

Special Inquiry

into

St Andrew's Hostel, Katanning
(including St Christopher's Hostel, Northam)

Held at: Courtroom 4, Level 18,
111 St Georges Terrace, Perth

Monday, 18 June 2012 at 11.36am
(Day 34)

Before: The Hon Peter Blaxell

1 HIS HONOUR: Please be seated. I'll take appearances.
2 Mr Saxon King, is that your --

3
4 MR KING: Yes, sir. If it pleases the court.

5
6 HIS HONOUR: Thank you. You are here today for
7 Mr Hammond, yes. Yes, Mr Urquhart.

8
9 MR URQUHART: Thank you, sir. Before we call our first
10 witness this morning, I just propose to give a brief
11 outline regarding this week's hearings.

12
13 HIS HONOUR: Yes.

14
15 MR URQUHART: To date, sir, the Inquiry has conducted
16 public hearings with respect to two hostels, St Andrew's in
17 Katanning and St Christopher's in Northam. The Inquiry has
18 continued to conduct further investigations with respect to
19 those two hostels as information comes to light. As a
20 result of those investigations, evidence is going to be led
21 over the course of the next three days regarding these
22 hostels and two others.

23
24 Today, the Inquiry will hear evidence from three
25 witnesses and I will be reading into evidence the
26 statements of a number of other witnesses. The evidence
27 today, relates to the Katanning hostel.

28
29 With respect to evidence to be led that is potentially
30 adverse to other witnesses, those witnesses have been
31 notified and they have been given the opportunity to either
32 question witnesses or make a written response to the
33 evidence. Those who have elected to make written responses,
34 I will read out at the appropriate stage of these hearings.

35
36 Tomorrow's hearing, sir, will commence at 2pm with a
37 video link to a witness who has been recalled as a result
38 of further information that has come to light since they
39 last appeared at the hearing in April. This evidence also
40 relates to the Katanning hostel.

41
42 After the completion of that witness's evidence I will
43 read into evidence a number of witness statements that
44 relate to the Northam hostel and the alleged behaviour of
45 its warden, Roy Wenlock, not only during the time he was
46 warden but also his conduct after he was forced to resign
47 as warden in December 1977.

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Statements from two witnesses indicate that Roy Wenlock continued to entice young teenage boys into wrestling bouts with him long after he had been forced out of his position as warden at the Northam hostel. There is also a statement from an ex-hostel student which details that in the year he was at the Northam hostel, which was 1971, he was subjected to far more serious sexual abuse by Roy Wenlock than what occurred during the wrestling bouts that the Inquiry has already heard about from a number of witnesses.

Wednesday's hearings will commence at 9am. The initial evidence to be led on this day relates to a third hostel, the one at Narrogin, and an incident that occurred in 1990 which led to a supervisor being told he had to resign shortly after he commenced employment there. This matter raises questions as to why it was this particular supervisor came highly recommended when his conduct at another student hostel where he had previously worked was, at the least, very questionable. That previous hostel was Swanleigh and it was the warden there who had provided glowing references to the Narrogin Hostel Board about this supervisor. It was, therefore, hardly surprising that the Narrogin Hostel Board agreed to hire him. As the then warden of the Narrogin Hostel said in a recent interview with Inquiry investigators, "It was a classic case of getting rid of the problem and putting it somewhere else".

On Wednesday two further witnesses will be recalled as a result of further information that has come to light. On that day I also propose reading into evidence statements that have been prepared in relation to a fourth hostel, this one Hardie House, which was the student hostel in South Hedland. These statements relate to an incident at that hostel in 1985 which also led to a supervisor being removed. Further investigations into that matter were conducted by the Inquiry after Mr Peter Bachelard-Lammas, a then employee of the Country High School Hostels Authority, gave evidence regarding this incident on 8 May of this year.

Finally, Friday of this week has been set aside for oral submissions regarding those witnesses who have already been advised in writing, by me, of adverse finding recommendations I intend making as a result of the evidence that the Inquiry has heard.

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With respect to a number of witnesses that are either being called or having their evidence read in over the next three days, they have requested that their names and/or the names of people that they have referred to in their statements not be disclosed in public, and in each instance the Inquiry has agreed to grant that request.

Sir, that's all I propose to make by way of introductory remarks and we are now in a position to call our first witness today and that is Peter John Potter, and Mr Potter is just in the back of the hearing room.

<PETER JOHN POTTER, sworn:

<EXAMINATION-IN-CHIEF BY MR URQUHART:

Q. Mr Potter, your full name is Peter John Potter?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And how old are you?

A. 67.

Q. You live in Katanning?

A. Yes.

Q. With your wife, Maxine?

A. That's right.

Q. And you are a farmer?

A. Yes.

Q. How long have you been farming for?

A. 51 years.

Q. What do you farm in particular?

A. Sheep, cattle, grain.

Q. How long have you lived in Katanning for?

A. 44 years.

Q. I am doing the sums. You moved to Katanning in about 1968?

A. '67.

Q. 1967. So 45 years?

A. Sorry.

1
2 Q. That's all right?
3 A. Yes, during the '60s. Sorry, it is 45.
4
5 Q. So you went there when you were in your early 20s?
6 A. Yes.
7
8 Q. And you started farming there straightaway?
9 A. No, I farmed over east - a share farmer over east in
10 Victoria.
11
12 Q. You moved to Katanning?
13 A. Yes.
14
15 Q. And did you purchase your own property, did you?
16 A. Family bought the farm.
17
18 Q. Speaking of family, you have got four children?
19 A. Yes.
20
21 Q. And they are aged between 32 years and 41 years?
22 A. That's correct.
23
24 Q. And they all went to the Katanning Senior High School.
25 Is that right?
26 A. Yes.
27
28 Q. But they didn't go to the hostel?
29 A. No.
30
31 Q. The St Andrew's Hostel. Is it the case that your farm
32 was just a little out from Katanning?
33 A. Yes, six miles or 10 km.
34
35 Q. Mr Potter, apart from farming, did you also have an
36 interest for many years in the Scouts movement?
37 A. Yes. I started training in '68 and finished in '88.
38
39 Q. So that was about 20 years?
40 A. Yes.
41
42 Q. And your involvement in Scouts, what was it?
43 A. Scoutmaster, Scout Assistant, District Scouter.
44
45 Q. In what areas were you involved in the Scouts?
46 A. Second Katanning Scouts, First Katanning Scouts and
47 the district of the Great Southern.

1
2 Q. So that, of course, incorporated Katanning?
3 A. Yes.
4
5 Q. And did it incorporate other towns as well?
6 A. Yes, it incorporated from Katanning, Gnowangerup,
7 Tambellup, Cranbrook, Kojonup, Darkan, Narrogin, Wagin.
8 Can't remember how far I went out. I went out from there.
9
10 Q. When you had finished in 1988, how high up were you in
11 the hierarchy?
12 A. District Scouter.
13
14 Q. Is that --
15 A. Brass. The only level up from there is the - what is
16 it? District Scouter, District Commissioner, Governor.
17 That's it. I can't be the governor.
18
19 Q. Once you had that title, were you responsible for that
20 area you have just told us about?
21 A. Yes, responsible for all the scout leaders in that
22 area.
23
24 Q. In the 1970s what rank did you have?
25 A. Scoutmaster.
26
27 Q. What were your responsibilities in that regard?
28 A. Second Katanning Scouts and First Katanning Scouts.
29
30 Q. Was there a difference between the two or was it just
31 they are such a large group?
32 A. Second Katanning Scouts I was actually Scoutmaster of.
33 The First Katanning Scouts didn't have a leader and I
34 oversaw them.
35
36 Q. Would it be your job to take Scout meetings and that
37 sort of thing?
38 A. Yes, with assistance, yes.
39
40 Q. I want to take you back, Mr Potter, to around 1976.
41 At around that time how often would those groups of scouts
42 meet?
43 A. Once a week.
44
45 Q. Where would that meeting take place?
46 A. In the Anglican Scout hall or the Uniting Scout hall
47 or the little Scout hall.

1
2 Q. Would you take those meetings yourself?
3 A. Yes, again with assistance.
4
5 Q. Sometime around that year, 1976, do you recall a
6 particular incident that's relevant to this Inquiry?
7 A. Yes.
8
9 Q. Can you tell us about that, please?
10 A. There were - I had a rule that if any boys stayed
11 after Scouts that I would sit and wait until someone picked
12 them up. So this night there was two boys from the hostel
13 and we just chatted away. I found them rather withdrawn,
14 they weren't mixing properly with the other boys, although
15 they were in what you call "patrol", six or eight boys in a
16 patrol.
17
18 HIS HONOUR: Q. About how old were they?
19 A. The boys? Around about 12, 13.
20
21 Q. 12 or 13?
22 A. Scouts are from 12 to 15, then you've got Rovers.
23
24 MR URQUHART: Q. We know from evidence we have already
25 heard, Mr Potter, that the hostel was the high school kids
26 from year 8 onwards?
27 A. Yes.
28
29 Q. So the youngest, they would have been 12 going on 13?
30 A. Yes, around about 13, I'd say. I was trying to
31 encourage them to join in activities. They got talking
32 about what Mr McKenna had been doing to them and they told
33 me he had been molesting them and I said "What do you mean
34 molesting?", "They are doing - he is making us do things we
35 don't want to do" and they were just looking at their feet.
36 They had gone from talking to me to looking down at their
37 feet rather like getting scared, and --
38
39 HIS HONOUR: Q. Did they use the word "molesting", was
40 that their word?
41 A. Yes. Originally "molesting". When I tried to get out
42 what they were doing, he said "Doing things to us that we
43 don't want to do". That was virtually what they said.
44
45 Q. Did they elaborate?
46 A. No. You couldn't get them. I tried to pump them a
47 bit but they wouldn't do anything more. They got very

1 ashamed.
2
3 MR URQUHART: Q. Obviously with children of your own and
4 having worked in the Scouts for some years up until that
5 time, did you make an assessment as to whether they
6 appeared to be telling you the truth or not?
7 A. Yes, they were telling me the truth because they were
8 having trouble even speaking out, they were having trouble
9 with their --
10
11 Q. And they were both relaying this information to you?
12 A. One started to relay and the other one confirmed what
13 he was saying, "This is what's going on", so.
14
15 Q. Is it the case now that you can't recall their names?
16 A. No. I had around about 20 to 36 kids every year.
17 Well that's a lot of years.
18
19 Q. I appreciate that and you are not being blamed for
20 that fact. Can you recall who it was who would pick these
21 boys up who were at the hostel?
22 A. Someone from the hostel would pick them up. I can't
23 recall who picked them up, just someone came and picked
24 them up.
25
26 Q. Was it --
27 A. It wasn't Dennis, no.
28
29 Q. I was going to ask you about that. Had you met Dennis
30 McKenna before these two boys told you about that?
31 A. Not at that stage, no.
32
33 Q. But were you aware of who he was?
34 A. I knew there was a new warden up there but I didn't
35 know who he was, no.
36
37 Q. So this was an occasion when a new warden had just
38 been appointed?
39 A. More or less. How do you say it? Being I was in
40 farming and also trying to do this other job, you spend
41 about three nights in preparation because you've got to do
42 camps et cetera or canoeing or whatever you are doing, and
43 you've also got to do a program for the night, your meeting
44 night-time, so you are pretty busy. You don't sort of get
45 around to gossip with other people.
46
47 HIS HONOUR: Q. Are you able to say how new the warden

1 was when this incident happened or not?
2 A. It would be early on.
3
4 Q. What do you mean by "early on"?
5 A. '76. Well, he came in '75, I think.
6
7 Q. So it was within a year, you think, of him being
8 appointed?
9 A. Yes, within that time, yes.
10
11 MR URQUHART: Q. Were you able to speak to these two
12 boys again after this particular night?
13 A. I tried to tell the ministers about - and they told me
14 I was looking at defamation or --
15
16 Q. We will get to that in a minute?
17 A. Yes, yes, I tried afterwards to get the boys to
18 witness. Because I had already put myself in a position
19 where I tried to talk to others about what they had said to
20 me.
21
22 Q. We will then go to what you said to others.
23
24 HIS HONOUR: Q. Just before you do that, when you
25 finished that conversation with the boys did it come to an
26 end naturally or were they suddenly picked up or what. Do
27 you remember?
28 A. I can't remember. I think they were picked up. It
29 just ended.
30
31 Q. Was there any discussion about you doing anything or
32 anything of that nature?
33 A. No. They never asked me to do anything, no.
34
35 MR URQUHART: Q. Did they say anything to you on that
36 occasion about taking the matter further themselves?
37 A. No. I tried to - I tried to encourage them to speak
38 out themselves at that time.
39
40 Q. On that first occasion you spoke to them?
41 A. Yes.
42
43 HIS HONOUR: Q. What did you say to them about that?
44 A. I just said "You should tell someone else in
45 authority, tell your parents or tell someone" and they just
46 clammed up. They didn't - wouldn't answer me back or say
47 anything, either of them. I actually pushed them back in

1 the shell, I'd say. Probably did the wrong thing.
2
3 MR URQUHART: Q. You mentioned, Mr Potter, how you spoke
4 to some other people about this?
5 A. Yes.
6
7 Q. Can you tell us about that? I think you used the word
8 "ministers"?
9 A. Yes, I spoke to the Anglican minister at the time. I
10 don't know whether it was Michael Arthur or locums because
11 we changed ministers that time. I spoke to the Roman
12 Catholic priest and I spoke to the Uniting minister and
13 they all give me the same answer, "The bloke's doing great
14 work around town. He's got the kids in all sorts of sports
15 and that and you will be into defamation of his character
16 and you'll caused trouble, you'll end up in court".
17
18 Q. We will just go through that. So you recall speaking
19 to three ministers about this?
20 A. Yes.
21
22 Q. One an Anglican minister?
23 A. Yes.
24
25 Q. One a Uniting Church minister?
26 A. Yes.
27
28 Q. And the other the Roman Catholic priest?
29 A. Roman Catholic.
30
31 Q. Did you belong to either of those parishes?
32 A. I belonged to the Anglican Church.
33
34 Q. Do you recall whether that was the first minister you
35 spoke to about this because of that?
36 A. Yes, it was because I can't recall whether it was the
37 minister or the locum because of change-over at that time
38 before we had another priest.
39
40 Q. I was going to ask you about that. So the Anglican
41 priest or the Anglican minister, rather, that had been
42 there for some time was Michael Harford?
43 A. Michael Harford. There was a transition and I would
44 have thought I - if I talked to Michael, we would have had
45 a long discussion because we were fairly friendly and he
46 was the group Scoutmaster.
47

1 Q. So you can't recall whether it was him or somebody
2 else --
3 A. Yes.
4
5 Q. -- replaced him on a locum basis --
6 A. Yes.
7
8 Q. -- after he left?
9 A. That's the trouble.
10
11 Q. Can you remember how you would have broached this
12 subject with these three ministers, what you would have
13 said to them?
14 A. Probably pretty blunt, saying that "I believe Dennis
15 is interfering with boys". I'm fairly blunt. People
16 accuse me of being blunt.
17
18 Q. And you got the same sort of response from each of
19 these people?
20 A. Yes. They virtually believed that he was doing great
21 work and I was a nutter.
22
23 Q. Why was it, Mr Potter, that you approached these three
24 men?
25 A. Well, in those days the community looked up to
26 ministers and if you could get one of those on side you'd
27 get an investigation. I thought "Well, they are supposed
28 to be protectors of the community so they should be the
29 ones you approach". It's sort of you've got ministers,
30 doctors and police. They were trusted.
31
32 Q. You mentioned that you were told about defamation?
33 A. Yes.
34
35 Q. Can you recall which one told you that?
36 A. Virtually all of them thought I would end up having a
37 defamation case.
38
39 Q. Were you at all concerned about hearing that?
40 A. Yes. You don't want to end up in court.
41
42 Q. Can you recall a particular reaction by one of them?
43 A. Yes, the Catholic bloke got really wild with me. He
44 was - for some reason he thought I was really, really bad.
45 He was the one that he went for me.
46
47 HIS HONOUR: Q. What sort of things did he say to you?

1 A. I can't remember. He was just angry and, you know.
2
3 Q. Do you remember who he was?
4 A. No.
5
6 Q. What about the Uniting minister, you don't remember
7 who --
8 A. He couldn't care less. Couldn't have cared less, that
9 bloke.
10
11 MR URQUHART: Q. But you can't recall the names of
12 either of those?
13 A. No.
14
15 HIS HONOUR: Q. When you say "couldn't care less", what
16 sort of thing did he say?
17 A. He said "Well, you are really looking at defaming a
18 bloke that's doing good work and why would you want to do
19 that?". He just brushed it aside so there was no really
20 care or whether - there was no emotion with it, it was
21 just --
22
23 Q. He didn't care?
24 A. No.
25
26 MR URQUHART: Q. Do you remember, Mr Potter, if you told
27 them how it was you came to have this information?
28 A. I don't think we got that far. No, I did say that
29 some boys from the hostel had complained. I didn't tell
30 them who they were.
31
32 Q. After you got that response from those three men can
33 you recall whether you raised the subject with anyone else?
34 A. Yes, I raised it with a policeman and I probably
35 promoted him. I had a boy - policeman's son in Scouts and
36 one night when he picked his boy up I chatted with him a
37 bit and he said I was putting me neck on the line because
38 of the way he was acting in the community.
39
40 Q. So you raised this matter with him?
41 A. Yes.
42
43 Q. Again along the same lines as before?
44 A. Yes. He wasn't angry or anything, he just said that
45 he couldn't see where the boys were coming from.
46
47 Q. Is it the case again that you can't recall the police

1 officer's name?
2 A. No. I'm going back a few years.
3
4 Q. No, I understand that, or indeed his rank?
5 A. No. I thought he was the sergeant, then I thought he
6 was Westwood, and proved that was wrong, so I should keep
7 it down to the where I can remember.
8
9 Q. So you are not certain whether he was a sergeant or
10 not?
11 A. No.
12
13 Q. You thought he was?
14 A. I thought he was but that doesn't mean anything.
15
16 Q. Do you know what station he was from?
17 A. Katanning.
18
19 Q. Can you recall when this would have been about?
20 A. Within those next two weeks.
21
22 Q. So we are talking --
23 A. So it might have been the week after the week after
24 that.
25
26 Q. And this is around 1976 --
27 A. Yes.
28
29 Q. -- the time that Reverend Harford left Katanning?
30 A. Yes, yes.
31
32 HIS HONOUR: Q. Did you waste any time going to the
33 ministers after being told about that by the boys?
34 A. No, I didn't waste any more time. I just thought
35 "Well, if they are not going to back you up it is not good
36 trying to do anything in the end".
37
38 Q. So really what I'm asking you is how soon after the
39 boys told you did you go to the ministers?
40 A. Virtually within the next week. I saw them
41 individually. You get - within a few days you get a bit of
42 a --
43
44 MR URQUHART: Q. So you actually met them face-to-face?
45 A. Yes. I never did anything over the phone, I went and
46 talked to people.
47

1 Q. I think you mentioned a little bit earlier that you
2 did try and speak to these two boys again?
3 A. Yes.
4
5 Q. Was that after you had made these approaches?
6 A. Yes. I was trying to get back-up for me so I could go
7 further because if you are going to go defamation you've
8 got to actually get them there to speak or you are in
9 trouble.
10
11 Q. So can you remember what you said to these two boys?
12 A. I suggested we go together to the ministers or the
13 police and they said "No".
14
15 Q. Did these boys continue to attend Scouts after that?
16 A. No, they left.
17
18 Q. Do you remember if they both left at the same time?
19 A. Yes, I never saw either of them again.
20
21 Q. Were they the only students that you can recall that
22 were from the hostel that were in Scouts?
23 A. Yes, I don't believe we had any more children from the
24 hostel after that.
25
26 HIS HONOUR: Q. Had you been getting children from the
27 hostel up until then, many of them, or not?
28 A. We had a few in the past before Dennis arrived and not
29 after that.
30
31 Q. When you said you suggested to the boys that you go
32 together to the ministers again or the police, was that a
33 suggestion made by anyone else or was that your own idea?
34 A. That was me. Because I was a bit scared that I was
35 getting into hot water, that I needed just some back-up.
36
37 Q. Was there any suggestion from the policeman that
38 perhaps you should get the boys to go and see him?
39 A. No, he just said I was putting my neck on the line if
40 I wanted to do it.
41
42 Q. So he wasn't interested in hearing from the boys
43 himself?
44 A. He wasn't really saying anything else. He said "If
45 you were going to go this way, you are going to have to get
46 back-up or you are putting your neck out on the line
47 yourself".

1
2 Q. It would have been very easy for him to talk to the
3 boys if he was collecting his - was his son in the same
4 group or not?
5 A. Yes, they would have been, yes.
6
7 Q. And he wasn't interested in talking to them?
8 A. I don't know. He didn't say one way or the other
9 whether he was interested, he just said I should get the -
10 so it was probably his suggestion I should get the boys to
11 talk.
12
13 MR URQUHART: Q. Did he ask you for the boys' names at
14 all?
15 A. I don't recall that. I don't think he did. I
16 couldn't say for sure though.
17
18 Q. Did you tell anybody else at that time?
19 A. No, I pulled me head in. I'd become a --
20
21 HIS HONOUR: Q. And as to why you pulled your head in,
22 why was that?
23 A. Well, I couldn't get any back-up, I couldn't get the
24 boys to talk. Just told me wife, those days, knew. She
25 was upset but - that's Kay. I was married for - up until
26 2004 when my wife died of cancer. She was doing Cubs and
27 religious instruction throughout the four schools, I think.
28
29 MR URQUHART: Q. So apart from the three ministers --
30 A. And me wife.
31
32 Q. -- and the police officer and your wife, they are the
33 people that you told?
34 A. Yes.
35
36 Q. Did you ever raise it with your children either then
37 or later on --
38 A. No.
39
40 Q. -- in later year?
41 A. In later years I talked to the kids to see if they
42 knew anything.
43
44 Q. How long after was that?
45 A. That was in the 90s when Dennis first got arrested and
46 they talked about a few things they knew but they said it
47 was all just gossip.

1
2 HIS HONOUR: Q. So they had heard gossip at the time?
3 A. Yes, they heard gossip throughout the school.
4
5 Q. What years were they at the Katanning High School
6 between. 70s and 80s?
7 A. Well, they were all born 41 years ago.
8
9 MR URQUHART: Q. So 1971 your eldest was born?
10 A. Yes, so it would be the 80s.
11
12 HIS HONOUR: Q. The 80s?
13 A. And 90s they were at school.
14
15 MR URQUHART: Q. So they would have started at the high
16 school in around about 1984 and onwards?
17 A. Yes. So they heard then so they were --
18
19 Q. If I can just ask you some questions about what you
20 noticed at Katanning and first with the children from the
21 hostel. Did you notice, either from your own observation
22 or finding out, how they integrated with the kids from the
23 high school that weren't at the hostel?
24 A. It seemed from the end of the first year, the children
25 from the hostel who were not allowed to associate with the
26 children of the town.
27
28 Q. And you say the end of the first year you were talking
29 about?
30 A. '76. The end of '76. '77 they were not allowed to
31 associate with any of the town kids or associate with the
32 high school kids that belonged to the town, or day - day
33 students.
34
35 Q. And how did you come to find out about that?
36 A. Through the kids. Through the scouts originally, I
37 think. They found it strange that they weren't allowed to
38 associate with hostel kids that was --
39
40 Q. So these were kids who were in scouts who were - I
41 think they were called townies?
42 A. Yes.
43
44 Q. They were telling you that --
45 A. Well, the country farmers' kids as well, but townies,
46 local high school kids.
47

1 Q. Now, after these two boys spoke to you regarding what
2 Dennis McKenna was doing to them, did you actually meet
3 Dennis McKenna?
4 A. Yes.
5
6 Q. And can you recall in what context that was?
7 A. I was introduced to him at some do or other. I used
8 to go to the shire. I used to have new people welcomed to
9 the shire. I was actually in charge of the Anglican Church
10 under Hamish Jamieson for 18 months --
11
12 Q. I see.
13 A. -- as a triallee, trainee for a priesthood, but I
14 didn't ever go on with that. So I was invited for
15 two years to meet with all the new people, and Dennis was
16 there also.
17
18 Q. And what was your opinion of him?
19 A. I thought he was - well, I had a low opinion of him.
20
21 Q. Right.
22 A. I won't say the words.
23
24 Q. And is that as a result of what these two boys had
25 told you?
26 A. Well, that; partially what he come across to me as
27 too.
28
29 Q. Now, we've heard a lot of evidence, Mr Potter, about
30 all the good things he did for the town of Katanning, so
31 aside from his sexual interference and abuse of boys, do
32 you have a view on that?
33 A. Yes.
34
35 Q. I can ask you that because of the fact that you've
36 lived in Katanning for such a long time?
37 A. He actually destroyed a lot of the town's business and
38 community spirit.
39
40 Q. Right.
41 A. Before Dennis came you couldn't get a park on Friday
42 night or a Monday morning/Friday afternoon. People would
43 come to pick up their kids from the out centres like - as
44 far as out as Corrigin, Flat Rocks, Cranbrook, Darkin,
45 Kojonup, Frankland - they would bring - come and pick their
46 kids up, take them home for the weekend. That stopped when
47 Dennis --

1
2 HIS HONOUR: Q. That was obviously good for business
3 though, was it?
4 A. Yes.
5
6 Q. So they'd do their shopping while they come to pick up
7 the kids?
8 A. Yes, but also the machinery places and all that stuff.
9 They were quite flourishing, but when Dennis come, the kids
10 seemed to be kept in the hostel and parents were encouraged
11 to stay away, so they weren't - didn't have that influx on
12 the weekends and start of the week coming and going.
13
14 MR URQUHART: Q. And you noticed that at the time, did
15 you?
16 A. I noticed it suddenly stopped.
17
18 Q. And this was what, starting from the mid '70s onwards?
19 A. Yes, is the late '70s or mid '70s.
20
21 Q. And then what about - and did you notice what happened
22 to the town after he was charged, because we know he was
23 charged in 1990. Did you see any differences then?
24
25 A. This divided the people. There's people still believe
26 that Dennis is a great bloke.
27
28 HIS HONOUR: Q. What, even now?
29 A. Yes. They'll still fight for him, even now. And
30 there's other people who want his throat cut, so --
31
32 Q. So the town is very divided --
33 A. Yes.
34
35 Q. -- in their opinions of Dennis McKenna --
36 A. Yes.
37
38 Q. -- even today?
39 A. Even today.
40
41 Q. And are you able to say whether it's the majority one
42 way or the other?
43 A. I'd say the majority is swinging against him, but it's
44 been a long process.
45
46 Q. Mr Potter, did you have - we know from what you've
47 told us, how you had firsthand knowledge from these two

1 boys about what he was doing, but after that, and up until
2 the time that he was charged in 1990, were there - was
3 there anything been said that you picked up regarding
4 misconduct by him?
5 A. Yes, a lady from Kojonup a few years later rang me and
6 abused me for not doing something about him. It would be
7 probably the late '70s. She abused me and reckoned that I
8 should do something, her boy had been molested, she told me
9 on the phone, and that I should do something about it. I
10 suggested to her that her son should stand forth and I
11 would back him up. Evidently scout leaders have got a lot
12 of pull in the community, evidently. I never had it, but
13 she thought so.
14
15 HIS HONOUR: Q. So why was she abusing you?
16 A. Because I was scout leader, I was in charge of youth
17 and boys, I should be getting stuck into McKenna, I should
18 be doing something. I was sort of someone that might have
19 a bit of clout that could do something, but when I asked
20 her about her boy witnessing, she said, "No", she wasn't
21 going to put him through that.
22
23 MR URQUHART: Q. So when you say you asked about the boy
24 witnessing, are you talking about actually making --
25 A. Her boy.
26
27 Q. -- yes, going forward and making a complaint?
28 A. Yes.
29
30 Q. And then being a witness if required?
31 A. Yes.
32
33 Q. I see.
34 A. And she said, "No", she wasn't putting her boy through
35 all that stuff, but she would put me through it --
36
37 Q. Right.
38 A. -- with no legs to stand on.
39
40 HIS HONOUR: Q. And roughly when was that, what year?
41 A. It would be - I don't know how many years later it is.
42 Later.
43
44 Q. Late '70s?
45 A. Yes.
46
47 MR URQUHART: Q. And did she keep him in the hostel?

1 Did she tell you anything about that?
2 A. No, she took her boy out of the hostel. I don't know
3 which school he went to. She said she was taking him out.
4
5 Q. And was it the case now that you can't recall her
6 name?
7 A. No. I wanted to forget it that minute, don't worry.
8
9 Q. Do you remember if her boy was a member --
10 A. No.
11
12 Q. -- of the scouts?
13 A. No, I don't. He would have been in Kojonup anyway.
14 Except for a competition we used to have once a year at
15 Corrigin, I wouldn't have probably met the boy.
16
17 Q. I see. So you heard that from that particular
18 mother --
19 A. Yes.
20
21 Q. -- of a student at the hostel, but would you hear
22 anything else just by way of --
23 A. Whispers and stuff that boys would say from time to
24 time, that if anyone went against McKenna, he'd have them
25 beat up on the football field or whatnot, but that's about
26 it - you know, have them abused by the boys.
27
28 Q. Okay. I gather you went to social functions
29 throughout the mid '70s and --
30 A. Yes.
31
32 Q. -- up to 1990 and beyond --
33 A. Yes.
34
35 Q. -- but I'm just staying with those. Were there any
36 social occasions between 1976 and 1990 where Dennis
37 McKenna's abuse of children came up?
38 A. No. Virtually everywhere you went he was praised. I
39 was sort of an odd man out. I'd go, "I'll see. Is that
40 what you believe?"
41
42 Q. Would you say anything to these people?
43 A. Other than that, I wouldn't say much.
44
45 Q. Right. And why was that?
46 A. Well, I think I still had no proof or anything else to
47 nail him with.

1
2 HIS HONOUR: Something I'd like to ask you. I'm very
3 intrigued that there's still people in Katanning, you say a
4 substantial number, who still support McKenna even though
5 he's been convicted of numerous offences, and that was
6 consistent with the attitudes that had come through from
7 some witnesses that I've heard from.
8
9 Q. Now, have they ever given any reasons why they are
10 still supportive despite his convictions?
11 A. I haven't a clue. He - how do you work people out?
12 Do you think, "Have you any morals? Have you any feeling
13 for the kids?" It's strange. I just could not allow - my
14 conscious says, "You've got to try and do something for the
15 kids." Abusing kids is something absolutely rotten. I
16 just can't understand that they haven't got any feelings
17 for the kids. It's like they're immoral somewhere along.
18 It's not to do with - it's to do with moral standing rather
19 than --
20
21 Q. I think you mean amoral, meaning --
22 A. Yes.
23
24 Q. -- they've got none.
25 A. None.
26
27 Q. Yes.
28 A. They've got no compassion or no conscience towards the
29 kids, no protection for them. I just can't understand it.
30 To me that's just the epitome of society, the worst part of
31 society, and yet these people hold position.
32
33 MR URQUHART: Q. Mr Potter, did you notice that after
34 Dennis McKenna was charged and convicted, that the numbers
35 dropped off at the hostel, the number of students staying
36 there?
37 A. Yes, they dropped off before, but they started to drop
38 off as people started withdrawing, and once you get a bad
39 name, you virtually kill the place.
40
41 Q. And what did you notice about Katanning after 1991
42 when he was convicted?
43 A. By then the shops were starting to close and
44 businesses were closing down.
45
46 Q. I think there was a recession around that time as
47 well?

1 A. Yes, as well, so --
2
3 Q. But do you --
4 A. It was many things. You've got recession, you've got
5 the fact the hostel, I got the people coming in. It's -
6 usually parents will - they still sent their kids to Perth
7 and that, so the recession didn't affect the children going
8 to school. My kids - three of them went to university, one
9 went to Narrogin Ag College, so it didn't affect - even
10 though we had - we made sacrifices to make sure they got
11 their education. People aren't stupid. They want to put
12 things into their kids.
13
14 Q. But did you notice an increasing number of teenagers
15 who were going to boarding schools in Perth?
16 A. Yes. Virtually - Narrogin had a bad name as well, so
17 everyone was getting through to Perth. What it did then to
18 the community, it did another thing. While they would keep
19 coming to Katanning, they were going back to the farms and
20 they'd battle it out with - as soon as they got to Perth,
21 they found an easier way of living, their socialising life
22 became greater, they didn't come back to the land. We were
23 a dying community more or less. The whole of the Great
24 Southern is - you've lost your youth, you've lost a
25 generation, we lost two generations probably, out of this.
26
27 Q. Now, Mr Potter, can I just go back briefly to that
28 occasion when the two boys spoke to you? You've raised it
29 with the three members of the clergy. You raised it with
30 the police officer. I gather from what you're saying, you
31 didn't raise it with their parents?
32 A. No, I didn't really know - they were out centre
33 people, they were in other towns. I knew a few people from
34 the other towns, but not a great number. So, therefore,
35 you - as I say, you can't - I can't just approach someone
36 and say, "Hey, your son's been molested", it's just about
37 impossible. How would you do that? It might kill the poor
38 beggars after he had a heart condition.
39
40 HIS HONOUR: Q. The boys would never talk to you again,
41 would they?
42 A. Well, no, but - well, yes, there's a lot of things
43 would happen. There's lots of ripples.
44
45 MR URQUHART: Q. Now, and finally, Mr Potter, was it the
46 case that you kept a substantial number of records from
47 your time in the scouts?

1 A. Yes.
2
3 Q. And did you subsequently destroy all of those?
4 A. When my wife died, I destroyed them all. I was
5 frightened with a lot of - I had information could ruin a
6 lot of people.
7
8 Q. Right.
9 A. I made notes on them.
10
11 Q. Yes. So you don't have any records now --
12 A. No.
13
14 Q. -- that might assist us with this particular matter?
15 A. I was frightened of those records getting into
16 people's hands, the wrong people's hands.
17
18 MR URQUHART: Thank you, Mr Potter. That's all the
19 questions, sir, I have.
20
21 HIS HONOUR: Any questions from the Bar table?
22
23 MR KING: No thanks, your Honour.
24
25 HIS HONOUR: Mr Jenkin?
26
27 MR JENKIN: No, thank you, sir.
28
29 HIS HONOUR: Well, I'd like to commend you very much for
30 what you did back in 1976. You're one of the few people
31 who heard rumours or were told things, that did something,
32 so it's very much to your credit. Thank you. You're free
33 to go.
34
35 THE WITNESS: Thank you.
36
37 <THE WITNESS WITHDREW
38
39 HIS HONOUR: Yes. Hits you all right.
40
41 MR URQUHART: Thank you, sir. Now, what I propose to do
42 is read a number of witness statements which will
43 comfortably take us to 1 o'clock. The first, sir, is from
44 Michael Harford, H-A-R-F-O-R-D. This statement has been
45 endorsed by email by Mr Harford as being true and correct.
46 And so it reads:
47

1 Michael Harford

2

3 STATES

4

5 I am 85 years of age and live with my wife,
6 Elizabeth Harford --

7

8 And then he gives the suburb:

9

10 Elizabeth and I have four adult children.
11 We are grandparents.

12

13 I am a retired Anglican Church Priest. My
14 official title now is "Venerable Michael
15 Harford".

16

17 Prior to studying Theology and becoming a
18 Priest with the Anglican Church, I was in
19 the Air Force and later worked as a coal
20 miner.

21

22 I was a qualified pilot from 1965 until I
23 was 60 years of age.

24

25 I was about 26 years of age when I was
26 ordained as Minister in 1952.

27

28 I studied in England and served in
29 Singapore as a Chaplain, and Kuala Lumpur
30 as a Vicar.

31

32 Elizabeth and I returned to Liverpool,
33 England, after my service in Malaysia.

34

35 Shortly after our return, I saw an
36 advertisement in the 'Church Times'
37 newspaper seeking First Class Priests to
38 take up postings in Western Australia.

39

40 I applied for a position and was offered a
41 posting in either Dongara or Katanning. I
42 understood that both these places were
43 country towns.

44

45 I accepted a position in Katanning at the
46 end of 1971.

47

1 I was posted in Katanning from 1971 to
2 1976.
3
4 Katanning came under the leadership of
5 Bunbury Diocese. I recall the Bishop at
6 the time was Ralph Hawkins.
7
8 Elizabeth and I lived with our children in
9 a house next door to the church on
10 Aberdeen Street in Katanning. I don't
11 recall the exact address.
12
13 Our children attended the local primary
14 school and Katanning High School whilst we
15 lived in Katanning.
16
17 None of our children boarded at the hostel
18 as we lived in the town.
19
20 I don't recall our children interacting
21 much with the students who boarded at St
22 Andrew's Hostel. There were never any
23 sleepovers at our home or anything like
24 that.
25
26 During my tenure, I was roped into being a
27 Board member of the St Andrew's Hostel
28 Board.
29
30 This was an ex officio appointment as the
31 St Andrew's Hostel premises was owned by
32 the Anglican Church at the time.
33
34 I don't recall when I assumed this
35 appointment, or when I resigned from it.
36 However, I think Colin Philpott may have
37 been the Chairman at the time I joined the
38 Board some time towards the end of 1971.
39
40 Colin Philpott and I struck up a firm
41 friendship in Katanning, and he remains a
42 close and trusted friend to this day.
43
44 During the time I served on the Board, I
45 was Chaplain at the Kobeelya
46 Girls School, and taught
47 scripture. I was also involved with the

1 boy scouts.

2

3 In 1972 I took scout members from Katanning
4 to the Scout Jamboree in Adelaide. I very
5 much liked engaging with the community and
6 enabling the youths to experience new
7 things.

8

9 Aside from Colin Philpott, I don't recall
10 any of the names of the other Board members
11 during my five years in Katanning.

12

13 I recall that the hostel was well
14 patronised by students of the Katanning
15 High School.

16

17 From memory, the hostel was financially
18 self-managed.

19

20 I can't recall when, but at some time
21 during my time as a member of the Board, I
22 was made the Chairman.

23

24 I think this occurred after Colin Philpott
25 had vacated the position.

26

27 I resigned from the Board whilst I was the
28 Chairman. I think I had served on the
29 Board for some years, at that time.

30

31 I don't remember the details of why I
32 resigned from the Board, but my resignation
33 was effective immediately, and it followed
34 a dispute with other members on the Board.

35

36 I clearly remember being angry and slamming
37 my hand down on the table during the Board
38 meeting, but I cannot remember what the
39 disagreement was about.

40

41 I vaguely recall that I made a decision
42 independent of the other Board members to
43 allow students some sort of access to the
44 hostel.

45

46 Dennis McKenna was the warden of St
47 Andrew's Hostel at that time.

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I do remember the other Board members were angry with me for making a decision as the Chairman, without consulting all members of the Board.

I resigned during this meeting and had no further involvement with the Board of the St Andrew's Hostel from that day onwards.

Investigators from the St Andrew's Inquiry asked me if I recalled a Board member by the name of Elaine Brown.

I do not recall ever meeting a person by this name.

I was asked by Investigators if the dispute I had with the Board that led to my resignation related to my assisting a male student from Albany to relocate to St Andrew's Hostel as he was under investigation of the sexual assault of another student in Albany.

I have no recollection of what the dispute was about, and this information did not remind me of what the issue was.

I did meet Dennis McKenna during my time in Katanning, but had little to do with him. I don't recall ever having a disagreement with him.

I recall being pleased with his contributions to the hostel, such as arranging the installation of a swimming pool and gymnasium for the use of the students.

At no time did any person approach me with concerns about Dennis McKenna, or complaints that he sexually assaulted or bullied borders at the St Andrew's Hostel.

My wife was on the P&C committee of the Katanning High School, and attended monthly

1 meetings with Colin Philpott. She doesn't
2 recall ever meeting Dennis McKenna, let
3 alone having any dealings with him.
4

5 After five years in Katanning, I was posted
6 to Albany as Archdeacon, and Rector from
7 1976 to 1979.
8

9 Elizabeth and I spent three years in Albany
10 with our family until I was sacked without
11 warning or explanation by Bishop
12 Goldsworthy who had taken over from Bishop
13 Hawkins.
14

15 Bishop Goldsworthy informed me he had
16 received a complaint about me, but he
17 refused to tell me what the complaint was.
18 He told me the matter was "confidential".
19

20 I was so upset and bewildered by this that
21 I cried.
22

23 My parish members offered to get a petition
24 signed to keep me in my position. They
25 made it clear I had their full support.
26

27 I told them not to worry because I did not
28 know who made the complaint or what the
29 nature of the complaint was. It was as
30 though I didn't know what or who I was
31 fighting.
32

33 During my time in Albany I was the Chaplain
34 of the Air Force Cadets. I was also chief
35 instructor. As with all my postings, I was
36 very involved with the community.
37

38 I have approached Archbishop Sambell, who
39 was Archbishop of Perth. He said he was
40 happy to welcome me to his diocese when a
41 suitable vacancy arose.
42

43 I was offered a position at the Bicton
44 Parish in Perth, in either 1979 or 1980,
45 and stayed there until 1986. I then moved
46 to the Guildford Parish, where I remained
47 until my retirement in 1991.

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Then, sir, there's the standard declaration:

This statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief. I have made this statement knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I will be guilty of a crime if I have wilfully included in the statement anything that I know to be false or that I do not believe is true.

Sir, the next statement is from a Susan Patricia Cox. Ms Cox has confirmed by email that this statement is true and correct to the best of her knowledge. Her statement reads:

Susan Patricia Cox states:

I am 55 years of age and currently live in Perth, having been born in Katanning on 3 March 1957.

My mum passed away in 2007, aged 87 years, and my dad passed away in 1974, aged 59 years.

Mum, whose name was Maud Bruce, worked as the laundress at St Andrew's Hostel from 1965 to 1978. She started there when Alan and Jennifer Green were the first warden and matron.

Mum was also there then --

I think that should read "when." So "Mum was also there when:

-- Dennis McKenna was the warden, and, in fact, it was Dennis that terminated my mum's employment because he told her the laundry was being privatised.

I recall the head warden of the hostel in the late 1960s was Werner Smitt. The matron was Joy Adern. Werner and Joy married and left the hostel in the early

1 1970s.

2

3 An Anglican Minister, whose name I cannot
4 remember, acted as the warden for a period
5 of time after the Werners left.

6

7 Dennis McKenna was employed as a supervisor
8 by the Anglican Minister, and allocated
9 accommodation in a room across the hallway
10 from the hostel's office.

11

12 Over the last few months I have been
13 following the progress of the St Andrew's
14 Inquiry through the media, and listening to
15 the evidence from many of the witnesses.

16

17 Hearing and reading the witnesses give
18 their evidence got me thinking about my
19 experiences with Dennis, and some of the
20 discussions I used to have with mum about
21 how I thought he was doing something to the
22 boys.

23

24 I started at Katanning Senior High School
25 when I was 14, in 1971. This was because I
26 had to redo a year of primary school.

27

28 In 1973 I was in Year 10 and I gave birth
29 to my son.

30

31 After I gave birth to my son, my [then]
32 husband and I moved from Katanning to Lake
33 Toolbrunup --

34

35 That's spelt T-O-O-L-B-R-U-N-U-P:

36

37 -- which is between the towns of
38 Gnowangerup and Tambellup.

39

40 Unfortunately, our marriage only lasted
41 18 months, and my son and I moved back to
42 live with mum in Katanning.

43

44 When I came back to Katanning and lived
45 with mum, I used to still hang around with
46 some of the girls from the high school, and
47 I used to go to the hostel to see mum.

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I remember when Dennis first came to the hostel, he told everyone, including myself, that he had been engaged and his fiancée had died in a car accident, and that was why he was single.

I had many conversations with my mum about how I thought Dennis was "queer" because he did not like women or the girls at the hostel.

I clearly remember that when I spoke to mum about Dennis, she was always very scared to talk about him whilst at the hostel because he would be listening.

Mum used to say to me, "We can talk when we get home, and I will tell you what is going on here."

If Dennis ever suspected any of the boys were talking to mum, he would sneak down to the laundry to eavesdrop in on what was being said. In fact, I actually caught him doing this on a number of occasions.

At some point I remember Dennis actually banned the boys from going to the laundry before 4pm, because that was when mum finished work.

I remember after I had come back to live with mum, she once said to me, "You were right, he is a poof", or something similar to that. She went on to say, "He doesn't like women, he likes little boys, the ones that are here."

I clearly remember asking mum why people were not doing anything about what Dennis was doing to those boys.

Mum told me she tried to raise the issue with people, but she was told that because she did not have any kids residing in the hostel, there was nothing she could do.

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The people she told me she saw was my uncle, my cousin and a Minister of a church.

Mum once told me that some of the boys would often talk to her and they would call her then after lights out.

Sorry, I'll start again:

Mum once told me that some of the boys would often talk to her and they would tell her that after lights out Dennis would come and get four to seven boys out of bed and take them to his room where he would get them to dress up in female dresses, high heels, wigs and make-up.

He would then judge them and then he would keep one or two of them in his room. The rest would send back to their beds.

The boys who had to stay back would be forced to do sexual favours on Dennis.

Mum reckons that a number of the boys would speak with her about the abuse at least every week, but she never gave me names.

I remember once seeing a boy crying when he was talking to mum, and I asked her if he was one of the boys that was being abused. Mum said, "I cannot tell you."

There was an incident where Dennis caught me smoking behind the boys' dorms. Initially I thought this occurred in the very early '70s, but I now recall it actually happened after I had returned to live with mum.

I remember Dennis catching me smoking and threatening to tell my mum. And I said to him, "You better fucking hurry, before you forget."

1 He never did tell mum because I asked her
2 if Dennis had spoken to her about me, and
3 she said, "No."
4

5 I remember that myself and a group of girls
6 used to sit on the oval and try to identify
7 which boys were being abused by Dennis.
8

9 We did this as the boys were coming and
10 going from the hostel to school.
11

12 I have always believed that it was common
13 knowledge around the school, both with
14 students and teachers, that Dennis was
15 abusing the boys at the hostel.
16

17 I say this because we girls would always be
18 talking about it at school. And I am sure
19 teachers would have heard the rumours. So
20 I don't see how all these people have been
21 saying they didn't see or know anything.
22

23 This statement is true to the best of my
24 knowledge and belief. I have made this
25 statement knowing that if it is tendered in
26 evidence I will be guilty of a crime if I
27 have wilfully included in the statement
28 anything I know to be false or that I do
29 not believe is true.
30

31 The next statement is a police officer whose name will be
32 suppressed for reasons that will become apparent once I
33 have read his statement. He has also confirmed that this
34 statement is true and correct and he will be simply
35 referred to as witness "H". This statement is relevant to
36 Noel Parkin's evidence which was given on 28 February of
37 this year at the public hearing relating to an incident
38 when his son, Brad, threw a rock at a bus driven by Dennis
39 McKenna in 1980. So "H's" statement reads:
40

41 I am 59 years old.
42

43 I am a Sergeant in the WA Police, employed
44 by the Commissioner of Police.
45

46 Then "H" goes through to describe where he has served and
47 where he presently is but I won't disclose that:

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Earlier in my career, I was posted to the small country town of Ongerup. I was at the Ongerup Police Station for about 3 years. I can't remember the exact dates, however I believe I arrived around 1978/79 and left to return to the metropolitan area around the Christmas period of 1980/1981.

Ongerup was a "two man" run station. Senior Constable Raymond Strelcuinas was the Officer in Charge (OIC) and I held the rank of Police Constable before I was promoted to First Class.

Our station covered Ongerup, Jerramungup, Bremer Bay, Pingrup and other surrounding areas. As a Patrol and the Inquiry Officer my duties were to deal with any matters that happened in these areas.

Ongerup is approximately 2 hours drive from Katanning and while I was stationed at Ongerup, I don't remember any reports or rumours about abuse in relation to the Katanning Hostel and I have had no prior knowledge of Dennis McKenna in any capacity whatsoever. I have only recently heard about the St Andrew's Hostel Inquiry through the media outlets and when I was spoken to by investigators on this Inquiry.

If I had been given any information or if anyone reported any physical or child abuse, I would have notified the OIC and acted on that information. The process I would have followed would be to advise the OIC, the local Detectives Office which was in Albany and the local Police if not an area we covered.

Also matters of seriousness and significance, telephone complaints or general inquiries were entered in the station Occurrence Book. This was a procedure I always abided by.

1 A copy of the information in the Occurrence
2 Book also went to the District Office in
3 Albany, along with weekly returns.
4
5 I am a Redress recipient as a result of
6 being physically and sexually abused as a
7 small child while in care. As a victim of
8 abuse myself, I would have followed this
9 procedure to the nth degree.
10
11 An investigator from this Inquiry showed me
12 two coloured photocopied pages from an
13 Ongerup Occurrence Book numbered A12182 and
14 A12183.
15
16 From those pages I read an entry I made
17 dated Wednesday the 29th October 1980 at
18 9.20am.
19
20 The complaint was made by a Dennis
21 McKinnon, the warden at St Andrew's Hostel
22 in Katanning. He reported that on the
23 previous Sunday, the 26th September 1980 --
24
25 Given the fact that the Occurrence Book entry is 29 October
26 1980, if it is the previous Sunday that should read - no,
27 I'd actually say I'm looking at the Occurrence Book entry
28 which will be tendered shortly. It's titled under the
29 heading "Wednesday, 29/10/80", however, it does read "Last
30 Sunday, 29/9/80 at Ongerup". So we will keep it at that.
31 I will read that sentence again:
32
33 He reported that on the previous Sunday,
34 the 26th September 1980 he saw a person
35 named Bradley Parkin throw a stone at the
36 Hostel bus while driving past the Pingrup
37 Hotel.
38
39 This caused a small dent on the side of the
40 bus. Mr McKinnon requested Police speak to
41 the boy about his behaviour and not to
42 repeat it. He didn't want the boy charged
43 but didn't want him to get off 'scot-free.
44 Police attention was promised.
45
46 Inquiries were made with the boy's father
47 Noel Parkin which revealed Bradley had been

1 at Ongerup on that Sunday and played
2 cricket at the Ongerup Sportsground all
3 day. He then attended at the Ongerup
4 Bowling Club with his parents.

5
6 My inquiries resulted in that Mr McKinnon
7 made a mistake in relation to identifying
8 Bradley Parkin in this matter. Mr McKinnon
9 was advised no further action was to be
10 taken at that stage.

11
12 I know Noel Parkin and his son Bradley. I
13 used to play bowls with them. I recall
14 Noel had his opinions about people but I
15 got along well with him and his wife and
16 family.

17
18 However, as this incident happened over 30
19 years ago, I really have no recollection of
20 this complaint.

21
22 I can confirm that the entry in the
23 occurrence book is in my handwriting and I
24 have voluntarily signed and adopted the
25 pages presented to me.

26
27 This statement is true to the best of my
28 knowledge and belief. I have made this
29 statement knowing that, if it is tendered
30 in evidence, I will be guilty of a crime if
31 I have wilfully included in the statement
32 anything that I know to be false or that I
33 do not believe is true.

34
35 I will tender the photocopy pages of the Occurrence Book,
36 A12182 and page A12183. It is a bar code numbered 0485 and
37 these are the photocopied pages that "H" has signed on 23
38 March 2012.

39
40 Just before I hand those over, there is a reference in
41 these Occurrence Book pages to "Dennis McKinnon" but that
42 is obviously "Dennis McKenna". It has simply been an
43 incorrect notation of his surname. It does appear as
44 "Dennis McKinnon" in the Occurrence Book but it makes it
45 clear that he was at the time the warden of the St Andrew's
46 Hostel at Katanning.

1 EXHIBIT #127 POLICE OCCURRENCE BOOK ENTRIES, PAGES A12182
2 AND A12183, BARCODED 0485

3
4 MR URQUHART: The next statement is again from a witness
5 who has requested that her name be suppressed and that will
6 be honoured by the Inquiry. She has confirmed that she has
7 read this statement on 15 June 2010.

8
9 HIS HONOUR: What pseudonym or letter are you giving it?

10
11 MR URQUHART: Yes, we will use pseudonym "F".

12
13 HIS HONOUR: That will be "F". Very well.

14
15 MR URQUHART:

16
17 I am 44 years old and live in Carine with
18 my husband and children.

19
20 I am currently employed as a part-time
21 teacher.

22
23 Before I was married I was known as --

24
25 And she gives her maiden name:

26
27 I grew up on a farm in Moodiarrup, which is
28 about 90 kilometres west of Katanning.

29
30 In 1983, when I was 15 years old, I went to
31 St Andrew's Hostel as a Boarder in
32 Katanning.

33
34 Dennis McKenna was the Warden of the
35 Hostel. Wayne and Robyn McKenna were House
36 Masters for the boys and girls dormitories
37 (dorms). I remember I didn't warm to
38 Robyn. I don't remember a Neil McKenna.

39
40 Everyone liked Dennis for some reason. I
41 saw many Boarders hug him; however I
42 developed a dislike for him over his
43 humiliating treatment towards me and other
44 students. I became very homesick.

45
46 As a result, I only ended up staying at St
47 Andrew's Hostel for the first term which

1 was about 8 to 9 weeks long. During those
2 9 weeks I was shocked at the way Dennis
3 McKenna spoke to the Boarders. I was a
4 very quiet person and horrified at some of
5 the things he used to say and do. Some
6 examples of these things are as follows:
7

8 (a) Dennis told the Hostel students we were
9 not allowed to mix with kids from the
10 school except for other Hostel kids.

11 (b) On many occasions the Hostel kids were
12 invited to Dennis's flat at night. He'd
13 tell them "You don't have to put on your
14 dressing gown, we're all friends". Some
15 girls were invited but I wasn't. I don't
16 know why.

17 (c) Dennis called the females tarts and
18 sluts.

19 (d) There were times when Dennis got on the
20 Hostel PA system and would say, "If you can
21 see smoke coming from the bathroom, someone
22 is shaving for the 1st time".

23 (e) I was also very good friends with a boy
24 in Year 11 --
25

26 And then she gives that boy's name but I won't identify
27 him:
28

29 -- who suddenly stopped talking to me and I
30 don't know why. I thought it was strange
31 behaviour. I have seen him since school
32 days and he is still distant from me.

33 (f) My good friend was --
34

35 And I will name her, sir, because she has already been
36 called as a witness at the Inquiry and did not seek to have
37 her name suppressed. So (f):
38

39 -- my good friend was Sharon Parker.
40 Sharon was told by Dennis she had the
41 potential to be Head Girl. One day over
42 the PA system he said "This song is about
43 Sharon" and the song "Nice legs, shame
44 about the face" was played.

45 (g) Particularly when I was homesick,
46 Dennis would pull me out in front of the
47 class many times and say things like,

1 "She's being a baby being homesick; she
2 wears nappies; I had to call her mum again
3 because she was home sick; get the tissues
4 out", and all the kids would laugh at me.
5
6 When I told my parents about Dennis's
7 comments and his treatment with students,
8 initially my father would say that I was
9 just being homesick and I would get over it
10 or that he couldn't imagine that what I'd
11 told him had happened.
12
13 My father was old-fashioned where my mother
14 was a "straight shooter" and quite
15 outspoken. My father would often tell my
16 mother not to say things as she may not
17 really know if they were true.
18
19 My mother told me a dental nurse who was
20 new to town said to her that half the town
21 loved Dennis and the other half hated him.
22 I don't know any more about that
23 conversation or the name of the dental
24 nurse.
25
26 There was also a time when my mother
27 attended at the Hostel to speak with Dennis
28 in his office. I'm not sure why. She told
29 me a student waltzed in and out of his
30 office and Dennis made this fly-away
31 comment, something along the lines "He's
32 just some boy having a male period, it is
33 his time of the month". My mother noted
34 there was something odd about that whole
35 thing and thought it was a disgusting
36 comment to make.
37
38 I think that's when I knew my mother
39 believed me, as she now thought there was
40 something not quite right or something
41 strange going on with Dennis at the Hostel.
42 At the time, no-one could really determine
43 what it was though.
44
45 After hearing a term of complaints from me
46 to my parents, my mother tried to ring
47 Dennis but he was unavailable.

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Around this time, my mother also rang family friends --

Who she then names but I won't disclose them:

-- about Dennis's behaviour. The male parents' response was similar to "You just can't panda to the kids, particularly when they are homesick". Unfortunately, my parents' friendship with --

She then names the surname of those other parents:

-- fell by the wayside after that.

Then I won't disclose the next paragraph because it identifies a boy's name. It continues in para.16:

I completed the rest of Year 11 and 12 at Narrogin Hostel. I can't recall the Warden's name or who the Senior Supervisors were at that time.

I remember not that long after I started at Narrogin, two very young female Senior Supervisors called me into the office. At that meeting, I don't think they wrote anything down at the time, it was just for an informal chat. The conversation was mainly about telling me how well I was settling in at the Hostel and doing in my studies.

We also talked about my "reputation" as a troublemaker and how the Katanning Hostel wanted me kicked out. I had heard that Dennis had contacted the Narrogin Hostel and told them this, although this wasn't true.

The only names I recall from the Narrogin Hostel are Mr and Mrs Yvonne Millstead who managed the Hostel and Mr and Mrs either Edwards or Richards. My Year 12 Hostel Report is signed off by a Mrs Everett but I can't recall if it is one of the young

1 ladies that spoke to me in Year 11.

2

3 I remember Narrogin was such a different
4 experience and atmosphere for me compared
5 to St Andrew's Hostel and I was never
6 homesick again.

7

8 This statement is true to the best of my
9 knowledge and belief. I have made this
10 statement knowing that, if it is tendered
11 in evidence, I will be guilty of a crime if
12 I have wilfully included in the statement
13 anything I know to be false or that I do
14 not believe is true.

15

16 The next statement is from Mary Anna Pilatti, spelt
17 P-I-L-A-T-T-I. Mary Anna Pilatti states:

18

19 I am currently a relief teacher at
20 St Bridgid's Catholic Primary School,
21 located in Collie.

22

23 In 1984 I was a teacher at St Patrick's
24 Catholic Primary School, located in
25 Katanning.

26

27 During my time at St Patrick's, my
28 principal was Sister Maureen.

29

30 I remember that whilst I was in Katanning I
31 lived at St Rita's convent (it is now known
32 as Reidy House) situated in Amherst St,
33 Katanning.

34

35 Dennis McKenna, who was the warden at St
36 Andrew's Hostel, set up my accommodation
37 arrangement.

38

39 I am not sure where I first met Dennis
40 McKenna but it was most likely through my
41 involvement in the choir where he offered
42 me free accommodation in return for after
43 school tutoring at the hostel on two nights
44 of the week.

45

46 The usual routine that I adopted was that
47 around mealtime I would go down to the

1 hostel and have dinner with the kids and
2 then after dinner start my tutoring duties.
3
4 I used to walk up and down the dormitories
5 to see if any of the kids needed help.
6 Generally the kids would just come to me if
7 they needed assistance.
8
9 Dennis also expected me to make sure the
10 kids were not horsing around, but this was
11 never an issue as the kids in the hostel
12 were very well mannered and disciplined.
13
14 Most nights I was only needed from about
15 7.00pm until 9.00pm and my tutoring duties
16 were for both boys and girls.
17
18 As I reflect back on my time at the hostel
19 I remember my first impression of Dennis
20 McKenna was admirable because, although not
21 a Catholic himself, he used to bring some
22 of the hostel kids to the Catholic Church
23 for Sunday mass.
24
25 I remember that around February or March of
26 1985 I was doing one of my normal tutoring
27 nights at the hostel and needed to ask
28 Dennis something.
29
30 I went around to his bedsit, which was
31 actually in the hostel near the boys'
32 showers and knocked on his door.
33
34 I remember him saying, "Come in" and as I
35 opened the door, I saw a lot of young boys
36 in his room.
37
38 I remember there being more than four boys
39 but cannot accurately remember exactly how
40 many and when I entered the unit there was
41 a disarming silence.
42
43 I noticed that Dennis was sitting on a
44 chair at the back of the unit and on either
45 side of him were boys sitting on the arms
46 of the chair.
47

1 From my recollection he may also have had a
2 boy sitting on his lap; however I cannot
3 remember who any of the boys were.
4

5 I remember Dennis was looking at me with a
6 sort of smirk on his face almost to say "I
7 am above this so what are you going to do".
8

9 I spoke to Dennis but I cannot remember
10 what we spoke about, however when I
11 finished I just left.
12

13 As I left I saw another teacher, Lina
14 Bertolini outside his flat and I told her
15 what I had just witnessed and I felt quite
16 shocked about it.
17

18 I think something inside just gave me a
19 horrible feel that something was "not
20 right".
21

22 When we arrived home that night, Lina and I
23 rationalised the situation and came to the
24 conclusion that Dennis was probably being
25 fatherly towards the students - after all,
26 we had heard absolutely nothing untoward
27 Dennis' character or behaviour that would
28 make us think to the contrary.
29

30 And clearly, sir, there should be the word "about"
31 appearing after "untoward" so I will read that again:
32

33 After all, we had heard absolutely nothing
34 untoward about Dennis's character or
35 behaviour that would make us think to the
36 contrary.
37

38 It was shortly after this incident we were
39 informed we had to move out of our
40 accommodation (I'm not sure if it was
41 Dennis who told us or someone else) but we
42 moved out into some private accommodation.
43

44 As time passed I became very angry at the
45 thought that our accommodation had been
46 terminated and felt it was because I saw
47 him with the boys in his room.

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This statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief. I have made this statement knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I will be guilty of a crime if I have wilfully included in the statement anything that I know to be false or that I do not believe is true.

It has then been signed by Ms Pilatti.

Sir, I do propose reading one more statement, if I can, before the lunchbreak.

HIS HONOUR: Yes, by all means.

MR URQUHART: Because it is from Lina Bertolini. So Lina Anne Bertolini:

I currently reside at Gwelup and am a School Principal.

I taught at the St Patricks Catholic Primary School in Katanning in 1983, 1984 and 1985.

At this time I lived at Kardanup House which was an old convent for a few months in 1985. I did not have to pay rent in exchange for tutoring at the Katanning Hostel two or three nights per week.

I lived at Kardanup House with fellow teachers Mary Pilatti (nee Batista) and Ken Perris.

I remember starting a youth group and monthly youth masses for young Catholics with Mary and I think I met Dennis McKenna, the warden of the Katanning Hostel through the youth group. I believe he would bring the Catholic boarders along to the youth group and masses.

I would have dinner at the hostel with the male and female boarders and would then help the boarders with their study in their

1 dormitories. I mainly helped in the boys'
2 dormitory.

3
4 I came to know the hostel existed and who
5 Dennis McKenna was when I would see the bus
6 driving around the town taking the boarders
7 between various activities and events, e.g.
8 netball for the girls.

9
10 I did not witness anything inappropriate or
11 untoward during my time at the hostel.

12
13 I do recall witnessing Mary returning from
14 Dennis McKenna's unit one evening and she
15 was as white as a ghost. I believe that
16 she went to his bedroom to deliver a
17 message and she said that Dennis was laid
18 back on his bed with boys all around him.
19 I believe she said they were all clothed.

20
21 I remember that night speaking with Mary
22 about the incident and we rationalised it
23 away and did not take it any further. I
24 did not tell anybody about the incident and
25 I don't remember Mary telling me she had
26 told anyone.

27
28 Not long after that time, which was around
29 the middle of the year, Mary, Ken and I
30 were asked to move out of the convent. I'm
31 not sure what reason was given but Mary
32 believed that it was because of what she
33 saw when she went into Dennis' unit.

34
35 Once we left the convent I did not continue
36 the tutoring at the Hostel.

37
38 Ken Perris did not tell me at the time that
39 he ever saw anything inappropriate during
40 his time at the Hostel.

41
42 I declare that this statement is true and
43 correct to the best of my knowledge and
44 belief and that I have made this statement
45 knowing that if it is tendered in evidence
46 I will be guilty of a crime if I have
47 wilfully included in this statement

1 anything which I know to be false or I do
2 not believe to be true.

3
4 It has then been signed by Ms Bertolini on 17 May 2012.

5
6 Sir, if I can just go on for a little bit longer
7 whilst I still have the voice --

8
9 HIS HONOUR: Yes, by all means, yes.

10
11 MR URQUHART: -- just to go through a few more statements
12 because I was rather hoping to finish these before 2.15,
13 when we have our next witness.

14
15 HIS HONOUR: Yes, well you keep on going.

16
17 MR URQUHART: Thank you.

18
19 The next statement is from the witness "S". Just to
20 recap where this witness "S" fits into the scheme of
21 things, on 19 March of this year the Inquiry heard evidence
22 relating to an allegation made by a Mr Brian Humphries, a
23 retired officer with the now named Department for Child
24 Protection. His allegation was that he was stopped by his
25 supervisor from investigating a complaint made by a student
26 at the St Andrew's Hostel in the early 1980s.

27
28 Investigations by the Inquiry have revealed that that
29 complaint may well have involved a student who has been
30 identified as "S". "S's" statement dated 29 February of
31 this year was read into evidence on 19 March and that
32 details allegations of sexual abuse of him by Dennis
33 McKenna in 1983 and 1984.

34
35 HIS HONOUR: No, I think it was '82 and '83.

36
37 MR URQUHART: I apologise, sir. Yes, I was going off the
38 top of my head but your Honour is quite right, 1982/1983.

39
40 As a result of further evidence that's been adduced,
41 "S" has been following the Inquiry proceedings and has
42 prepared another statement to address some aspects of that
43 evidence. He has endorsed this statement as being true and
44 correct. "Statement of 'S':

45
46 I am known to the St Andrew's Hostel
47 Inquiry as "S". I live at an address known

1 to the St Andrew's Hostel Inquiry and I
2 state as follows:

3
4 My full name is known to the St Andrew's
5 Hostel Inquiry ("the Inquiry") and I am 43
6 years of age.

7
8 I have previously made a statement ("the
9 first statement") to the Inquiry and this
10 statement, my second statement, is made in
11 furtherance to the first statement.

12
13 I have followed evidence given to the
14 Inquiry and comment made during hearings by
15 assessing the transcripts of proceedings
16 ("the transcripts") which have regularly
17 been posted on the Inquiry's web site.

18
19 Since making the first statement I have
20 seen myself referred to in the transcripts
21 as being a liar, thief, special needs child
22 and labelled as being trouble and having
23 poor hygiene.

24
25 I have been hurt and offended at being
26 referred to as a special needs child
27 although I accept that harm may not have
28 been intended by people using that label.

29
30 I infer from the use of the label that
31 people believe I had learning or physical
32 disabilities but that was not the case.

33
34 I have been fit, active and in full
35 employment since I was 16 years old.

36
37 It seems I have been branded a thief but I
38 ask people to look at the circumstances
39 surrounding my taking money that was hidden
40 under Dennis McKenna's bed.

41
42 I made a decision that was not a good one
43 but I was very young and had been offended
44 against by a horrible man.

45
46 I stole cans of cool drink from the canteen
47 on a couple of occasions, but a lot of the

1 students did that.
2
3 I never stole from other students, despite
4 what Dennis McKenna said in evidence.
5
6 I do not think I was a liar while I was at
7 St Andrew's, but if I did it was only to
8 survive in the environment that Dennis
9 McKenna created.
10
11 The environment was one of fear and
12 distrust.
13
14 I am not a liar, in my view.
15
16 I do not look back at my time at St
17 Andrew's and view myself as trouble, but if
18 I was troublesome on some occasions, it was
19 probably because of the way I was treated
20 while I was at St Andrew's.
21
22 Sometimes I would sneak out of the
23 dormitory at night after lights out.
24
25 When I did this I would go to the nearby
26 paddock and talk to the horse.
27
28 I liked the solitude as much as I liked
29 being with the horse.
30
31 St Andrew's was a horrible place for me to
32 stay at.
33
34 I never wet the bed while staying at St
35 Andrew's Hostel.
36
37 I have read that I supposedly had poor
38 hygiene, but that is not totally correct.
39
40 I may have had poor hygiene for the first
41 month that I was at St Andrew's, because I
42 was petrified of everything about the
43 place.
44
45 I did not like showering because of the
46 communal arrangements which made me feel
47 extremely uncomfortable.

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Dennis McKenna often stared at students while they showered, and I was not the only student who felt uncomfortable because of the communal nature of the shower block.

I declare this statement to be true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. I have not received any threats, inducements or promises before making this statement. I make this statement knowing that it is an offence under section 106 of the Evidence Act to make a false statement.

Sir, if I can continue.

HIS HONOUR: Yes.

MR URQUHART: Nobody else has any objection. The next statement, sir, is from Rosalind, R-O-S-A-L-I-N-D, Anne with an "E", Shiner S-H-I-N-E-R. It states:

I'm 42 years old and employed as a gardener for the Shire of Kent.

I live about 20km out of Pingrup. I have lived in the area all my life at various addresses.

When I lived in Pingrup, Lake Grace High School was the closest, which only went to Year 10, so I went to Katanning Senior High School and boarded at St Andrew's Hostel in 1982 to 1985, between the ages of 13 to 16 years old.

I had two brothers that also went to the hostel. My older brother, Brian, was there in Year 10 when I was there in Year 8. My younger brother, Ian, was in Year 8 when I was in Year 10.

I can remember the school principal was Gerry Marriott, and later on there was a Mrs Bussell, or possibly the other way around, I'm not clear. I think Mrs Bussell's daughter, Emma, was in Year

1 11, the year she was the principal.

2

3 I just digress there for the moment. Sir, records show
4 that Mr Marriott was the high school principal in 1985 and
5 1986. Mrs Lorna Bussell was the Deputy Principal in 1984.
6 So I'll now continue with the statement:

7

8 Dennis McKenna was in charge of the St
9 Andrew's Hostel. He was the warden.

10

11 Robyn and Wayne McKenna, and Wendy and Neil
12 McKenna, were supervisors for the boys and
13 girls at the hostel. Troy McKenna was
14 there for a while too, but I'm not sure if
15 he was a supervisor.

16

17 Well, again, sir, I can confirm from records that Troy
18 McKenna was only ever a student at the hostel. I continue:

19

20 I didn't like Dennis and he didn't like me
21 either.

22

23 I think it was because I didn't conform.

24

25 I was quite an individual. The girls would
26 cry when he picked on them. I used to tell
27 the younger girls to be themselves, don't
28 worry about him.

29

30 Some of the girls were led to believe they
31 were thieves. I even found my clothes in
32 their wardrobes.

33

34 She then states that she remembers two girls, who I won't
35 name. It continues:

36

37 There were rumours that they were thieves.
38 One had my netball skirt in their wardrobe.

39

40 Since the St Andrew's Inquiry has started,
41 I now think perhaps some of the girls may
42 have been set up. I think it may have been
43 staff putting the rumours around. Back
44 then I wouldn't have thought of a setup as
45 a kid.

46

47 I used to get quite homesick. Another girl

1 from my town, a couple of years older than
2 me, who's now passed away, sat on my bed
3 one night as I was crying, consoling me.
4

5 The next day Robyn McKenna said, "Don't let
6 her sit on my bed again as Dennis will
7 think you are lesbians." I didn't even
8 know what lesbians were. I don't know how
9 Robyn knew of this incident at my bed, but
10 there always appeared to be spies around
11 the hostel.
12

13 It was sort of an in-house feeling that
14 some of the hostel kids that lived in the
15 town weren't allowed to mix with the other
16 boarders. Dennis used to make things up
17 like they were sluts, and you shouldn't
18 really mix with them.
19

20 I used to ignore that rule. That's why he
21 probably didn't like me. I remember one
22 friend said, "Be careful not to let anyone
23 see us mix together." I'm referring to the
24 spies at the hostel. It would always get
25 back to Dennis. You could never really do
26 anything without him finding out.
27

28 While I was at the hostel, I felt like my
29 childhood was ruined in many ways.
30 Especially the rule of Dennis's, where you
31 can't talk to your friends or particular
32 people.
33

34 One night I got invited to Dennis's flat.
35 It was painted blue and white, the hostel
36 colours. Other girls were there, but I
37 can't remember who.
38

39 I can remember Dennis was on the lounge,
40 and a boy on the floor with him, sitting in
41 front of him, between his legs. I fell
42 asleep behind a lounge chair.
43

44 I woke up and saw Dennis rubbing the boy's
45 penis area on top of his clothing, with his
46 foot. I glared at him, and he stopped.
47 The boy appeared in shock.

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Nothing was said. I don't know who the boy was, and can't remember if any girls were still there. I went back to my room. Not until I left school do I think I told my mum about it.

Another night I saw a group of boys, after lights were out, go up to Dennis's room with their pillows to watch TV.

I used to get called out of bed when lights went out. Robyn would say that Dennis wanted to see me. I was in my pyjamas. Dennis told me not to speak to my older friends. I ignored him.

One of my school reports for 1982 says that I need to make friends with my own age group as I had no friends in Year 8. This was written by Dennis.

I remember I got on with Wendy, but I didn't really like Robyn. She reported everything back to Dennis.

During my time at the hostel, my school friends were --

And then she proceeds to name a number of children. There's probably no need, sir, to repeat those names:

I remember one time Dennis set up a competition to be warden or wardeness for the day. I was voted in by the students and beat --

And then she names a boy whose name has been suppressed for the purposes of this hearing:

I got to wear normal clothes that day, as the hostel kids wore a uniform.

I'll skip the next paragraph and go on, sir:

Another time when I was walking to school from the hostel, Dennis got on the PA

1 system and told students not to speak to
2 me, that I was a bitch, anyone talking to
3 me would be instantly suspended. I
4 remember I used to do sign language with my
5 friends, and laugh about it. He tried hard
6 to isolate me from my friends.

7
8 Most people in general thought Dennis was
9 gay by the way he dressed and acted. He
10 broke down one day in front of everyone in
11 the dining room. He said he was accused of
12 being a "poofter". It might have been when
13 I was in Year 10, in 1984.

14
15 He said something like, "I love every one
16 of you kids."

17
18 I think he tried to make everyone feel
19 sorry for him. He spoke of rumours going
20 around by the kids, and warned that we
21 better have a good lawyer if you're
22 accusing people of being gay.

23
24 In 1985, Dennis drove the girls and boys in
25 a bus to Max Kay's Civic Theatre
26 Restaurant. He'd drive us around
27 Northbridge-Highgate, showed us the "red
28 light district." He'd say, "Look, there's
29 a hooker over there."

30
31 Another time Dennis drove us to the Lazy
32 Crab, a camping place in Mandurah.

33
34 Some young guys pulled up in their
35 Sandman's, a name we called a panel van.
36 Some of the girls waved at the boys.

37
38 Dennis used to go right off saying we were
39 attracting hoons back to the camp. One
40 time he said the bus tyres had been
41 slashed. I am sure he said that to make us
42 feel guilty.

43
44 Towards the end of 1985, Dennis told me not
45 to come back. When I told my mum, she rang
46 Dennis up about it.

47

1 He said to mum, "Didn't you get the
2 letter?" Mum said, "What letter?" Dennis
3 said, "The letter to say she wasn't welcome
4 back."

5
6 Mum said Dennis was stammering after she
7 called him a liar. She knew I hated him,
8 and she also knew I wasn't lying. There
9 was no letter.

10
11 So the next year, in 1986, I went to the
12 Katanning High School. Although I didn't
13 go to the hostel any more, I remember I
14 wore my hostel uniform and jacket to stir
15 Dennis up.

16
17 I lived with other girls in the town who
18 had jobs - Jane Stevens, Jackie Guelfi,
19 Michelle Dye. That house got sold and then
20 I stayed with two teachers from the high
21 school in a house in Clarence Street.

22
23 When I left school I still lived in
24 Clarence Street and got a job at the
25 meatworks, in the office.

26
27 The house got sold, and we were looking for
28 somewhere else to stay. I'm not sure how
29 Dennis found out. He wanted a caretaker
30 for Reidy House. So I shared with a
31 teacher named Pia Lebeck downstairs, and
32 Nigel Parks lived upstairs. Nigel was an
33 ex-student who worked at the bank. We got
34 free rent for a couple of months.

35
36 Later, Dennis offered me to do study
37 supervision. All I had to do was just walk
38 around for half an hour, around the dorms.
39 Although I stayed at the hostel, I didn't
40 really see Dennis that much. I think it
41 was in 1987, but I only did it for a short
42 time.

43
44 This statement is true to the best of my
45 knowledge and belief. I have made this
46 statement knowing that, if it is tendered
47 in evidence, I'll be guilty of a crime if I

1 have wilfully included in the statement
2 anything that I know to be false, or that I
3 do not believe is true.
4
5 It has then been signed by Ms Shiner, and it's dated 18 May
6 of this year. That, sir, might now be an appropriate time.
7
8 HIS HONOUR: Very good. Well, 2.15, is it?
9
10 MR URQUHART: Yes, 2.15 we'll hear from a witness. We'll
11 hear from two witnesses this afternoon, and I'll have to
12 read, sir, in several more statements before the
13 conclusion.
14
15 HIS HONOUR: All right. We'll adjourn until 2.15.
16
17 LUNCHEON ADJOURNMENT
18
19 UPON RESUMPTION:
20
21 HIS HONOUR: Yes, Mr Urquhart.
22
23 MR URQUHART: Thank you, sir. The next witness will be
24 Deborah Michelle Wallwork. I understand, sir, we have a
25 link down to Albany for Mr Illari and Mr Wilkinson.
26
27 HIS HONOUR: Very good. Mr Illari, I can see you there.
28 Can you hear me?
29
30 MR ILLARI: Yes, your Honour, I can. And I have Mr
31 Wilkinson sitting beside me.
32
33 HIS HONOUR: Yes, thank you very much. Yes, Mr Urquhart.
34
35 MR URQUHART: I call Deborah Michelle Wallwork. And Ms
36 Wallwork will take the affirmation, thank you.
37
38 <DEBORAH MICHELLE WALLWORK, affirmed:
39
40 <EXAMINATION-IN-CHIEF BY MR URQUHART:
41
42 MR URQUHART: I'm just going to ask your Honour's
43 associate, I am sure Ms Wallwork won't want to look at -
44 you're a bit distracted by the image of herself there.
45
46 HIS HONOUR: Q. Does that worry you?
47 A. Yes, it probably will, actually.

1
2 Q. Yes, all right. Very good.
3 A. Yes.
4
5 Q. I'm even worse, I think.
6 A. Apologies.
7
8 HIS HONOUR: No, that's fine. Very good.
9
10 MR URQUHART: Thank you, your Honour.
11
12 Q. Now, Ms Wallwork, your full name is Deborah
13 Michelle --
14 A. That's correct.
15
16 Q. -- Wallwork? You reside in the Perth metropolitan
17 area, do you?
18 A. That's correct.
19
20 Q. And you're a nurse by profession?
21 A. That's correct as well.
22
23 Q. Now, I've apologised to all the lady witnesses who
24 have given evidence at the Inquiry, I need to ask your age
25 so we can make calculations as to how old you were at times
26 when you were at the school?
27 A. 43.
28
29 Q. 43 years old. Okay. And is it the case that you're a
30 former student of the Katanning Senior High School?
31 A. And St Andrew's Hostel as well, yes.
32
33 Q. And also St Andrew's Hostel, yes. And were you also
34 at the hostel during the time that Dennis McKenna was
35 warden?
36 A. Yes, I was; for Year 11 and 12.
37
38 Q. Yes. And I'm going to ask you about that. Your
39 family was from Gnowangerup?
40 A. Yes, that's correct.
41
42 Q. Is that right? And you attended the Gnowangerup
43 District High School?
44 A. Until Year 10.
45
46 Q. Until Year 10, and that was 1984 --
47 A. Yes.

1
2 Q. -- is that right? And why was it that you moved to
3 the Katanning High School?
4 A. Obviously because it was only a district high school,
5 which meant it only went to Year 10.
6
7 Q. I see.
8 A. And I needed to --
9
10 Q. Right. And was Katanning High School the closest
11 school to Gnowangerup?
12 A. Yes, it was.
13
14 Q. Right.
15 A. Senior High School it was.
16
17 Q. But Gnowangerup was too far away for your parents to
18 take you to and from Katanning?
19 A. The drive, yes. It was a 35 minute drive each way,
20 so --
21
22 Q. Right. So is that the first time you boarded at a
23 hostel?
24 A. Yes, it was.
25
26 Q. Okay. So you obviously met the warden?
27 A. Yes, Dennis McKenna, yes.
28
29 Q. Okay. And what were your - if I can just go now to
30 your impressions of him. Can you recall something
31 happening early on that you were there at the hostel that
32 you remember even to this day?
33 A. Yes. So we went on a camp to Wellington Mills, and it
34 was the first time I'd been away with the hostel, and there
35 was a river there and he was sitting on a - on some rocks
36 at the river with a bunch of boys, and he was sitting very
37 closely with them, and there was a lot of touching going
38 on - whether it was on the shoulder, on the leg, ruffling
39 the hair, but it was just lots of contact, physical contact
40 from Dennis McKenna to the boys.
41
42 Q. Right. So it wasn't reciprocated?
43 A. No.
44
45 Q. It was just him doing those?
46 A. No, they were just sitting there and he was doing that
47 to them.

1
2 Q. So this is 1985?
3 A. In --
4
5 Q. In Year 11?
6 A. -- a bit after Year 11, yes.
7
8 Q. And what was your reaction to that when you saw that?
9 A. I was completely horrified. It wasn't something that
10 I thought was appropriate. I mean, my parents had always
11 brought me up, taught be about, you know, normal touching
12 and inappropriate touching and all that sort of stuff. And
13 it - I don't know, it just really shocked and surprised me
14 that he was touching these boys in a very familiar way
15 without anyone seeming to be bothered by it.
16
17 Q. I was going to ask you about that. Did you see
18 anybody else and how they reacted to that?
19 A. No one seemed to even care or even notice. I mean, I
20 just - I didn't like it and I couldn't stand there watching
21 it, and I know I walked off, and then I went off, but it
22 happened all the time. It happened not just at the rocks,
23 but just even when we went camping later on, and that
24 weekend, and even at the hostel a lot.
25
26 Q. So can you recall how far into the year it was that
27 this camping trip took place?
28 A. I thought it was earlier on, but that I'm not 100%
29 sure. I know it was definitely when I was in Year 11, my
30 first year there. That I'm definitely not 100% certain
31 exactly when it was that that occurred, but it was
32 definitely early.
33
34 Q. Was that the first occasion that you recall --
35 A. That was the first time that I really noticed his
36 behaviour towards the boys.
37
38 Q. Do you recall speaking to any of your fellow students
39 about that at the time?
40 A. Yes. I didn't - I did ask them about it, and I sort
41 of got the shrug off, and it was only over time that I
42 continued to see him behave this way with boys that I
43 really questioned the boys in my year, simply because I was
44 still fitting in and all the other - most of the girls bar
45 one other have been there since Year 8, so I guess
46 friendships were a little bit hard to get established
47 originally; but, yes, I know I definitely questioned most

1 of them and told them what I was seeing, and that I thought
2 it was completely inappropriate behaviour, and most of
3 their reaction was to shrug their shoulders and just say,
4 "That's just the way Dennis is with the boys." No one
5 seemed to bat an eyelid.
6
7 Q. Okay. And staying with the camp - the first time you
8 saw that --
9 A. Yes.
10
11 Q. -- did you see how the boys reacted to that, those who
12 were being touched in that way?
13 A. I wouldn't say that they were displaying overly sort
14 of uncomfortable expressions or anything. I think most of
15 them were - appeared young, so - well, they were certainly
16 letting him do it, there's no question about that; but no,
17 no one sort of seemed to move away when he was doing it.
18
19 Q. And so was this a camp for years other than just Year
20 11?
21 A. Yes, yes.
22
23 Q. So it was for the entire years - is that eight through
24 to 12?
25 A. Yes, I believe it was because I know I have photos
26 with kids of different ages in those photos.
27
28 Q. And you also mentioned that you saw this sort of thing
29 at the hostel?
30 A. Yes.
31
32 Q. Again, can you tell us about those?
33 A. Some things - obviously because the girls' end was up
34 the other end of the hostel, there was basically the dining
35 room between the girls' end and the boys' end, and - but he
36 would even do things like you would go down for breakfast
37 or lunch or dinner, and the boys would walk past and he
38 would be stroking them as they'd walk past. There was
39 never, like, never on the bottom or anything like that; but
40 just, you know, rub down their arm, ruffle their hair; you
41 know, nice good shake on the shoulder. Just constant
42 touching. Constant touching.
43
44 Q. Right. Did you ever see that happen to any of the
45 girls?
46 A. Never, never.
47

1 Q. Now, we've heard some evidence that there was - movies
2 would be played at the hostel. Did you ever go to those?
3 A. The cinema?
4
5 Q. Yes.
6 A. Yes, because the hostel had their own cinema. If
7 Dennis was in attendance, there was always boys sitting
8 next to him, and you'd walk past and he would be touching
9 them on the thigh, rubbing their thigh or, you know, just -
10 yes, just constantly touching them. He - he always wore
11 these safari suits, and - and he would be doing things like
12 he'd kind of stretch his pants and do this kind of
13 shuffling the arms and sleeves down. And then after he'd
14 do that, he'd then - you'd see him touch the boys just -
15 it - I don't know, it never felt right to me, the way he
16 was touching them. I mean, even the brushing of the arms
17 just - I don't know, it was really uncomfortable as far as
18 I was concerned.
19
20 Q. And did you ever see him do this in front of adults?
21 A. Definitely not parents, and I couldn't say for certain
22 if I saw him do that in front of the supervisors. I mean,
23 he would have in terms of when he was touching the boys in
24 the dining room, you know, during the meal times, or when
25 they were coming in - into the dining room. There was
26 always supervisors there then, for sure.
27
28 Q. And what about when - so he'd do it in front of other
29 students then?
30 A. Yes, all the time.
31
32 Q. Would he ever make eye contact with you - he could see
33 you watching him, looking at him?
34 A. Not if he could help it, no.
35
36 Q. Well, what I'm saying is when other students were
37 there watching him do it, did you ever see a time when he
38 would stop doing it?
39 A. No, no, he never seemed uncomfortable doing what he
40 was doing. He appeared quite relaxed about it. Because, I
41 don't know, maybe - I don't know if anyone else had ever
42 questioned him about it, and I admit myself, I didn't
43 question him until I started spreading the rumours, and he
44 then wanted to reprimand me.
45
46 Q. I'll ask you about that in a moment. Can you remember
47 speaking to anyone about it, any adult that you knew when

1 you were in Year 11?
2 A. Yes, definitely my mum.
3
4 Q. Okay.
5 A. Yes, definitely my mum.
6
7 Q. And can you recall what you said to your mum?
8 A. I told her about the way he was touching the boys and
9 him being extremely funny with the boys. And mum and I
10 basically decided between the two of us that unless someone
11 sort of made a complaint, that I didn't have any real
12 evidence that he was actually doing anything, other than he
13 was being physically overly friendly.
14
15 Q. Okay. So apart from raising it with your mum, you
16 didn't raise it with any other adult at that point in time?
17 A. Not Year 11.
18
19 Q. Right.
20 A. I did in Year 12.
21
22 Q. Okay. I'll ask you about that now.
23 A. Yes.
24
25 Q. Are you able to give us some indication of what sort
26 of young lady you were like in years 11 and 12? Are you
27 able to give your own self-appraisal?
28 A. Self-appraisal? I would have said up until Year 10 I
29 was actually head girl at Gnowangerup, in town, so I think
30 I was a fairly responsible person up until that point.
31 Even Year 11 I was trying to fit in, so I was trying - I
32 guess I wasn't trying to make too many waves, except for
33 the Dennis McKenna situation that I was never comfortable
34 with, so I was always very vocal about that. But Year 12 I
35 think I became - I definitely changed in the fact that I
36 became even more outspoken, more - more volatile in some
37 ways, in terms of I didn't want to listen to anything he
38 had to say to me. I used to think I was quite a nice,
39 quiet respectable girl up until I went to the hostel.
40
41 Q. Okay.
42 A. But after that, I - I think I did change. I didn't
43 tolerate it.
44
45 Q. Now, can you recall occasions where he would
46 discipline you?
47 A. There was only a couple of instances in Year 11.

1 There was quite a lot in Year 12. I admit myself I was
2 bad-mouthing Dennis McKenna and the hostel. I was friendly
3 with the townies. I knew quite a few of them before I
4 actually went to the hostel, so I used to see them at
5 school, and I was telling them, as well as the girls at the
6 hostel, exactly what I thought about Dennis and his
7 behaviour, and the way he ran things, and the way he
8 disciplined the kids and the way he let us go on camps and
9 then tried to pull us into line after he gave us all the
10 freedom to do what he wanted.

11

12 Q. I'll ask you about those in a moment.

13 A. Yes.

14

15 Q. So when you say you were bad-mouthing him, you would
16 be bad-mouthing --

17 A. I was basically --

18

19 Q. -- to - but, first, establish who you were
20 bad-mouthing him to - the townies, which were the day
21 students at --

22 A. Yes.

23

24 Q. -- the high school?

25 A. Yes, that's correct.

26

27 Q. And also the girls who were boarders?

28 A. Yes, that I was boarding with.

29

30 Q. So was it always just girls that you would be
31 bad-mouthing him too?

32 A. No, there was boys as well, but particularly - there
33 was a couple of younger boys, I think. When I was in Year
34 12, there was a couple of Year 9 boys that we, myself and
35 my friend befriended. And I would basically tell anybody
36 who would listen that I thought he was extremely dodgy,
37 just in terms of his behaviours towards the boys. I
38 thought that it was unacceptable, and I wanted people to
39 see what I was seeing.

40

41 Q. And apart from fellow students, did you raise it with
42 any other adults - either in Year 11 or Year 12 I'm saying,
43 adults within your own family?

44 A. I did not - yes, family members, I have. I had an
45 aunty and uncle - that was my mum's brother and his wife -
46 that lived in Katanning itself. You know, I spoke to them
47 about it.

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Q. And what was their reaction?
A. I don't think they kind of really believed me, because Dennis was just - I don't know. People liked him.

Q. Yes, I was going to ask you that. Did you get an impression of what he was - how he was regarded amongst the people who lived in Katanning.

A. Yes, I think they thought he was a really good person. And - and I don't think that many people believed that - the things that I was saying about him.

Q. Now, you mentioned that you knew a lot of townies?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you ever get disciplined for that?

A. Yes. That was kind of one of the rules, that you weren't really allowed to associate with the townies. I also made the mistake that I was playing hockey in Year 11, so therefore I wasn't socialising with the hostel kids on the weekends because of the whole cycle hockey season, my mum had to come up and pick me up and take me to the games, because being a country area you have to travel quite long distances. So I wasn't really associating with the hostel kids as much as was kind of expected.

Q. And do you remember being disciplined for that?

A. Yes. Dennis would call me down. He - it was - usually he would call my name over the PA system, so I would go down to his office. He would then say to me about being friendly with the townies. I know he didn't want me playing hockey, and my mum had to fight for that so that he eventually allowed me to do that. And he would call me into his office. He would say to me that basically I had to stop being so friendly with the townies. The hostel was - the hostel - you had to associate with hostel kids only, basically. That it was fine to be friends with them during class, but not to be overly friendly, and basically we weren't allowed to talk about what went on at the hostel with the townies. So he would very strongly tell me I'm not allowed to do any of that stuff. Then the next thing he would be going on about all of the rumours that I was spreading about him, which I have to tell him - I had to tell him that I wasn't going to deny it, that I was actually spreading rumours about him, I was --

HIS HONOUR: Q. Did he say what his understanding of the

1 rumours was? What he thought the rumours were?
2 A. Yes, he knew what I was saying. He knew that I was
3 saying that he was behaving inappropriately with the boys.
4 He actually did deny that he was doing that, but I would
5 always tell him that it didn't matter, he could deny it all
6 he wanted, I didn't believe him. Even though I didn't have
7 any real proof, I still believed that he was - his
8 behaviour was inappropriate, and that something more was
9 going on with the boys.
10
11 Q. So you stood up to him during these --
12 A. Absolutely. I mean, so much so that I would swear at
13 him. I mean, I would call him - you know, excuse my
14 language, but I would call him an effing dodgy so and so
15 because I had absolutely no respect for the man at all, at
16 all. It got to the point that basically every time my name
17 was called over the PA system, that was always because his
18 office was down the boys end of the hostel, that there was
19 always boys hanging around outside to hear what I was going
20 to say to him next, because I was very, very vocal. You
21 know, and I would answer back to him and I would - I would
22 be very forceful about telling him exactly what I thought
23 of him.
24
25 Q. So would you describe these meetings with him as
26 involving arguments?
27 A. Absolutely.
28
29 Q. Would he raise his voice to you?
30 A. He would start quietly explaining to me about how, you
31 know, I had to toe the line and behave myself. And I would
32 sit there shaking my head, being argumentative, and then he
33 would become a bit more vocal about, you know, just plain
34 mean, and to the point that I would just argue back with
35 him, and refused to listen to him, and then he would
36 basically sit down and say to me that - he would almost do
37 like a complete 180, and suddenly it's gone from yelling at
38 me and disciplining me to telling me that his life is
39 difficult, I don't understand the stress he's under running
40 the hostel, and all this sort of stuff, and he did deny
41 that he was doing anything inappropriate to the boys, but I
42 still --
43
44 Q. What's the strongest you put to him in terms of what
45 you accused him of. What - you know, can you remember what
46 sorts of things?
47 A. I mean, I didn't actually use the word "paedophile",

1 but I basically told him straight to his face that I
2 thought he was interfering with the boys.

3
4 Q. So you told him, "I think you're interfering with the
5 boys"?

6 A. Yes.

7
8 Q. Right.

9 A. Because I said to him that in my eyes if he's doing
10 that kind of behaviour out in the open, that I thought that
11 he had to be doing more behind closed doors. And we - the
12 girls were hearing rumours that boys were not in their beds
13 at night, and my - my response to that was, "Well, where
14 are they and what are they doing? And who are they with if
15 they're not in their beds at night?"

16
17 MR URQUHART: Q. And can you recall how you heard those
18 rumours?

19 A. It was just going around the hostel. We just knew.
20 The girls - the girls just knew. And I guess some of that
21 came from the boys talking about other boys not being
22 around.

23
24 Q. Yes. And can you recall how often you would have
25 these arguments with him, and I'm talking about Year 12
26 now, are we?

27 A. In Year 12? Yes, I would probably say about at least
28 five times I was called down his office to be reprimanded.
29 At least five times.

30
31 Q. And was it the same on each occasion, the subject
32 matter was?

33 A. Pretty much, pretty much. I was always told that I
34 had to toe the line and that I had to stop the rumours, and
35 I would tell him straight to his face, "I'm not going to
36 stop saying it because I thought they were true".

37
38 Q. Now, we've heard about punishments that he would give
39 to students who had gotten on his off-side. What about you?
40 Did he ever punish you?

41 A. Yes, only once was I ever punished for our argument
42 situation. And that was actually in Year 11 that I was
43 given a kitchen duty after one of those - those arguments
44 that we had, and that was the only punishment that I ever
45 got. Usually the other kitchen duties were just the
46 rostered one, but I never actually got a kitchen duty for
47 punishment in Year 12.

1
2 Q. So these arguments started in Year 11?
3 A. Only - there was only two arguments in Year 11.
4
5 Q. And then they came more frequent in Year 12?
6 A. Yes, and in Year 12 I was - Dennis actually threatened
7 to suspend me twice during those arguments, but he never
8 actually carried it out, and obviously there was the
9 situation in the lounge room. That was when I was
10 threatened with expulsion.
11
12 Q. Okay. We'll get to that in a moment.
13 A. Yes.
14
15 Q. So you were threatened with suspension?
16 A. Yes.
17
18 Q. But that never went through?
19 A. No, never, never.
20
21 Q. And did you ever agree with him that you would stop
22 doing what you were doing?
23 A. I told him straight to his face I wasn't going to
24 stop.
25
26 Q. And can you remember something that was done in
27 regards to room arrangements in Year 12? Firstly, if you
28 could just tell us what the arrangements were for Year 12
29 students. Were they different to the other years?
30 A. They were. Up until, like, Year 11 you're in a dorm
31 situation, which is just a long corridor with beds. In
32 Year 12 it was - it was a lot more private, so you had to -
33 it was just a double share room and they were rotated, but
34 in my case I started off - I was put in a room with a girl,
35 and then I guess because my behaviour wasn't improving,
36 that one of the other people I had to - I was actually
37 sharing with a girl, a friend initially, and then as a
38 punishment I was actually put into a room with a girl
39 that --
40
41 Q. Well, no need - we won't need to name the girl.
42 A. No, no, I wasn't going to mention the name.
43
44 Q. Yes, good, thanks.
45 A. But I was actually put in - made to share a room with
46 a girl who we all knew was dobbing on us and telling Dennis
47 everything we were saying, basically.

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Q. And did you have a view as to why it was she was put in to share a room with you?

A. It was definitely - it was definitely a punishment for me, and also a way of Dennis getting more information.

Q. Right. And did he get more information?

A. Of course he did, because I didn't keep quiet.

Q. I see.

A. And, in fact, there was many occasions where I just fed her information just to see if he actually did get it. I purposely did it.

Q. And did you find out whether he got it or not?

A. Yes, yes. Because they were - there were things that were mentioned that I had told her, you know, during our discipline meetings.

Q. I see. Now, I know you mentioned the matter in the lounge room --

A. Yes.

Q. -- which we'll get to in a moment, but that happened some time into Year 12, did it?

A. Yes, that's right.

Q. So we've heard evidence from a lot of ex-students who seem to have got suspended and/or expelled for doing far less than what you were doing?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you have any idea why it was that you weren't dealt with more swiftly by him?

A. I know that not only that I - I was standing up to him, but my mum was as well. She rang him many times. She even came up to the hostel and saw him a few times about - you know, I guess she believed me and thought that he was being particularly unfair or, you know, overly, you know, picking on me, I think.

Q. Now, I'm going to ask you now about Year 12, and some specific incidents that you can recall. Do you recall an occasion regarding your diary --

A. Yes.

Q. -- in Year 12?

1 A. I'd been keeping a diary and in that diary I pretty
2 much wrote everything that occurred in the hostel, whether
3 it was stuff that I was seeing, or stuff that related to me
4 getting into trouble and being disciplined. And we knew
5 that there was - quite regularly there was dorm
6 inspections, and one particular day - I used to set my room
7 up, my books, in a particular way, so that if I got back at
8 recess or lunch I would know whether there was a room
9 inspection, because things would be moved or touched, and I
10 got back one particular day and my diary - I noticed that
11 the books on my desk had been moved, and so the first thing
12 I did was looked and saw my diary was missing, and so I
13 immediately said to the rest of the girls that, "We've had
14 an inspection today" and I said, "Because my diary's
15 missing", so I marched straight down to his office and I
16 told Dennis - I said to Dennis, "You've had an inspection
17 today", and he's denied it. And I said, "Well, I know you
18 have, my diary's missing and I'm giving you to the end of
19 the day to return it, otherwise I'm calling the police."
20 And by the time I got back from school I had it back.

21
22 Q. Okay.

23 A. And, I mean, I don't know - I did actually go back to
24 the point of saying, "I don't know if you had it or if one
25 of your staff members has it", but - but I got it back,
26 so --

27
28 Q. Do you know what happened to that diary? Did you keep
29 it?

30 A. Unfortunately, it's - yes, no, I did up until Dennis
31 was convicted the first time, and I don't have it any more,
32 which I wish I had, because I named names and everything in
33 that diary.

34
35 Q. So it was 1991 are you referring to, the first time he
36 got convicted?

37 A. Yes.

38
39 Q. So you just threw it out after that, did you?

40 A. Yes, it's gone, unfortunately, unfortunately.

41
42 Q. Now, you mentioned in passing just a little while ago
43 about how he would take students out on trips and then use
44 that against them. I don't think that was your exact
45 words, but can you recall an occasion when that happened
46 when you were in Year 12.

47 A. In Year 12, yes, he - I don't know if anyone's

1 mentioned it, but he had this black Trans-Am car, and only
2 the boys ever got to go for a ride in it. And there was
3 many occasions where he'd take boys for drives and that,
4 and be gone for a while and, you know, like I said, no
5 girls were ever going to be taken for a drive in his car,
6 but the boys were. And then there was things - we came up
7 to Perth for a weekend and went for a - he allowed some of
8 the students to go to a nightclub. Now, we were all
9 underage, and he obviously being the warden knew our ages,
10 and that we were under age, and he allowed us to go out.
11 And he drove us there. That's how we got there.

12
13 Q. What, so, not in his Trans-Am or --

14 A. No, that instance, it would be a small fit for a dozen
15 kids in it.

16
17 Q. So was it the school bus, was it?

18 A. The school bus, yes.

19
20 Q. Can you recall the nightclub you went to?

21 A. Yes, Pinocchio's.

22
23 Q. Right. And did he come in with you to the nightclub?

24 A. No, not that I recall. He just dropped us off.

25
26 Q. What, and did he say you - what did he say to you?

27 A. Basically told us that he was putting his trust in us
28 not to do the wrong thing - you know, no drink and stuff,
29 and that basically just have a good time and he would be
30 back at a certain time to pick us up, which I thought was
31 hilarious because, you know, he let underage people go to -
32 students go to a nightclub, and obviously some of us didn't
33 behave. Some of us drank, some smoked and - and --

34
35 Q. Did that include you?

36 A. I didn't smoke, and I think if I did drink I only had
37 one drink, I wasn't - I wasn't really - I didn't really
38 misbehave in those ways, I was more outspoken rather than -
39 I actually did win a bottle of champagne, which I didn't
40 drink champagne back then, so I did give it to a bunch of
41 girls, that they drank it.

42
43 Q. Right. And can you recall how you won it?

44 A. Yes, I think it was one of - I just happened to be
45 standing in the right kind of spot. Those situations.

46
47 Q. Right. So pretty easy to win?

1 A. Yes. Just - yes, just happened to be standing in a
2 certain spot and --
3
4 Q. And did any of the students drink more than you did?
5 A. Yes, definitely.
6
7 Q. So was it obvious to you that some of them were --
8 A. I don't think that anyone was particularly drunk, but
9 we definitely had - there was a few students who definitely
10 had quite a few drinks, and there was definitely students
11 smoking, and we all knew that there was at least two people
12 there that were there for Dennis's benefit, to keep an eye
13 on us.
14
15 Q. I see. And were you subsequently picked up?
16 A. Yes, we were. We were taken back to his - back to the
17 place we were staying at, and --
18
19 Q. Can you recall where that was?
20 A. I can't remember the name of it, but it was on Canning
21 Highway, just past the Raffles Hotel on the left. I forgot
22 the name of it.
23
24 Q. A motel was it?
25 A. Yes, yes.
26
27 Q. And can you remember whether he said anything to you
28 once you got back from the nightclub?
29 A. Yes, we were called into his lounge - into his room,
30 and he basically told us that he was - obviously he got the
31 story from the couple of people that he sent along to keep
32 an eye on us, because he basically knew who was smoking and
33 who was drinking and who wasn't, and - but we all had to be
34 there, and he said to us that he was disappointed, you
35 know, that we basically broke his trust in us and etcetera
36 , etcetera, and that there would be punishments put
37 in place because of it and I remember I piped up and told
38 him he was joking, right, because as far as I was concerned
39 he was completely at fault for allowing us to go to a
40 nightclub underage and what did he expect that we were
41 going to do.
42
43 Q. And you told him that, did you?
44 A. Absolutely I did, in front of everyone.
45
46 Q. Were you the only one who stood up to him?
47 A. Yes, I was the only one that spoke up, yes. I mean

1 there was kids nodding and sort of agreeing but nobody
2 actually - nobody else actually said anything.

3
4 Q. And were you subsequently punished as a group?

5 A. Yes, when we got back to the hostel - he basically
6 wanted all the kids that had been drinking and smoking to
7 sit up the front of the whole hostel in the dining room so
8 that he could sort of meet out his discipline and I told
9 him straight to his face that no way in heck was I going to
10 sit up and be humiliated like that. So then, because the
11 majority of us were drinking, he decided that he would just
12 pick on the people that were smoking. If I remember
13 rightly, there was about five boys and there was one girl,
14 and the girl was actually in year 12 with myself and I
15 tried and begged and pleaded with her not to go up the
16 front to be humiliated, but she went, and I actually stood
17 up in front of the whole hostel after he basically, you
18 know --

19
20 Q. What did he make them do?

21 A. He made them have a smoke in front of everybody, you
22 know, and then belittled and ridiculed them in front of the
23 whole hostel while they were doing it and told them they
24 couldn't stop until they had smoked the whole thing.

25
26 Q. Sorry, you were about to say you did something?

27 A. Yes, absolutely. I spoke up in front of the whole
28 hostel and told him that he was out of line and that he is
29 completely responsible for what had taken place. Because
30 he was. He was the adult in the situation and he allowed
31 us to go there.

32
33 Q. Do you recall his response to that?

34 A. Nothing. He never said anything to me at that
35 particular time, but then again, after that I was called
36 down the hostel - down to his office and disciplined
37 because I was, you know, arguing with him and trying to
38 belittle him in front of everybody and causing a public
39 scene, you know, and all this sort of stuff.

40
41 Q. Do you recall another occasion in year 12 when you saw
42 something that you remember very well?

43 A. I do. There was - Dennis McKenna used to have movie
44 nights in his lounge room. I don't know how the kids got
45 to be picked to go there or if they could just randomly go
46 there. I was certainly never invited but this particular
47 night there was myself and another couple of girls who - I

1 think it was just curiosity on my part. I had never been
2 into his lounge room and I think I wanted to see what all
3 the fuss was about so the three of us --
4

5 Q. Had you heard anything before that as to what went on?

6 A. No. No, not really. We just knew that there were
7 actually both males and females on those nights so we knew
8 that the boys were allowed to watch movies themselves
9 without the girls.

10

11 Q. Did you know what type of movies they were from what
12 you had heard?

13 A. Yes, we heard that some of them were porn movies
14 because our power used to get turned off up at the girls'
15 end because the video system was interlinked between the
16 boys and the girls' end, so - and basically up until year
17 11 in the dorms the power was turned off after a certain
18 time and then when you are in year 12 in the actual - the
19 shared rooms, it was like a special privilege to have the
20 lights on after a certain amount of time to study and that
21 - under no circumstances were you allowed to get up and
22 watch TV.

23

24 Q. But you were aware that the boys --

25 A. Yes, we - we were hearing it all the times. The boys
26 were saying about it, that they were doing that.

27

28 Q. Sorry, I interrupted you?

29 A. No, that's --

30

31 Q. You were talking about on this particular night?

32 A. Yes, this particular night myself and two other girls
33 decided that we would go and have a look to see what all
34 the fuss was about, and I walked into his lounge room, and
35 it was a dark blue room, and he had a dark blue two-seater
36 couch that was - and he was sitting on the couch with a
37 short dark blue terry towelling dressing gown on. He had
38 his legs apart, he had a boy sitting on the floor between
39 his legs, there was another boy sitting on the couch next
40 to him and then there was another boy sitting on the floor
41 in front of that boy and he was massaging their shoulder,
42 the one in front of him, rubbing his hair, and the boy next
43 to him, he was rubbing his thigh and touching the hair of
44 the boy on the floor there. I mean this all just took
45 place in a few seconds, that I saw, and it was only a very
46 quick glance around the room. I had no idea whether the TV
47 was even on at this stage because I didn't even look at

1 that direction.
2
3 Q. Can you recall if the lights were on?
4 A. Yes, they were, they were. There was probably about
5 20 kids in there, like I said, both male and female but -
6 the way I walked into the room, he was directly in my line
7 of vision and I took one look at that and openly out loud,
8 in front of everyone, said - excuse my language - "This is
9 fucking disgusting" and then walked out of the room.
10
11 Q. You said this was in year 12?
12 A. Yes.
13
14 Q. Are you able to recall about what time of the year it
15 was?
16 A. I think it was - it was about the middle of the year.
17 Because after all of this took place I wasn't really
18 disciplined after that, and as a result it was - I'm pretty
19 sure it was the next day that Dennis called me down to his
20 office again to have a go at me for my language and that,
21 you know, tried to basically find out why I said that and I
22 told him again, that his touching of those boys was
23 inappropriate and why else was I going to say something
24 like that out public without a reason, and that was my
25 reason, that I thought his behaviour was wrong. By this
26 stage I had already been threatened twice with suspension
27 and Dennis had then told me that he had had enough of me
28 and that he was going to speak to the board about having me
29 suspended and then, if he could, get me expelled, and I
30 basically said "Go right ahead".
31
32 Q. When you said "the board", did you know what that was?
33 A. No, I didn't. I mean I knew there was a board that
34 kind of helped run the hostel as such but I had no idea who
35 the people were or - I mean other than one of the girls in
36 my year, her dad was a board member, that's all I knew, but
37 as to what their role really was? And, in fact, I know
38 that the kids who were kicked out, we never really
39 discussed these kids, whether they had to speak to the
40 board members first or anybody from the board, for that
41 matter. I didn't - I kind of figured it must have been
42 significant for me to have to speak to the board and then I
43 think I realised that Dennis really wanted me gone and --
44
45 Q. So can you recall what happened after that?
46 A. Yes, I remember. I rang my mum and told her what was
47 going on and she basically told me what to say to them and

1 it was a couple of days later that I had a meeting and it
2 was in Dennis's lounge room. He - in that lounge room was
3 Dennis McKenna and there was a man called Len Wilkinson
4 there and then there was a woman there who I can't remember
5 her name.

6

7 Q. Were you introduced to these people?

8 A. I was introduced to them. I was also told that
9 Mr Wilkinson was the chairman.

10

11 Q. Who told you that?

12 A. Dennis McKenna did.

13

14 Q. Were you told the lady's name?

15 A. I was but I don't remember it.

16

17 Q. Do you have a clear recollection now as to whether she
18 was a board member or not?

19 A. I don't, no, I don't, but the gentleman, I definitely
20 do recall that he was a board member but I wasn't so sure
21 that he was the chairman. Over the years I've not been 100
22 per cent clear that he was actually the chairman at the
23 time.

24

25 Q. This is 26 years ago?

26 A. Yes.

27

28 Q. Can I ask you how it is that you can recall that his
29 name was Len Wilkinson?

30 A. Well, I remember that because I had a friend whose
31 name was similar but it was Gilkinson, but that's not the
32 only reason I remember. I also remember because I've told
33 this story a dozen times to various people over the years.
34 It's not something I have just suddenly woken up and
35 remembered. This is a story that I've told many, many
36 times before.

37

38 Q. To whom?

39 A. To family. You know, like to my partner and his
40 family and to friends and people - virtually strangers that
41 I work with.

42

43 Q. So there was the four of you in the lounge room of
44 Dennis McKenna's?

45 A. Yes.

46

47 Q. Can you recall what was said and by whom?

1 A. Yes, basically that - Dennis McKenna basically had -
2 he said to me that we are here - that the board members are
3 aware of my behaviour and the things that I've been saying
4 and the things I've been doing and that he was no longer
5 going to tolerate it and basically then - Mr Wilkinson did
6 most of the talking, the lady didn't say all that much. He
7 made it clear that Dennis McKenna had told him what I had
8 been saying and doing and that they weren't happy with it
9 and they no longer considered that I was an appropriate
10 student to be attending the hostel any longer. I then
11 basically said "Well, do you know the reason that I'm
12 here?" and he wanted to - I guess Dennis McKenna had
13 already spoken to him about my behaviour and glossed over
14 the lounge room incident and Mr Wilkinson actually wanted
15 me to apologise to Dennis McKenna about all the things that
16 I had been saying and doing and it was almost - it was put
17 in a way that if I didn't that further action would be
18 taken, and I told Mr Wilkinson, plus the lady that was
19 there, and Dennis McKenna, that I was not going to
20 apologise because everything that I was saying was true and
21 I wasn't going to stop saying it.

22

23 Q. Did you say to them what you had been saying?

24 A. Absolutely, I did. I told them about the lounge room
25 incident and what I had seen and why I had said the words
26 that I had said out loud. I tried to explain everything
27 else that I had been seeing and --

28

29 Q. Can you recall how much detail you went into as to
30 what you saw in the lounge room?

31 A. Not a lot because - I didn't go into a lot of detail
32 because I wasn't really given that opportunity to but I
33 definitely got in the fact that I'd - what I'd witnessed in
34 Dennis's lounge room and that that wasn't the first time
35 I'd seen him behaving that way towards boys.

36

37 Q. When you told these two people - when I say "the two",
38 I am referring to the female and Mr Wilkinson - what was
39 their reaction. Can you recall?

40 A. They basically didn't say much about that at all. I
41 think they pretty much didn't believe me. It was glossed
42 over, it was basically set along the lines of all that is
43 irrelevant to my behaviour and that it wasn't acceptable
44 what I was saying or doing and that basically I shouldn't
45 be there any more.

46

47 Q. Can you recall whether they asked you something about

1 you remaining there or being there?
2 A. Yes, they basically said to me that because I refused
3 to apologise, they basically said that - I can't remember
4 if it was several or just any reason why I shouldn't be
5 suspended and expelled from the hostel, could I give any of
6 those reasons and I stated that "No, I couldn't actually".
7 Because as far as I was concerned, if they were going to
8 kick me out then I was going to stir up more trouble for
9 them.
10
11 Q. Did you say what it was you could do by way of
12 stirring up more trouble?
13 A. Yes, when I rang my mum and told her that I was having
14 to speak to the board about whether I was going to remain
15 at the hostel or not she said to me to say that - to let
16 them know that my aunty was friends with the Minister of
17 Education at the time and that if they were going to kick
18 me out that we would make sure that there was going to be
19 an investigation.
20
21 Q. You said that to them?
22 A. Absolutely I did, yes.
23
24 Q. Can you recall what happened then?
25 A. There was kind of stunned silence for a bit and then
26 it basically went from that I was no longer - that, you
27 know, I'm not an appropriate student to be at the school
28 any more and that, you know, I can't be there to - I was
29 going to then be put on a week by week basis, which I said
30 "That's fine but it wouldn't change anything".
31
32 HIS HONOUR: Q. Who said that?
33 A. Mr Wilkinson. Yes, so that I would have to stay - I
34 would be on a week by week basis as to my behaviour as to
35 whether I was going to be staying there or not.
36
37 MR URQUHART: Q. Did you change at all, on a week by
38 week basis, your behaviour after that?
39 A. Not really. I guess there were probably some weeks
40 where I toed the line to a degree but mostly I didn't. I
41 still continued - I was - after that I was made to share a
42 room with the head girl. I guess - I think Dennis was
43 hoping that I would, you know - her good behaviour would
44 brush off or that, you know, something, but it didn't
45 change. I still continued to bad-mouth Dennis McKenna and
46 the hostel.
47

1 Q. Were you ever called again to his meeting for those
2 disciplinary sessions?
3 A. No, never.
4
5 Q. Not after that meeting --
6 A. No.
7
8 Q. -- with Mr Wilkinson and the lady?
9 A. No.
10
11 Q. That never happened again?
12 A. No, never.
13
14 Q. Did he try and prevent you from doing anything after
15 that?
16 A. He actually did try to prevent me from attending the
17 end of year 12 graduation that the hostel held for the
18 students. He told me that I wasn't welcome. He didn't
19 tell my mum that but he told me I wasn't welcome. By this
20 stage - and then we went home and my mum said "Like hell
21 that's going to happen" so she made me get dressed and
22 drove me to Katanning back to the hostel, and there was no
23 chair available for me but once Dennis saw that mum and I
24 were there and I think he knew that we were going to cause
25 a scene if he did try to prevent me from going up on stage
26 with the other year 12s.
27
28 Q. So when you say there was no chair, what, the students
29 had their names on the chairs
30 A. No, no, but there was enough chairs for the students
31 who were - because I wasn't - I was actually not going to
32 attend, I thought "Well, what the hell, I'm over that
33 place, I've had enough" until my mum basically made me -
34 convinced me to go. So there was no chair there when we
35 arrived and I think perhaps Dennis McKenna was hoping that,
36 because I was late, that I wasn't going to come and so
37 there was no chair available and he was actually sitting up
38 on the stage with the other students and, as a result, he
39 had to give up his own chair to give to me.
40
41 Q. You've gone through about the people that you told,
42 like your fellow students, your aunt and uncle, your mum,
43 Mr Wilkinson and the lady that he was with. Of course, you
44 told Dennis McKenna?
45 A. Yes.
46
47 Q. Did you ever consider telling other hostel staff there

1 about what you were seeing?
2 A. No, not really. I didn't have much faith in the
3 supervisors either.
4
5 Q. Why was that?
6 A. Well, for starters, one of them was Neil McKenna, who
7 I thought he was dodgy as well. I thought his behaviour
8 towards the girls to a lesser extent was not appropriate
9 either. But also, I mean his wife, who was the female
10 supervisor, I thought she was kind of pathetic.
11 She - and maybe it was just
12 because she was really quiet and shy, I don't know, but I
13 just - I didn't have much faith in her either.
14
15 Q. But others who might not have necessarily been
16 relatives of Dennis McKenna?
17 A. They were all young, you know. Like one of them was
18 actually - even when I was in year 12, one of the
19 supervisors was actually a female student who had been
20 there the year before. So as far as I'm concerned, they
21 must have seen what I was seeing and, I don't know, maybe
22 he picked young people for a reason but these people were
23 young and I didn't have any faith in them.
24
25 Q. When you say "he ", are you referring to Dennis
26 McKenna?
27 A. That's right. Well, that was my - my belief was he
28 was the one employing them.
29
30 Q. Teachers, did you ever consider telling any teachers?
31 A. No. No. I don't know why but I didn't.
32
33 Q. The following year, you finished school in 1986. What
34 did you do in 1987?
35 A. I actually - I remained in Katanning. I worked at the
36 R&I Bank for a year.
37
38 Q. Did you find out about anything about what Dennis
39 McKenna was doing with respect to stories about you?
40 A. Yes. There were rumours going around about me
41 basically suggesting that I was the town bike and, you know
42 - and I know that some of those rumours were coming from
43 Dennis because I saw some of the hostel kids, pretty much
44 told me that they were told to keep away from me and that,
45 you know - and that those rumours were going around about
46 me not just within the town community but also the hostel.
47

1 Q. You found out that Dennis McKenna was charged in 1990?
2 A. That's right.
3
4 Q. What was your reaction to that?
5 A. Absolutely no surprise but thankfully it was absolute
6 relief that finally someone had come forward.
7
8 Q. Do you recall seeing him sometime in the mid 1990s
9 after he spent his first stint in gaol?
10 A. Yes, I - the first time I saw him after that, he was
11 actually working at the cinema in Midland. My husband and
12 I went there, he is from that area, and I remember seeing
13 him at the cinema working there and being completely
14 shocked to see him working there.
15
16 Q. Did he see you?
17 A. Yes, he saw me, he recognised me and he took off out
18 the back and I basically ran around telling people that
19 there is a convicted paedophile working here until Anthony,
20 my partner, told - well, we didn't end up seeing the movie
21 there.
22
23 Q. So you left?
24 A. Yes.
25
26 Q. In fact, did you contact anybody about what you had
27 seen there?
28 A. Yes, I rang Crime Stoppers and - which wasn't the
29 first time I had rung them but I rang and basically got the
30 spill about, depending on what his, you know, parole orders
31 are and he is entitled to earn a living and all this sort
32 of stuff and, you know, my thought is "This is a cinema,
33 children go there". You know, sometimes children go
34 without parents.
35
36 HIS HONOUR: Q. Did you get any response to that?
37 A. Other than to be told "He is entitled to earn a
38 living".
39
40 Q. What year was that? Do you remember?
41 A. Anthony and I met in '95 so it probably would have
42 been '96.
43
44 MR URQUHART: Q. As a true indication as to how small
45 Perth is, is there another contact that your sister made
46 with Dennis McKenna?
47 A. Yes. I think coincidentally it was probably around a

1 similar time that my sister and her young daughter moved up
2 to Perth and she rented the house in Kwinana and then this
3 woman came to do an inspection and it ended up being Dennis
4 McKenna's mother. It was actually his house that my sister
5 was renting and as soon as my mum and I found out, well, we
6 told my sister she couldn't live there, so she moved.

7

8 Q. Again, have you seen Dennis McKenna on another
9 occasion since that cinema incident?

10 A. Yes, it was - it was the beginning of last year. Our
11 young daughter had just died and it was probably about a
12 month later we went down to Rockingham. Anthony's family
13 have a caravan down there and he was working at this
14 novelty shop, I've forgotten the name of it, but it's kind
15 of like a - you know, it's got the surfing toys and beach
16 stuff there and it is just on the Rockingham foreshore, and
17 we walked in there and I think it was an old converted
18 house because it had like - it wasn't a normal shop but it
19 had lots of, like, rooms and he was standing there talking
20 to a lady that had a couple of young kids there, and I was
21 just horrified, I was really upset. Anthony dragged me out
22 and wouldn't let me say anything. I think he was probably
23 a bit worried about how I was going to react and probably,
24 with the circumstances, I may have. I think the way I was
25 feeling about my daughter's death that I probably would
26 have caused a major scene, I think.

27

28 Q. Did you again call Crime Stoppers?

29 A. I did. I called Crime Stoppers and told them again
30 that - that this convicted paedophile is working in a place
31 that has access to children and was told again that he is
32 entitled to a living, which, I'm sorry, but when there is
33 children involved, I don't agree with that.

34

35 Q. Thank you, that's all the questions I have. I suppose
36 just to clarify one matter, "Wallwork" was your maiden
37 name?

38 A. That's correct.

39

40 <CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR ILLARI:

41

42 Q. Ms Wallwork, can you see and hear me clearly?

43 A. I can, yes.

44

45 Q. If at any stage you can't hear what I'm saying or it
46 is unclear, could you just let me know and I will repeat it
47 for you?

1 A. Yes.
2
3 Q. Okay?
4 A. That's fine.
5
6 Q. As you are aware, I am the lawyer representing
7 Mr Wilkinson. Okay?
8 A. Yes.
9
10 Q. Now, we are talking about a period in the 1980s when
11 you were a boarder at the hostel, at St Andrew's Hostel. I
12 think you have told us you were there from 1985 through
13 1986. When did you actually leave?
14 A. At the end of '86.
15
16 Q. So it was about December 1986?
17 A. Yes. Well, actually, in year 12. It would have been
18 the end of November that the year 12s finished.
19
20 Q. The end of November, thank you. So during the whole
21 time that you were there Dennis McKenna was the warden of
22 the hostel. Is that right?
23 A. That's correct.
24
25 Q. During that time you quickly formed an impression that
26 you didn't like McKenna. Would that be correct?
27 A. Yes, that is correct.
28
29 Q. And you found some of the things he was doing with
30 some of the boys objectionable?
31 A. Yes, that's correct.
32
33 Q. And that was mostly the touching, touching of the
34 boys?
35 A. Yes.
36
37 Q. And I think, as you said, that wasn't the way you had
38 been brought up. You had been brought up to know what was
39 good touching and bad touching?
40 A. Yes.
41
42 Q. Is it the case that, in fact, you told your mother
43 about this touching right from the word go?
44 A. Yes, that's right.
45
46 Q. Did your mother ever suggest that she would take you
47 out of the hostel or that you shouldn't be at the hostel as

1 a result of this?
2 A. It wasn't a clear "I will definitely take you out" but
3 she basically wanted me to remain there because I needed to
4 do year 11 and 12, and plus, she actually said that just
5 because I was saying that and no-one else seemed to be
6 questioning it that I didn't have any proof to go tell
7 anybody.
8
9 Q. But you were uncomfortable there, weren't you?
10 A. I was, yes. I was very uncomfortable.
11
12 Q. And you told your mother you were uncomfortable?
13 A. Yes, I did.
14
15 Q. And she made no move to remove you from the hostel.
16 Is that right?
17 A. That's right.
18
19 Q. How many times did you speak to your mother about the
20 fact that you weren't comfortable at the hostel?
21 A. Probably every time I got into trouble.
22
23 Q. So you were telling your mother basically every time
24 you were getting into trouble with Dennis McKenna?
25 A. That's right.
26
27 Q. So your mother would have known then about this
28 incident in the lounge room that you told us about when you
29 went in late at night with two other girls?
30 A. Yes, she did.
31
32 Q. You told her about the fact that I think it was the
33 following day you were called into McKenna's - was it his
34 office that you were called into?
35 A. Yes, I was.
36
37 Q. And that basically he said that he wanted you to
38 appear before members of the board?
39 A. Yes, that's correct.
40
41 Q. Did he tell you when that was going to be, when you
42 were in his office?
43 A. Basically within the next couple of days.
44
45 Q. So you contacted your mother and told her that?
46 A. Yes.
47

1 Q. And she told you to say that if you were threatened
2 with expulsion that a message would be got, through your
3 aunty, to the Minister of Education?
4 A. Yes, that's right.
5
6 Q. So when Dennis McKenna said that you were going to go
7 before members of the board, first of all, did he say what
8 he was reporting you for?
9 A. I guess basically my insubordination and my spreading
10 of the rumours, those sort of things.
11
12 Q. Is that what he said or is that what you think he was
13 thinking?
14 A. No, that is what he said.
15
16 Q. So he said two things, basically: because of your
17 insubordination?
18 A. Okay, he didn't say "insubordination", the actual
19 word, but I'm saying that word because that's the way my
20 behaviour was.
21
22 Q. So what he said was because, what, you were swearing?
23 A. Yes, I was --
24
25 Q. And spreading rumours about him?
26 A. Yes, and being disruptive.
27
28 Q. All right. So you were swearing, you were being
29 disruptive and spreading rumours about him?
30 A. Yes.
31
32 Q. Did he say what rumours he was referring to?
33 A. No, because I'd been spreading a lot of rumours.
34
35 Q. No, all right. So he just said basically because
36 you'd been spreading rumours about me; is that right?
37 A. Yes, that's right.
38
39 Q. All right. Now, you told your mother all this, I take
40 it?
41 A. Yes.
42
43 Q. Your mother made no attempt to attend the meeting?
44 A. No. Well, she wasn't actually formally told, that I'm
45 aware of.
46
47 Q. You told her?

1 A. Yes, she did.
2
3 Q. Didn't you?
4 A. Yes, I did.
5
6 Q. You told her that you were going to be appearing
7 before members of the Board to answer for the allegations
8 that Dennis McKenna had made about you?
9 A. Yes, that's correct.
10
11 Q. But your mother made no attempt to try to attend the
12 meeting?
13 A. I have - I don't know if she actually did try or not.
14 She wasn't --
15
16 Q. Well, she would have told you that she - did she not
17 say to you, "Look, I tried to attend, but they wouldn't let
18 me", or anything like that?
19 A. No.
20
21 Q. Okay. So you then were called to this meeting,
22 two days later - yes?
23 A. Approximately.
24
25 Q. I know it's not --
26 A. Yes, approximately, yes.
27
28 Q. Yes. I understand, this is a long time ago, Ms
29 Wallwork. I'm not trying to pin you down on details. I
30 understand a lot of time has gone by. A few days later
31 you were, you say, called to Dennis's lounge room?
32 A. Yes.
33
34 Q. But - is this separate from his office?
35 A. Yes, it is.
36
37 Q. All right. So the first meeting that you had, the day
38 after the lounge room incident, was in his office?
39 A. With Dennis McKenna, that's right.
40
41 Q. And this second meeting with members of the Board was
42 in Dennis's lounge room, in his living quarters?
43 A. That's right.
44
45 Q. Right. And you say that there were two other people
46 there, apart from Dennis. There was a lady whose name you
47 now cannot remember.

1 A. That's correct.
2
3 Q. And a person who you identified as Len Wilkinson?
4 A. That's correct, as well.
5
6 Q. Right. Well, now, how do you know it was Len
7 Wilkinson?
8 A. Because they said that's what his name was.
9
10 Q. But who said it?
11 A. Dennis McKenna said that, and he also introduced
12 himself.
13
14 Q. Right. Right, okay. So Dennis McKenna said, "You're
15 going to meet" - "one of the people here's Len Wilkinson"?
16 A. That's right.
17
18 Q. Right. Had you ever met Mr Wilkinson before?
19 A. No, I hadn't.
20
21 Q. Had you ever met him since this incident?
22 A. No, I haven't.
23
24 Q. No. So you were relying on the fact that Dennis
25 McKenna told you it was Mr Wilkinson? Yes?
26 A. Yes.
27
28 Q. And the fact that this person identified himself as Mr
29 Wilkinson?
30 A. That's correct.
31
32 Q. All right. And I take it that once you were there,
33 McKenna then what, spelt out the reasons why you were
34 there, to these two people?
35 A. He did.
36
37 Q. You were insubordinate - I'm using your word, I know
38 he didn't say this - but your insubordination from swearing
39 and carrying on, your disruption, and the fact you were
40 spreading rumours about him?
41 A. Yes, that's correct.
42
43 Q. Did he spell out the rumours that he thought you were
44 spreading about him?
45 A. Not in great detail at all, other than I was saying
46 that he was a dodgy man. There was no mention about him --
47

1 Q. All right. So --
2 A. -- there was no mention about him touching boys.
3
4 Q. So he said to these two people, the man and the woman,
5 that you had been saying that he was dodgy?
6 A. That's right.
7
8 Q. And that's about it, as far as the rumours were
9 concerned - yes?
10 A. There was a little bit more, but there was no mention
11 about him touching boys.
12
13 Q. All right. I think I understand. Okay. And as a
14 result of what he told these two people, the man that was
15 introduced to you as Wilkinson said to you that unless you
16 apologised, you would be expelled from the hostel; is that
17 right?
18 A. Yes. It was actually I would be suspended with the -
19 looking into expelling me.
20
21 Q. I see. So unless you apologised you would be
22 suspended and they would then consider whether to expel
23 you?
24 A. That's correct.
25
26 Q. Right. Okay. And you told them that you weren't
27 going to apologise --
28 A. That's right.
29
30 Q. -- is that right?
31 A. Yes, that's right.
32
33 Q. Is that correct?
34 A. Yes.
35
36 Q. Sorry, I'm - I can't see your face here. I don't have
37 vision of your face, and I'm - that's why it's necessary
38 for you to reply, Mrs Wallwork?
39 A. Sorry, I did. I guess you didn't hear.
40
41 Q. Sorry?
42 A. I said I'm sorry, I did reply, I guess you didn't hear
43 me.
44
45 Q. No. Sometimes I'm missing the ends of words and so
46 forth; but, anyway, yes. All right. So you told them you
47 weren't going to apologise?

1 A. That's correct.
2
3 Q. And then you told them what you'd seen of Dennis
4 McKenna's behaviour; is that right?
5 A. That's right.
6
7 Q. You told them about the lounge room incident?
8 A. That's right.
9
10 Q. And you say they didn't make any reply to this?
11 A. No, it was basically brushed over.
12
13 MR URQUHART: Sorry, sir. I'll just - I'm going to be --
14
15 MR ILLARI: Well, when you say you told them about the
16 lounge room incident, then again I appreciate this is --
17
18 HIS HONOUR: Just one moment, Mr Illari.
19
20 MR URQUHART: Sorry, Mr Illari.
21
22 HIS HONOUR: Sorry, Mr Illari, we've got something in --
23
24 MR URQUHART: I'm sorry, Mr Illari, we weren't aware that
25 the camera wasn't on the witness - trained on the witness
26 box, so we're just getting that sorted out now.
27
28 MR ILLARI: I'm obliged, thank you.
29
30 HIS HONOUR: Can you see Ms Wallwork at the moment?
31
32 MR ILLARI: I can now, sir, yes. Thank you.
33
34 HIS HONOUR: Yes, you can continue.
35
36 MR URQUHART: And it may be the case that Ms Wallwork will
37 have to see her image there on the screen in front of her,
38 if she can manage that.
39
40 HIS HONOUR: That's all right.
41
42 MR URQUHART: I think it's important that Mr Illari see
43 her, yes.
44
45 HIS HONOUR: Yes, please continue, Mr Illari.
46
47 MR ILLARI: Yes, thank you, sir.

1
2 Q. So anything, I think I - correct me if I'm wrong - I
3 asked you - you said you refused to apologise. They then
4 said - I'm just going over what I just asked you - they
5 then said unless you apologised you would be suspended with
6 a view to being expelled, and you said, "Go right ahead"?
7 A. Yes, that's right.
8
9 Q. And you said, "Go right ahead"?
10 A. Mm.
11
12 Q. So they were a bit taken aback by all this --
13 A. Yes.
14
15 Q. -- you thought? And you also said that you made this
16 threat about reporting the matter to the Minister of
17 Education as well, did you?
18 A. That's right.
19
20 Q. Right. Okay. So how was the matter left at the end
21 of the day, Ms Wallwork? How did the meeting end?
22 A. I wasn't given any discipline. I was told that I was
23 going - could remain at the hostel basically on a week by
24 week basis.
25
26 Q. Which you did?
27 A. That's - I did remain there, yes. Yes.
28
29 Q. Yes. How long did you remain at the hostel. I know
30 you said you left at the end of November 1986. Roughly
31 speaking, how long was that after --
32 A. It was probably after.
33
34 Q. -- the event?
35 A. It was probably about three months or so.
36
37 Q. I see. All right. So that would take us to around
38 about August of 1986?
39 A. So I'm not very clear on exactly when it happened. I
40 thought about the middle of the year.
41
42 Q. So it could have been June, July, August, that sort of
43 time, '86?
44 A. That's right.
45
46 Q. How old were you then?
47 A. I would have been 17.

1
2 Q. 17, all right. But any rate, you continued to stay at
3 the hostel despite all of this until the end of 1986, until
4 November 1986, yes.
5 A. That's right.
6
7 Q. Were you ever given any formal notification of the
8 outcome of this meeting?
9 A. No, I wasn't.
10
11 Q. Nothing in writing?
12 A. No.
13
14 Q. Was your mother given any form of notification about
15 this particular meeting?
16 A. Not that I'm aware of.
17
18 Q. Did you tell your mother about what happened at the
19 meeting?
20 A. I did, yes.
21
22 Q. Did your mother, as far as you know, as far as you're
23 aware, did your mother try to contact Dennis McKenna about
24 this particular disciplinary meeting?
25 A. Yes, I know that my mum talked to him because my mum
26 talked to him after every time I caused trouble.
27
28 Q. Sorry, say that again?
29 A. I said I know that my mum spoke to him after this
30 meeting because she spoke to him after every time I was in
31 trouble.
32
33 Q. All right. But you know that she specifically spoke
34 to him after this meeting?
35 A. Yes, I do know that.
36
37 Q. Did your mother make any - do you know if your mother
38 attempted to contact the Board of the hostel about this
39 meeting?
40 A. No, I don't know.
41
42 Q. Did your mother receive any notification from the
43 Board about the outcome of the disciplinary proceedings?
44 A. I've already said I'm unaware of it.
45
46 Q. No. Fine. Thank you, you may have done. I'm sorry
47 if I'm going over old ground. During the course of this

1 meeting with these three people present, McKenna, the
2 person you were told was Wilkinson and a lady, was anyone
3 keeping notes?
4 A. I don't know, I don't think so.
5
6 Q. You don't have any recollection of anything writing -
7 anyone writing anything down as the thing unfolded?
8 A. No.
9
10 Q. How long were you there in Mr McKenna's lounge room
11 with these three people? How long did the meeting last?
12 A. I would be guessing - maybe an hour. I really don't
13 know.
14
15 Q. Maybe an hour. All right. You don't know. All
16 right, well that's fair enough, it's a long time ago. But
17 at any rate, you never saw the man who represented himself
18 as Mr Wilkinson again.
19 A. That's correct.
20
21 Q. All right. Now, did it ever strike you as strange
22 that because of your insubordination, as you use the word,
23 towards Mr McKenna, that you were never more seriously
24 disciplined?
25 A. Absolutely.
26
27 Q. Because other people were expelled and had all sorts
28 of punishments meted out to them for much less; is that
29 right?
30 A. That's correct.
31
32 Q. But nothing seemed to happen to you, apart from
33 kitchen duty on one occasion?
34 A. That's right.
35
36 Q. Are you sure you're not exaggerating what you said to
37 McKenna?
38 A. No, because pretty much - there were always boys
39 outside the office listening to me have a go back at Dennis
40 McKenna, and I was pretty much known for being a bit of a
41 loud mouth, I suppose.
42
43 Q. You never told any of your teachers about this
44 behaviour?
45 A. I never told teachers, no.
46
47 Q. No. All right. At any rate, as a result of this

1 meeting nothing actually happened to you, you weren't
2 suspended and you weren't expelled?
3 A. That's correct.
4
5 Q. I just ask you this: you've told us about going to
6 Pinocchio's nightclub, and McKenna actually drove you
7 there, all of you there, in the bus. Was that everyone
8 from your - from the hostel that went to Pinocchio's?
9 A. Not everyone that came - went to Perth that weekend
10 went to the nightclub. No, not everyone. There was only a
11 few --
12
13 Q. All right. So you went and how many other people
14 went?
15 A. I will have to remember back. Probably - maybe a
16 dozen of us.
17
18 Q. And so if ever there was a case of Dennis McKenna
19 saying, "Well, you're not going because you've been
20 disrespectful or you've been swearing at me or you've been
21 disruptive", he never said you couldn't go to the
22 nightclub"?
23 A. No, no.
24
25 Q. Is it the case that in July 1986, you along with a
26 number of other students from the hostel attended Max Kay's
27 restaurant?
28 A. Yes, we did, yes.
29
30 Q. All right. And how many other students were with you
31 on that occasion, do you remember, roughly speaking?
32 A. There was quite a lot. Probably maybe about 20, I'm
33 guessing.
34
35 Q. But not everyone went?
36 A. No, not everyone went.
37
38 Q. And, again, this is in July 1986 when you were - if I
39 understood your evidence correctly, getting into trouble
40 quite regularly --
41 A. Yes.
42
43 Q. -- with McKenna. There was never any question of you
44 being told, "Well, you can't go along on this outing
45 because you've been disruptive"?
46 A. No, never.
47

1 Q. So is it the case maybe, Ms Wallwork, that maybe
2 you're exaggerating the degree to which you were in
3 conflict with Dennis McKenna?
4 A. Well, you can say that, but I know I was down the
5 office quite a few times and I wouldn't tolerate him
6 disciplining me. And I know I was very vocal, and there
7 were always boys that heard me.
8
9 Q. And that nothing happened to you?
10 A. No, not in Year 12.
11
12 Q. And, well, the only thing that happened to you in Year
13 11 was that you were given kitchen duty on one occasion?
14 A. That's right.
15
16 MR ILLARI: Excuse me a moment Ms Wallwork, I just want to
17 check my notes and see if there's anything else I ought to
18 ask you. If you can just bear with me a moment. Yes, I
19 think that's all the questions I have for you Ms Wallwork.
20 Thank you. Thank you sir, that's my examination of this
21 witness, if it please you.
22
23 HIS HONOUR: Thank you, Mr Illari. Mr Urquhart, do you
24 have anything?
25
26 MR URQUHART: I do, sir. It may or may not arise directly
27 out of Mr Illari's examination, but if Mr Illari wants to
28 question Ms Wallwork about it, I would have no objection.
29
30 <RE-EXAMINATION BY MR URQUHART:
31
32 MR URQUHART: Q. I'm just going to ask: Ms Wallwork, can
33 you - are you able to give a description of this man you
34 were introduced to as Len Wilkinson?
35 A. Back then, do you mean?
36
37 Q. Yes, what he looked like back then. If you can't, you
38 can't?
39 A. No, I just remember, obviously Mr Wilkinson now looks
40 different. The man I recall had hair, it was wavy. To me,
41 at 17, he was old. I put him at probably in his late 40s.
42 And late 40s is old when you're 17.
43
44 Q. Okay. And how he spoke, do you recall?
45 A. Quiet. He was very polite, but quietly spoken. He
46 didn't yell at me or raise his voice or anything like that.
47

1 Q. And the lady, any recollection --
2 A. The lady - all I remember is that she had straight
3 hair, pulled back, and that's basically all. She probably
4 was younger, and that's all I remember.
5
6 MR URQUHART: Thank you, sir.
7
8 HIS HONOUR: Is there anything arising from that, Mr
9 Illari?
10
11 MR ILLARI: No, I think not, sir. Thank you.
12
13 HIS HONOUR: All right. Well, thank you very much. That
14 completes Ms Wallwork's evidence, and we'll cut the video
15 link. Thank you very much. And thank you too, Ms
16 Wallwork, it's been very helpful. You're free to go. /
17
18 <THE WITNESS WITHDREW
19
20 MR ILLARI: Your Honour --
21
22 HIS HONOUR: Yes, Mr Illari.
23
24 MR URQUHART: -- if I might just briefly address you.
25
26 HIS HONOUR: Certainly.
27
28 MR ILLARI: Thank you, sir. I've taken Mr Wilkinson's
29 instructions. He would like to give a statement in this
30 matter, and I appreciate that probably we should have had a
31 statement in to you by now. By your leave, if I can have,
32 say, seven days, I undertake that we'll let you have a
33 statement, Mr Wilkinson's statement, in relation to this
34 evidence in that time.
35
36 HIS HONOUR: Well, that doesn't trouble me. I'll just
37 check that that fits in with our program. Mr Urquhart,
38 what's the story with that?
39
40 MR URQUHART: It probably doesn't, sir. I don't know
41 whether Mr Illari's been advised of this, but
42 it's important that those witnesses who haven't received
43 notice of my intended adverse finding recommendations to
44 your Honour, that the time frame for that was actually
45 going to be this Thursday, because that would therefore
46 enable written submissions to be forwarded to me by
47 Wednesday of next week, and then we were going to hear

1 further oral submission if required on that point, Friday
2 week, 29 June.
3
4 HIS HONOUR: Yes. Can I suggest this. Mr Illari, as soon
5 as you know the substance of what Mr Wilkinson wishes to
6 say, if you can notify us by email, or however it suits
7 you, and the formal signed statement can be delivered in
8 seven days.
9
10 MR ILLARI: Yes, sir, we can certainly let you have a
11 statement well within that time. I'm confident of that.
12
13 HIS HONOUR: Very well. Indeed, Mr Urquhart will be able
14 to give you whatever notice he might as to that proposed
15 adverse finding next Thursday, as proposed.
16
17 MR ILLARI: Yes, thank you, sir.
18
19 MR URQUHART: It was actually this Thursday, sir, yes.
20
21 HIS HONOUR: This Thursday? I beg your pardon.
22
23 MR URQUHART: Yes, this Thursday. So if --
24
25 HIS HONOUR: So that's about to happen?
26
27 MR URQUHART: Yes. If Mr Illari can give me some sort of
28 brief outline, if he can't get the statement to me by then,
29 I'd appreciate it.
30
31 MR ILLARI: Mr Urquhart, I'll try and make sure you have
32 Mr Wilkinson's statement by Thursday at the latest, this
33 Thursday, the 21st. As I understand it, then there will
34 be - there might be oral submissions on the 29th; is that
35 right?
36
37 MR URQUHART: That's right, yes, yes.
38
39 HIS HONOUR: Thank you. That suits us, I think.
40
41 HIS HONOUR: Mr Illari, if possible maybe close of
42 business on Wednesday. So I really do need to get letters
43 out to these witnesses or their counsel on that Thursday.
44 This Thursday, the 21st.
45
46 MR ILLARI: We'll endeavour to do it. If I can I'll make
47 sure, I'll try and get it to you tomorrow, Mr Urquhart, if

1 that's all right.
2
3 MR URQUHART: Thank you very much.
4
5 HIS HONOUR: Thanks, Mr Illari. We will now cut the video
6 link.
7
8 MR ILLARI: Thank you, sir. Thank you, your Honour.
9
10 HIS HONOUR: I will briefly adjourn.
11
12 SHORT ADJOURNMENT
13
14 HIS HONOUR: Please be seated.
15
16 MR URQUHART: Our next witness is at a video link
17 location. By her request, she has asked that her name not
18 be publicly disclosed. We will respect that wish of hers
19 and she will just be simply known as "M" and she will take
20 the affirmation.
21
22 <M, affirmed:
23
24 <EXAMINATION-IN-CHIEF BY MR URQUHART:
25
26 Q. Mrs M, you are a little bit nervous, are you?
27 A. A little bit.
28
29 Q. Can you see me on the TV screen in front of you?
30 A. Yes, I can, Mr Urquhart.
31
32 Q. Thank you. You currently reside in the Perth
33 metropolitan area. Is that right?
34 A. Yes, I do.
35
36 Q. I don't wish to pry but I will ask you: you are
37 currently 57 years old. Is that right?
38 A. Yes, I'm 57, sir.
39
40 Q. Ma'am, I want to ask you about some questions about
41 where you lived in 1985. Can you recall what town you
42 lived in then?
43 A. Yes, we shifted to Katanning in January 1985.
44
45 Q. When you say "we", are you talking about your
46 ex-husband and two children. Is that right?
47 A. Yes, my ex-husband and my little girl and wee baby

1 boy.
2
3 Q. Was the reason why you moved because your ex-husband
4 worked for the Public Service and he was transferred down
5 to Katanning?
6 A. Yes, that's right. We were transferred and we moved
7 down in the January, and we bought a home.
8
9 Q. Can you recall whether you started work down at
10 Katanning sometime in that year 1985?
11 A. Yes, I can't remember which month but I did start work
12 as a barmaid at the Federal Hotel in Katanning and I was
13 working nights and weekends around my husband coming home
14 from work, because he worked days.
15
16 Q. So it was just a part-time job that you had?
17 A. Yes, I was part-time.
18
19 Q. Had you done bar work, prior to then, in other places?
20 A. Yes, I had. Yes, before we shifted to Katanning.
21
22 Q. During the time there that you worked at the Federal
23 Hotel, can you tell us what sort of people would come to
24 that bar or that hotel?
25 A. Yes, the Federal Hotel was on the main street and we
26 got all sorts of different people, men and women, and a
27 really mixed clientele, farmers, the men after work,
28 ladies. It was very mixed. Because it was on the main
29 street, it was very convenient.
30
31 Q. Whilst you worked there, did you become aware or did
32 you just hear topics of conversation by people who were
33 just there at the bar having a drink?
34 A. Yes. Being a barmaid, you had to move around the
35 brief snatches of conversation around the bar and I did
36 hear talk of what was going on at the hostel. It was
37 always just brief snatches of conversation, that it was
38 over a long period of time, different nights, different
39 times, and it was just brief snatches of conversations
40 about the hostel, and "kiddie fiddling" was the phrase.
41
42 Q. So you actually recall that phrase, can you, that was
43 being used, "kiddie fiddling" at the hostel?
44 A. Yes, yes. It was always --
45
46 Q. Sorry, go on?
47 A. It was always just brief snatches of conversation

1 around the bar. There wasn't one whole conversation, it
2 was just brief snatches. Because I was moving around and I
3 would just hear bits and pieces.
4

5 Q. Would this be from the same people who would go and
6 drink at the bar?

7 A. No, it was very mixed. It was a whole lot of
8 different people at different times but so often it came
9 up. Over the months it was just so often but very
10 different people. It wasn't just the same group talking
11 about the same thing all the time.
12

13 Q. Was there any name mentioned as to who was involved in
14 this kiddie fiddling or any title?

15 A. It was just - I think at times "What's the warden up
16 to? What's happening at the hostel?", but it was very - it
17 was very brief. It was just quick mentions and someone
18 would say "What's the warden up to? What's happening?",
19 just very - very briefly.
20

21 Q. Were you able to find out from hearing these snatches
22 of conversation whether it was kiddie fiddling involving a
23 particular sex, as to whether it was boys or girls or boys
24 and girls?

25 A. Always I only ever heard talk about boys. I - always
26 it was just boys.
27

28 Q. Did you have an understanding of what the phrase
29 "kiddie fiddling" meant back then?

30 A. Yes, I did, yes. I did understand it to mean.
31

32 Q. What was that?

33 A. Interfering with boys. The kiddie fiddling, that was -
34 it was always a connection with boys, all the snatches of
35 conversation was the boys and "What's happening at the
36 hostel?" and "What's the warden up to?".
37

38 Q. Were you able to find out, from knowing these people,
39 where they came from, whether they were just from Katanning
40 or whether they were from other areas?

41 A. We had people come in from all the outlying areas.
42 Because Katanning at that time was the town and people came
43 in to do their shopping and the sale yards and the Co-op,
44 people came in to do all their business, the banks, office,
45 everything. So you have people coming from all the
46 surrounding towns - well, farms. It was a very mixed
47 clientele, with the business people, with everybody.

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Q. Were you able to tell who it was or where these people had come from who you heard these snatches of conversations about "kiddie fiddling"?

A. No, it was very mixed. It wasn't just one group or one type of person. It was so mixed. Different people all around the bar at different times.

HIS HONOUR: Q. Can I just ask a question here. Mrs M, can you put a number on it. Like can you sort of guess how many times you heard these sorts of things said, roughly?

A. No, I'm sorry, sir, I can't. It was just on occasion just a brief mention every now and then, and no, I've got no idea of how many times or - it was just a build-up. It got stuck in my head because it kept on over time, but no, I'm sorry, but no idea of numbers.

Q. That's all right. I can quite understand you can't put an exact number on it but you say it built up over time. Over what sort of period of time did you hear people saying these things?

A. It went on - the talk went on for most of the time that I was working at the Federal across the bar. Because it was just - like there might be mention one night and then the next night and then there wouldn't be a mention for, you know, a week or a fortnight. It was just brief conversations but it went on for quite a long time.

Q. How long did you work at the Federal Hotel for?

A. That I can't exactly remember but I was there when Jan and Peter and Betty had the Federal and then the management changed, and I cannot remember the new people's names but I worked for them as well. I think very approximately a couple of years but that is very approximate. My son --

Q. I understand that but are you saying that you heard that conversation throughout that approximate two years or only part of that period or what?

A. For quite a lot of the period but it wasn't every time I worked, it was just every now and then.

Q. But did you hear it every now and then for the whole two years or only some of it or not?

A. Most of it. Most of it.

MR URQUHART: Q. After you heard this topic being discussed after a while, did you raise it with anyone?

1 A. Yes, I did. Because it kept on, it wasn't just -
2 sorry. Because it wasn't - it wasn't just a five-minute
3 topic that went away. Because it built up over time, I
4 thought "What is going on?", and yes, I did. I spoke to
5 Ainslie Evans. Because by that time I had been in
6 Katanning a little while and Ainslie Evans was connected
7 with everything, and I ran into her one day down the street
8 and I spoke to Ainslie Evans and I said to her - I had met
9 her a few times by then so I knew who she was, and I spoke
10 to her and I said ""There's an awful lot of talk about the
11 hostel and the kids and 'kiddie fiddling'. What is going on
12 at the hostel?" and she - she said "Nothing. The hostel is
13 fine. They are all really good people. Everything is fine
14 at the hostel. There are no problems. Everything is
15 fine". She was very polite. She didn't want to discuss it
16 with me. So I tried to say "Look I've heard, I keep on
17 hearing it" and she didn't want to discuss it with me. She
18 said "Everything is fine" and - well, she turned around and
19 walked away.

20

21 Q. Did you know what position she held at Katanning at
22 that time?

23 A. Yes, she was the counsellor and she was involved in
24 everything that happened in Katanning.

25

26 Q. So why was it that you approached her?

27 A. Because anything that you wanted - anything you wanted
28 to ask about in Katanning or anything that was going to
29 happen, it was always "Ask Ainslie". Because I had - my
30 daughter was two and a half, just over two and a half and -
31 it was the year that she turned three, sorry. It was the
32 year that she turned three when we shifted to Katanning and
33 so I had involvement in nursing Mothers playgroup,
34 kindergarten, pre-school, swimming lessons, and the council
35 dug up our road and we had problems with that. Anything
36 that you wanted to ask about, anything at all was "Ask
37 Ainslie".

38

39 Q. So that was your own personal experience, was it?

40 A. Yes, yes.

41

42 Q. What did you want Ainslie Evans to do about this once
43 you told her. What were you expecting her to do?

44 A. I knew that she had involvement with everything and
45 these - they were talking about boys and I felt that she
46 could have had a look into the situation and have spoken to
47 other people. Because I said to her "A lot of different

1 people are talking about this, it's not a one-off
2 conversation. People are talking about this. You need to
3 have a look at it". She said everything was fine.
4

5 Q. What was your reaction then to when she just said that
6 and turned away and walked off?

7 A. I just stood there. She turned away and she just
8 walked off and I was just standing there and I didn't
9 really know what to do. She didn't - she didn't want to
10 discuss it with me so I just stood there, and then I either
11 carried on shopping or I went home.
12

13 Q. Can you recall raising this matter with anybody else
14 in a position of authority?

15 A. Yes, I did. One night, and this was after the new
16 people had taken over in the Federal Hotel, and one night
17 Bill Todd came in. He was the police sergeant in Katanning
18 at the time and I knew him as the police sergeant. He came
19 in one night. I was cleaning up, so it was after we had
20 closed, and I was cleaning up and he came in and I said to
21 him "Bill, there is an awful lot of talk around the bar
22 about the hostel and what's going on at the hostel and the
23 "kiddie fiddling" and the whole situation at the hostel, it
24 keeps on getting talked about, it's mentioned around the
25 bar at different times" and he was just really quite rude.
26 He said "What would you know? How would you know
27 anything?". He was very - and he was rude and just very
28 dismissive.
29

30 Q. So he didn't ask you anything about who it was who you
31 had heard speaking about this?

32 A. No.
33

34 Q. At that time, going back then, if he had asked you
35 that would you have been able to provide him with names of
36 people that you had heard speak about this?

37 A. I'm not sure but I may have been able to say "Look, so
38 and so is in that group but I'm not sure, but if you talk
39 to some of these people maybe they will remember who was
40 talking about it". As I say, it was always just brief
41 snatches of conversation so I can't name a whole lot of
42 people, but I could have said "Well look, you know, talk to
43 different people that were in last night, in at different
44 times". It was very brief and very general.
45

46 Q. Again, what were you expecting Sergeant Todd to do?

47 A. I thought because the talk had gone on for so long

1 that the police should have a look at what was happening.
2 Because I felt there had to be something because it wasn't
3 just one group just talking about the same thing. It
4 wasn't just one group just drinking and carrying on about
5 one subject. It was mixed. It was around different people
6 at different times and I really thought - from what I
7 heard, the phrase "kiddie fiddling", which is so horrendous,
8 I really thought the police should have followed up, had a
9 look at something. This was - it was a few months. It was
10 a few months of me hearing this. It wasn't one-off.

11

12 Q. Can you recall your reaction to how Sergeant Todd
13 dealt with this information you gave him?

14 A. I was really annoyed that he was so rude to me where I
15 - I was - I was very polite to him but I tried to speak
16 quietly and politely to him and he was just very rude,
17 "What would you know", words something like, "What would
18 you know, how would you know anything?". He just tried to
19 put me down.

20

21 Q. You said this was as you were cleaning up at the
22 Federal Hotel. So it was after closing time, was it?

23 A. Yes. Yes, we had closed and once you closed you've
24 got about 10 minutes for people to finish their drinks and
25 leave. So yes, I chose a quiet moment just to try and
26 speak with him, so yes, and I was just cleaning up.

27

28 Q. Was he in police uniform that night or that time when
29 you saw him?

30 A. Yes, he was. Yes, he was.

31

32 Q. Was he with any other police officer?

33 A. No, he was on his own that night.

34

35 Q. Would police officers regularly come to the hotel when
36 you were on duty?

37 A. Yes, they used to do the patrols. Often it was the
38 two policemen would walk through and just check and see -
39 because it is licensed premises, they would just walk
40 around and have a look who was in and how it was all going
41 and say hello and then they would just leave.

42

43 Q. With respect to your recollection that this was Bill
44 Todd, were you shown a photograph from the Great Southern
45 Herald newspaper recently?

46 A. Yes, I was.

47

1 Q. Have you got a copy of that photograph there with you?
2 A. Yes, I have. Yes, I've got the copy in front of me
3 now, sir.
4
5 Q. Did you recognise the person in that photograph there?
6 A. Yes, that is definitely Bill Todd.
7
8 Q. And that is definitely the police officer you spoke to
9 regarding these matters of kiddie fiddling at the hostel?
10 A. Yes, very definitely. I've always remembered his
11 face, always.
12
13 Q. And you had met him on a number of occasions, apart
14 from this one that you mentioned about?
15 A. Yes.
16
17 Q. So you knew him well?
18 A. I knew who he was, and yes, I had met him on a few
19 occasions. Because of the hotel and police coming through,
20 yes, I did know him. I had met him. Katanning was very
21 small. We met everybody all the time.
22
23 Q. If you could just hold that newspaper article that you
24 have been given, just hold that up so we can just confirm
25 that it is a copy of the one that I have got here. Thank
26 you. If you could just have a look at that, it is from
27 page 5 of the Great Southern Herald on Wednesday, June 5,
28 1985. You have mentioned there how you had the new owners
29 of the Federal Hotel. As a matter of fact, coincidentally,
30 can we see an advertisement for the Federal Hotel below
31 that?
32 A. Yes, no, sorry, after - this is when Peter, Janet and
33 Betty took over and I started working for them. Now,
34 suddenly after '85/86 new people took over. Peter, Janet
35 and Betty, and I thought it was Jan - Peter, Janet and
36 Betty sold up and we had new people take over and that must
37 have been '86/87 roughly. When I started I worked for
38 Janet, Peter and Betty when I started.
39
40 Q. That's what I was going to ask you. We can see there
41 is a reference, in that advertisement, that:
42
43 Peter, Janet and Betty wish to advise that
44 they have now taken over the Federal Hotel
45 from Gwen and Terry Poett --
46
47 Sporting --

1 A. Yes:
2 Q. :

3
4 -- and Community bodies will continue to be
5 given the full support previously offered
6 them by the Poetts.

7
8 A. Yes. See, we had - you had Rotary people, you had the
9 sports people, you had everybody.

10
11 HIS HONOUR: Q. I want to clarify, having seen that
12 advertisement underneath the photo of Sergeant Todd which
13 says:

14
15 Peter, Janet and Betty wish to advise they
16 have now taken over the Federal Hotel.

17
18 And that's in June 1985, does that help you in any way with
19 being more precise about the approximate time you spoke to
20 Sergeant Todd?

21 A. I think that it was very late '85, and that is as far
22 as I can remember.

23
24 Q. Thank you very much

25 A. I - thank you, sir.

26
27 MR URQUHART: This is bar code number 0485 and I will now
28 tender the copy of that newspaper article I have. It is
29 the Great Southern Herald from Wednesday, June 5, 1985,
30 page 5.

31
32 EXHIBIT #128 NEWSPAPER ARTICLE FROM THE GREAT SOUTHERN
33 HERALD DATED 5/6/1985, BARCODED 0485

34
35 MR URQUHART: Q. You have mentioned you met Bill Todd
36 but did you also meet Dennis McKenna during your time at
37 Katanning?

38 A. Yes, a couple of times. There was once, I can't
39 remember when, when I think I was doing a function, and I
40 met him, and I met him once when I went up to the hostel to
41 organise baby-sitters.

42
43 Q. Well, was it the case that he --

44 A. So I met --

45
46 Q. Right. Did he offer a baby-sitting service for people
47 who lived in Katanning, that the students would come and

1 baby-sit their kids?
2 A. Yes.
3
4 Q. And --
5 A. Yes.
6
7 Q. Now, finally, ma'am, do you recall Dennis McKenna
8 being charged in 1990?
9 A. Yes, I do. I was back in Perth.
10
11 Q. And what was your reaction when you found that out?
12 A. Anger.
13
14 Q. And why was that?
15 A. Angry it took so long. I've been out of Katanning a
16 couple of years by then. I had spoken to people, and it
17 went on for so long. It was 1990 before he was charged,
18 and I remember just stomping around swearing, just angry
19 that the whole town just let this happen. If it was talked
20 about in the pub with a lot of different people - not just
21 farmers or sports people or whatever - different people -
22 tradesmen, businessmen, everything - if I heard it, why
23 didn't somebody do something? At least in '85 when I heard
24 it, why did it go on so long?
25
26 Q. Yes, I thank you.
27 A. Sorry.
28
29 MR URQUHART: That's all right. Thank you, ma'am, that's
30 all the questions I have for you.
31
32 HIS HONOUR: No questions to be asked? All right. Thank
33 you, Mrs M. We are very grateful for you for coming
34 forward when you did, and you have been very helpful.
35 Thank you very much. Thank you very much. We'll cut the
36 video link now, thank you.
37
38 <THE WITNESS WITHDREW
39
40 HIS HONOUR: Yes, Mr Urquhart.
41
42 MR URQUHART: Sir, I'm mindful of the time, but I would
43 like to be able to --
44
45 HIS HONOUR: You do what you need to do.
46
47 MR URQUHART: -- complete reading the evidence, the

1 statements, of the number of witnesses, and hopefully that
2 won't take too long.

3
4 HIS HONOUR: Yes.

5
6 MR URQUHART: Thank you, sir. I'll just - I have three
7 further statements to read in, but before I do that I ought
8 to deal with an email that the Inquiry received from
9 Mrs Jennifer Ireland, and this would be in relation to
10 Deborah Wallwork's evidence that we heard this afternoon.

11
12 HIS HONOUR: Right.

13
14 MR URQUHART: Now, a search of the Katanning Hostel
15 Board minutes by the Inquiry shows in 1986 there was only
16 one female Board member. Her name is Mrs Jennifer Ireland.
17 And a copy of Deborah Wallwork's statement was provided to
18 Mrs Ireland, and she was invited to make a written response
19 that would be read into evidence.

20
21 Now, Mrs Ireland accepted that invitation, and she
22 forwarded an email to the Inquiry last Friday, on 15 June,
23 and so I'll just read that out now:

24
25 To whom it may concern,

26
27 In reply to your email sent Wednesday 13
28 June 2012 I wish to make the following
29 response.

30
31 I have no --

32
33 And "no" is underlined:

34
35 -- recollection of the events detailed in
36 Ms Wallwork's statement. I am confident,
37 given the serious nature of the allegations
38 raised by Ms Wallwork, that I would clearly
39 remember the conversation had I been
40 present.

41
42 Taking this into consideration, and the
43 fact that Ms Wallwork was unable to
44 identify me by name, I can only conclude
45 that I am not the person referred to in Ms
46 Wallwork's statement, and as such I cannot
47 contribute anything further to your

1 investigation.

2

3 Regards, Jennifer Ireland.

4

5 I should also confirm, sir, that Mrs Ireland was
6 interviewed by Inquiry Investigators on 1 June of this
7 year, and on that occasion when she was asked about Ms
8 Wallwork's account of that meeting that she had in Dennis
9 McKenna's lounge room with a person she identified as Len
10 Wilkinson, and a female, Ms Ireland stated that she also -
11 she had no recollection of such a meeting. So that simply
12 confirms the contents of her email.

13

14 Sir, if we can now deal with the next witness
15 statement I'm going to read in, and it's from Johnette
16 Brown, spelt J-O-H-N-E-T-T-E. And she states:

17

18 I am 40 years old and live in Albany. I'm
19 involved in charity work for a depression
20 charity.

21

22 When I grew up we lived on a farm which was
23 between Ongerup and Needilup. There was no
24 school in Needilup so I attended Ongerup
25 Primary School.

26

27 I found primary school to be quite
28 difficult, a lot of the other children
29 would not speak to me and I got picked on.
30 By the time I got to Grade 7 I had made a
31 few friends, but I did not enjoy my time at
32 Ongerup Primary.

33

34 When it came time to move to high school,
35 the only available option was Katanning
36 Senior High School, which involved me
37 boarding at St Andrew's Hostel. This was
38 due to the distance between our home and
39 the school. I started there in 1984.

40

41 A lot of the students from Ongerup Primary
42 School also were at the hostel, and I still
43 found this hard, and that a lot of them did
44 not like me.

45

46 Dennis McKenna was the warden of the
47 hostel. He would always pick on people who

1 were easy targets. There would also be
2 students who would tell on you and report
3 to Dennis about whatever you had been
4 doing.

5
6 I was bullied and emotionally abused by
7 Dennis while I was at the hostel. He found
8 out that I had made friends with some town
9 students, and announced this in the dining
10 room. He had a very extreme reaction to me
11 having friends who were not at the hostel.

12
13 I remember in 1985 another student --

14
15 Which she names:

16
17 -- told me that she had seen Dennis McKenna
18 in bed with a male student. Not long after
19 that Dennis got up in the dining room and
20 said that he had heard that students had
21 been calling him a paedophile. Dennis told
22 us all that any student saying this would
23 have to provide it with details, such as
24 times and dates, or he would take us to
25 court and sue us. At the time we really
26 thought he would have been able to do this.

27
28 As a result of the emotional abuse I was
29 suffering in 1986, I attempted to suicide
30 by taking an overdose of pills. Another
31 student noticed I was missing from dinner,
32 and she found me, otherwise I might have
33 been successful in my suicide attempt.

34
35 I woke up in hospital and my mother was
36 there. Dennis had told my mother that I
37 accidentally took too many tablets. I do
38 not think that anyone at the hospital knew
39 I had tried to kill myself. He told them I
40 had just taken one tablet too many, rather
41 than the truth, which was I took over nine
42 tablets.

43
44 When I went back to the hostel, Wendy
45 McKenna told me that I had made one of the
46 female supervisors have a nervous breakdown
47 because of my suicide attempt. I was given

1 extra duties as a punishment. I did not
2 receive any counselling whatsoever.

3
4 Dennis spent most of the rest of my time at
5 the hostel trying to get rid of me. He
6 sent some boys to see me so I could be
7 accused of having a boyfriend, as this was
8 against the rules of the hostel.

9
10 When I was at the hostel I kept a diary.
11 Dennis had one of the supervisors ransack
12 my cubicle and found my diary. I had
13 written in it that I had hated Dennis.
14 Dennis called me down to his office and
15 started yelling at me. He said that he was
16 going to suspend me. He then rang my
17 mother and claimed I had been picking on
18 another student and that that was the
19 reason he was going to suspend me.

20
21 I think that this happened on a Friday, and
22 my mother could not come and collect me
23 until the Monday. Dennis told me that my
24 mother had said she had had enough of me,
25 that my parents were going to disown me,
26 and that Dennis was going to ring child
27 welfare on the Monday, so that they could
28 come and collect me. He told me I was
29 banned from contacting my mother over that
30 weekend.

31
32 I rang my mother on the Saturday and told
33 her what had really happened, and she came
34 and collected me. This was towards the end
35 of 1986.

36
37 My mother took me to see our GP in
38 Gnowangerup. His name was Dr Cummings. He
39 told her to take me out of the hostel as he
40 had "heard too much about the hostel." I
41 never went back to St Andrew's Hostel after
42 that.

43
44 I went to Albany after this and spent a
45 short time at the hostel there before
46 moving to live with my grandmother. I
47 attempted suicide again not long after

1 leaving St Andrew's Hostel.
2
3 I heard that after I left Dennis spread
4 rumours about me, saying I had been
5 drinking, smoking and dating Aboriginal
6 boys, and claimed that was why I left the
7 hostel. The truth was that I left the
8 hostel of my own accord and not for the
9 reasons that he suggested.
10
11 I am still in touch with a couple of
12 friends from the hostel, and they told me
13 that Dennis told them to stay away from me
14 after I left St Andrew's.
15
16 I spoke to my mother about all of this
17 recently. She was not aware that I had
18 tried to kill myself when she came to see
19 me in hospital all those years ago.
20
21 I contacted Katanning Hospital to try to
22 get access to my medical records, but was
23 told that they have been destroyed. I
24 thought that they had to be kept for
25 50 years, and am aware of other people
26 accessing their medical records from the
27 1990s. So I do not understand why mine had
28 been destroyed.
29
30 HIS HONOUR: That should be 1970s.
31
32 MR URQUHART: From the 1970s - sorry, sir, what did I say,
33 I said?
34
35 HIS HONOUR: You said "1990s".
36
37 MR URQUHART: I apologise, yes, "1990s".
38
39 HIS HONOUR: 1970s.
40
41 MR URQUHART: Sorry. It has been a very long day.
42
43 HIS HONOUR: Yes.
44
45 MR URQUHART: Maybe I should get Mr Jenkin to read out the
46 balance of these statements.
47

1 MR JENKIN: I would be more than happy.

2

3 MR URQUHART: If I make another error, I'll take him up on
4 his offer. I'll read that again:

5

6 I thought that they had to be kept for
7 50 years, and am aware of other people
8 accessing their medical records from the
9 1970s, so do not understand why mine have
10 been destroyed.

11

12 I also contacted the medical centre at
13 Gnowangerup and was also told that my
14 medical records there had been destroyed.

15

16 The impact of what happened to me at St
17 Andrew's Hostel still has an affect on me
18 to this day. I now suffer from Type 2
19 Bipolar Disorder, and wonder how much of
20 this is affected by the emotional abuse I
21 suffered at the hostel.

22

23 This statement is true to the best of my
24 knowledge and belief. I have made this
25 statement knowing that, if it is tendered
26 in evidence, I'll be guilty of a crime if I
27 have wilfully included in the statement
28 anything that I know to be false, or that I
29 do not believe is true.

30

31 It has been signed by Ms Brown, and it's dated 13 June of
32 this year. Now, sir, that witness statement of Ms Brown
33 makes a reference to Mrs Wendy McKenna. Mrs McKenna was
34 provided with those details relating to that statement and
35 invited to make a response. She has done so with a
36 three-paged signed statement dated 15 June 2012. And I'll
37 now read that statement into evidence:

38

39 I, Wendy McKenna, state:

40

41 I work as an administrative officer,

42

43 I live in the Perth metropolitan area.

44

45 I have received a letter dated 14 June 2012
46 from Counsel Assisting, Mr Philip
47 Urquhart.

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With respect to the allegations contained in the letter made by Ms Johnette Brown, I do not recall and do not know any student by that name.

During my employment as a supervisor at St Andrew's Hostel, I only knew of three students with the surname "Brown".

The three students are sisters and they are Kate, Julie and Janet or Jan Brown.

I digress there for a moment to say Johnette Brown, the lady whose statement I've just read in, was at the hostel at the same time as Mrs McKenna was a staff member.

HIS HONOUR: That's been established from the record of enrolments, has it?

MR URQUHART: It has, sir.

HIS HONOUR: Yes, all right.

MR URQUHART: And also from her own evidence.

HIS HONOUR: Yes.

MR URQUHART: The statement continues at paragraph 8:

I do not recall any incident at the time I was employed as a supervisor, where a student attempted to commit suicide by taking an overdose of pills and was hospitalised.

If such an event had occurred, it would have been a significant event at the hostel, but I do not remember any such event happening.

Further, I deny saying to Ms Brown that she "had made one of the female supervisors have a nervous breakdown because of [her] suicide attempt."

I deny giving Ms Brown extra duties as a

1 punishment.

2

3 I do not recall any female supervisors
4 having a nervous breakdown.

5

6 I consider myself to be a compassionate,
7 caring and kind person, and would not have
8 said the words alleged by Ms Brown.

9

10 I took my role as female supervisor
11 seriously, and tried to provide a home
12 environment for the students.

13

14 In my evidence to the Inquiry I said I was
15 a Boarder at the hostel before being
16 employed as a supervisor, and was homesick
17 in the early years of my boarding.

18

19 Thus, I was empathetic, kind and friendly
20 to the students, and would not have said or
21 done any of the things Ms Brown alleges.

22

23 I declare that this statement is true to
24 the best of my knowledge and belief, and
25 that I have made this statement knowing
26 that if it is tendered in evidence I will
27 be guilty of a crime if I have wilfully
28 included in this statement anything which I
29 know to be false, or that I do not believe
30 to be true.

31

32 It's been signed by Wendy McKenna. It's dated 15 June
33 2012. And now, sir, the final statement that I will be
34 reading into evidence today is from Frances, spelt
35 F-R-A-N-C-E-S Rosemary Newman. It states:

36

37 Please note that these are my general
38 recollections: I can't account reliably
39 for specific details being so many years
40 ago.

41

42 I haven't sought a legal opinion from the
43 Department of Health Legal Department as to
44 my legal position in writing this
45 recollection, so I am trusting that this
46 will be kept in mind.

47

1 I am 58 years old and live in Baker's Hill.

2

3 From 10 February 1992, I have been employed
4 in Northam by the Department of Health at
5 WA working as a Social Worker in the Aged
6 Care Assessment Team.

7

8 From 1989 to 1991 inclusive, I was employed
9 by the WA Department of Health as a
10 generalist Senior Social Worker based at
11 Narrogin Hospital for three years. This
12 was my second position after completing my
13 degree as a mature-aged student in --

14

15 And it reads, sir, "1997", but it should read, I would
16 expect, 1987.

17

18 HIS HONOUR: Well, that should be 1987. It's quite
19 obvious.

20

21 MR URQUHART: :

22

23 As part of this role, I worked with
24 community health and school health nurses
25 in Narrogin, and in neighbouring towns such
26 as Wagin and Katanning. I built good
27 working relationships with these registered
28 nurses, including the school health nurse
29 at Katanning Senior High School. Her name
30 is Shirley Marshall, but we are no longer
31 in contact, although I do know her son's
32 family. She would probably be in her 70s
33 now. She was active in assisting several
34 student girls suffering sexual, emotional
35 and physical abuse at the hands of family
36 members in the community.

37

38 In approximately 1991, two girls were
39 referred to me by the previously mentioned
40 Katanning High School nurse. As I
41 recollect, these girls were friends,
42 approximately 15-16 years old, both from
43 country areas in the south-west. They
44 boarded at St Andrew's Hostel. I don't
45 remember the girls' names.

46

47 They alleged to Shirley, and later to

1 myself, of being sexually assaulted by Mr
2 Dennis McKenna's brother. I'm pretty sure
3 it was Mr Neil McKenna, who was also a
4 warden at the hostel.

5
6 These assaults occurred separately. I
7 don't recall how they came to know about
8 one another's assaults. I met with these
9 girls separately, and together with their
10 families. They presented as reliable and
11 congruent.

12
13 Spelt congruent:

14
15 One of the girls was from Lake Grace. She
16 had good family support. She didn't wish
17 to pursue any action. She did, however,
18 indicate she believed there were other
19 female students who had been abused, but
20 there was, what I would paraphrase as, a
21 culture of secrecy at the hostel, whereby
22 students had no safe place to go to report
23 such abuse.

24
25 The second girl was from the Jerramungup
26 area. I met with her at the school, along
27 with her parents. I recollect this girl's
28 father was a member of the hostel board. I
29 particularly and clearly recall that her
30 father presented as defensive and
31 intimidating to his wife and daughter, and
32 dismissive of his daughter's claims. His
33 wife had a passive presentation and
34 apparently backed her husband. The girl
35 sat mostly silent throughout the meeting.

36
37 The father made it clear that he viewed her
38 complaints as what I would paraphrase as a
39 nuisance and disruptive to the good name of
40 the hostel. Obviously I found his response
41 alarming in, one, his lack of love, care
42 and support for his daughter, making such
43 serious allegations; and, two, his primary
44 interest in covering up alleged serious
45 misconduct within the hostel setting. Not
46 surprisingly this girl wasn't able to
47 advance her allegations.

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I'm unable to recall exactly whether Mr Dennis McKenna had already left the hostel having been found guilty of sexual assault of male students prior to the allegations about Neil's conduct being made, but I'm quite sure that they came after his indictment.

The time period was, of course, before mandatory reporting, and I felt hamstrung in bringing the allegations into the open in some way. The fact that these girls didn't further their claims suggested that the system was closed to them, there was a culture of secrecy, and they were too frightened to proceed.

I was concerned that the Katanning Hostel Board and/or school principal should be made aware of such serious allegations about a hostel staff member's alleged conduct.

As a Social Worker, if a matter in relation to child abuse came to my attention, there would have been a professional Code of Conduct, albeit a generic one, for the Department of Health.

In those days country practitioners had formal support from senior practitioners. I sought professional support from my allocated senior, Peter O'Hara, a Social Worker at the Health Department.

He recommended that since these girls refused to make charges against this warden, I should seek to put in place protocols for wardens at the hostel, which would be available and visible to all students and staff.

I consequently sought assistance from a Women's Sexual Assault Service in Perth to draw up a Code of Conduct. I don't recall the name of it. I believe it was the only

1 one at the time.

2

3 I contacted the St Andrew's Hostel Board.
4 I'm pretty sure it was the Board Chairman
5 of the Katanning Hostel (corrected in evidence
6 Tuesday 19 June p 3738-9), I don't remember his name.

7

8 I remember clearly that upon hearing the
9 reason for the contact, he reacted angrily,
10 was very patronising and defensive,
11 indicating that there wasn't a need for a
12 Code of Conduct, and questioned the
13 voracity of the allegations viz there
14 wasn't any problems at the hostel.

15

16 I recall thinking that this person was well
17 aware that there had been other allegations
18 about Mr Neil McKenna. Given his immediate
19 defensive response to my phone call, I
20 emphasised that I would be proceeding with
21 developing the code in any case, and he
22 reluctantly conceded or indicated at some
23 stage in the conversation that I could send
24 him the Code of Conduct document. He may
25 have stated that he would present it to his
26 superiors or Board members for
27 ratification, but this may be an inaccurate
28 recollection.

29

30 I clearly remember being very angry and
31 shocked, but not entirely surprised at his
32 response, as this was a common stance in
33 country areas at the time where there were
34 sexual assault claims.

35

36 The Women's Sexual Assault Service, with
37 input from myself, did draw up a
38 comprehensive Code of Conduct. I can't
39 remember who I dealt with, but it was still
40 around 1991. It wasn't a large document,
41 and contained about 10 to 12 rules or
42 guidelines. I recall one of the rules was
43 that wardens were not to touch students
44 unless absolutely necessary, for example,
45 illness.

46

47 I posted the Code of Conduct document to

1 the Board Chairperson I spoke with
2 previously, but by that time I was resigned
3 to the fact that it wouldn't be instituted.
4

5 In sum, whilst my memories are quite clear
6 in some respects, but somewhat hazy in
7 other aspects, I have never forgotten the
8 conduct of the Jerramungup girl's father as
9 a Board member and father, and
10 significantly the Katanning Board Chairman
11 "blocking" and dismissive response when
12 faced with serious allegations by female
13 students of sexual assault by a staff
14 member.
15

16 It has stayed with me since, that there
17 existed a toxic culture at the St Andrew's
18 Hostel. I believe this culture at
19 Katanning High School and the hostel was evidently covered
20 up by people who held positions of trust (corrected in
21 evidence Tuesday 19 June p 3739).
22

23 I have also wondered in the ensuing years
24 how much more robust would I have been in
25 addressing these issues if they occurred at
26 a later date with the additional experience
27 and the conviction and courage that often
28 comes with that experience.

29 This statement is true to the best of my
30 knowledge and belief. I have made this
31 statement knowing that if it's tendered in
32 evidence, I will be guilty of a crime if I
33 have wilfully included in the statement
34 anything that I know to be false or that I
35 do not believe is true.
36

37 It's then been signed by Ms Newman, and it's dated 2 May
38 2012. And, sir, just with respect to the evidence of that
39 witness, regarding her contact with the Chairman of the
40 Katanning Hostel Board, our inquiries have revealed that -
41 I think this has already been given in evidence - that the
42 Katanning Hostel Board Chairman in 1991 was the now
43 deceased Garth Addis.
44

45 Now, sir, that draws to a conclusion the material that
46 I propose adducing today. And if we could now adjourn to
47 2pm tomorrow.

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HIS HONOUR: Tomorrow. Very good. We'll adjourn until 2pm tomorrow, thank you.

AT 4.48PM THE HEARING ADJOURNED TO TUESDAY, 19 JUNE 2012 AT 2PM