron
23 a handkerchief and I had to stand on my tiptoes.

24 My child migration form is dated 25th November 1952
25 and signed by SR99, who was Mother Superior of Nazareth

1 House, and witnessed by Fr Stinson It states that he was
2 nominated by the Catholic Child Group. My medical
3 examination form is dated 15th December 1952. It notes
4 that my lungs may have been abnormal.

5 I have a copy of a letter dated 5th March 1953 from
6 SR112, Nazareth House to SND220 enclosing a copy of our
7 baptismal certificates. The letter states that my
8 sister and I were only received into the church before
9 departure to Australia. I think my religion was Church
10 of Ireland as I have a copy of a letter dated 15th
11 February 1988 from the Catholic Migrant Centre to the
12 parish priest of St. Anne's Cathedral. The letter
13 states that my mother married in St. Anne's Cathedral in
14 Belfast in 1932.

15 We left Nazareth House on 9th March 1953 and sailed
16 to Australia on 10th March 1953 on the SS" -- "Moyola"
17 I think it is. "We arrived in Fremantle on 10th April
18 1953."

19 She was taken to Nazareth House in Geraldton. She
20 describes her life there as desolate, empty and bleak,
21 and describes time -- her time there in paragraphs 11
22 through to paragraph 23. She describes both emotional
23 and physical abuse in the home, the lack of medical
24 treatment, the excessive chores that the children were
25 expected to do and she also describes being sexually

1 abused by people when she went out to -- to whom she was
2 fostered during the holidays. She says that she told
3 a nun about this but was not believed. That's at
4 paragraph 20.

5 She says at paragraph 21:

6 "I recall having to go to hospital and have x-rays
7 but I didn't know what for. I have a copy of a letter
8 dated 11th September 1953 from the Catholic Episcopal
9 Migration and Welfare Association to the Child Welfare
10 Department which states that I was x-rayed in Geraldton
11 and the x-ray showed I had a slightly enlarged heart."

12 I think that's probably that she has had that --
13 sorry. I am confusing that with the last one. I beg
14 your pardon.

15 She goes on to say:

16 "It states I was seen by the medical officer in
17 England on 15th December and he noted my lungs may have
18 been abnormal. The letter requests that in the light of
19 the comment about my lungs that arrangements should be
20 made to have me medically examined and 'an assurance
21 given to the Department that there is no need for
22 concern about the child's health'."

23 In paragraph 23 she says that:

24 "When I was older in the home I asked the nuns where
25 my mother was and they just said to me, 'What do you

1 want to know that for? Go away. Your mother is dead'.

2 I left Nazareth House when I was 16 and I went to do
3 nursing. I kept in contact with my sister who had
4 already left and we used to write to each other. We
5 were never told about the birds and the bees and I had
6 to find out things the hard way. I left the hospital
7 after two years when I became pregnant with my first
8 child. My husband and I married when I was 19 years
9 old. We have been married for 50 years and we have
10 three children and five grandchildren. I have
11 a supportive and understanding husband and I enjoy
12 a close relationship with my children. I try and give
13 them all the love I can as I was never shown any love
14 myself.

15 My sister was keen on finding out if our mother was
16 still alive. She wrote a letter to a parish priest
17 before 1988. She also contacted the Child Migrants
18 Trust for assistance. In 1990 Margaret Humphreys found
19 our mother. We first spoke to her over the phone. My
20 sister and I visited Ireland in 1991 and met her. She
21 was 75 years old and she was living in Belfast. In 1993
22 she came over for Christmas and stayed with my sister
23 and I. My mother had two daughters before my sister and
24 I were born. One was born in 1934 and the other in
25 1936. They did not know about my sister and I can only

1 guess that they may -- they may also have -- they may
2 have also been put in a children's home. My mother then
3 had four more children, a boy who died when he was 35,
4 a boy -- a sister who was born in 1950, and a girl who
5 was born in 1953 and a third girl born in 1956.

6 When I first met my mother it was as if we had known
7 each other for a long time. We just connected. My
8 mother didn't tell me anything about my father. She
9 hadn't told her family anything about us. When we got
10 in touch, she told them and we met them all. It was
11 a lovely meeting. However, I don't hear from them now,
12 which I find strange and I don't know why.

13 My mother died in 2003/2004 from a stroke. My
14 stepsisters didn't tell us she had died. We found out
15 some time later. They said they didn't want to upset us
16 but I was hurt as she was our mother too. When I met my
17 mother, she told me that she came back to Nazareth House
18 to take us home with her as she thought she could look
19 after us. The nuns told her, "We have nobody here by
20 that name". They didn't tell her we had been sent to
21 Australia. I don't know how the nuns could send me and
22 my sister away without telling our mother where we were.

23 I returned to Ireland for the second and last time
24 in 2004. My husband came with me. I visited my
25 mother's grave. It still pains me that my stepsisters

1 never told me in time about my mother so I could have
2 attended her funeral.

3 I left Nazareth House at 16 with very low
4 self-esteem, anxiety and fear. I felt like a second
5 class citizen, poorly educated and ill equipped for the
6 outside world. I knew nothing of money and people
7 laughed at me. Inside I still feel inadequate and
8 embarrassed. I feel scarred by all the emotional trauma
9 and humiliation I suffered as a child. As I get older,
10 it gets harder to bear.

11 When I left Nazareth House, I didn't understand
12 money and I felt stupid. It made me feel like the nuns
13 were correct and all the nasty things they did to me
14 must have been my own fault. Those feelings have been
15 with me all my life. I get terribly hurt when I think
16 people are putting me down. Even now I am not good at
17 sticking up for myself. Although I left care able to
18 read to a basic level, I felt so unconfident that
19 I would always assume I had things wrong and I never put
20 myself forward. I used to rock in my seat, especially
21 in the classroom, and it took me years to realise that
22 I was doing it to soothe myself in the distress of that
23 toxic environment. I had nightmares for years about the
24 dead bodies from the men's hostel which I had to
25 undress, wash and pray for.

1 I am a Catholic but I do not practise. I only go to
2 church for funerals and weddings as we had so much
3 religion drilled into us when we were growing up."

4 She goes on to say:

5 "The worst part of my life is that they took my
6 heritage away when they put me on that ship. It is the
7 same for all child migrants. I have no Irish heritage.
8 No matter how much counselling you have it doesn't take
9 the pain away of losing my heritage. I try and forget
10 what I have experienced, but I can't. It doesn't matter
11 how much people try and counsel you about your past.
12 The memories won't go away. I try to be jovial and make
13 light of things in life but the memories are still
14 there.

15 This Inquiry is long overdue. My time in
16 institutional care has been a harrowing experience.
17 I have tried not to discuss it with my family. For
18 a long time I felt ashamed. Now I realise that I have
19 nothing to be ashamed of. There was never a time when
20 any adult, either the nuns or the child welfare, sat me
21 down and explained to me who I was, what was happening
22 to or what my choices were in life after I left care.
23 For years I felt inadequate and ashamed of my past.
24 I think the nuns and the welfare should be the ones who
25 are ashamed."

1 She has signed that statement on 11th June 2014.

2 October 2013.

3 Reading of statement of WITNESS HIA337

4 Q. Chairman, the next statement is at AUS10972 and
5 documents relating to this gentleman are to be found at
6 10975 to 10977. We don't have any child migration form
7 in respect of him and, as you will see, the statement --

8 CHAIRMAN: Do we have a sailing date?

9 MS SMITH: Bear with me. No, we don't, Chairman. You will
10 see that this statement was not prepared by the Inquiry
11 legal team, because the applicant had considerable
12 health difficulties which made it impossible to travel
13 to meet them, and this was prepared with the assistance
14 of the Child Migrants Trust, and submitted to the
15 Inquiry and you agreed to accept it, Chairman.

16 CHAIRMAN: Yes. I note he says that he, as he put it, was
17 deported at aged 8, which would, if that's correct,
18 suggest it was in or around 1952.

19 MS SMITH: He was born in 1944. So 19...

20 CHAIRMAN: 1952.

21 MS SMITH: Yes.

22 CHAIRMAN: It may not be correct, of course.

23 MS SMITH: Yes. The statement reads:

24 "My name is HIA337. I was born in Derry.

25 I first -- I got my first -- first got my birth

1 certificate in 1977 when I wrote away for it. I found
2 out my mother's name on it. In the 1990s I asked the
3 Child Migrants Trust to help me find my family and
4 I finally met them about 13 years ago. An aunt wrote to
5 me that I was born when my mother was around 18 years of
6 age. My father was an American sailor. I lived with my
7 mother and her father in ... until my mother's father
8 died in 1945. They told me my mother was unable to cope
9 on her own and I was removed from my mother's care when
10 I was around 18 months of age. My aunt told me she
11 didn't know why I had been admitted to Nazareth House,
12 because my family were Protestant. My aunt didn't know
13 where my mother was.

14 I have always a memory of a lady who I believe was
15 my mother coming to visit me in Nazareth House,
16 Londonderry when I was around 3 or 4 and she said, 'Are
17 you happy here?' and 'I'll be back next year'. I've
18 always thought that my life in Nazareth House was full
19 of chores and rough treatment, but I don't have specific
20 memories of experiences. I stayed there until I was
21 deported at aged 8 to Western Australia Catholic
22 institutions Castledare, Clontarf and Heathcote, which
23 is a psychiatric youth detention centre. My mother did
24 not sign her consent for me to be migrated.

25 I remember thinking that I was coming on a holiday.

1 After we arrived they took my friends to different
2 places and I was lonely and scared. Then they told me
3 that my parents were dead and I had no-one. They
4 changed my name to something else other than" what he
5 was christened.

6 He describes his life in Australia in the homes
7 there and describes physical abuse, bullying by other
8 boys and he also was then fostered. He talks about that
9 at paragraph 12.

10 He then indicates that he has suffered several
11 admissions to hospital and he takes medication for
12 schizophrenia. He is married and also is a carer for
13 his wife, who has a psychiatric disability.

14 Then at paragraph 9 it says:

15 "In 1999 the Child Migrants Trust found out that my
16 mother had another child, a girl, in Belfast who was
17 adopted in 1956. It was also very painful to get the
18 news that my mother had died. This was also the year
19 that I finally got back to Northern Ireland for the
20 first time, sadly to visit my mother's grave and to meet
21 my family that I never knew I had, a sister, an aunt,
22 an uncle and cousins. I went once more in 2004. Both
23 these visits were funded in Australia, and I could never
24 afford another trip back.

25 I would like to thank the Northern Ireland Inquiry

1 for giving me the opportunity to make this statement.

2 I am still sad about the lies that I was told and that
3 deportation cost me the chance to meet my mother. She
4 died in 1994, five years before I finally found her. My
5 family embraced me with open arms and assured me that my
6 mother would have done the same. I was never kept
7 a secret from the family. They always knew about me but
8 thought that I had been adopted as a child in Northern
9 Ireland. My aunt was furious and wanted to know why she
10 hadn't been given the chance to raise me as one of her
11 own. I'd like the Inquiry to understand that it is
12 still painful to have been removed from my homeland as
13 a boy and how I felt just left alone all my life.

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

23 He signed the statement, but at the same time as he
24 signed it he added an addition:

25 "I had bad nightmares all my life."

1 CHAIRMAN: Before we leave this applicant, I think he must
2 be mistaken in saying that he was in Nazareth House.

3 There were no boys in Nazareth House so far as I recall.

4 MS SMITH: There would have been in the very early days when
5 it had been set up, but not at this period of time.

6 That is correct.

7 CHAIRMAN: But I see from Sister Brenda's statement at
8 AUS11407 that she includes him in a party of 16 boys
9 from Termonbacca who sailed on 28th January 1953, which
10 would make more sense.

11 MS SMITH: Yes.

12 CHAIRMAN: So he would have been 8.

13 MS SMITH: Which is consistent with what he says about what
14 age he was when he left.

15 CHAIRMAN: 8 and months. Yes. Thank you.

16 October 2013.

17 Reading of statement of WITNESS HIA339

18 MS SMITH: The next statement is that of HIA 339. If we
19 look at the child migrant form, first of all. It can be
20 found at 10999. If I just pause there, you will see
21 that on the child migrant form it is signed on behalf of
22 the Federal Catholic Immigration Committee of Australia
23 by Fr Stinson that's Fr Stinson which is the name of the
24 sponsoring organisation for which he worked, on 3rd
25 March 1953, and in place of parental consent there is

1 consent of the Mother Superior of Nazareth House in
2 Belfast, and that signature is actually witnessed by
3 a nun, who was the head teacher of Nazareth House
4 Primary School in Belfast.

5 CHAIRMAN: Yes.

6 MS SMITH: And just scrolling down again, section C again is
7 completed by Fr Stinson. The other documents relating to
8 this applicant can be found from 10993 to 11008, but if
9 we could go back to her statement, which is at 10987,
10 and it reads -- she says where she was born in Northern
11 Ireland and gives her maiden and her mother's name. She
12 says:

13 "My mother spent some time in the Good Shepherd
14 Convent in Newry and later moved to Dublin. I do not
15 know anything about my father. I have four siblings,
16 all of whom" -- sorry -- "three of whom are applicants
17 to this Inquiry, HIA318, HIA303 and HIA401, and another
18 brother. HIA303 is the oldest and she is nearly -- she
19 is 70 next year. HIA318 is two years younger than
20 HIA303 and my brother is the youngest. I only found out
21 that I had a younger brother in 2001.

22 I was placed in Nazareth House when I was four years
23 old. I do not know where I spent the first four years
24 of my life but I think we might have lived with my
25 mother and grandfather during those years. From stories

1 I have been told in later life this seems to have been
2 the position and it was when my grandfather died that I
3 was placed in care.

4 I do not recall anything about my time in care in
5 Nazareth House, Belfast other than the fact that there
6 used to be dogs there. I think they must have belonged
7 to the nuns. They were Kerry Blues, and in later life
8 when my adoptive family got an Irish Setter dog, I asked
9 them to call it Kerry.

10 I have no memories of my mother visiting Nazareth
11 House, Belfast.

12 I was sent to Australia when I was four years old.
13 I do not recall being asked whether or not I wanted to
14 go to Australia. My medical form is dated 24th
15 March 1953.

16 The consent section of my child migration form is
17 signed by SR99, the Mother Superior of Nazareth House,
18 and dated 28th February 1953.

19 I sailed to Australia on 8th May 1953 on the SS
20 Otranto. I travelled with my sister, HIA303.
21 I remember feeling hungry on the ship and stealing
22 biscuits. I do not recall who took care of us on the
23 ship. I arrived in Melbourne on 10th June 1953. My
24 sister, HIA401, came out later on a different ship and
25 my brother, HIA318, was the last to be sent to Australia

1 and he travelled on a different ship to myself and my
2 sisters."

3 She then talks about her arrival in Melbourne and
4 about photographs being taken and I believe there are
5 photographs in the bundle of documents announcing the
6 arrival of children at the home in Melbourne.

7 Paragraph 10:

8 "I remember thinking I was an orphan throughout my
9 childhood. I used to look out the gates of the home at
10 other families wishing that I could be a normal child
11 with a normal family."

12 Eventually she was adopted in Melbourne and the
13 family that looked -- that adopted her were good to her,
14 but she does remember making a comment to her adoptive
15 parents saying, "I wish I was a normal child with
16 a normal father and mother". She talks about her
17 brother being sent to Bindoon and her sister not being
18 adopted and having a difficult life, and she has no
19 contact with her other sister, HIA401.

20 In the paragraphs relating to her life after care
21 she talks about doing nursing training, meeting her
22 husband, married when she was 24 and they have been
23 married for over 40 years. She says one serious
24 boyfriend she had before that as a young girl didn't
25 want to continue seeing her when he learnt she was

1 adopted but her husband accepted her.

2 "We have five children and three grandchildren."

3 She nursed part-time when she was married and then
4 took care of her adoptive mother. She never discussed
5 her childhood with her children and it was dropped
6 unwittingly into conversation by someone. She had to
7 then tell her family about it. She denied having
8 siblings for most of her life:

9 "... and it is only recently that I can admit I have
10 siblings, but I always explain I was brought up as
11 an only child. I always make it clear that I do not
12 want to discuss the topic in any more detail than that.
13 My past is a subject that is not up for discussion.

14 My husband and I visited Ireland in the early '90s.
15 We paid privately for this trip and I went to
16 and spoke to the parish priest. I went to England and
17 visited Nazareth House in Bexhill as this is where one
18 of the nuns from Australia was staying."

19 She spoke to her. She went to Hammersmith on that
20 trip:

21 "... but I did not make any inquiries or get very
22 far regarding any search for information into my
23 background."

24 She said then:

25 "The Child Migrants Trust assisted us with

1 a background search and Margaret Humphreys contacted me
2 in the early 1990s and told me about my mother and that
3 she had located my sister, HIA303. My mother had died
4 three years before so I never had the opportunity to
5 meet her. My sister had married when she was eighteen
6 years old and I had gone to her wedding, but I lost
7 contact with her after that, although I thought she
8 might have lived in Perth. She came to visit me shortly
9 thereafter with her daughter, but I almost felt as if I
10 had to hide her for the two weeks that she stayed with
11 me, as I had not told anyone about her. Our meeting
12 went well and I stay in touch with HIA303 on a monthly
13 basis and I remain close to her daughter. My brother,
14 HIA 318 also visited me on a couple of occasions.
15 I brought his son on one of the trips. We got on well
16 and we also stay in touch monthly. My brother had
17 initiated contact with the Child Migrants Trust. I have
18 also visited them on a couple of occasions and I stayed
19 with my niece and met my brother and sister during these
20 trips.

21 Before I went to Northern Ireland in 2002 my brother
22 and sister appeared on a BBC Spotlight documentary about
23 child migration. I had been asked to take part in this
24 documentary, but although I did not want to participate
25 in the documentary, I thought it was very brave of my

1 brother and sister to tell their story on television. I
2 have never watched the programme but it was seen by
3 distant cousins in Belfast and they got in contact. We
4 were able to find out more information from them about
5 our birth mother.

6 My second trip to Northern Ireland in 2002 was
7 sponsored by the Child Migrant Trust and I went with my
8 husband. I did not go with my siblings on this trip as
9 I did not feel I could cope with them -- with going with
10 them and I needed the support of my husband. My brother
11 and sister went on their own trip back to Ireland at
12 a different time. I met my aunt, my mother's sister, on
13 the trip but she did not tell me a great deal about my
14 mother. I also met my cousin and her daughter. I only
15 found out close in time to this trip that I had
16 a brother who lived in Lisburn. The Child Migrant Trust
17 made me aware of this. My brother was born in 1952,
18 eleven months after HIA401 was placed in Coneywarren
19 Children's Home. He was then placed in foster care" --
20 that's the brother was in Coneywarren -- "he was placed
21 in foster care and he stayed there until he was about
22 15 years old. I met my brother on this trip.

23 I visited the Good Shepherd in Newry where my mother
24 had stayed. I got conflicting information about my
25 mother on this trip and I found the entire trip quite

1 distressing. I did not know if I was getting the truth
2 about my mother or simply a gloss on her life and
3 I still do not feel that I have been told the true story
4 about my mother. My younger brother took us to visit my
5 grandfather's grave and showed us the house where he
6 thought I had been brought up but I found the entire
7 trip very upsetting and I have no intention of ever
8 returning to Ireland.

9 Although I got on well with my brother during this
10 trip, when I returned home I tried to keep up
11 a correspondence with him, but he seemed to close the
12 door on our relationship after that. I also wrote to my
13 sister HIA401 in the past and sent her photos but she
14 has not wanted to initiate any contact with me and I
15 have to accept that. I understand as it is just the
16 impact of being in residential care has a family.

17 The effect of being in residential care has been
18 lifelong in my opinion. I have always felt different,
19 ashamed, disconnected and inferior to all those other
20 people who had a family and who knew the identity of
21 their mother and father. I rarely discuss my past as it
22 is too painful and after speaking to this Inquiry I will
23 put the lid back on my time in care and I will no longer
24 discuss it."

25 She signed the statement on 30th July 2014.

1 Reading of statement of WITNESS HIA340

2 Q. The next witness is HIA340. Documents relating to her
3 are to be found at 11014 to 11022, but if we could just
4 look at one document, this lady was, in fact, adopted
5 and you will see that at AUS11016 this is an affidavit
6 which has been sworn by a Sister of Nazareth, SR 189

7 SR 189 , essentially setting out the position
8 with regard to this applicant's mother and the fact that
9 she did not sign any consent form to the adoption of her
10 daughter. If we could just scroll down, please,
11 I~believe -- just paragraph 2:

12 "... to my knowledge did not sign any consent to the
13 adoption of her daughter but I am informed and believe
14 that at the time the child was placed in Nazareth Lodge
15 the said mother requested the Sisters to arrange for her
16 adoption.

17 Mother had not contributed in any way and she had
18 not at any time visited the child while she was in the
19 Lodge or Nazareth House nor has she communicated with
20 her or the Sisters and they have no knowledge of her
21 whereabouts."

22 If you could scroll on down, and that there is no
23 court order in respect of the child, and that:

24 "... on two occasions the child was placed in the
25 care of a foster mother with a view to adoption but on

1 both occasions the foster mother became ill and the
2 child was returned to the home."

3 That's signed in October 1958 and it would appear
4 that the purpose of that affidavit was to allow adoption
5 proceedings to take place in Australia.

6 CHAIRMAN: If we just go back to the beginning, please.

7 MS SMITH: Yes. I should say, Chairman, it is clear this
8 document has not yet been redacted but it will be
9 redacted before it is placed on the website and again
10 the names that are recorded in that ought not to be
11 disseminated outside.

12 CHAIRMAN: Yes. Just scroll down slowly, please. Yes. It
13 doesn't say anything about consent to going to
14 Australia.

15 MS SMITH: No, it doesn't. What it does show is certainly
16 where there was no contact by a parent who left her
17 child with the care of the sisters, it was possible
18 where adoption was an option in Australia for this type
19 of document to be provided to allow such a course of
20 action to be taken for the child.

21 CHAIRMAN: Yes. On the assumption that the procedures in
22 Australia were broadly similar to our own at that time,
23 the court no doubt would wish to know whether the
24 natural parents could be contacted in any way.

25 MS SMITH: Yes. It also raises the question -- I can't

1 recall which of the applicants who spoke about someone
2 in Australia wishing to adopt them but was told that
3 that couldn't happen. It may well have been that
4 whenever the child was placed with the Sisters that she
5 had indicated she did not wish the child to be adopted,
6 because she may have hoped to be able to take her child
7 back at some time in the future and that would have
8 precluded this type of affidavit then from being sworn
9 on behalf of the sisters.

10 CHAIRMAN: I suppose the Order may have then said in
11 Australia, "We know you can't be adopted because we
12 can't stand over certain matters".

13 MS SMITH: Indeed.

14 CHAIRMAN: Yes.

15 MS SMITH: If we could then go to the witness statement,
16 which is at AUS11009, it reads:

17 "I was born in County Home. My mother
18 lived in . She was unmarried and 14 years old
19 when I was born. I do not know who my father was.

20 My mother's father said she was too young to look
21 after a baby and so I was placed in Nazareth House in
22 Belfast on 25th August 1950. I was recommended by
23 Nazareth Lodge. I believe I was put in care as a baby
24 so I may have been in the nursery of Nazareth Lodge from
25 when I was born. The nuns gave a promise to my mother

1 that I would have a good home.

2 I was placed in Nazareth House when I was two years
3 old. I left on 15th March 1953 and I was re-admitted on
4 14th February 1954. I do not know where I was placed
5 during this time."

6 But obviously the comments in the affidavit of
7 Sister Cummerton would explain what happened:

8 "I still have flashbacks to incidents when I was
9 dragged out of bed by the nuns for wetting the bed.
10 When I was out of bed the nuns either belted me with
11 a strap or hit me around the head. I remember seeing
12 other children who wet the bed getting treated the same
13 way. I do not recall any of the nuns' names and I do
14 not recall anything else from my time in Nazareth House,
15 Belfast.

16 I do not recall anyone talking to me about Australia
17 or asking me if I wanted to go. I left Nazareth House
18 on 21st February 1955. I do not recall anything about
19 the journey on the ship. I sailed to Australia on
20 23rd February 1955 on the Orontes when I was 6 years
21 old. There were other boys and girls on board the ship.
22 I have a memory of a little boy being hit on the ship
23 for misbehaving and then being thrown overboard. I do
24 not recall anything else about the journey to Australia.

25 My child migration form is signed by SR99 from

1 Nazareth House in Belfast and dated October 1954."

2 We don't have that document I believe in the
3 documents, but we'll check the bundle just to be sure
4 that we don't have it, but I certainly can't give
5 a page reference for it at the moment, Panel Members,
6 but --

7 CHAIRMAN: I question the accuracy of her recollection about
8 a little boy being thrown overboard.

9 MS SMITH: Indeed. Indeed. If it had happened, then it may
10 have been something we would have expected to have heard
11 from some of the others who travelled on that ship.

12 CHAIRMAN: Not only that, but the maritime regulations --

13 MS SMITH: Some record.

14 CHAIRMAN: -- about ensuring the number of people who were
15 on board were very strictly enforced and --

16 MS SMITH: It would have been on some official record,
17 Chairman, which certainly has never come to light in any
18 of the documentation we have seen.

19 CHAIRMAN: And even if a child had fallen overboard
20 accidentally, one would have expected quite
21 a considerable amount of investigation or at least
22 reports to the authorities in Australia.

23 MS SMITH: Indeed. Certainly to date we have not seen
24 anything to suggest the accuracy of that recollection.

25 CHAIRMAN: Yes.

1 MS SMITH: She then describes --

2 CHAIRMAN: She was very young at the time.

3 MS SMITH: She was.

4 CHAIRMAN: She wasn't seven.

5 MS SMITH: No, she was extremely young.

6 She describes her time in Nazareth House in
7 Melbourne and describes the life there. She complains
8 of a lack of affection, of physical abuse. Then at
9 paragraph 10 she does -- she talks about a couple who
10 took her out of the home at weekends. They had no
11 children of her own so they adopted her. She had a very
12 good life with them. They were good to her. The
13 husband died when she was 15 and the mother died after
14 this applicant was aged 35.

15 She went to school and she relates her work history.
16 She met her husband when she was 17. He was in the
17 navy.

18 "We married when I was 19. We moved to ,
19 where we now live, and we have two children, three
20 grandchildren. I am very close to my children. I feel
21 we have brought them up well and I learned from the
22 mistakes others made in relation to my childhood. I
23 have always done the best I can for my family.

24 I contacted the Child Migrants Trust in Melbourne in
25 the last ten years after seeing an article in the Herald

1 Sun newspaper. They helped me to obtain my birth
2 certificate, which I never had as a child. Eventually
3 they traced my family in Ireland and found my mother.

4 My married -- my mother was married to a man and
5 they had three sons and she was living in in
6 England. I met my mother for the first time
7 approximately five years ago. It was arranged by the
8 Child Migrants Trust. Our meeting was a beautiful
9 experience. She cuddled me and for the first time in my
10 life I felt that I belonged to someone. I felt
11 immediate affection as soon as I saw her.

12 However whilst part of the longing to know who I
13 belonged to was fulfilled, I was also sad as all my life
14 I never felt worthy of love. I still lack self-esteem
15 and I question myself every day. That feeling will
16 never go away. I will always have those feelings of
17 doubt. I can love other people and I do. I love my
18 family, but I have never loved myself. I have lost
19 a lot in my life. I never had a mother as a child.
20 Whilst I am happy that I have reconnected, that
21 happiness is tinged with sadness for a past of what ifs.

22 I met a mother again a few years ago and there was
23 no awkwardness. I can be open with her and tell her
24 anything. She has health problems now and is hard of
25 hearing. We stay in contact by way of telephone

1 and writing short notes to one another as neither of us
2 are very literate. I am in good contact with my
3 stepbrothers and two of them have visited me here in
4 Australia. My husband regularly e-mails to find out how
5 my mother is doing. I have also visited Ireland and met
6 my extended family in . They welcomed me but
7 our contact is sporadic. The Child Migrants Trust paid
8 for both of my trips to England and Ireland.

9 I attended the apology made by a Minister on behalf
10 of the Australian government in Melbourne a few years
11 ago. I feel aggrieved that I was sent off to Australia
12 without being asked. As child migrants we were not
13 treated as children but as commodities to be traded by
14 one country to another. They don't know how much damage
15 they caused us. I lost my identity and I was deprived
16 of the opportunity of reconnecting with my mother
17 and family sooner because I was in another country."

18 She signed the statement on 22nd October 2013.

19 Chairman, there are only two more statements that
20 are listed to be read today. I am happy to continue if
21 the Panel wish me to do so.

22 CHAIRMAN: I think so.

23 Reading of statement of WITNESS HIA342

24 MS SMITH: Next is HIA342. This is another statement which
25 is written in a different format with the assistance of

1 the Child Migrant Trust and we accepted this statement
2 without the need for this lady to meet the legal team
3 who travelled to Australia because of the distance
4 involved and also because of the difficulties she would
5 have had in getting to meet us.

6 The documents relating to this applicant are to be
7 found at 10... -- 11077 to 11086 and the child migration
8 form is at 11080. This is a copy from the Australian
9 archives and it shows that she was in Nazareth House in
10 Bishop Street in Londonderry at the age of 7. The form
11 was filled in and it is signed by SR139, who was
12 a sister in Nazareth House in Bishop Street at the time.
13 Signed as guardian on 15th July 1947.

14 If we just scroll on down, please, and it is
15 witnessed there by Br Conlon and described himself as the
16 "migration officer" and the address is given at
17 Twickenham.

18 If we could just scroll on down, that is her birth
19 certificate. So we only have the first page of that
20 child migrant -- child migration form.

21 Could we go back then, please, to 11072? The
22 statement reads:

23 "My name is HIA342. I was born in Derry.
24 I understand that I was admitted to Nazareth House,
25 Derry in 1941. I was recommended by Father Smith,

1 . I still really -- I still don't really know
2 the circumstances of my admission. I have learnt in
3 later years that at some stage my father had taken me to
4 a family to be looked after. I am not sure how old
5 I was when this happened. I know that my brother and
6 sister were admitted to Nazareth House in Belfast for
7 some years but my mother took both her children back
8 into her care in 1947/1948.

9 I have got no memories of Nazareth House, Derry.
10 All I can remember was that I was given a grey coat and
11 grey cap whereas all my friends had colours and I had to
12 have grey. I have spoken with my psychologist, now
13 retired, who practised in Ballarat Vic, whom I first saw
14 in 1997, a lot about my lack of memory and she thinks
15 that I have blocked all the memories and this could be
16 due to trauma.

17 At age 7 I was sent out to Australia and I believed
18 I had no-one, no family, because I was told I was a war
19 orphan. SR84 signed consent for migration and it was
20 witnessed by Br Conlon who I think was a Christian Brother
21 in Ireland. There were about five -- there was about
22 five of us around my age but there were older girls sent
23 as well and on the ship there were a lot of other kids.

24 I arrived in Fremantle on 22nd September 1947 aboard
25 the Asturias. I can remember the boat trip and the lady

1 who looked after us. A nurse looked after a few of us
2 in the cabin, about four or five of us. I don't
3 remember any preparation about going to Australia.
4 Perhaps I can remember having an injection but not much
5 else. We were like a herd of sheep. We were just
6 pushed along. I don't know anything about where we were
7 headed."

8 She recalls arriving in Fremantle and remembers
9 hating the heat. Then she talks about being taken to
10 Geraldton where she describes the chores that she had to
11 do there, the poor education. She describes a couple of
12 nuns as being cruel and she left at the age of 16 and
13 describes her working life in paragraph 5.

14 Then:

15 "One day in Melbourne" -- at next paragraph, 6 --
16 "when I was in my late 30s I went to the Derry
17 Association picnic and a photo was taken of me and sent
18 back to the Derry journal. The family in Derry
19 recognised me. Two of them from Derry wrote and told me
20 that I had lived with their family until I was 7. He
21 was ten years older than me and remembers that the
22 Sisters of Nazareth came around to his mother and told
23 her and the family that I would have a better life in
24 Australia. He told me that I had a mother and father.
25 My mother was a nurse during the war and my father was

1 in the army. I wrote back but felt embarrassed and lost
2 and didn't know how to address all these difficult
3 issues from my past. I wasn't even confident or good at
4 spelling or writing in those days and not much better
5 these days. He also told me the nuns used to send
6 photographs to his mother in Derry as I was growing up
7 in Australia, including my graduation. I didn't even
8 know I had graduated.

9 I remember that after I had left Nazareth House in
10 Geraldton I was told I could write to his mother and
11 I said I had no idea who she is. She gave me the
12 address and I wrote to her asking what happened to my
13 parents. She wrote back and told me I had parents, that
14 my mother was a nurse and my father had been in the war.
15 It all seemed too painful at the time and I just seemed
16 to lose contact with her.

17 In 1997 my psychologist encouraged me to find out
18 about my family, because she believed that would help me
19 to deal with many emotional issues. The Child Migrants
20 Trust helped me to trace my mother, who sadly had died
21 in 1991 in Belfast before I could find her, and my
22 father, who had also died in 1976 in America. My
23 parents had three children. I was the third child. My
24 brother was born in 1934 in Belfast, had left Ireland
25 and was living in America and my sister was born in

1 1932, was living in Scotland and still is. My father
2 married again in London and then went to live in
3 America. I have a paternal sister who tells me that my
4 father was not in the army. My mother didn't marry
5 again or have any more children.

6 I only reunited with my family, my brother and
7 sister in 1999 and met my brother twice in America
8 before he died in 2011 in Baton Rouge. My brother told
9 me that my mother was always crying and they didn't know
10 about me. They were in a children's home in Belfast
11 after my parents separated after I was born. My mother
12 went back in 1946 and put my sister into commercial
13 college so that she could visit her more often. My
14 sister told me that our mother could only visit Nazareth
15 House, Belfast for two hours on a Sunday. I don't
16 remember any visits from my mother, but wonder how she
17 could have arranged to get from Belfast to Derry anyway
18 and her children were in separate homes in Belfast, boys
19 and girls. Around 1947/48 she took my brother and
20 sister back into her care, but I was sent to Australia
21 and she did not sign the consent form, although it
22 should be noted that it was the same order.

23 The impacts of my being deported from Northern
24 Ireland include loss of identity and culture, separated
25 from family and homeland, lack of education. My brother

1 and sister in Northern Ireland had secondary education
2 and I didn't and that was during the war. My migration
3 has affected many people, including my parents, my
4 siblings, my children and my grandchildren from ever
5 knowing anything about each other.

6 Growing up I was made to feel that I had little self
7 worth and that I was brought up with guilt, fear and
8 anxiety. I lacked encouragement and confidence. This
9 has affected my life chances and my personal
10 relationships and my marriage suffered because of this.
11 I had to bring up two children on my own when my
12 marriage broke down. There are many reasons why
13 children were in care: Second World War, poor parents,
14 poor families, single parents, separated families. Some
15 were placed in care against their parent's will for
16 reasons to do with religion. In my case I believe that
17 the fact that my father was non-Catholic was part of the
18 reason my migration was organised. I think this because
19 that is all the Catholic Church thought of in those
20 days. The system had little accountability and no-one
21 came to check as we had no family. We were out of
22 sight, out of mind. There were not enough nuns to look
23 after us -- to look after all of us. They were expected
24 to do the impossible.

25 I would like to say that governments failed us.

1 Where we missed out the nuns were also not supported.
2 It's easy to criticise, to criticise just the people who
3 were trying to look after us, but we were sent out to
4 populate Australia, good white British stock, but we all
5 missed out. We were not sent with enough forethought to
6 the effects of the trauma of separation from our
7 families and homeland.

8 I would like to thank the Inquiry for your
9 consideration and for permitting me to prepare my
10 statement rather than having to travel to Queensland to
11 meet with the panel. The effect of having to face these
12 painful issues again makes me relive the trauma and my
13 doctor has given me medication to help manage the
14 stress."

15 She has signed the witness statement on 28th
16 October 2013.

17 Reading of statement of WITNESS HIA345

18 Q. The next statement is that of HIA345 and the documents
19 relating to this applicant can be found at 11093 to
20 11116. The child migration form can be found at 11102.
21 If that could be called up. This applicant was aged 9,
22 born in . The guardian is described as the Reverend
23 Mother of Nazareth House, Belfast, and it is signed by
24 Fr Stinson on behalf of the Federal Catholic Immigration
25 Committee of Australia. The guardian's consent is given

1 by SR99, who was the Superior of Nazareth House in
2 Belfast, and is witnessed by SR112, who is the head
3 teacher of the primary school, Nazareth House. Then
4 Fr Stinson has signed it on behalf of the sponsoring
5 organisation.

6 Then at 11104 this is a copy of her medical
7 examination. If we can just scroll down there, results
8 are recorded there. It says:

9 "Apparently normal healthy child"

10 in the "Remarks" section. Her physique is
11 described as above average.

12 If we could then go back to the witness statement at
13 11087, and it reads:

14 "I was born in , County Tyrone. I am not sure
15 who cared for me during the first two years of my life.
16 It is possible that I was cared for during this period
17 by my mother or I may have been placed in the Baby Home
18 at Nazareth House, Derry. My mother was a 21 year old
19 single mother when I was born.

20 The register from the Sisters of Nazareth shows that
21 I was placed in Nazareth House, Belfast on 9th October
22 1946 when I was two years old and I stayed there until
23 6th May 1953. The observation book of the home notes
24 that my admission was recommended by the Sisters of
25 Nazareth, Nazareth House, Derry and by my mother.

1 I made my first confession on 18th May 1951, my first
2 communion on 19th May 1951 and I had left the home
3 before it was time for my confirmation. The admissions
4 register also notes my date of birth as

5 but my correct date of birth is noted
6 above",

7 and it is true to say it is the same year but
8 a different month.

9 "I remember a few things about my time in Nazareth
10 House. I recall having nightmares and I used to
11 sleepwalk. I was scared by pictures of the Sacred Heart
12 that had flickering lights below. The nuns told me that
13 I was possessed by the devil",

14 and then she has handwritten on the statement:

15 "Also holy pictures and water.

16 Some of the girls in the home were punished by the
17 nuns for wetting the bed. This did not happen to me,
18 but I often saw the other girls being punished by having
19 to put their wet bed sheets over their heads.

20 I recall having my hair washed in water and Jeyes
21 Fluid. I think it was used to prevent nits, but it was
22 really strong and burned your neck red. I also recall
23 having to show my underwear to the nuns, which I always
24 found a humiliating thing for them to ask me to do.

25 I remember feeling hungry during my time at Nazareth

1 House and stealing apples from the kitchen. I also
2 recall feeling cold a lot of the time in the home.

3 We were told that we were going to a land full of
4 oranges and sunshine, so we wanted to go at the time,
5 although we had really no idea where we were going. I
6 recall the wind whistling through the orphanage and
7 there was no form of heating. So the thought of a warm
8 country was appealing at the time. Sister SR112 signed
9 my form authorising my migration to Australia.

10 I was one of five girls in the home who were
11 transported on the SS Otranto to Australia. I shared
12 a cabin with these five girls. We did not travel with
13 nuns. We travelled with two Catholic lay women who were
14 in charge of us on board the ship. I recall they showed
15 us a hairbrush and told us that one side was for your
16 hair and the other side was for beating you if you did
17 not behave.

18 There were boys on the ship also but we did not mix
19 together. I recall our route went via the Suez Canal.

20 I really enjoyed the journey on the ship. We left
21 England on 8th May 1953 and arrived in Fremantle on 4th
22 June 1953. We dropped off some passengers at Fremantle
23 and then preceded on to Melbourne. I think all the boys
24 got off at Fremantle. We were given baskets as gifts.
25 We had toys and dolls and they took photographs of us on

1 arrival at Nazareth House as we were the first migrant
2 children to be housed by the Sisters of Nazareth in
3 their new wing at East Camberwell."

4 The other girls' names are given there, two of whom
5 are applicants to the Inquiry, HIA339 and HIA303.

6 "We all had to show our toys and dolls to the
7 photographer, but these items and our baskets were taken
8 from us by the nuns. The Advocate, which is a Catholic
9 paper, was doing an article on our arrival, so these
10 toys were just for show."

11 She says the home was opened specifically for child
12 migrants and there is a photograph I should say at 11107
13 and 11108 of their arrival at the home in Melbourne.
14 I don't think it is -- again that's the newspaper
15 clipping, the Advocate, that she describes, and then if
16 we just scroll down, "Little 'Irish Eyes Are Smiling'",
17 and there's a photograph of them arriving in
18 Melbourne.

19 CHAIRMAN: Can we just see are the names there?

20 MS SMITH: Yes, they are, Chairman. They can be redacted
21 subsequently.

22 CHAIRMAN: It is interesting. It says:

23 "On June 27th there arrived nine girls from Nazareth
24 Houses in England. Later at the rate of about 25 each
25 month more will come."

1 This was dated when?

2 MS SMITH: That would have been June 1953. I am not sure
3 the date is actually on that.

4 CHAIRMAN: So certainly that contemplated continuing and
5 substantial numbers of children coming from all over the
6 United Kingdom, of course.

7 MS SMITH: Indeed. What she says was this home was
8 specifically set up for child migrants and opened for
9 that purpose. I am sure that can be confirmed by the
10 Sisters themselves in due course.

11 CHAIRMAN: Yes. We will have to redact these names before
12 they --

13 MS SMITH: Before it goes out.

14 CHAIRMAN: -- it goes on the website.

15 MS SMITH: That will be done, Chairman.

16 If we could go back to her statement at 11089, at
17 paragraph 12 there she says:

18 "The intention under the white Australia policy was
19 to bring more children out, but I think when the numbers
20 at the school reached about 50 or so, then England
21 stopped sending anyone else out and put an end to
22 further migration."

23 She talks about the time that she spent in the home
24 in Melbourne. She describes beatings and physical abuse
25 to which she was subjected. She talks about going to

1 a secondary school, going out to stay with families.
2 She said that she heard nothing from anyone in authority
3 after she left the home.

4 Paragraph 18, she said that she became a single
5 mother herself at 20 years old.

6 "I called my daughter ... and gave her up for
7 adoption. She went to a good home and her adoptive
8 parents called her by a different name. We have
9 subsequently reunited. She traced me in the 1990s and
10 we talked on the phone a lot and then we met in
11 Melbourne and we got on really well. After I gave her
12 up for adoption I went to live in New Zealand for two
13 years when I was 22 and I did various jobs."

14 She says she went off the rails, had a son and
15 a daughter. She was married to their father but
16 divorced after ten years and she -- excuse me -- her son
17 went to live with his father and her daughter lived with
18 her. She said:

19 "I sought the assistance of the Child Migrants Trust
20 in the 1990s to trace my mother but I have not been
21 successful to date. I only found out recently that she
22 moved to in England, but I have not been able
23 to locate her and she would be about 90 years old now
24 and may well be deceased."

25 She describes her life as:

1 "... not looking for love and not knowing what love
2 was. I used to hit my children, which I now regret."

3 She said her husband called her selfish, but in
4 reality she was protecting herself as she was afraid to
5 get close to anyone. She found it hard to trust people
6 or believe that they had her best interests at heart.
7 She said at paragraph 21:

8 "I would admit that I struggle to trust people and
9 I become angry very quickly and may be defensive, but
10 now I have contact with all three of my children and
11 grandchildren so I have managed to maintain these family
12 ties over the years despite my upbringing."

13 She signed the statement on 15th December 2013.

14 Chairman, those are the statements that I propose
15 reading to the Inquiry and were listed to be read today.

16 There are four remaining statements which -- I could
17 read those this afternoon, which would then allow us to
18 deal with a substantial number of materials and the
19 document that I wish to refer the Inquiry to tomorrow.

20 CHAIRMAN: We only have I make it five tomorrow.

21 MS SMITH: I have four, Chairman, but I can double-check,
22 but I certainly only have four.

23 CHAIRMAN: In my index there is 401. Is she not being
24 called?

25 MS SMITH: 401 is being called tomorrow, but there are four

1 witness statements being read. So there are a total of
2 five witnesses in that sense.

3 CHAIRMAN: Yes, five altogether. I think we'll be able to
4 get through that all right comfortably in the morning I
5 would have thought.

6 MS SMITH: Well, I can certainly do that and we can then --

7 CHAIRMAN: Yes. I mean, we can read them -- you can read
8 the other statements this afternoon. It won't take very
9 long.

10 MS SMITH: That's what I was proposing to do, Chairman, that
11 I would read those four, and then we can deal with the
12 witness who will be giving evidence by Livelink first
13 thing, and then I can refer to you various documents in
14 the bundle.

15 CHAIRMAN: Well, I think it might be appropriate just at
16 this moment to review the remainder of the module. We
17 have Sister Brenda listed for Thursday morning. We are
18 not sitting on Thursday afternoon. I think there's one
19 witness only listed for Monday. Is that right?

20 MS SMITH: There are -- I have today received as yet
21 an unsigned statement from the Department of Health
22 witness, Chairman. There may be difficulties with her
23 attendance, but that will need to be explored.
24 Certainly if she wishes to speak to the statement, then
25 she is scheduled to give evidence on Monday, 15th.

1 CHAIRMAN: Well, we expect her to be here. Then it's
2 closing submissions.

3 MS SMITH: Indeed.

4 CHAIRMAN: Well, I would have thought, Mr Montague -- we are
5 not expecting any closing submissions from Ms Smith --
6 I presume yours can be done on Monday.

7 MR MONTAGUE: If we are not sitting on Tuesday, Chairman,
8 then we certainly would do them on Monday. An extra day
9 would assist --

10 CHAIRMAN: Well --

11 MR MONTAGUE: -- but if the Inquiry is not sitting on
12 Tuesday, then I will deal with it on Monday.

13 CHAIRMAN: Well, we will give you to Tuesday morning, but
14 I assume you will be finished comfortably by lunchtime
15 on Tuesday?

16 MR MONTAGUE: Oh, yes. I don't anticipate taking very long.

17 CHAIRMAN: It is a question of making arrangements for the
18 building and so on, you see. So I assume that we can --

19 MR MONTAGUE: Would you permit me to --

20 CHAIRMAN: We can assume we will finish on Tuesday at
21 lunchtime?

22 MR MONTAGUE: Yes. Can we review in the morning, and if
23 it's for ease for the Panel, we can deal with it on
24 Monday?

25 CHAIRMAN: Well, we don't want to put you under any

1 excessive pressure.

2 MR MONTAGUE: That would be uncharacteristic, Chairman.

3 CHAIRMAN: No, no, no, no. It is as well you are not on
4 your own. Well, we will leave it at the moment that we
5 will sit on Tuesday morning unless you tell us to the
6 contrary.

7 MR MONTAGUE: Thank you very much. Thank you very much.

8 MS SMITH: Chairman, there may well be submissions
9 forthcoming from the Health & Social Care Board and from
10 the Department of Health.

11 CHAIRMAN: Yes. Well, in the light of statements we have
12 seen so far I can't think what they are going to be.
13 I am not encouraging mere repetition of the statement.

14 MS SMITH: Very well. I will pass that on.

15 CHAIRMAN: Very well. We will sit again at 2 o'clock then.

16 MS SMITH: 2 o'clock.

17 (12.45 pm)

18 (Lunch break)

19 (2.00 pm)

20 MS SMITH: Good afternoon, Chairman, Panel Members, ladies
21 and gentlemen. Chairman, before lunch I read out the
22 statement of HIA340. We have managed to locate her
23 child migrant form. It has just been added to the
24 bundle, but I don't know that it is actually ready to be
25 called up, but I will give you the page reference

1 numbers. It is 11858.

2 CHAIRMAN: Just one moment, please. This is which one
3 again? 340?

4 MS SMITH: 340. In her statement she said that her child
5 migration form had been signed by the Mother Superior of
6 the home she was in, Nazareth House, and that is borne
7 out by the child migration form and it can be found at
8 AUS11858.

9 CHAIRMAN: Just before we go into it, can I just raise
10 something which I only noticed over lunch in relation to
11 326?

12 MS SMITH: The statements are not in the chamber at the
13 moment, but I can --

14 CHAIRMAN: No. I will explain it in a moment.

15 MS SMITH: 326.

16 CHAIRMAN: Yes. Her statement was read on 4th September.

17 MS SMITH: Yes.

18 CHAIRMAN: And she does not appear by name on Sister
19 Brenda's list of people who went in her case from
20 Nazareth House in Belfast. Now it may be she alleges
21 that her name and date of birth were changed.

22 MS SMITH: I think from recollection she did, Chairman.

23 I think she talked about being called --

24 CHAIRMAN: Yes, I know. That's what I am saying, but the
25 name under which we have her does not appear in Sister

1 Brenda's list.

2 MS SMITH: Although the surname we would have would be her
3 married name in any case.

4 CHAIRMAN: I would like to know what her proper name is so
5 we can make sure she's on the list.

6 MR MONTAGUE: I will look into that, Chairman.

7 CHAIRMAN: I presume it is simply because, as Sister Brenda
8 points out, there have been some name changes, but
9 I couldn't identify which one it would be --

10 MR MONTAGUE: We will endeavour to find that out.

11 CHAIRMAN: -- because she went in March 1953 and there are
12 only four people who went in March 1953 -- five: three
13 boys, two girls. She can't be either of them, but
14 perhaps you would just look into that, Mr Montague.

15 MR MONTAGUE: I certainly will, Chairman.

16 CHAIRMAN: I am not saying we need an answer today. It is
17 just a point I thought I would raise while it was in my
18 mind.

19 MR MONTAGUE: Yes. Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN: I am sorry. Ms Smith, you were going to deal
21 with?

22 Reading of statement of WITNESS HIA310

23 MS SMITH: Yes, Chairman. We were going to deal with
24 RI... -- sorry -- HIA310 now. There are some documents
25 in the bundle in respect of this applicant, but when we

1 were looking for the child migration form in respect of
2 the applicant I just referred to, that's 340, we
3 discovered that there is a bundle of material that has
4 not got into the bundle in respect of this applicant,
5 but we will arrange to have that put in, and his child
6 migration form, which we didn't think we had, is
7 actually in that material. I will get the Bates numbers
8 once we have had the opportunity to number it and put it
9 into the bundle.

10 CHAIRMAN: But her mother gave consent it would seem.

11 MS SMITH: This is HIA310?

12 CHAIRMAN: Yes.

13 MS SMITH: It's a male.

14 CHAIRMAN: His mother gave consent, although she lived in
15 America --

16 MS SMITH: Yes.

17 CHAIRMAN: -- provided contact was maintained through a --

18 MS SMITH: That is correct. There are about --

19 CHAIRMAN: -- sort of informal guardian.

20 MS SMITH: -- we're a total -- we have just discovered
21 a total of about 70 pages that were, in fact, in Trim
22 that didn't make their way into the bundle. So we will
23 have to rectify that, Chairman.

24 CHAIRMAN: Yes. Very well.

25 MS SMITH: But in the meantime I will not refer to the

1 page reference for the documents, because I think we
2 will probably just be renumbering them all, but his
3 statement is at 10596. It reads:

4 "I was born in a nursing home in Belfast. My mother
5 and my father are named on my birth certificate. My
6 mother was born in Belfast, married and moved to
7 America. She then returned to Ireland alone for
8 a holiday to visit a relative. It was during her stay
9 in Belfast that she gave birth to me. It is not clear
10 whether her husband was aware of my birth. I think
11 I may have been conceived in America. I was placed in
12 St. Joseph's Babies' Home on the Ravenhill Road on
13 21st May 1947. My mother returned to America. She left
14 me under the guardianship of a woman she knew.

15 I understand that that woman acted as a go between on
16 behalf of my mother when dealing with authorities or
17 keeping my mother informed of my welfare.

18 I was placed in Nazareth Lodge from St. Joseph's
19 Babies' Home on 1st September 1952. I left Nazareth
20 Lodge on 21st December 1956. I do not recall much about
21 my time in Nazareth Lodge.

22 A lady visited me about once a week in the lodge.
23 I didn't know who she was, but I believe it may have
24 been the lady with whom my mother placed me. I recall
25 being taken out of the lodge and going to a house where

1 my family lived. I remember spending time in hospital
2 as I had a problem with my collar bones. I cannot
3 recall which hospital I went to or how long I stayed.

4 One day the nuns said to a group of us that we were
5 going to Australia to better ourselves. We were never
6 asked whether we wanted to go. We were just told we
7 were going. I don't remember any of the nuns' names as
8 it was so long ago.

9 My child migration form is dated 14th December 1955
10 and signed by the Mother Superior of Nazareth Lodge,
11 SR104. Section to be completed by parent or guardian is
12 signed by the lady with whom my mother left me and dated
13 30th November 1955. No medical examination form is
14 dated" -- sorry. "My medical examination form is dated
15 26th August 1956.

16 I have a copy of a letter dated 11th July 1955 which
17 is from my mother to the Mother Superior of Nazareth
18 Lodge in relation to my going to Australia. It states
19 that the mother -- the lady my mother left me with
20 informed my mother of the possibility of me going and my
21 mother states:

22 'As you understand, it is quite a decision to make
23 but I think for his own good it would be wise to let him
24 go providing I could keep in touch with him through',
25 and she names the lady with whom she left him. "'If so,

1 I give my consent to let him go.'

2 I was sad leaving Nazareth Lodge as it was the only
3 home I knew as I was born in care. If I stayed, I may
4 have found out more information about my mother.

5 I sailed to Australia on 24th December 1956 on the
6 SS Strathnaver. There were 14 boys from Nazareth Lodge
7 that were sent. Two ladies looked after us on the
8 journey. One of the ladies was called ..." and he gives
9 the name. "We were well looked after on the ship,
10 although I got seasick. I remember eating ice-cream on
11 the ship, which was a luxury. I arrived in Fremantle on
12 22nd January 1957."

13 He then relates details of his time at Castledare
14 Boys' Home where he suffered some sexual abuse, which he
15 says he reported but nothing was done about. He also
16 then went on from there to Tardun and he talks about the
17 fact that they were made to engage in heavy labour, that
18 he was physically abused there, although he didn't do as
19 much labour as other boys. He witnessed Brothers
20 beating boys about the legs, and he said that there were
21 some good times in that home.

22 He left when he was 18, and he then relates his life
23 afterwards and talks about working on farms. Then at
24 paragraph 25 he says:

25 "With the assistance of Mrs Burgess I received

1 a copy of my birth certificate for the first time from
2 Department of Community Welfare on 28th May 1973.
3 I needed it to obtain a driving licence. I wanted to
4 find out about my mother so I contacted Tuart Place for
5 assistance. Eventually they got the Child Welfare
6 Department to write to the mother -- to the lady with
7 whom I was left to let my mother know that I was looking
8 for her. She wrote to my mother in America. My mother
9 then wrote to me around 2004. She sent to the letter to
10 the Child Welfare Department, who opened the letter and
11 then forwarded it on to me. My mother was in her later
12 80s then. In her letter she apologised for what
13 happened and that things didn't work out. She said she
14 had me out of wedlock and because of her being
15 a practising Catholic, she thought she could not keep
16 me. She had not told her family and because of her
17 religion she did not want her children knowing about me.
18 She finished the letter by saying something like, "God
19 bless you". It was clear from the letter that she did
20 not want any personal contact from me and that she
21 intended to take her secret to the grave. She didn't
22 include her address on the letter. That was the only
23 contact I ever had with my mother. I found out later
24 that the lady was not a relative of my mother but my
25 mother knew her family. I never knew anything about my

1 father.

2 I went to mass the other day but I had to walk out
3 as it brought back too many memories. I believe the
4 Catholic Church has failed me in many ways. They failed
5 in providing me with a good education and life skills.
6 We have never had any sex education or preparation for
7 life. This has affected relationships over the years.

8 I met my wife on a cruise. She was 34.
9 I was 52. She became pregnant after about six months of
10 being together and we did what we thought was the right
11 thing to do and we married. We have three children, two
12 girls and one boy. They are good children.
13 Unfortunately my wife and I separated about six years
14 ago. I have contact with my children through my
15 mother-in-law. They live in Adelaide.

16 I have had health problems all my life and it was
17 only when I went for a medical for a job in Adelaide
18 that I discovered I had osteogenesis, which is a genetic
19 disease which causes bones to break easily. I underwent
20 a bone scan and the hospital discovered that I had the
21 disease. It explained why I broke so many bones during
22 my childhood.

23 I have been back to Ireland once but I didn't go to
24 Northern Ireland. I was on a tour through Europe and
25 toured the South. I visited 13 countries in 27 days.

1 I have received 30,000 AUD from the Christian
2 Brothers under the "Towards Healing" scheme, which I
3 have put in a trust fund for my children. I did not
4 apply to the redress scheme as I missed the closing
5 date.

6 In 2000 my wife entered me into a competition to
7 carry the Olympic torch. I was shocked to get
8 selected."

9 He talks about it being an amazing experience.

10 "I have tried to make the most of my life. I have
11 won Citizen of the Year twice for my work in the
12 community. Doing some good for other people makes me
13 happy. I am now retired but my community work keeps me
14 going. I am still involved with the cubs and scouts and
15 I play the piano at every three weeks. I also
16 drive the community bus now and again.

17 I have had my ups and downs in life, but I have some
18 very good friends. My motto in life is if you can help
19 somebody, you should, as one day you might need a hand
20 yourself."

21 He signed it on 12th June 2014.

22 Reading of statement of WITNESS HIA318

23 Q. The next statement is that of 318, and the documents in
24 relation to this applicant can be found from 10665
25 through 10698. If we could look at 10679 -- sorry --

1 75. I beg your pardon. Sorry. ...675. This is the
2 child migration form, and if we scroll down that, it
3 seems to -- it's been handwritten. The Mother Superior
4 of Nazareth Lodge is the name of the guardian given, but
5 if we can scroll on down, then we see that the signature
6 of his mother is on that and it is witnessed by Father
7 McHugh from the Good Shepherd Convent in Newry. Then
8 the next part is signed initially -- I think this has
9 just been a mistake -- it was signed by Sister
10 SR 104 and then it was signed by someone above that
11 whose name is indistinct on behalf of the Federal
12 Catholic Immigration Committee.

13 But if we could also look at 10681, this seems to be
14 another child migration form where the name is the same
15 but spelt differently, again signed by the Mother
16 Superior and it is dated 11th May 1952, and the
17 baptismal certificate again has a different spelling of
18 the name, and you will see that this gentleman
19 complained about the change in his name, but there seems
20 to have been some confusion whenever these forms were
21 being filled in as to how his name was actually spelt.

22 There is a photograph at 10695 and this is again
23 a photograph that we have seen earlier of boys who went
24 to Australia and it is taken before their trip and we
25 see four nuns from Nazareth Lodge at the time.

1 Then 10698, again a photograph that we have seen,
2 and you will see that gentleman who gave evidence is the
3 second from the right on the front row. It is
4 impossible to identify this applicant from that
5 photograph, but one can assume he was in that group of
6 boys who went.

7 If we could then go back to his statement at
8 AUS10659 and it reads that he was born in County Tyrone.

9 "I am the second oldest in the family. I have one
10 sister and two younger sisters -- one older sister and
11 two younger sisters and I discovered I had a younger
12 brother in 2002. For the first few years of my life
13 I lived with my mother. My mother was unmarried. In
14 recent years my cousin told me that my mother was my
15 father's housekeeper and he was the father to all my
16 siblings. He was a married man. My grandfather
17 supported my mother until he died. My sister was
18 already in Nazareth House in Belfast. When my
19 grandfather died in 1952, I was put into Nazareth Lodge
20 and my sisters were put into Nazareth House. My mother
21 worked in the Good Shepherd Laundry in Newry and then in
22 Dublin until she died in 1999 aged 72.

23 I was admitted to Nazareth Lodge on 11th May 1952
24 when I was five years old.

25 I stayed in a large dormitory which held about 20 to

1 30 boys. I wet the bed, but not as frequently as other
2 boys. I recall waking up in the morning to the stench
3 of the urine-soaked sheets and steam in the dormitory.
4 When I wet the bed, I had to carry the red plastic
5 mattress cover with the urine into the bathroom.
6 Sometimes it spilled on to my pyjamas and the smell was
7 awful. In the bathroom the nuns hosed me down with
8 freezing cold water. The nuns were cruel. You wouldn't
9 do that to a dog. I cannot recall any other punishments
10 but I do know that we wouldn't have got away with
11 anything.

12 I recall a lady used to come to the fence at
13 the lodge and pass fruit through the rails to me.
14 I think she may have been my aunt who was my mother's
15 sister. She lived in Belfast. I recall this happening
16 on a few occasions.

17 I had no idea that my sisters were in Nazareth
18 House. I recall that there was a nun called SR71 in
19 Nazareth Lodge. I do not recall any other nuns' names.

20 I left Nazareth Lodge on 21st December 1956 when
21 I was ten years old. 13 of us were being sent to
22 Australia. We had no choice. We were just told we were
23 going by the nuns. My child migration form is signed by
24 my mother and her address is given as the Good Shepherd
25 Home in Newry. I do not believe my mother voluntarily

1 signed the form. My brother was kept in Ireland and
2 I don't believe she would have wanted her children to be
3 sent to the other side of the world.

4 I didn't know it then but I was being sent out of
5 the frying pan and into the fire. I sailed to Australia
6 on 24th December 1956 on the SS Strathnaver. On the
7 journey we were accompanied by two civilian women.
8 I cannot remember their names. I recall being thrown
9 out of our cabin by the stewards on the ship as they
10 brought their girlfriends in. We were allowed back in
11 our cabins a few hours later. I arrived in Fremantle on
12 22nd January 1957. I discovered years later that my
13 sisters were sent to Nazareth House in Melbourne in
14 different years."

15 He then describes his time in Castledare, where he
16 was subject to physical abuse, and he also believes that
17 there was something bad happened involving a particular
18 Brother, a male who was hanging around the Brothers, but
19 he believes that he may have blocked out what happened,
20 and it was during when he was taking part in a theatre
21 production.

22 Then moved to Bindoon, which he describes as very
23 violent. He received no education and was engaged in
24 what he described as slave labour. He was also forced
25 by the Brothers to box other children. He describes

1 physical abuse by the Brothers and sexual abuse by
2 a priest in that home.

3 He then in paragraph 18 talks about leaving and
4 working all his life. He believes that had he had
5 a better education, he would have achieved more.

6 "I was awarded \$45,000 under the West Australian
7 Redress Scheme. Whilst it helped me to make -- whilst
8 it helped make life a bit easier, it will never erase
9 the memories of what happened to me.

10 I have been married for 38 years and have three
11 sons. We have a close relationship. My wife is very
12 supportive and I have told her and my sons what happened
13 to me in care."

14 He talks about a family who took him out and who
15 were good to him when he was in Bindoon. He says that
16 family helped him a lot throughout his life. He said:

17 "My real name is ...", and he spells it out, "but
18 the Christian Brothers in Bindoon changed the spelling
19 of my name. I was given no papers or documentation when
20 I left Bindoon. The wrong spelling of my surname meant
21 I could not get a birth certificate. My oldest sister
22 struggled for years to track me down, because she was
23 looking for me under the correct spelling of my name.
24 The Child Migrant Trust helped us to find each other in
25 the early 1990s, nearly 40 years after we had been

1 deported to Australia. I met up with my sisters. We
2 missed each other's children growing up and could really
3 have helped each other. I am close to two of them now
4 but missed on having a relationship for all those years.

5 In 2002 Vincent Kearney from the BBC made
6 a Spotlight documentary on child migration and
7 interviewed my sister and I as well as other child
8 migrants. My cousins in Belfast saw the programme and
9 got in touch with the Child Migrants Trust. In 2002
10 I visited Northern Ireland for the first time and I met
11 my younger brother and cousins. I returned to Ireland
12 in 2011 and I visited my aunt who was in a nursing home
13 in Dublin. When she saw me, she recognised me and
14 squeezed my wrist and cried. She died three days later.
15 I will never forget that experience. I looked for my
16 mother's grave but I could not find it. I was told
17 three different stories by the Good Shepherd nuns about
18 where she was buried in Dublin. To this day I haven't
19 been able to find her grave.

20 I am quite a shy person and I avoid questions about
21 my background. I feel I have let my family down by
22 being poorly educated and not being able to earn more or
23 work in higher status jobs. My wife has been very
24 supportive over the years, but I can be hard to live
25 with and I don't communicate very well. I still don't

1 like noise and I prefer to be on my own at times. I
2 have trouble relaxing and avoid going to bed. Instead
3 I stay up until I am exhausted and I lie thinking about
4 the bad times from my past. If I wasn't sent from
5 Ireland to Australia, all the terrible things that I
6 have suffered would not have happened. I would have
7 been with my family. I try to get on with my life
8 otherwise those that abused me will have won."

9 He signed that on 4th June 2014.

10 Sorry, Chairman. If you just give me a moment.
11 Chairman, just about the applicant about whom you were
12 asking earlier, 326, if one looks at -- Sister Brenda's
13 statement talks about a sailing on 8th February 1950 and
14 she said there were four to five pages of records
15 missing and they were trying to find those. That
16 applicant appears on another document that we have that
17 was compiled by the Sisters of Nazareth. I believe it
18 was for the document that I read out and we will deal
19 again with tomorrow by Miss Keenan. If you look at
20 AUS11407 -- sorry. No. That's the -- that's Sister
21 Brenda's statement. The actual document is AUS5466 and
22 she has given -- yes. Obviously this is not redacted,
23 but she is found there at reference number 1036 about
24 halfway down the page.

25 CHAIRMAN: I see. So she went on --

1 MS SMITH: She went in 1950, on 8th February 1950. The
2 sailing records were missing and --

3 CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

4 MS SMITH: That will save Mr Montague looking into it any
5 further, Chairman.

6 MR MONTAGUE: I am very much obliged. Thank you.

7 Reading of statement of WITNESS HIA322

8 MS SMITH: The next statement is that of 322. There are
9 a number of documents in relation to this applicant
10 which can be found at 10717 through to 10736. There is
11 an undated child migrants form which is at AUS10725,
12 please.

13 If we just scroll down, you see the guardian is
14 described as Mother Superior of Nazareth Lodge. If we
15 can keep on continuing down the page, the parents are
16 described as not being in contact. The medical history
17 is recorded there. It is signed by the Mother Superior.
18 However, that -- I pause to look at this form, because
19 it is an undated form, and it is signed by the Mother
20 Superior, but there does not seem to be the actual
21 consent section on the form.

22 Just scroll down a bit further, please. Section B
23 again is signed at that stage by -- it is not actually
24 signed. The name of the Mother Superior is there, but
25 it hasn't been signed. It is signed in the next section

1 -- sorry -- and witnessed by a solicitor, Gabriel Cairns
2 on the Antrim Road.

3 CHAIRMAN: Is there not a signature under SR104?

4 MS SMITH: SR... -- sorry. Yes. SR104. It is signed but
5 undated --

6 CHAIRMAN: Yes.

7 MS SMITH: -- but then the signature at the bottom again of
8 the Mother Superior would appear to have been stroked
9 out, like it had been on the last one, and the name of
10 the person who was representing the Federal Catholic
11 Immigration Committee is put in substitution for it,
12 because it would appear the Mother Superior was signing
13 this as the sponsoring organisation or representative of
14 the organisation in the United Kingdom incorrectly.

15 There is also a document at AUS10731 and this refers
16 to -- this appears to be a document that is prepared on
17 his arrival in Australia or -- it does -- it says:

18 "IQ" -- I think that's -- it's hard to make it out
19 -- "83" or "53 does not appear reliable. May need
20 further tests".

21 and it goes:

22 "His reading was far too poor -- was too poor to be
23 able to manage the group IQ test. His IQ may have
24 improved another ten points had he not found difficulty
25 with the types of questions asked him and the tester's

1 accent, which would have been difficult for him to
2 understand, as his was to the tester."

3 I raise this because it shows that once the children
4 arrived in Australia, they were subject to further
5 testing by the Australian authorities to confirm the
6 tests that -- results that had been sent out with them.

7 At 10733, this is dated -- this would appear to be
8 from the Sisters of Nazareth writing to Australia. It
9 says:

10 "Very Reverend Dear Canon Flood,

11 Thank you for your letter and forms received.

12 Regarding a number of names of boys who are given
13 there the mothers of these boys who were unmarried at
14 the time of their births have never visited or contacted
15 us in any way since leaving them in our care as infants.
16 Communications forwarded to the address given in the
17 register have been returned marked 'Unknown'. Last
18 efforts made through welfare officer and letter in
19 December 1955 of no avail.

20 The usual procedure here is the mother brings the
21 infant along, has it admitted and promises to support
22 it. She gives her address, which may not always be the
23 correct one. Probably she is faithful to her promises
24 for six months or one year and then suddenly
25 disappears."

1 Excuse me. I don't -- she describes two boys there
2 as:

3 "... both bright, intelligent boys, nice characters
4 and we feel they would do justice to the opportunities
5 given them in Australia.

6 Thanking you for everything and if you feel there is
7 anything we can do to facilitate matters, please let us
8 know."

9 I think that actually may not have gone to
10 Australia, but it may have been a letter in support of
11 their application for migration --

12 CHAIRMAN: Can we see the top of the page, the previous
13 page?

14 MS SMITH: -- because it refers to:

15 "Thank you for your letter and forms received."

16 So it suggests that those -- that Canon Flood has
17 sent forms to the sisters, who have filled out the
18 details for those boys.

19 CHAIRMAN: But it is date stamped as if it was received --

20 MS SMITH: It seems to be dated --

21 CHAIRMAN: -- by the person to whom the letter is addressed.

22 MS SMITH: Yes, two days after the date of the letter.

23 CHAIRMAN: In those days the post was considerably faster
24 than it is today.

25 MS SMITH: Indeed. I would anticipate that that was, in

1 fact, second class post in those days, Chairman.

2 CHAIRMAN: There was only one class in those days.

3 MS SMITH: Okay.

4 CHAIRMAN: That's a more recent innovation.

5 MS SMITH: I certainly was unaware of that, but I will bear
6 that in mind, but certainly there seems to have been
7 some explanation in this letter of why the consent forms
8 were being signed by the Sisters on behalf of these
9 three named boys.

10 CHAIRMAN: Yes. Somebody has obviously taken it up.

11 MS SMITH: Yes.

12 If we could return, please, to AUS10710. No.
13 ...710, and HIA322 says:

14 "I was born in Belfast. My mother", whom he names,
15 "was born in ...", another place. "My mother and one of
16 her sisters were the only people who were aware of my
17 existence. I never knew the identity of my father.

18 I was placed in St. Joseph's Baby Home, Ravenhill
19 Road in Belfast when I was a month old. My mother moved
20 to England after I was placed in care. I never saw her
21 again. She married and had three daughters. One
22 daughter is now deceased but I have a lot of contact
23 with my other two half sisters.

24 I was moved to Nazareth Lodge, Belfast on 1st
25 September 1949 when I was six years old. My mother

1 never came to visit me during the time that I stayed at
2 Nazareth Lodge.

3 I remember a few things about my time in Nazareth
4 Lodge. A family were my sponsors for my first communion
5 and confirmation. They owned a business in Belfast and
6 they took me out every other weekend and during
7 holidays. They wanted to adopt me but the Catholic
8 Church would not allow it for some reason. They were
9 very good to me over the years.

10 A nun called SR71 was at Nazareth Lodge ..."

11 Sorry.

12 "I recall a nun called SR71 at Nazareth Lodge,
13 Belfast, who used to teach physical education and she
14 was very good to me and kind to the boys.

15 I was not sexually or physically abused during my
16 time at Nazareth Lodge. I got the occasional smack now
17 and then but was not subjected to any mistreatment
18 during my time in care there. I recall that they would
19 have put the fear of God into you and they were very
20 strict on religion. We would have been spoken to or we
21 would have got a whack on the ear or our hair pulled if
22 we were caught speaking in church, but that is because
23 there was a huge emphasis placed on religion in the
24 home.

25 My years spent at Nazareth Lodge were spent behind

1 brick walls, hidden and lost.

2 I recall at Nazareth Lodge there was confusion over
3 my date of birth. I had always thought that I was born
4 in . I was small for my age, but when I got my
5 original birth certificate, I discovered that I was in
6 fact a year older than I thought. It was the Child
7 Migrants Trust who located my original birth certificate
8 in or around 2002.

9 I recall two Christian Brothers coming to Nazareth
10 Lodge from Bindoon to speak to us about Australia.
11 I think they had Australian accents. They asked who
12 wanted to go and I put up -- I put my hand up, as did 14
13 -- as did another 14 boys. We had no idea where
14 Australia was and I thought it was a picnic spot
15 somewhere in Belfast. All the boys that put their hands
16 up were selected to go and that is all I recall about
17 the selection process.

18 I received my vaccination soon after their visit and
19 was transferred a few days later. My child migration
20 form shows that my parents were not in contact with the
21 home to give permission for the purpose of my migration,
22 so my form was signed by the Mother Superior, SR104.

23 There were two civilian women sent with us as our
24 guardians on the ship. I had never met them before and
25 after we arrived in Australia I never met them again.

1 We travelled from Southampton on the SS Strathnaver on
2 24th December 1956. I do not recall a great deal about
3 the sailing to Australia. I felt sick on the ship
4 following the vaccination I had received prior to
5 departure. Also I recall I had been given a pair of
6 roller skates, probably by the family I went to in
7 Belfast, and one of the boys threw one of my skates
8 overboard. I went mad with rage and had to be
9 restrained on the ship and calmed down in the captain's
10 cabin. We arrived in Fremantle on 22nd January 1957."

11 He talks about his time in Bindoon and says that
12 much of the building work had been completed by the time
13 of his arrival. He says at paragraph 14:

14 "I found out in later years that the family in
15 Belfast had tried to keep in touch with me and they
16 wrote letters to me in Australia, but I never received
17 them. I always wondered why they did not keep in
18 touch."

19 He said that he learned to stay out of trouble in
20 Bindoon. Life was hard there. He got a poor education
21 and he have never received any affection during his time
22 there or in Northern Ireland.

23 The Brothers arranged a job for him and he talks
24 about the work in which he engaged. Then at
25 paragraph 22 he says:

1 "I married my wife in 1971 and had three children,
2 two daughters and one son. I am a family man but
3 I found it hard to show affection to my children, as
4 no-one had ever shown me affection throughout life.

5 My son worked for years in a bank in Perth and then
6 moved to to work in banking, but did he not like
7 it there, so he moved to Belfast. A daughter of the
8 family who had looked after me in Belfast took care of
9 him for a period of time until he had arranged a job and
10 accommodation. He lived and worked in for five
11 years and he loved it there. He then met and married
12 a girl and moved back to work in a bank in
13 Melbourne.

14 I located my mother by getting in touch with the
15 Child Migrants Trust about fifteen years ago. They
16 traced her details for me and told me that I had three
17 half sisters, one now deceased and two others. My
18 mother had never told them or her husband about me so it
19 was quite a shock for them to discover that they had
20 an older brother.

21 When my son lived in Belfast, I went over to visit
22 him and I met up with the girl from the family who had
23 looked after me during my visit. My sisters flew from
24 England to Belfast to meet me during this trip, which
25 was really nice of them. I recall there was

1 an atmosphere in the taxi when we first met, but when we
2 got out of the taxi I said that I had no ill feelings
3 towards my mother for putting me in care and just wanted
4 to get on with my life. This seemed to break the ice
5 and after that they seemed more at ease and we got on
6 really well together. We have kept in touch since and I
7 have visited them a few times since then, so that has
8 really been a great help.

9 I took my three children -- took my three children
10 to visit Bindoon with me about 15 or 16 years ago but
11 they found it upsetting to think that I had been in care
12 there. My oldest daughter also visited Nazareth Lodge
13 in Belfast with me and that upset her too. In fact, the
14 nuns gave my daughter some of my old school reports
15 during this trip.

16 I received a grant from the UK government which
17 helped fund my trip to Ireland in or around 2002.
18 I visited my two half sisters in England during this
19 trip. I also attended one's 60th birthday in 2012 and
20 the British government assisted me financially with this
21 trip and my wife paid her own way.

22 I received money from the UK government" -- sorry.
23 "I received money from a" -- I don't think this needs to
24 be redacted -- "a Mrs Musk, who owned the land upon
25 which Bindoon was situated. Some of the boys attending

1 Bindoon, including myself, were beneficiaries in her
2 will. I received 20,000 AUD from a trust fund that she
3 had set up for some of the boys, which was very
4 unexpected and greatly assisted me to fund one of my
5 trips to visit my relatives.

6 I did not receive any compensation under the
7 Australian redress scheme as did I not know anything
8 about the scheme until after the deadline had expired.
9 I never received any compensation from the Christian
10 Brothers.

11 I keep in touch with HIA279 from time to time who
12 sailed from Belfast to Australia with me but other than
13 that I do not keep in touch with any of the other
14 ex-Bindoon guys -- boys. I have been married almost
15 50 years. I have five grandchildren and a great
16 relationship with my wife and children, and despite my
17 childhood, I have been -- I have managed to get on with
18 my life."

19 He signed that on 24th October 2013.

20 Reading of statement of WITNESS HIA392

21 Q. The final witness statement to be read is that of 392.
22 Documents in relation to this applicant can be found at
23 11374 to 11387. We do not have a child migration form
24 in respect of him, but I will double-check that is the
25 position, although I don't -- he doesn't mention it in

1 his statement, so I don't believe we do have it from
2 him.

3 The statement can be found at AUS11365 and it reads:

4 "I was born in Belfast.

5 I was placed in St. Joseph's Babies' Home initially.

6 I do not know if I was placed directly into care, but
7 I assume that that is what happened to me following my
8 birth. My mother worked as a servant."

9 He gives her name.

10 "I went to Nazareth Lodge when I was four years and
11 four months old.

12 I had a sister who was two years younger than me.
13 I recall visits from my mother and my sister on occasion
14 at Nazareth Lodge. I remember seeing them walking up
15 the driveway to the home when they came to visit me.
16 I think my mother took me out of the home on holiday on
17 occasion. A recurring memory I have is sitting in
18 a classroom and watching my mother cleaning. She might
19 have been a cleaner in a school.

20 I remember going for walks with my mother and my
21 sister around the grounds of the home. I remember
22 seeing bluebells and flowers in bloom.

23 At times the nuns would bring the girls from the
24 school up the road down to Nazareth Lodge for a visit
25 but the boys would keep them off the swings. Boys will

1 be boys.

2 I recall having cleaning duties at Nazareth Lodge.
3 We had to dust and clean the floors regularly.
4 Sometimes we would get a clip on the ear for not
5 carrying out our duties properly. I do not recall which
6 nun would hit me. I only recall SR34, but I never
7 recall her chastising me.

8 I do not remember being asked if I wanted to go to
9 Australia. I had no idea where Australia was or how far
10 it was from Ireland, but I do remember the nuns telling
11 us that we would love it in Australia because we would
12 ride horses to school and pick fruit off the trees.

13 I do not recall very much about the sailing to
14 Australia. I remember wearing a suit and being below
15 water-level, as I could see water through the portholes.
16 There were two or three civilian ladies that came out
17 with us to supervise us on the boat and there were 14
18 boys from Nazareth Lodge on the boat.

19 We had to attend lessons on the boat but this
20 happened only occasionally. They locked us in our
21 cabins at night. Stewards on the boat gave us fruit.

22 We stopped at various ports during the journey and
23 we sometimes stayed overnight off the boat. I recall
24 all of us sleeping overnight on one occasion in a large
25 concert hall. I also remember local people in certain

1 ports diving for coins that passengers on the boat threw
2 overboard.

3 I sailed to Australia on 21st December 1956 on the
4 SS Strathnaver, arriving in Fremantle on
5 22nd January 1956. I was eight years old when I arrived
6 in Australia."

7 He does, in fact, say that:

8 "My child migration form was signed by SR104
9 authorising my migration to Australia. It noted that my
10 mother was still in contact with me but stated, 'In
11 interest of child to emigrate'.

12 There were 14 boys that travelled together from
13 Ireland and we were taken to a warehouse at Fremantle
14 wharf and were separated into several groups according
15 to age. Each group was taken to a different
16 institution", and he -- "Castledare was where the
17 younger boys were sent and the older boys went to
18 Bindoon, Tardun or Clontarf. I had grown up with these
19 boys since infancy and it was like taking your brother
20 away from you. I cried all the way to Castledare and
21 for many nights afterwards I was traumatised. To this
22 day I have not seen several of these boys again."

23 He then talks about receiving the occasional letter
24 and gift from his mother on his birthday for the first
25 eight months.

1 "She sent me a pen as a present once. She was
2 helped to write these letters by a man who was later to
3 become my brother-in-law. He owned a shop and my sister
4 worked for him and they married in later life. In my
5 last letter to my mother I asked why I had been sent to
6 Australia and after that I never received another letter
7 from her. The letters stopped coming and I asked why
8 and I was told that my mother didn't want me and could
9 not afford to keep me, so she sent me to Australia.
10 Many years later I found out that this was a lie and I
11 will never forgive the Christian Brothers for saying
12 such a thing."

13 He then goes on to describe being subject to sexual
14 abuse and physical abuse in Castledare and then he talks
15 about his transfer to Bindoon where he had to -- he
16 describes it as more like a children's hard labour
17 prison camp than a boys' home. Again describes physical
18 abuse. Describes a particular Brother as cruel,
19 vindictive and sadistic. They were made to box each
20 over. He was abused by a priest there and subject to
21 sexual abuse by an older boy.

22 At paragraph 32 he says:

23 "I never received any training or advice prior to
24 leaving Bindoon on how to cope with life as
25 an independent adult. I started drinking with boys who

1 had a similar background to me as soon as I left school.
2 Unfortunately some of these boys became alcoholics or
3 got involved in criminal activity and ended up in jail
4 as they could not cope with life beyond care. One boy
5 who came out from Nazareth Lodge with me committed
6 suicide as he could not cope.

7 I never had a birth certificate until after I left
8 school. I needed to get a driver's licence. I had
9 always thought my birthday was on until
10 I received my birth certificate and realised that my
11 birthday, in fact, fell on .

12 I married when I was 20 years old and my wife and I
13 have recently celebrated our 46th wedding anniversary.
14 I have a daughter, two sons and seven grandchildren."

15 He then talks about the various jobs he has worked
16 in over the years. At paragraph 36 says:

17 "There are many things about my background in care
18 that I could not discuss in detail with my wife, even
19 though she has been incredibly supportive throughout our
20 marriage. I found it difficult to form relationships
21 with women when I left the home and I felt apprehensive
22 of the opposite sex and ill-prepared for any intimate
23 relationship. The abuse I received in my childhood had
24 a profound effect on my married life, especially in the
25 first ten years. I felt as if I was never good enough

1 and I felt inadequate. I was lucky to find a strong,
2 understanding and loving wife. I was carrying a lot of
3 psychological baggage around with me and that was
4 difficult for us. We had to attend marriage counselling
5 during our marriage, which was of some assistance.

6 I started looking for my family when I got married.
7 I sent a letter to SR34 at Nazareth Lodge, and she knew
8 someone who could put me in touch with my mother.
9 I wrote to her in the late 1960s, but did not receive
10 any response at the time.

11 My daughter went to work in England when she was in
12 her early 20s and she got in touch at that stage with
13 an agency who helped her to find my relatives. At this
14 stage we got in touch with my sister, who now lives in

15 . I then discovered that I had an older
16 brother and another sister who was two years older than
17 me, who had been adopted at birth. We advertised on the
18 internet and she got in touch with us and we were able
19 to reunite. She lives in now and we have
20 stayed with her in Ireland.

21 We have returned to Ireland on four occasions and on
22 our first visit they arranged a gathering of all our
23 relatives and there were over 100 people there. It was
24 quite a surprise. My first trip to Ireland was funded
25 by the Christian Brothers, but they did not pay my

1 wife's fare on this trip. I paid for two other trips
2 myself, but my final and fourth trip to Ireland was
3 funded under the Family Restoration Fund. I met my
4 brother on three occasions, but he is now deceased.
5 I had to borrow \$5,000 to pay for the flights to attend
6 his funeral. I requested assistance from several
7 organisations here in Australia to help fund this trip,
8 but did not receive support from any organisation on
9 this occasion. My mother died from cancer two years
10 before my first trip to Ireland. I never knew the
11 identity of my father.

12 I obtained my records in later years from the Child
13 Welfare Department. My child migration form was issued
14 by the Department of Immigration, Australia House,
15 London, and at section 7 of the form it asked if I had
16 any brothers or sisters and there is a line drawn
17 through this section. This form was completed by SR104,
18 Mother Superior, Nazareth Lodge, Belfast. It made no
19 mention of my siblings and they should have been noted
20 on the form.

21 I was told in later years by my sister that my
22 mother was told just before my departure that I was
23 being sent to Australia for a few months only on
24 holiday. My mother was poor, illiterate and had no way
25 of challenging the lies she was being told by the nuns.

1 She suffered a mental breakdown due to the guilt she
2 felt when she realised that I was never going to return.

3 My faith in Christianity disappeared when I left
4 Bindoon due to the hypocrisy, lies and cruelty
5 I experienced there. I could never understand how men
6 of the cloth entrusted with the care of young,
7 vulnerable boys could treat innocent children in the
8 way -- in that way, as it went against all Christian
9 teaching. I never had any of my children baptised and I
10 have never returned to church. I would never want any
11 child to go through what I suffered during my time in
12 residential care."

13 He signed that and it is dated 9th June 2014.

14 It is clear from that, Chairman, that there are
15 a number of documents to which he refers in the course
16 of his statement and I am sure we have them somewhere.
17 I will locate those and make you aware of the Bates
18 numbering in respect of them.

19 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

20 MS SMITH: That, Chairman, concludes all of the witness
21 statements that have to be read. There is one witness
22 still to give evidence tomorrow morning.

23 CHAIRMAN: Well, we will rise now. We will complete the
24 evidence with the oral evidence of HIA401 tomorrow and
25 then, as I think we indicated in general terms last

1 week, you will be turning to examine some documents that
2 we have seen before and others that we haven't seen.

3 MS SMITH: Yes.

4 CHAIRMAN: Very well. 10 o'clock then.

5 (2.50 pm)

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

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I N D E X

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4 WITNESS HIA284 (called)2

5 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY3

6 Questions from THE PANEL24

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8 WITNESS HIA266 (called)26

9 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY27

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12 Reading of statement of WITNESS47

13 HIA325

14

15 Reading of statement of WITNESS56

16 HIA331

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18 Reading of statement of WITNESS69

19 HIA337

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21 Reading of statement of WITNESS73

22 HIA339

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24 Reading of statement of WITNESS81

25 HIA340

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