

Special Inquiry into St Andrew's Hostel

Hearing

Held at: Courtroom 2, Level 18,  
111 St Georges Terrace, Perth

Friday, 24 February 2012 at 10.01am  
(Day 4)

Before: The Hon Peter Blaxell

1 HIS HONOUR: Yes, Mr Urquhart.  
2  
3 MR URQUHART: Thank you, sir. We were going to have via  
4 video link the evidence of Patricia Thomson but we had some  
5 problems with that, regarding access to that video link, so  
6 in the interim I will call Mr Peter Bruce Watson and  
7 Mr Watson is just in the back of the hearing room.  
8  
9 HIS HONOUR: Very good.  
10  
11 <PETER BRUCE WATSON, sworn:  
12  
13 <EXAMINATION-IN-CHIEF BY MR URQUHART:  
14  
15 MR URQUHART: Mr Watson, your full name is Peter Bruce  
16 Watson?  
17 A. It is.  
18  
19 Q. Are you the Member for Albany?  
20 A. I am.  
21  
22 Q. You are a State Member of Parliament?  
23 A. I am.  
24  
25 Q. How long have you been a Member of Parliament for?  
26 A. 11 and a half years.  
27  
28 Q. If I can ask you some questions in relation to this  
29 matter. Is one of your constituents a man by the name of  
30 Keith Stephens?  
31 A. He is.  
32  
33 Q. How is it that you know Mr Stephens?  
34 A. I first met Mr Stephens when I was out door-knocking  
35 one day, had a cup of tea at his house, that was quite a  
36 few years ago. But when we announced in Parliament that I  
37 was asking the Premier to hold an Inquiry he came and saw  
38 me.  
39  
40 Q. When you say "the Inquiry", this particular Inquiry?  
41 A. Yes, this particular Inquiry.  
42  
43 Q. When would have that been? It would be some time last  
44 year, was it?  
45 A. Yes, around about I think October. He didn't make an  
46 appointment, so it wasn't in the diary but he just came to  
47 the front desk.

1  
2 Q. Did you then see him on that occasion?  
3 A. I did.  
4  
5 Q. From your contact with him did you become aware of his  
6 connection with the subject matter of this particular  
7 Inquiry?  
8 A. I did. He said he was the chairman of the board that  
9 appointed Mr McKenna.  
10  
11 Q. When you say "the board" is that the St Andrew's  
12 Katanning Hostel Board?  
13 A. It is.  
14  
15 Q. Did he also refer to anything about his children?  
16 A. Yes. He said that all his children went to the  
17 school.  
18  
19 HIS HONOUR: Q. If I could just step in. When you said  
20 he appointed Mr McKenna you mean Dennis McKenna, of course?  
21 A. Yes, sorry.  
22  
23 Q. That's all right. Thank you.  
24  
25 HIS HONOUR: You were saying about the children.  
26  
27 MR URQUHART: Yes.  
28  
29 Q. You mentioned he said something to you about his  
30 children?  
31 A. Yes, he said that he had - all his children went to  
32 the school.  
33  
34 Q. When you say "the school", what about the hostel, did  
35 he say anything about that?  
36 A. Yes, they all stayed at the hostel.  
37  
38 Q. Can you recall did he give you the names of any of  
39 those children?  
40 A. There was Darryl, the only one of the names he gave  
41 me at that stage.  
42  
43 Q. Later on after that did you have further contact with  
44 Mr Stephens, that's Keith Stephens?  
45 A. Yes, Keith Stephens came to my office on a regular  
46 basis after that to - I just think he wanted to get things  
47 off his chest and --

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Q. So the subject matter when you saw him on those occasions was what?

A. The main subject matter was that he walked in on Darryl McKenna - sorry, Dennis McKenna and has found him in bed with his son Kerryn.

HIS HONOUR: Q. Could you just repeat that, please. He walked in on Dennis McKenna?

A. He walked in on Dennis McKenna in bed with his son Kerryn.

MR URQUHART: Q. Did he say to you where that was?

A. At the hostel.

Q. Did he say when that was, in relation to that event?

A. He didn't give me a specific date, he just said he was at the hostel and he wanted to go and see Mr McKenna and he knocked on the door but no-one answered and he just walked in.

Q. You mentioned that he said to you it was his son Kerryn. Did you know why it was that Kerryn might be there at the hostel at that time? Did he tell you anything about that?

A. He was a boarder at the hostel at that time and he walked in and found him in bed with his son.

Q. Did he say anything more about that particular incident?

A. You know, he said, look, he wanted to know what was going on. McKenna threatened him; said that "I will take away your farm, I'll have your children taken away from you and I will ruin you".

Q. Did he say anything as to what context Mr McKenna made that threat?

A. No, but he believed him. He believed that the power he had in the town and the contact he had in the town that he could ruin him.

HIS HONOUR: Q. Can you just clarify: did he say that that conversation with McKenna was at the time of walking into the bedroom --

A. It was --

Q. -- or at some other time?

1 A. It was. And he asked - you know, he said "Kerryn will  
2 deny it and you will look a fool. No-one will believe you  
3 over me".  
4

5 MR URQUHART: Q. Can you recall Mr Stephens' demeanour  
6 when he was telling you this?  
7 A. He was very emotional. He said it had ruined his  
8 life, affected his relationship with his wife and his boys  
9 and his daughter.  
10

11 Q. Did he say anything to you about his feelings about  
12 not taking any action in relation to what he saw at that  
13 time?  
14 A. He said he regrets it to this day but at the time he  
15 thought it was the right decision because he felt that the  
16 threat would come true.  
17

18 MR URQUHART: That is the examination I have.  
19

20 <CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR HAMMOND:  
21

22 MR HAMMOND: Q. Mr Watson, in the Legislative Assembly  
23 you gave a speech, I think on 29 September 2011 - I won't  
24 ask you to remember it word for word - but in that address  
25 given on 29 September you said:  
26

27 A conspiracy that was perpetrated by the  
28 offender --  
29

30 referring to Dennis McKenna:  
31

32 -- working in cahoots with civic leaders,  
33 other employees of the State Government,  
34 and shockingly, in at least one case, by a  
35 parent of the victims.  
36

37 Was that information that you had only recently acquired or  
38 how long had you had that information to make that  
39 statement?  
40 A. I only had that recently. I didn't go to the media  
41 with it, I just thought that I'd pass it onto the Inquiry  
42 but then that was the reason why I asked for the Inquiry  
43 because I had this information.  
44

45 Q. Yes. Certainly on the next page of Hansard you went  
46 on to say:  
47

1           At every turn authority figures bullied and  
2           chastised them, the children for speaking  
3           out.  
4  
5           Again, that's information you subsequently came to learn  
6           about --  
7           A.    This is information that was given to me by people who  
8           came into my office originally and so I then passed it on.  
9  
10          Q.    Mr Watson, why the word "originally" when - what's the  
11          time frame for that?  
12          A.    I had the three boys come and see me in October.  
13  
14          Q.    Of last year?  
15          A.    Last year.  
16  
17          Q.    In a press release from your office you talked about  
18          one very reliable and credible source reporting suspicions  
19          of abuse to a senior education department officer.  
20  
21          MR URQUHART:    Could we just have the date of that press  
22          release, please?  
23  
24          MR HAMMOND:    That press release is dated 19 October 2001.  
25  
26          MR URQUHART:    2001?  
27  
28          MR HAMMOND:    Sorry, 2011; sorry, Mr Urquhart.  
29  
30          Q.    Is that a reference to Maggie Dawkins, you see there?  
31          A.    It was.  
32  
33          Q.    Had you spoken to her as well about the matter?  
34          A.    Maggie Dawkins rang me. When I came out into the  
35          media about an Inquiry she rang me in my office.  
36  
37          Q.    On the final paragraph of that press release you talk  
38          about:  
39  
40                 Incredibly the town of Katanning awarded  
41                 Dennis John McKenna its citizen of the year  
42                 award three years in a row, despite at  
43                 least some of the so-called civic leaders  
44                 being aware of his criminal behaviour.  
45  
46          Were you given the names of any civic leaders that were  
47          aware of his criminal behaviour?

1 A. No, I was told that there were civic leaders, that's  
2 the only one I was told, was Councillor Evans.  
3  
4 Q. Were you ever told that back in the 1980s the  
5 offending was reported to police?  
6 A. No, not at any stage.  
7  
8 Q. Did anyone mention any other names in authority that  
9 had been informed about the behaviour of Mr McKenna in the  
10 1980s and early 1990s?  
11 A. There were a lot of names used but, you know, that was  
12 just hearsay and I wouldn't like to mention those names  
13 because I haven't got enough evidence to know that it's  
14 true.  
15  
16 Q. But in relation to those names which you say were  
17 hearsay, were they names given to you by victims of many  
18 Mr McKenna?  
19 A. They were given to me by victims.  
20  
21 Q. Would you be able to state those names, please,  
22 Mr Watson?  
23 A. The names were the names that were given out yesterday  
24 by Maggie Dawkins.  
25  
26 Q. Maybe if I let you say the names rather than repeat  
27 what she said yesterday. Who do you say those people were?  
28  
29 MR URQUHART: I don't know how much value this has, sir.  
30 As the witness pointed out, it's just hearsay  
31  
32 HIS HONOUR: Q. Who told you these names?  
33 A. These were the three gentlemen who came to me, the  
34 victims, and they have already given evidence.  
35  
36 Q. Have they?  
37 A. Mmm.  
38  
39 HIS HONOUR: What is the relevance of this?  
40  
41 MR HAMMOND: Sorry, I didn't hear Mr Watson's response to  
42 your Honour's question about who provided the names.  
43 I think that was your question, your Honour's question to  
44 Mr Watson?  
45  
46 HIS HONOUR: Just now?  
47

1 MR HAMMOND: Yes.  
2  
3 HIS HONOUR: Three victims, he said, provided the names  
4 and he said they've already given evidence.  
5  
6 MR HAMMOND: I won't pursue that, your Honour. I don't  
7 have any further questions. Thank you, Mr Watson.  
8  
9 HIS HONOUR: Ms Reynolds, I'm sorry, I failed to note your  
10 appearance, I beg your pardon. You appear for Gerald  
11 Marriott.  
12  
13 MS J REYNOLDS: Mr Gerald Marriott, yes, sir.  
14  
15 HIS HONOUR: Do you have any questions of this witness?  
16  
17 MS REYNOLDS: No, thank you, your Honour.  
18  
19 HIS HONOUR: Mr Jenkin?  
20  
21 MR JENKIN: No, thank you.  
22  
23 HIS HONOUR: We have no-one else? No.  
24  
25 MR URQUHART: I have no re-examination.  
26  
27 HIS HONOUR: That completes your evidence, Mr Watson.  
28 Before you leave I would like to thank you for your  
29 assistance to the Inquiry and for referring people to the  
30 Inquiry, it is much appreciated.  
31  
32 THE WITNESS: Thank you  
33  
34 <THE WITNESS WITHDREW  
35  
36 MR URQUHART: Just before we do the video link, because  
37 I understand we might now be ready, Mr Jenkin would just  
38 like to make a short submission to your Honour.  
39  
40 HIS HONOUR: Yes.  
41  
42 MR URQUHART: I neglected to allow him to do that before  
43 I called the witness.  
44  
45 HIS HONOUR: That's all right.  
46  
47 MR JENKIN: Thank you, your Honour. I just want to make a

1 brief observation, sir, about a matter that has come to my  
2 attention.

3  
4 I understand that certain letters were sent to three  
5 persons in respect to evidence which might be given against  
6 them - adverse evidence - and in those letters they were  
7 told that they would be referred to in a particular way.  
8 I understand that that may now change and that in fact  
9 their names might be given. Whilst I don't act for them,  
10 the only observation that I would like to make is that  
11 their decision - and this is supposition on my part - as to  
12 whether or not to have a legal representative here might  
13 have been based on the fact that they would be referred to  
14 in a particular way. Now they have been told something  
15 different, they haven't had the opportunity that might  
16 otherwise have been afforded to them to consider their  
17 position and they may - and again it is just supposition on  
18 my part - have a different view about whether they want to  
19 have a legal representative here, as opposed to some time  
20 down the track if the witness was to be recalled, the  
21 witness giving adverse evidence --

22  
23 HIS HONOUR: Can I indicate I know what you are referring  
24 to.

25  
26 MR JENKIN: Yes.

27  
28 HIS HONOUR: That can be accommodated and I would give  
29 consideration to any application to recall witnesses at a  
30 later time in order that they might put questions.

31  
32 MR JENKIN: Certainly. It was only by way of an  
33 observation which I felt like I should make.

34  
35 HIS HONOUR: Very good, thank you. Are we ready for the  
36 video link or not?

37  
38 MR URQUHART: Let's hope so, sir. It's out of my hands  
39 but in far more capable hands than mine if I was trying to  
40 operate it.

41  
42 (Video link established)

43  
44 HIS HONOUR: Very well, Mr Urquhart, if you could stand.

45  
46 MR URQUHART: Yes, I can.

47

1 HIS HONOUR: Perhaps you had better swear the witness in  
2 first.  
3  
4 MR URQUHART: Dr Thompson will take the oath, thank you.  
5  
6 HIS HONOUR: Dr Thompson, you have got the Bible there and  
7 I think you have also got a card; is that right?  
8  
9 THE WITNESS: Yes.  
10  
11 <PATRICIA KAY THOMPSON, sworn:  
12  
13 (Discussion re adjustment of video link)  
14  
15 HIS HONOUR: Mr Urquhart, you can stand and Dr Thompson,  
16 can you see Mr Urquhart?  
17  
18 THE WITNESS: No.  
19  
20 MR URQUHART: How about now?  
21  
22 THE WITNESS: Yes, I can see Mr Urquhart now.  
23  
24 <EXAMINATION-IN-CHIEF BY MR URQUHART:  
25  
26 MR URQUHART: Q. Now, Doctor, there might be some delay  
27 in the transmission, so we will try and accommodate as much  
28 of that as we can here as to avoid talking over each other,  
29 okay.  
30 A. Okay.  
31  
32 Q. Your full name is Patricia Kay Thompson?  
33 A. Yes.  
34  
35 Q. You reside in a country location here in Western  
36 Australia?  
37 A. Yes, I do.  
38  
39 Q. Your current occupation?  
40 A. I'm a career adviser.  
41  
42 Q. Do you have a number of qualifications?  
43 A. Yes.  
44  
45 Q. Can you take us through those, please?  
46 A. I have a Dip Teaching, a Bachelor of Education, a Masters  
47 of Management and Human Resources, a PhD in HR and

1 Information Systems and a grad certificate in career  
2 development.  
3  
4 Q. Hence your title now Dr Thompson; is that right?  
5 A. Yes; that's correct.  
6  
7 Q. Doctor, I want to take you back, please, to 1985. For  
8 a six-month period in that year were you employed on  
9 secondment to a program called Westrek?  
10 A. Yes, I was.  
11  
12 Q. That was operated out of the Department of Employment  
13 and Training?  
14 A. Yes, as part of the Community Employment Initiatives  
15 Unit.  
16  
17 Q. You had previously been at the Western Australia  
18 Department of Education?  
19 A. Yes, I was seconded from the education department to  
20 the Department of Employment and Training.  
21  
22 Q. What were you doing at the Department of Education?  
23 A. I was a teacher.  
24  
25 Q. Was your position on this Westrek program originally  
26 as a group leader?  
27 A. Yes. I was originally employed as one of the original  
28 group leaders.  
29  
30 Q. Did those group leaders have a training program?  
31 A. We had an induction program down at - I think it was  
32 Woodman's Point, down past Fremantle.  
33  
34 Q. Who conducted that?  
35 A. Elizabeth Stroud.  
36  
37 Q. Whilst you were there did you meet other group  
38 leaders?  
39 A. Yes; there were six others, I believe - or, like, six  
40 for each - you know, one for each project and a spare one.  
41  
42 Q. Was one of those other group leaders being trained a  
43 lady by the name of Margaret or Maggie Maruff?  
44 A. Yes, Maggie Maruff.  
45  
46 Q. Later to become Margaret or Maggie Dawkins?  
47 A. Yes, but I knew her as Maggie Maruff.

1  
2 Q. Yes. So that was the first time you had met her?  
3 A. Yes.  
4  
5 Q. Did you subsequently, as a result of that training  
6 together, become friends?  
7 A. We were very close friends on the training. I was  
8 close friends with another woman but she left the program,  
9 so yes, the three of us were sort of very good friends.  
10  
11 Q. Initially were you employed as a group leader in  
12 Norseman?  
13 A. Yes. That was my site, was Norseman.  
14  
15 Q. With respect to that, how many participants did you  
16 have under your leadership?  
17 A. I was given 12 participants to take to Norseman but  
18 I picked up a 13th young man from Esperance, he joined us  
19 as the 13th person.  
20  
21 Q. Was it the case that after about two months you were,  
22 for want of a better word, called in back to head office?  
23 A. Yes, I was called in to have a rest.  
24  
25 Q. Thereafter did you no longer undertake any duties as a  
26 group leader with the program?  
27 A. I was still considered a group leader because that was  
28 the terms of my secondment but I worked from the head  
29 office, so --  
30  
31 Q. That's what I meant, yes.  
32 A. Yes.  
33  
34 Q. So you didn't actually work at any of the locations?  
35 A. No.  
36  
37 Q. Are you able to recall the chain of command that  
38 operated within this Westrek program?  
39 A. Very clearly I remember the chain of command. We were  
40 group leaders and we were sent to different areas, I think  
41 there were six around the state. We were all directed to  
42 communicate directly with our coordinator and that was  
43 Elizabeth Stroud. She reported to Peter Sherlock, who was  
44 the - I think he was called the director of the Westrek, or  
45 something like that. He reported to Mr Ian Carter and  
46 Mr Peter Kenyon, who was head of the CEIU and they reported  
47 to Mr Mike Cross, who was head of the DET.

1  
2 Q. The CEIU was the Community Employment Initiatives  
3 Unit?  
4 A. Yes.  
5  
6 Q. And DET, when you described Mr Mike Cross' position -  
7 DET, what does that stand for?  
8 A. Department of Employment and Training.  
9  
10 Q. With respect to the friendship that you developed with  
11 Maggie Dawkins, was it the case that you had a number of  
12 things in common?  
13 A. Yes, we had a bit of background in common. We both  
14 were Librans and we thought that was really funny because  
15 Librans are meant to get on with people, you know, with  
16 each other. Yes, we had a lot of common interests,  
17 I guess.  
18  
19 Q. Were you also about the same age?  
20 A. Yes. I think she was one or two years or 18 months  
21 older - two years older than me, I think.  
22  
23 Q. Whilst you were the group leader at Norseman did you  
24 have contact with Ms Maruff on just a personal basis?  
25 A. On a personal level I can remember we - I wrote her a  
26 couple of letters and I also had a couple of phone calls  
27 with her.  
28  
29 Q. Did you continue to communicate with her once you came  
30 back to work from the head office?  
31 A. Yes, intermittently but, you know, not everyday, so.  
32  
33 Q. With respect to the time that you were at Norseman,  
34 can you recall having a conversation with Ms Maruff - I'll  
35 probably call her "Maggie" - with respect to problems with  
36 the running of the program?  
37 A. Yes. We used to laugh - well, not even - maybe  
38 snigger a bit about, you know, what we thought was the  
39 debacle of the bus drivers' licences, for example. That  
40 was one conversation I recall.  
41  
42 Q. Did she indicate to you any particular problems that  
43 she had with the running of the program she was responsible  
44 for in Katanning?  
45 A. Yes. She did communicate to me some concerns about  
46 access to her site and "her site", I mean her accommodation  
47 site. I can remember she asked me did I have any problems

1 in Norseman. I was living out on the Norseman Church of  
2 Christ Mission and I said I'd had visits from the elders  
3 who come to see me, the Church of Christ people who  
4 actually ran the mission and my project sponsor or, you  
5 know, community reference point, he'd come out once to see  
6 that the accommodation was okay for us but I didn't have -  
7 you know, because these are the visits and she'd actually  
8 said to me that she was having unrestricted access visits  
9 and I said "Well, I don't have that problem here".

10  
11 Q. Can you recall whether she identified anybody as  
12 having these unrestricted access visits?

13 A. Yes, she said specifically to me that Dennis McKenna  
14 was always there and she also said that Ainslie Evans was  
15 sticking her nose in too.

16  
17 Q. Did she identify to you who those two people were,  
18 what roles they played or what positions they held?

19 A. Yes. Dennis McKenna was the hostel warden and Ainslie  
20 Evans was the councillor but I think she was also the  
21 community reference point or the sponsor or something.  
22 I think I refer in my statement about a community reference  
23 point but I can't remember exactly the terminology of what  
24 those sort of people were.

25  
26 Q. In any event, was this a person who was a member of  
27 the local community that you liaised with for the purposes  
28 of giving work for your participants in the Westrek  
29 program?

30 A. Yes. My guy in Norseman was the head of the tourist  
31 bureau there and I know that the councillor in Katanning was  
32 the reference point for her work with her participants.

33  
34 Q. During the communications that you had with Maggie  
35 when you were at Norseman and she was at Katanning, am  
36 I right in saying that she didn't mention anything to you  
37 about sexual abuse by anyone?

38 A. No, she did not mention that to me while I was in  
39 Norseman.

40  
41 Q. You mentioned that after about two months you moved  
42 from Norseman down to Perth, the head office. What were  
43 your duties there?

44 A. I was to assist Mr Sherlock and Mr - I mean, Ms Stroud  
45 with the operations of Westrek.

46  
47 Q. Can you recall the office layout; that is, where you,

1 Ms Stroud and Mr Sherlock sat?  
2 A. Yes.  
3  
4 Q. To start with, were you all on the same floor?  
5 A. Yes.  
6  
7 Q. Can you recall where this head office was, the  
8 address?  
9 A. It was the May Holman Centre; I think it was  
10 32 St Georges Terrace.  
11  
12 Q. So you are all on the same floor. Are you able to  
13 give us a description of where each person sat?  
14 A. The operations area of Westrek, it was all in one room  
15 and it was like at the end of a corridor and it was a big  
16 oblong room. Peter Sherlock sat in a desk with his back to  
17 a window and it was sort of - they had freestanding  
18 partitions around his little area. Elizabeth Stroud sat  
19 directly in front of him but, you know, the partition was  
20 there and I sat adjacent to Elizabeth Stroud on the - if  
21 Peter Sherlock was looking at us, I was on his left and  
22 Elizabeth Stroud was on his - to the front on his right.  
23  
24 Q. About how far away was your desk from Elizabeth  
25 Stroud's desk, just roughly?  
26 A. About three metres, at the max.  
27  
28 Q. Whilst you were there undertaking those duties at head  
29 office, do you recall an occasion when you heard a  
30 telephone conversation that Ms Stroud was having with  
31 somebody else?  
32 A. Yes, I do. Because it was --  
33  
34 Q. Just wait there.  
35 A. Because it was such a --  
36  
37 Q. No, just stop there right now.  
38 A. Okay.  
39  
40 Q. All I want you to do is relay to us what you heard  
41 Ms Stroud say to whomever she was talking to.  
42 A. She said "What, be fired, Maggie? What, be fired?  
43 Fire her".  
44  
45 Q. Did that attract your attention?  
46 A. Of course it attracted my attention.  
47

1 Q. At the end of that phone call did you hear Ms Stroud  
2 speak to anyone?  
3 A. When she finished the phone conversation she actually  
4 turned around to Peter Sherlock because, you know, the  
5 partition wasn't right across us and she said "They want  
6 her to come in for a meeting" and they were going to fire  
7 her.  
8  
9 Q. As a result of what you heard and the relationship  
10 that you had established with Maggie, did you do anything?  
11 A. Yes, I did. I waited until the afternoon when they  
12 weren't there and I actually rang --  
13  
14 Q. Do you want to have a drink.  
15 A. Thank you.  
16  
17 Q. When you rang Maggie, what did you say to her?  
18 A. I said I thought she better know, if she was being  
19 called about coming into a meeting, that she should  
20 anticipate it probably wasn't the reason that she thought  
21 she was coming to Perth for, that she was probably going to  
22 be fired and to be prepared.  
23  
24 Q. Subsequent to that telephone call, can you recall when  
25 you next saw Maggie?  
26 A. Well, within a very short period of time she came to  
27 Perth. I didn't have a conversation with her but I know  
28 she came into the office because I can remember very  
29 clearly what she was wearing, because I saw her, but I  
30 didn't talk to her, but she came into the office,  
31 definitely.  
32  
33 Q. When you say "the office", was that the office of the  
34 Department of Employment and Training?  
35 A. Yes. It wasn't specifically into the Westrek area. I  
36 think it was on the floor - the same floor that I saw her.  
37  
38 Q. Insofar as what she was there for, do you recall any  
39 of your fellow workers stating anything in that regard?  
40 A. What, that she was coming in to a meeting?  
41  
42 Q. Well, yes. Firstly, did you hear anybody else talk  
43 about the reason why she was there?  
44 A. No. I'd heard the conversation that she was going to  
45 be called in for a meeting, from Elizabeth Stroud to Peter  
46 Sherlock, that conversation. There was discussion about  
47 who was going to attend the meeting that she was coming

1 for. I know and specifically recall it was to be with Mike  
2 Cross and that Peter Kenyon and Ian Carter were to be  
3 present. I am not sure, and I can't recall any discussion  
4 about Elizabeth or Peter Sherlock to be present.  
5  
6 Q. When you told us about what you heard there, firstly,  
7 who did you hear that from?  
8 A. It was Elizabeth and Peter Sherlock discussing who was  
9 going to be at the meeting.  
10  
11 Q. Can you recall when that was, when you heard that  
12 discussion, in relation to that day that you saw Maggie at  
13 the office?  
14 A. It was either the same day or the next morning.  
15  
16 Q. Were you part of that conversation that Ms Stroud and  
17 Mr Sherlock were having?  
18 A. No. I was not involved in the discussion, I was just  
19 working in the vicinity.  
20  
21 Q. Was it the case, Doctor, that you did not actually see  
22 who it was that Maggie had a meeting or meetings with at  
23 that time she was up at the head office?  
24 A. I did not see who was in the meeting room because I  
25 was not present in the meeting room.  
26  
27 Q. Thank you. Do you recall having a conversation with  
28 Maggie after that day?  
29 A. Yes, I do.  
30  
31 Q. Can you recall how long after it was?  
32 A. It was very shortly afterwards and I don't think it  
33 was the same day. It may be the next day, but it was very  
34 shortly afterwards.  
35  
36 Q. Was that a conversation in person or by another means?  
37 A. A telephone conversation.  
38  
39 Q. In that telephone conversation, can you recall whether  
40 she said anything to you regarding the meetings that she  
41 had had?  
42 A. Yes, yes. I can recall her specifically making six  
43 points to me. They were as a result of the meeting that  
44 she had been called to come to: that she had made some  
45 statements about Mr Dennis McKenna and the St Andrew's  
46 hostel - and I refer to "the St Andrew's hostel" as the  
47 hostel accomodation that she was staying at; that she had a

1 conversation with Elizabeth Stroud and followed the  
2 directions of Elizabeth Stroud to communicate her concerns  
3 directly to Ainslie Evans.  
4

5 I also specifically recall that she said that she had  
6 raised other matters of concern about the St Andrew's  
7 hostel. I also remember specifically that she told me that  
8 she had been chastised for causing trouble and she was to  
9 stop doing it. I also remember her telling me specifically  
10 that she had been asked to sign a prepared letter of  
11 resignation, that she refused to do, and I don't want to  
12 elaborate on the expletives that she actually used in  
13 regard to that.  
14

15 The fifth thing I actually remember her saying to me  
16 is that she'd asked for any matters that she had raised to  
17 be transferred or relayed to the relevant authorities  
18 during that meeting. The other thing I remember her  
19 telling me is that she was offered an alternative to  
20 resignation, to be transferred to another site.  
21

22 Q. Did you question her further or did you say anything  
23 further about what those precise matters of concern that  
24 had come to her attention --

25 A. No.  
26

27 Q. -- regarding --

28 A. No, I did not. No, I did not because it was none of  
29 my business.  
30

31 Q. Also, did you ask her anything about, or did she say  
32 anything regarding, what it was regarding the "trouble"  
33 that she was causing?

34 A. No.  
35

36 Q. Again, can I ask you why it was that you didn't ask  
37 her anything about that?

38 A. Because Katanning wasn't my site and it was none of my  
39 business and we have been told to keep our noses - run our  
40 own projects and not to involve ourselves in other people's  
41 projects.  
42

43 Q. When were you told about that?

44 A. At our induction course and it was reiterated when we  
45 did the induction up at - I think it was up in the hills  
46 somewhere, when we got the participants, and we were  
47 repeatedly told all through the initial stages of the

1 projects to run our own projects.  
2  
3 Q. Some time shortly after that meeting that you told us  
4 about regarding Maggie, did you remain in that area that  
5 you have described earlier as to where you worked from?  
6 A. No.  
7  
8 Q. Where did you then go?  
9 A. I was asked to go and work in the head office area of  
10 the community employment initiatives unit. It was an open  
11 office area but Mr Carter and Mr Kenyon had their own  
12 offices in there, so I was almost in the central area of  
13 that office.  
14  
15 Q. Did you undertake the same duties when you were  
16 positioned there or were you given other tasks?  
17 A. I was not doing anything to do with Westrek. I was  
18 asked to read newspapers every day and cut out relevant  
19 articles about publicity for - any publicity for the  
20 Department of Employment and Training; you know, just keep,  
21 sort of like, a press cuttings book.  
22  
23 Q. Did you have any other duties?  
24 A. No, that was it.  
25  
26 Q. Whilst you had those duties, did you get the  
27 opportunity of visiting any of the other sites that were  
28 involved in the Westrek program?  
29 A. I went to Bunbury. I saw Maggie when she was in  
30 Bunbury.  
31  
32 Q. Yes?  
33 A. I went to Carnarvon at one stage and saw a woman  
34 called Michelle. So, yes, I did; not so much on official  
35 duties, but they were mates.  
36  
37 Q. How many times did you visit Maggie in Bunbury?  
38 A. Once.  
39  
40 Q. Can you recall whether you had any discussions with  
41 Maggie regarding the subject matter that she spoke to you  
42 about a day or two after the meeting she had in the head  
43 office?  
44 A. Yes, I did have a discussion with her.  
45  
46 Q. Can you recall what those discussions were?  
47 A. I actually asked her what she'd done to get into

1 trouble because I'd obviously been in trouble myself. I  
2 asked her what she'd done to get into trouble and she told  
3 me that a young man had actually told her about something  
4 and that she was concerned and she actually raised it  
5 through the channels that she had been told to raise it  
6 through.

7  
8 I also specifically recall three issues that she said.  
9 She said that Dennis McKenna used to give a signal to boys  
10 to visit his room by tapping on the end of his bed. She  
11 did not at that time say to me that there was a sexual  
12 abuse issue. The other thing she told me was that  
13 Elizabeth Stroud had told her specifically to stop causing  
14 trouble in the community and that had been communicated to  
15 her by Ainslie Evans as well.

16  
17 The third thing I remember her telling me is that  
18 Elizabeth Stroud had asked her to document concerns that  
19 she had, to note anyone who was involved and to provide her  
20 with that written material, which she had done.

21  
22 Q. When she raised with you about the matters that had  
23 been brought to her attention by that young man that you  
24 mentioned a moment ago, did she say anything about the  
25 subject matter of those concerns to you?

26 A. No, she did not. I just said to you previously that  
27 she did not say anything about sexual abuse; she just said  
28 that a young man had brought some issues to her attention.

29  
30 Q. We are still talking about 1985. Did you remain in  
31 contact with Maggie after that?

32 A. I visited Maggie once in Bunbury. When the Westrek  
33 project finished, I had actually gone back to - my  
34 secondment had been brought forward a little bit early  
35 because they wanted me to go to Albany to work in a high  
36 school; you know, to go back to the Education Department to  
37 help them fill a spot. I kept in contact with Maggie after  
38 that. We were quite good friends. I was back in the  
39 Education Department and I think she went back to work for  
40 Kim Beazley.

41  
42 Q. But did you have any contact with her after she did  
43 that?

44 A. Yes. We've remained friends.

45  
46 Q. Do you recall that at some stage she moved to South  
47 Australia?

1 A. She moved to South Australia in, I think it was, 1997.  
2 I'd been working overseas in China twice; once in 1989, I  
3 think, and - yes, end of '88, '89 and for a three year  
4 period between '94 and '97. Maggie and I kept in contact  
5 when I was in China the first time and also in China the  
6 second time. She used to send me things and get things  
7 that I couldn't get, necessarily, in China, and when I came  
8 home from China on vacation, I used to visit her. So  
9 that's - yes, we just continued a normal friendship.

10

11 Q. Once she moved to South Australia, did --

12 A. I didn't keep in contact with her. I know I sent - I  
13 got her address in Adelaide and I did send her a letter  
14 when she lived in - I think they lived in [information not relevant  
15 Street, or something, in Adelaide and a former staff of John had  
16 given me her address and I wrote her a letter, but I didn't hear  
17 from her.

18

19 Q. When was the next time you heard from Maggie?

20 A. The next time I heard from Maggie was - I think it was  
21 October last year. I think September, October, November  
22 last year. I'd been out - I'd returned to live in  
23 Esperance to pursue my career interests down here and I got  
24 a phone call from her out of the blue, end of last - in the  
25 last quarter of last year.

26

27 Q. Do you recall what that was about?

28 A. Yes, I do and the reason I recall it is because I had  
29 been out to a small place, a remote service centre and I  
30 had been watching the news at the end of the day and Dennis  
31 McKenna's court case from last year had come on the TV,  
32 that he had been put in gaol, and I sat bolt upright in bed  
33 and I thought, oh, that's that guy that Maggie used to go  
34 on about all the time. I went out and I was overnight in  
35 this small country town. I came back to Esperance the next  
36 day and she had called up my parents, actually, and got my  
37 phone number from my parents.

38

39 Q. Can you recall what you spoke about?

40 A. Yes, I do. She asked me - you know, there's the  
41 pleasantries, "I've finally caught up with you.", and I  
42 said, "Yes. Amazing after all this time." She said, "I  
43 rang your dad and got your phone number.", and we had a  
44 lighthearted chitchat. She said she'd been approached by  
45 some people to be a witness for the Dennis McKenna stuff  
46 and she said did I recall anything about the time on  
47 Westrek and I said, "I certainly do."

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Q. Did you go into a discussion of what you could recall?  
A. I said, "I can remember being in Norseman" at the time and I can remember having conversations with her but nothing explicit about what happened to Dennis McKenna. I was talking mainly about the Westrek program.

Q. Then, Doctor, was it the case that you subsequently provided a letter to this particular Inquiry?

A. Yes, and I did that because Maggie had asked me if I wanted to - if I was willing to discuss with a journalist my recollections of the Westrek program, my time on the Westrek program, and I said I would. So he was provided with my telephone number and I had a telephone interview with him and, subsequently, he put a newspaper article out, and that's where it went from there. Once the Inquiry happened - they called for an Inquiry, I wrote a letter to the Inquiry.

Q. Doctor, just finally, during this period where you were seconded to Westrek, I understand that you did not keep any notes of the time that you were there, of what was happening, or anything like that?

A. No. I kept notes about what happened to me but I didn't keep notes about what happened in Katanning or to Maggie.

Q. Your recollection then of what you heard and saw going back to 1985, that you have given evidence about here today, where have you got that from?

A. My memory. I know what happened to me and I know what was happening to her.

Q. Is there any particular reason why you can remember that in this sort of detail that you have given us?

A. Well, for me, Westrek was a very traumatic experience which I don't want to go into.

Q. No, that's all right. No, we don't need to do that.

A. Oh.

Q. But in relation to the conversations and what you overheard other staff members saying about Maggie, why is it that you have such a recollection regarding those matters?

A. Because she was my friend. First and foremost, she was my friend and she was also my colleague and I didn't

1 want her pursued like I had been in the Department.  
2  
3 MR URQUHART: That's fine, doctor. I didn't need to go  
4 into the details regarding the matters personal to you, I  
5 was just asking about the matters that related to Maggie.  
6 Thank you, doctor.  
7  
8 Thank you, sir. They are all the questions I have for  
9 this witness  
10  
11 HIS HONOUR: Mr Hammond, do you have any questions?  
12  
13 MR HAMMOND: I do have one question, your Honour.  
14  
15 HIS HONOUR: Yes?  
16  
17 <CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR HAMMOND:  
18  
19 MR HAMMOND: Q. I am wondering if Dr Thompson can see and  
20 hear me?  
21 A. Yes, I can.  
22  
23 Q. My name is John Hammond, Dr Thompson. I represent the  
24 victims of Dennis McKenna. You did say to Mr Urquhart in  
25 your evidence that you had obviously been in trouble  
26 yourself, referring to 1985 and when you were working in  
27 the Department. What did you mean by the trouble that you  
28 had been in? What had happened at the Department?  
29 A. Well --  
30  
31 MR URQUHART: I don't know whether this is strictly  
32 relevant, sir, and the witness said that she would rather  
33 not speak about it.  
34  
35 MR HAMMOND: I am not talking about the Westrek program,  
36 sir, I am referring to what was done to her as a result of  
37 passing on, I understand, this information.  
38  
39 HIS HONOUR: Q. Did you get into trouble because of  
40 anything to do with Maggie?  
41 A. Pardon? Could you repeat that, sir?  
42  
43 Q. Did you get into trouble - was it because of anything  
44 to do with Maggie?  
45 A. Well, I thought it was.  
46  
47 Q. Well, I will ask it,

1 A. I thought I was marginalised because I had the - I'd  
2 told her that she'd better watch out for herself.  
3  
4 MR HAMMOND: Q. But when you were transferred to, as you  
5 said, keeping articles from the newspaper, was that a  
6 downgrading of your position?  
7 A. Well, I wouldn't see it as downgrading, I just  
8 thought, you know, that I was - my brain was being wasted  
9 and I had just been put there because I was naughty.  
10  
11 Q. Did anyone tell you that you had been naughty, though,  
12 in the Department?  
13 A. No, but --  
14  
15 MR HAMMOND: I don't have anything further.  
16  
17 THE WITNESS: -- for me, if I was called back to head  
18 office to help them with operations and then all of a  
19 sudden I'm moved to cutting out newspaper articles, I could  
20 only draw the assumption - make the assumption that I was  
21 naughty and I had done something wrong.  
22  
23 HIS HONOUR: Thank you. Do any other counsel have  
24 questions?  
25  
26 MALE SPEAKER: No, thank you, sir.  
27  
28 HIS HONOUR: No re-examination?  
29  
30 MR URQUHART: No, there is not, thank you, sir.  
31  
32 HIS HONOUR: Thank you, Dr Thompson. That completes your  
33 evidence. Thanks for your evidence and you are now free to  
34 go. Thank you.  
35  
36 THE WITNESS: Thank you.  
37  
38 <THE WITNESS WITHDREW  
39  
40 HIS HONOUR: Yes, Mr Urquhart?  
41  
42 MR URQUHART: Thank you, sir. The proposed next witness  
43 is Diane Ruth Renton.  
44  
45 <DIANE RUTH RENTON, sworn:  
46  
47 HIS HONOUR: Thanks. Take a seat, Mrs Renton.

1  
2 MR URQUHART: Sorry, sir. I am just having a very brief  
3 conversation with Mr Renton, who is at the second Bar  
4 table. I am not quite sure what he wants. Can I just take  
5 some --  
6  
7 HIS HONOUR: Yes, certainly.  
8  
9 MR URQUHART: Speak to him very briefly.  
10  
11 (Mr Urquhart and Mr Renton confer briefly)  
12  
13 MR URQUHART: Thank you very much for that, sir. It has  
14 been clarified.  
15  
16 HIS HONOUR: Do you wish to announce an appearance at all?  
17 No? Very well, thank you. Yes?  
18  
19 MR URQUHART: Thank you, sir.  
20  
21 <EXAMINATION-IN-CHIEF BY MR URQUHART:  
22  
23 MR URQUHART: Q. Mrs Renton, your full name is Diane Ruth  
24 Renton?  
25 A. Correct.  
26  
27 Q. The only reason I am asking you this is to put into  
28 context your age at the relevant time, but were you born on  
29 9 April 1970?  
30 A. Correct.  
31  
32 Q. Your current occupation?  
33 A. I am a naturopath.  
34  
35 Q. Do you run your own business there?  
36 A. I run my own business in Subiaco, yes.  
37  
38 Q. You have two kids?  
39 A. Yes.  
40  
41 Q. You reside in the Perth metropolitan area?  
42 A. Correct.  
43  
44 Q. I want to ask you some questions regarding your high  
45 school years, if I may?  
46 A. Mmm-hmm.  
47

1 Q. Did you attend the Katanning senior high school?  
2 A. Yes, I did. I attended it for year 10 and year 11,  
3 1986, 1987.  
4  
5 Q. At that time was your surname Pascoe?  
6 A. Correct.  
7  
8 Q. You were there in year 10 and year 11?  
9 A. Yes.  
10  
11 Q. Then in year 12, where did you go?  
12 A. I was at MLC in Perth.  
13  
14 Q. Was it the case that your parents resided in Kojonup  
15 at this time?  
16 A. That's right.  
17  
18 Q. For your high school years, wherever you went - either  
19 to Perth or Katanning - was it necessary for you to board  
20 away from home?  
21 A. Yes, it was. I was a boarder at MLC from year 8 but I  
22 came very ill at around year 9 and had to return home,  
23 where I was very sick with chronic fatigue syndrome.  
24  
25 Q. Then from there?  
26 A. Then from there I spent a short amount of time of year  
27 10 at Kojonup district high and then I repeated year 10 at  
28 Katanning senior high school.  
29  
30 Q. So you had two full years at Katanning senior high  
31 school; is that right?  
32 A. Correct.  
33  
34 Q. Year 10 and year 11?  
35 A. Yes.  
36  
37 Q. You boarded where when you were at Katanning?  
38 A. I stayed with my parents in Kojonup, but when I was at  
39 Katanning - but I was in Katanning, though. For a three  
40 week period I was at the hostel in 1987.  
41  
42 Q. That is when you were in year 12?  
43 A. No, year 11.  
44  
45 Q. Sorry, year 11?  
46 A. Yes.  
47

1 Q. My apologies.  
2 A. So I was a year older than everybody in my year  
3 because I had repeated year 10.  
4  
5 Q. In any event, what I want to speak to you about is  
6 something that happened in year 10?  
7 A. Yes, that's right.  
8  
9 Q. 1986?  
10 A. Yes.  
11  
12 Q. Before I talk to you in some detail about a particular  
13 matter, can you recall a school friend of yours or someone  
14 who was in your class by the name of Kylie Haddow?  
15 A. Yes.  
16  
17 Q. What was your relationship with Kylie at this time?  
18 A. We were friendly. We were friends.  
19  
20 Q. Did you know where Kylie stayed during the school  
21 year?  
22 A. Yes. Kylie was at the hostel.  
23  
24 Q. I want to take you now, please, to the second half of  
25 that year.  
26 A. Mmm-hmm.  
27  
28 Q. Do you recall having a conversation with Kylie about a  
29 subject matter that is relevant to this Inquiry?  
30 A. Yes. I believe it to be in a science class. Kylie  
31 and I were writing notes and while writing the notes, I  
32 asked Kylie in my note, "Is it true that Dennis is  
33 interfering" or "molesting the boys?"  
34  
35 Q. When you say "Dennis", who were you referring to?  
36 A. I'm referring to Dennis McKenna, the warden of  
37 Katanning hostel, yes.  
38  
39 Q. Had there been any conversations with Kylie regarding  
40 that subject matter before there was this exchange of  
41 notes?  
42 A. No, not that I recall.  
43  
44 Q. How was it then that you came to write that particular  
45 note to her?  
46 A. Because I heard whisperings, I heard rumours and I  
47 felt concerned. I remember the hostel boys and just

1 remembering how naive and sweet and nice they were, and so  
2 I was concerned because of what I was hearing.

3

4 Q. Why was it that you wrote that note to Kylie?

5 A. Because she was at the hostel and she was friendly -  
6 friendly with me and would talk with me. It was quite  
7 difficult to talk to other hostel kids, but Kylie was  
8 forthcoming and friendly and nice, yes.

9

10 Q. Why was it difficult talking to other hostel kids?

11 A. Because they weren't really available to chat. They  
12 would often go back to the hostel for lunch, and that type  
13 of thing, and I found especially the boys, the boys were  
14 very stiff and shy and just, yes, it was difficult to talk  
15 to them. There was just this - almost like a wall.

16

17 Q. Was there some way in which the hostel students stood  
18 out from the students who didn't board there?

19 A. Yes. They were always in their uniforms, perfectly,  
20 so yes, and they were very well-behaved and very polite.

21

22 Q. Mrs Renton, we will go back now to the note.

23 A. Yes.

24

25 Q. You sent the note to Kylie?

26 A. Yes.

27

28 Q. With your question on it?

29 A. Yes, yes.

30

31 Q. Did you get a response back from Kylie via the note?

32 A. Yes, I did and I cannot recall the exact details but I  
33 can remember that Kylie had written a lot and I can  
34 remember responding back, asking more questions and Kylie  
35 responded back again, and so there were lots of details in  
36 the note and I just remember feeling this is explosive,  
37 what am I going to do with this. That was my feeling.

38

39 Q. I gather then the contents of the note was that the  
40 question you asked Kylie was answered in a certain,  
41 definite way?

42 A. There were details of the abuse. She said "Yes",  
43 "Yes, absolutely", and she gave lots of details in it, yes.

44

45 Q. At the end of the class, who had the note?

46 A. Me.

47

1 Q. You left the class, did you?  
2 A. Well, because I think it was time for recess, it  
3 could've been lunch - it was a break - and I just had this  
4 sense of urgency that something should be done and so I  
5 took it to the front administration area and asked to see  
6 the principal.  
7  
8 Q. Can you remember who the principal was that year?  
9 A. I recall it to be Mr Marriott.  
10  
11 Q. Mr Marriott?  
12 A. Mmm-hmm.  
13  
14 Q. What were your impressions of the principal up until  
15 that point in time?  
16 A. A very good man. He was authoritative, he was a good  
17 person and, yes, seemed like a good principal.  
18  
19 Q. Were you able to see him?  
20 A. Yes, I was. I went into his office. He --  
21  
22 Q. Were you able to see him straight away?  
23 A. Yes.  
24  
25 Q. Tell us then what happened?  
26 A. Then I went into his office, he stayed seated at his  
27 desk and I said, "I think I have something that you should  
28 see.", and he sat there and looked at the note and as he  
29 was looking at it, he asked me who I was writing it with  
30 and I told him, and then he said I could go and so I left  
31 and I didn't hear anything else from him about it.  
32  
33 Q. You told him it was Kylie Haddow?  
34 A. Yes, I did.  
35  
36 Q. Did you have any problems with telling him that it was  
37 Kylie Haddow?  
38 A. From what I can recall, I was a little bit hesitant  
39 but I just did it. I was being hasty. I gave her name.  
40  
41 Q. Had you said anything to Kylie about the fact that you  
42 were going to take this note to the principal?  
43 A. Absolutely not, no.  
44  
45 Q. Was there any reason for that?  
46 A. Because I'm sure she would have been terribly upset.  
47 She was writing a note to me, in confidence, not thinking

1 that anybody else would see it and I betrayed her.  
2  
3 Q. But the reason why you took it further?  
4 A. I did it because I felt that the information in it - I  
5 couldn't just sit back and do nothing. And I felt that it  
6 was for the greater good and I didn't think that Kylie  
7 would get into trouble in the end. I thought that  
8 something would happen, like Mr Marriott might take her  
9 aside and say, "These are very serious allegations. Please  
10 get the boys to come and see me. I'll keep it all in  
11 confidence. They'll be okay". Or I was thinking he might  
12 call a department in Perth, or something, and have them  
13 investigate. I thought that something like that would  
14 happen.  
15  
16 Q. Did he say to you, when you had that meeting in his  
17 office, what he was going to do?  
18 A. No.  
19  
20 Q. Was there any follow-up from Mr Marriott or any other  
21 teacher?  
22 A. None.  
23  
24 Q. To you?  
25 A. None. None. The only aftermath from that would have  
26 been - I'm pretty sure it was that day - at some point in  
27 class where Kylie would normally be in class she was not in  
28 class and then she came into the class looking terribly  
29 upset and angry and gave me a look.  
30  
31 Q. And what sort of look was that?  
32 A. One of dismay and very upset.  
33  
34 Q. Did you speak to her again after that?  
35 A. Kylie and I didn't say a word after that. I assumed  
36 by the way that she looked at me that she must have got  
37 into trouble. I did try - later try, could have been  
38 months later, I'm not sure, but a long time passed and I  
39 tried to catch her eye to try and talk to her, but she just  
40 looked away and was terribly upset. And I felt terribly  
41 ashamed and so I didn't pursue it. I thought, well, I  
42 deserve that.  
43  
44 Q. That was 1986?  
45 A. Yes.  
46  
47 Q. Have you spoken to her since then?

1 A. Yes I have. Since I have given my statement, yes.  
2  
3 Q. When you say given your statement --  
4 A. To this Inquiry, yes.  
5  
6 Q. Finally, Mrs Renton, I just ask you about when you  
7 were at Katanning whether you had heard anything regarding  
8 someone by the name of Maggie Dawkins?  
9 A. I had heard from somebody in the school, I don't know  
10 on how many occasions, but from what I can remember at that  
11 time that Maggie Dawkins tried to help the hostel kids but  
12 was run out of town.  
13  
14 Q. From these conversations was any indication given as  
15 to who had run her out of town?  
16 A. Well, Dennis and people protecting him.  
17  
18 Q. I will just ask you this, Mrs Renton - I think I might  
19 have just said that the last point was final - you  
20 mentioned earlier on in your evidence that you stayed at  
21 the hostel for a brief time?  
22 A. Yes.  
23  
24 Q. Is that right?  
25 A. Yes, that was in 1987 - early 1987.  
26  
27 Q. So you were in year 12?  
28 A. I was in year 11.  
29  
30 Q. Sorry, year 11. My apologies. And this was after you  
31 had had that exchange --  
32 A. I had an argument - well, in the holidays I had an  
33 argument with my mother, and we were having just teenage  
34 words as teenage girls can. My mother suggested that if I  
35 was going to be so horrible and such a teenager that  
36 perhaps I should leave home. And I said, "Yes, I will. I  
37 will go to the hostel". And just impulsively I rang the  
38 hostel.  
39  
40 Q. So you called your mother's bluff?  
41 A. I did. And she won.  
42  
43 Q. So you went to the hostel?  
44 A. Yes. I went to Reidy House.  
45  
46 Q. Did you have any concerns about going to the hostel?  
47 A. Not for my own safety at all, no. None. I had no

1 fears. No.  
2  
3 Q. How long were you there for?  
4 A. I lasted three weeks. They told me that I needed to  
5 change my attitude or leave. I thought about it for a  
6 couple of hours and I went back to the hostel at lunchtime  
7 and went to one of the staff members and told them that I  
8 wasn't going to change my attitude and I was leaving. I  
9 hopped on the bus to Kojonup after school and left all my  
10 stuff behind.  
11  
12 Q. You went back to live with your parents?  
13 A. Yes, I did. I came back, yeah.  
14  
15 MR URQUHART: Thank you, Mrs Renton. That's all the  
16 questions I have, sir, of this witness.  
17  
18 HIS HONOUR: Mr Hammond, do you have anything?  
19  
20 MR HAMMOND: No I don't, sir.  
21  
22 HIS HONOUR: Ms Reynolds?  
23  
24 <CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS REYNOLDS:  
25  
26 MS REYNOLDS: My name is Jodette Reynolds. I appear for Mr  
27 Gerald Marriott. I just have a few questions just in  
28 relation to your time there at Katanning senior high  
29 school.  
30  
31 Q. Now, you said you were there between 1986 and 1987.  
32 Was that for the full school years?  
33 A. Yes.  
34  
35 Q. Did you have more than one principal while you were at  
36 Katanning senior high school?  
37 A. Probably.  
38  
39 Q. You don't recall who they would have been?  
40 A. No. I can only recall Mr Marriott.  
41  
42 Q. Do you know when Mr Marriott left Katanning senior  
43 high school?  
44 A. No. No. I came to the conclusion it was Mr Marriott  
45 from very early on because the incident, as I have thought  
46 about it, and it has always been Mr Marriott's name that  
47 has been in my head. As soon as I gave my statement to the

1 Inquiry, and when that came up, I tracked down my year book  
2 and I looked up the pictures in my year book and I saw  
3 Mr Marriott's face and I thought yes, that was him.  
4

5 Q. So you didn't have a specific recollection that it was  
6 Mr Marriott at that time in 1986 that you went to see, it  
7 was just a process of deduction from the years; is that  
8 correct?  
9 A. It was a process of deduction from the years and see  
10 his face, yes. And I just remember going into his office  
11 and - yeah.  
12

13 Q. So you are clear that it was him that you passed the  
14 note to?  
15 A. Yes, yes.  
16

17 Q. Did you have any other contact with Mr Marriott in  
18 1986 or 1987 when you were at Katanning high school?  
19 A. Yes.  
20

21 Q. Can you tell me what that was in regard to?  
22 A. He suspended me for smoking.  
23

24 Q. Do you recall when that was?  
25 A. No.  
26

27 Q. Do you recall a meeting with Mr Marriott in his office  
28 at the latter end of 1986?  
29 A. No.  
30

31 Q. I'll take you to a specific date. It was 10 November  
32 1986.  
33 A. Yes, right.  
34

35 Q. Do you recall how Mr Marriott would call students to  
36 his office?  
37 A. No.  
38

39 Q. Can I suggest to you that Mr Marriott didn't use the  
40 PA system to call students to the office?  
41 A. I don't know. I have no recollection about that.  
42

43 Q. So you wouldn't recall if someone had come to the  
44 classroom and said, "Diane Pascoe, Mr Marriott requires you  
45 to be seen in his office"?  
46 A. No.  
47

1 Q. Do you ever recall having a conversation with  
2 Mr Marriott in regard to your school work?  
3 A. Not off the top of my head.  
4  
5 Q. Do you recall your mother speaking to you or saying  
6 that she had contact with Mr Marriott in November 1986 in  
7 regard to your school work?  
8 A. I can recall my mother was unhappy with my school work  
9 that year.  
10  
11 Q. But you don't recall actually having a specific  
12 meeting with Mr Marriott in regard to that?  
13 A. No. No.  
14  
15 Q. So you couldn't pinpoint. Would you say November  
16 would be --  
17 A. Well, it could have been, but I don't know. I  
18 couldn't say. I can't recall.  
19  
20 Q. You can't put that into context with when you believe  
21 you saw Mr Marriott with this note concerning the  
22 allegations?  
23 A. No. This is in 1986, and so that would be something  
24 that I would have to give a lot of thought to and think  
25 about. Off the top of my head it's not in my short-term  
26 memory, so no.  
27  
28 MS REYNOLDS: That is all. Thank you.  
29  
30 HIS HONOUR: Any re-examination?  
31  
32 MR URQUHART: No there is not. Thank you, sir.  
33  
34 HIS HONOUR: Thank you, Mrs Renton. That completes your  
35 evidence. You are now free to go. Thank you very much.  
36  
37 <THE WITNESS WITHDREW  
38  
39 HIS HONOUR: Would you like to take a break at this stage?  
40  
41 MR URQUHART: Yes, that might be convenient, thank you,  
42 sir.  
43  
44 HIS HONOUR: We will take a short break.  
45  
46 SHORT ADJOURNMENT  
47

1 HIS HONOUR: Yes, Mr Urquhart?  
2  
3 MR URQUHART: Thank you, sir. The next witness is Kylie  
4 Jane Haddow. Ms Haddow is in the back of the hearing room  
5 there and she will take the oath.  
6  
7 <KYLIE JANE HADDOW, sworn:  
8  
9 <EXAMINATION-IN-CHIEF BY MR URQUHART:  
10  
11 MR URQUHART: Q. Now, your full name is Kylie Jane  
12 Haddow; is that right?  
13 A. Yes, yes.  
14  
15 Q. I apologise for asking you this, Ms Haddow - it will  
16 be relevant for what we are going to be talking about - how  
17 old are you?  
18 A. Forty.  
19  
20 Q. You were born on the 16th of November of 1971?  
21 A. Correct.  
22  
23 Q. You reside in the Perth metropolitan area?  
24 A. Yes.  
25  
26 Q. You are currently on maternity leave, are you?  
27 A. Yes, I am.  
28  
29 Q. Your occupation, when you are not on maternity leave?  
30 A. Primary school teacher.  
31  
32 Q. How long have you been a primary school teacher for?  
33 A. Nine years.  
34  
35 Q. As a child, could you just tell the Inquiry, where  
36 your father lived?  
37 A. We were in Ongerup; on a farm in Ongerup. My parents  
38 managed the farm.  
39  
40 Q. Your mum and dad, yourself?  
41 A. Yes.  
42  
43 Q. Any brothers and sisters?  
44 A. One older sister.  
45  
46 Q. Her name?  
47 A. Jodie.

1  
2 Q. Jodie Haddow back then; is that right?  
3 A. She was Jodie Haddow back then, yes.  
4  
5 Q. It's now Jodie Brown?  
6 A. Jodie Brown, yes.  
7  
8 Q. Now Ongerup, where is the nearest high school to  
9 Ongerup?  
10 A. Actually Gnowangerup, but it is a district high. It  
11 only went to year 10 when we were younger.  
12  
13 Q. If you were to go to the Katanning high school what  
14 sort of drive would that involve?  
15 A. We used to do it by minutes - an hour-and-a-half  
16 drive.  
17  
18 Q. Was there any bus service that operated if kids wanted  
19 to go to the Katanning high school from Ongerup?  
20 A. No. No.  
21  
22 Q. As a result of that did you end up boarding at the  
23 Katanning hostel whilst you attended the Katanning high  
24 school from year 8 through to year 10?  
25 A. Yes, I did.  
26  
27 Q. By my calculations would that be from 1984 to 1986?  
28 A. Yes.  
29  
30 Q. Obviously Katanning high school is not the only option  
31 for you to go to?  
32 A. No, it wasn't.  
33  
34 Q. Do you know why it was that you ended up going to  
35 Katanning rather than another high school?  
36 A. Yes. Fairly sure it was due to the hype that was made  
37 about Katanning hostel, about St Andrews Hostel and the  
38 fact that it was such a well run boarding school that  
39 catered for all the children's needs and that they would be  
40 greatly taken care of. When it came down to the high  
41 schools, there was a lot of speculation going around the  
42 community; at Albany there was drugs and the kids were  
43 always in trouble and the boarding schools weren't so  
44 great, and that Katanning had a good reputation and the  
45 high school had a good reputation as well.  
46  
47 Q. With respect to the reputation of the hostel, was

1 anybody singled out as being responsible for that great  
2 representation?  
3 A. It was very clear to anybody who listened, knew or  
4 told the stories, that Dennis McKenna was the Godsend to  
5 the town of Katanning and the St Andrews Hostel.  
6  
7 Q. So as a result, therefore, you started at Katanning  
8 high school and started at the hostel at year 8?  
9 A. Yes. My parents bought into it, like so many other  
10 parents did. We all went "yay", because we were going with  
11 our friends from primary school to the same place. We felt  
12 like it was a continuance of our primary school, and we  
13 could continue friendships and keep families together and  
14 continue on in our education in a nice environment that our  
15 parents believed was a good one to send us to.  
16  
17 Q. Your older sister Jodie was already there?  
18 A. Yes. She had been for a year.  
19  
20 Q. She had gone there in 1983?  
21 A. Yes.  
22  
23 Q. Can I ask you then some things about what you noticed  
24 there whilst you stayed at the hostel in respect to its  
25 warden Dennis McKenna?  
26 A. Just as warden or just in general, the environment?  
27  
28 Q. Are the two mutually exclusive or do they run  
29 together?  
30 A. I think they run together. To just speak of Dennis  
31 McKenna would also not tell the whole story of how the  
32 staff members that he employed there treated us as well.  
33  
34 Q. We will start then with the environment. What was  
35 discipline like?  
36 A. I, now as an adult, and certainly as a child going  
37 there, I was only 12-years-old, I had only just turned 12  
38 when I went there. I knew what discipline was. My parents  
39 were very good at disciplining us and making sure that we  
40 lived within good healthy boundaries. This was discipline  
41 in such a different way I had never come across. It was  
42 extremely controlling. It was demeaning. It was very  
43 underhanded and you didn't know - this week you could  
44 behave this way and completely be all right and the next  
45 week you had a tonne of bricks come down on you for saying  
46 or doing exactly the same thing. As a child going into  
47 this you had no idea whether you were right or wrong, what

1 you were going to be told off for. You were well and truly  
2 in trouble, victimised, criticised, abused in all sorts of  
3 mental, emotional ways for something that the week before  
4 everyone else did.

5  
6 We were - there was many lies created about yourself.  
7 I certainly suffered many a time where I had to stand there  
8 and defend myself for something I never did or was never  
9 part of or never said. They had ways - both Dennis, his  
10 staff members, his family members who were all staff there,  
11 and certainly the other children, he had control over.  
12 Constantly defending yourself for what should just be  
13 normal childhood behaviour that, okay, this is wrong, this  
14 is right. There was no consistency of what was wrong and  
15 what was right as far as discipline went.

16  
17 Q. Are you able to give some examples of this?

18 A. You know the one half-hour a day that we had that was  
19 free, that the rest of our time was completely controlled  
20 and manipulated down to the last minute that we certainly  
21 were not allowed to be alone, we had half-an-hour a day  
22 between five and 5.30 where we had to get ready for dinner.  
23 It was our time. If we were seen lying around on the bed -  
24 and I know an example where I was sitting there with a  
25 friend and we were just lamenting on how something in the  
26 day sucked, school was bad or someone had said this or  
27 annoyed us, and before dinner had even finished I was  
28 hauled out with the other friend, in front of prefects  
29 being absolutely dressed down for saying terrible things  
30 about the hostel and sitting around wasting time and  
31 bitching. We were just teenagers talking about our day.  
32 There was no consistency in what we were allowed to say and  
33 who we were allowed to be.

34  
35 Q. You mentioned something about staff members --

36 A. Yep.

37  
38 Q. -- being family members. Am I correct to say family  
39 members of Dennis McKenna?

40 A. Of Dennis McKenna, yeah.

41  
42 Q. At the time that you were there can you recall who  
43 those family members were?

44 A. In my time there his brother Wayne and his wife Robin  
45 worked there. They were only there for a small amount of  
46 time when I first got there. His other brother Graham used  
47 to drive the bus, and his wife Christine used to work in

1 the laundry. They also didn't stay a long period of time  
2 after that. During that whole time his other brother Neil  
3 and his wife Wendy were the definite full-time supervisors  
4 of the place; the female and male. They were constantly  
5 there the whole time I was there. And I believe his  
6 younger brother Troy did a small stint there while I was  
7 there. I'm not sure if there's any more family members.  
8 There's quite a lot of them.  
9

10 Q. We are going to clarify that. You are not certain  
11 about Troy?

12 A. Yeah. Towards the end I do know he did some time. My  
13 end was quite messy so I --  
14

15 Q. I just wanted to know those family members that you  
16 are certain about.

17 A. Yes, absolutely.  
18

19 Q. That would be Wayne and Robin, Graham and Christine  
20 and Neil and Wendy?

21 A. Yes.  
22

23 Q. You have told us what Graham and Christine did and  
24 what Neil and Wendy did. Can you recall Wayne and Robin,  
25 what their jobs were there?

26 A. Robin walked around with a really unhappy look on her  
27 face and growled at us all the time. I'm not sure in what  
28 capacity, but she certainly - it was like a female  
29 supervisor intermittently. Wayne used to drive the buses  
30 and he used to do a lot of the male supervising down the  
31 end, and he was seen around a lot.  
32

33 Q. When he left Graham took over his job?

34 A. No. Graham was really only ever the bus driver. He  
35 never really did supervisory, as far as I can recall.  
36

37 Q. Do you know where these family members lived, whether  
38 they stayed on the hostel grounds or not?

39 A. Wayne and Robin stayed in the house, which was the  
40 warden's house, for a period of time. I couldn't tell you  
41 exactly what that period of time was, but they were classed  
42 as "family", so they got the warden's house instead of  
43 Dennis, who was the warden, getting it. And Graham and  
44 Christine had their own place somewhere else, whether it be  
45 in Katanning. I do know they reside in Broomehill, so it  
46 may have even been there.  
47

1 Q. And Neil and Wendy?  
2 A. They lived on the premises in a flat just off the  
3 girls' dormitory.  
4  
5 Q. Did you know where Dennis McKenna's flat was?  
6 A. Yes. Straight across from the office just down from  
7 the boys' dormitory.  
8  
9 Q. The flat that Neil and Wendy had, was that a similar  
10 setup but just at the girls' side?  
11 A. Yes. It was actually slightly bigger than Dennis'.  
12 There was two of them. We kind of figured that made sense.  
13  
14 Q. During your time there, Ms Haddow, did you notice  
15 something regarding Dennis McKenna's relationship with  
16 boys?  
17 A. Yes. Constantly. Pretty much from the minute I got  
18 there.  
19  
20 Q. Can you tell us what you saw?  
21 A. Sure. On numerous occasions, definitely for the  
22 whole time I was there, he was very open in his physical  
23 contact with the boys. He would have mainly junior boys  
24 sitting on his knee, quite openly, when there was all  
25 students around when we would gather around for different  
26 events, just whether it's meals or sit in the office,  
27 passing by, he would have his hands up the boys' shirts, he  
28 would have it up their back rubbing their back. He would  
29 have his hand inappropriately placed on their legs, near  
30 their groin.  
31  
32 Q. When you say, "an inappropriate place on their  
33 legs" --  
34 A. Well, for any man, whether a parent or not, to have  
35 their hand placed high up on the leg near the groin of a  
36 boy, it never felt right. It never looked right. It made  
37 anyone who saw it uncomfortable.  
38  
39 Q. You saw that?  
40 A. All the time.  
41  
42 Q. Whereabouts would you see that particular thing take  
43 place?  
44 A. In the office, which is where people would gather. He  
45 would be sitting there because it was a place where he  
46 could see everyone coming and going. So he would  
47 constantly be there and have a group of his children

1 following him there, or sometimes in the dining room,  
2 sometimes down the cinema, in the rec shed; just various  
3 places where there would be a gathering, or he would have a  
4 small select group of boys with him.

5

6 Q. Would he see you on these occasions when you saw that?

7 A. Yes. He quite openly had other girls or other boys  
8 coming and going around those events. He certainly did  
9 nothing to hide it from us, the students.

10

11 Q. Were there times when you made an observation as to  
12 how the boys' reactions were to this when this happened?

13 A. Yes, I did, which I guess added to my innate sense  
14 that something was wrong and something wasn't - they  
15 weren't okay with it. It was more often than not the look  
16 in their eyes. The boys would either hang their head in  
17 shame and couldn't look at you, or when they did it was  
18 almost a pleading look of "Get me out of here. Stop this".  
19 And I still remember that look.

20

21 Q. Now, you mention that you and, I think, other students  
22 saw this?

23 A. Yes.

24

25 Q. What about adults? Can you recall whether there were  
26 occasions when you saw this that there would also be adults  
27 present?

28 A. The only adults I can recall being around these sorts  
29 of situations were his family members and the office lady.

30

31 HIS HONOUR: Q. Who was the office lady?

32 A. The name "Irene" comes to mind, but I can't remember.  
33 She was an older lady and she was there for a very long  
34 time. She was there for the whole time that I was there.  
35 Sorry, I can't recall her name.

36

37 HIS HONOUR: Thanks. All right.

38

39 MR URQUHART: Q. You mentioned family members. Are you  
40 able to --

41 A. Neil, Wayne, Wendy, Graham. I don't know if I can  
42 recall Robin seeing exactly that situation, but certainly  
43 the others. They would walk in and drop keys off and walk  
44 out of the office, and they'd come in and put some  
45 paperwork, or they'd come and pick up a phone and walk out.  
46 But they would just walk in and out as if it was common  
47 place.

1  
2 Q. Would they say --  
3 A. No.  
4  
5 Q. -- or do anything in your presence?  
6 A. No. Absolutely no reaction. No.  
7  
8 Q. I think you mentioned a moment ago, used a description  
9 to describe those boys who would be with Dennis McKenna -  
10 you said "his family". I might be wrong there, but if I am  
11 wrong --  
12 A. What are you talking - sorry.  
13  
14 Q. The boys that you would see with Dennis McKenna in  
15 these situations?  
16 A. They were hostel boys. They were my fellow boarders.  
17  
18 Q. Were they always the same boys or different boys; can  
19 you recall?  
20 A. I can recall quite a number of faces. I guess in my  
21 three years there they were the same faces, but there was a  
22 number of them. He had a little turn-over, for want of a  
23 better word, of people that would be his favourites at the  
24 time. But for me, over the three years, it was the same  
25 people.  
26  
27 Q. Did you notice anything else that his favourites got,  
28 special treatment, if I could call it that?  
29 A. Yes, I don't think sitting on his knee was special  
30 treatment. Certainly it was commonplace, and I seen it  
31 with my own eyes. I've been invited to some of the - two  
32 of the flat parties - because I wasn't his favourite  
33 person. Over my three years there I saw on many occasions,  
34 heard the results from many occasion, saw these boys  
35 driving off. They would be invited to flat parties in  
36 Dennis' flat after hours. They would be part of pool  
37 parties. They would be part of special movie nights. They  
38 would be part of special trips to Perth. There were  
39 numerous occasions where these boys, who were influenced by  
40 him and part of his inner circle, were being given many  
41 extra special advantages that I guess any of us, as  
42 teenagers, who were away from home and weren't getting the  
43 can of coke from mum, would think was a good thing.  
44  
45 Q. Were you ever invited to a movie night?  
46 A. I did finally. Twice that I remember - that I recall  
47 being invited to the flat, which was on occasion - I know

1 there were girls that were invited also. It would be just  
2 a big get-together in Dennis' flat after hours. It would  
3 be all the food from the canteen that we didn't have to pay  
4 for. There'd be movies that were completely inappropriate  
5 to watch and --

6

7 Q. Can you recall - I am talking about you specifically -  
8 can you recall the movies that you saw on those occasions  
9 that you were invited?

10 A. I absolutely cannot forget the two movies that I have  
11 seen. One was the Rocky Horror Picture Show.

12

13 Q. Can you recall how old you were when you saw that?

14 A. I believe I was in year 8 when I saw that. It turned  
15 my gut. It disgusted me. I couldn't - I did not know what  
16 to do with what I was seeing. I was way too naive and  
17 innocent to even comprehend what I was watching, and I  
18 couldn't watch the thing in entirety.

19

20 The second movie I know I watched in Dennis' presence  
21 in one of these special occasions was the Texas Chainsaw  
22 Massacre. And again I had to get up and leave and not  
23 watch it all. I, to this day, cannot watch horror movies.

24

25 Q. It was a horror movie?

26 A. Yes.

27

28 Q. Again, can you recall what year you were in at school?

29 A. I have tried, given this Inquiry. I am still only  
30 thinking it was somewhere around early year 10, where he  
31 was trying to show me that I could be in favour again.

32

33 Q. It was early year 10. You would have been 14 years  
34 old.

35 A. Yeah, something like that.

36

37 Q. Can you recall the rating of that particular movie?

38 A. I didn't even know they existed. But I'm assuming at  
39 the time they were M or MA or R rated. I just knew this  
40 was not something I'd ever seen before and would ever watch  
41 again.

42

43 Q. Ms Haddow, I would like to ask you whether you recall  
44 a class mate of yours by the name of Diane Pascoe?

45 A. Yes, I do. The name's been stuck in my memory since I  
46 was 14-and-a-half.

47

1 Q. Did you become friends with her?  
2 A. I did. She turned up at school, I believe, halfway  
3 through year 10. She came from Perth. And I was always  
4 one for trying to make friends with new people and people  
5 who were a bit on the outer. And I hit it off with her and  
6 really quite liked her, so we tried to forge a bit of a  
7 friendship, which was very difficult under the auspices of  
8 the hostel and Dennis' reign.  
9  
10 Q. Why was that?  
11 A. Dennis didn't allow anyone to have proper friendships.  
12 He didn't even allow families to function together properly  
13 in the hostel. When I first got there in year 8 I was  
14 incredibly homesick - horrendously homesick. I would sob  
15 my heart out all night and all morning, and Wendy would  
16 come in, Wendy McKenna, and scream and yell at me and tell  
17 me I'm being pathetic and being a sook and get out of bed  
18 and get dressed and go to school. I had no - I would sit  
19 at the table, I couldn't eat, I was so homesick, and Dennis  
20 would have other people laugh at me and make fun of me. I  
21 would walk to school crying, I'd sit through my classes  
22 crying, I'd come back. My sister would try and protect me.  
23 She was a year older than me. She would try and come and  
24 take care of me. He stopped that pretty quick because we  
25 would ring home and we would tell our parents how we were  
26 and how things weren't quite as good as we wanted it to be  
27 or things weren't quite right. The phone was outside his  
28 office so he could hear all the conversations that we had  
29 with our parents and he would try and get us into trouble  
30 for that later or cause a whole lot of grief come down on  
31 us. I spent my three years at the hostel constantly on  
32 kitchen duty, toast duty, bathroom duty as punishment for  
33 not keeping my mouth shut and not pulling my head in. I'm  
34 very good at those things now.  
35  
36 Q. Go on.  
37 A. And I - we used to ring our parents, and my sister  
38 back to me. We would ring our parents and we would tell  
39 mum about things that just weren't quite right. Dennis  
40 would try and ring my mum and tell her a different story.  
41 She would say "No, I'm sorry, I have already spoken to the  
42 girls. That's not what they say at all. That's not how it  
43 is. Please don't do that to my children again" or - he  
44 actually --  
45  
46 Q. Can I stop --  
47 A. Yep.

1  
2 Q. Go on, I'll ask you something in a minute?  
3 A. No, no, he - from that we - my sister and I, I think  
4 single-handedly, managed to get the phone privileges banned  
5 for everyone in the hostel. From one of those situations  
6 he put a rule in that you could only call home once a week  
7 and your parents were only allowed to ring in once a week.  
8 There was no mobiles, there was no Internet, there was  
9 nothing else. He - then he told my sister she was not  
10 allowed to come down to the dorm to take care of me. I was  
11 still incredibly homesick, I was still a mess and knowing  
12 things weren't okay and weren't right and I wanted to yell  
13 and scream and tell people. She was kept away from me. He  
14 did that to many families. She would get in trouble if she  
15 would come down to take care of me.  
16  
17 Q. You said there that you would tell your mum when you  
18 made the phone calls that things were not quite right?  
19 A. Yes.  
20  
21 Q. Did you give examples of what those things were?  
22 A. I was, always will be, a very just person and it was  
23 when I would be accused of something I didn't do and I  
24 would get a duty for something I hadn't done or I knew I  
25 just innocently had a conversation with someone and then I  
26 would be in trouble for it. So we would say "Mum, this is  
27 not right, why" - you know, "Can you ring him and tell him  
28 I didn't do that?" or, you know, all those sorts of things.  
29 That's what we would tell our mum. We didn't ever really  
30 express the sheer depravity that was going on, the horrible  
31 things that were actually happening because we were just  
32 little kids. We couldn't vocalise what we knew was  
33 happening.  
34  
35 Q. I was going to ask you about that. Did you say  
36 anything to your mum about the inappropriate touching that  
37 you --  
38 A. The abuse - inappropriate abuse that I was seeing, no,  
39 no.  
40  
41 Q. And the reason for that?  
42 A. Again we were just the kids. We were all screaming  
43 out and saying "Something is not right". We were all  
44 trying to express to the adults in our world that things  
45 were not okay. It wasn't our job to be the brave ones to  
46 say "This man's doing bad things to our friend". The  
47 adults in our world should have been listening, should have

1           been looking.  
2  
3           Q.    Ms Haddow, I was asking you before that and that's --  
4           A.    Yep, and I know Diane, yes.  
5  
6           Q.    Yes, we were talking about Diane?  
7           A.    That was to do with friendships. We weren't allowed  
8           to have them.  
9  
10          Q.    But you became friends with her, did you?  
11          A.    We tried, we did. We sort of, in a very teenage  
12          14-year-old way, sort of "You know, how are you going?" and  
13          talked about she had come from Perth and she appeared to  
14          have come from a bit of, you know, trouble herself, and I  
15          was always branded by Dennis as a troublemaker and there  
16          was something wrong with me and I was a bad girl and not to  
17          be hung out with by the other kids. So I was sort of  
18          trying to buddy up with someone who might understand me.  
19  
20          Q.    You mentioned there that she came in Year 10?  
21          A.    Yes, that I remember.  
22  
23          Q.    That's 1986. Can you recall the conversation that you  
24          had with --  
25          A.    With Diane?  
26  
27          Q.    -- with Diane regarding this particular matter  
28          concerning Dennis McKenna?  
29          A.    Yes, very clearly. It was --  
30  
31          Q.    First, can you recall when that was, about in Year 10?  
32          A.    It would be in third term. It was in third term of  
33          Year 10. I believe it was towards the end of - sorry,  
34          second term. I keep remembering, we were back in three  
35          terms back then. It was second term, so that's the middle  
36          of the year. It was towards the end of the second term.  
37  
38          Q.    How did this conversation take place?  
39          A.    From my memory, it was an accumulation of short  
40          conversations where Diane would express to me that "I'm  
41          hearing all this weird stuff about over there" and, you  
42          know, "You are obviously unhappy" and I would express to  
43          her some of the things I was unhappy about and the things I  
44          was experiencing and I found I had a bit of an ally in  
45          someone I could talk to, and Diane would go "Well you  
46          know, what is it about all this other stuff I'm hearing"  
47          and I wanted to reach out to someone and I said "It's

1 terrible, he is doing bad things to the boys. He's - you  
2 know, there's stuff happening", and we were having that  
3 kind of general conversation and I do recall our  
4 conversation got cut short because we had to go to another  
5 class or move - the bell went, we had to move on, and being  
6 14-year-old girls, we wanted to continue our conversation,  
7 so as we do, we got into the next class and sat down. I  
8 actually remember Diane sitting behind me and she is going  
9 "What sort of things?" and I'm like "I'll tell you", so I  
10 wrote it, sorry to all the teachers, that I started writing  
11 down a note about - to continue our conversation, and I  
12 wrote a note and in that note I expressed in possibly point  
13 form that actually the things he was doing. The boys were  
14 sitting on his knee, he was rubbing his hands up their  
15 back, he was touching them where he shouldn't be, he was  
16 having them in his flat, the secret parties, he was, you  
17 know, going on secret holidays and trips with these boys  
18 and there is something really bad happening, you know, and  
19 I expressed some detail about the things I had seen and  
20 gave the note to Diane.

21

22 Q. Who ended up having the note at the end of the class?

23 A. Diane did.

24

25 Q. With respect to that note, can you recall something  
26 happening after that?

27 A. Yes, I can. I assumed, because we were having such a  
28 good in-depth about it, saving the world as 14-year-old  
29 girls do, that we would continue this conversation in  
30 another class or at some point and we didn't get to and I  
31 don't recall why, and I - my memory is a bit foggy, given  
32 the - what happened next, it was something I had to shut  
33 out because it was quite traumatic, and I can't remember if  
34 it was exactly the same day in the afternoon or the next  
35 morning but in a very short period of time from when I  
36 handed Diane this note I got called to the front office at  
37 the high school.

38

39 Q. Do you recall how it was that you got called to the  
40 front office?

41 A. Over the PA system, yeah. It's always not good.

42

43 Q. You had been called over the PA system before, had  
44 you?

45 A. Possibly.

46

47 Q. We don't need to go into that?

1 A. No, I don't. I can't remember, yeah.  
2  
3 Q. But this occasion you remember?  
4 A. This occasion, and I actually didn't worry about it  
5 because I didn't relate it to this note between what I  
6 thought friends.  
7  
8 Q. So Diane hadn't said anything to you about what she  
9 had done?  
10 A. No, not at all. We actually hadn't got to speak after  
11 my handing the note over, other than her reading it and  
12 looking at me with a bit of a face of "Oh my God", we  
13 didn't speak about it. So we - I got called to the office  
14 and I kind of, on my way there, thought "No, I haven't done  
15 anything I should be in trouble for" and so I went there  
16 thinking maybe it is about my Year 10, you know, electives,  
17 my - they want to know I have chosen the wrong course or  
18 something so - yep.  
19  
20 Q. Can you recall who the principal was in Year 10?  
21 A. Yes, I can, yes.  
22  
23 Q. Who was it?  
24 A. Mr Marriott.  
25  
26 Q. So --  
27 A. I went to the office and sat out in the chairs where  
28 the receptionist, registrar as they are now, tell you to  
29 sit and I waited for a bit, didn't think much of it, and  
30 then I got called into the office, into Mr Marriott's  
31 office.  
32  
33 Q. Can you recall who was in the office?  
34 A. Yes, Mr Marriott went and sat behind his desk and  
35 Dennis McKenna was sitting in the other chair in the  
36 office.  
37  
38 Q. What happened then?  
39 A. I felt very intimidated instantly because Dennis was  
40 there because it was never good when Dennis was in any  
41 situation. He was always on the attack to me. So I took a  
42 deep breath and I was a little bit cautious and I walked in  
43 and stood there and Mr Marriott asked me to sit down. I  
44 sat down and he passed the note across to me and said "Did  
45 you write this note?". It was then immediately I had a  
46 whole heap of thoughts and feelings because my initial  
47 thought was that Diane had set me up, because that's what

1 happened at the hostel constantly, you would be set up to  
2 get into trouble. I was devastated because I thought she  
3 was someone who could be a good friend and was valuable, so  
4 I felt betrayed. I then thought instantly "Maybe someone -  
5 maybe one of those horrible hostel people had grabbed it  
6 off her", just couldn't believe that it was sitting there  
7 in front of me, the principal and Dennis, and so I quite  
8 consciously took a deep breath and slowly read the note to  
9 give myself some time to collect my thoughts, and I read  
10 it, and being the just honest person that I am, I looked  
11 Mr Marriott in the eye and said "Yes, I did write that".  
12

13 Q. Did Mr Marriott respond to that?

14 A. Yeah, it was quite an interesting meeting after that.  
15 He - I remember - recall Dennis sitting there with a smug  
16 look on his face the whole time. Mr Marriott said - took  
17 breath and said along the lines of "This is slander. You  
18 cannot write this about people. You are - the things you  
19 are saying are terrible" and I just stood there and nod -  
20 sat there and nodded and went "Yep", and what continued  
21 because I didn't give a lot back, what continued was a  
22 whole lot of threats.  
23

24 Q. Can you recall what they were?

25 A. Yes, that my parents will have to be told, "This is  
26 possible grounds of expulsion from school", that the police  
27 will be called, I could be arrested and charged for  
28 slander, that I could be taken down the police station,  
29 that what I've done is terrible, and I should never write  
30 things like that and I should be very careful about what I  
31 say and what I do and what I have done is a terrible thing  
32 to a very nice man who has done nothing.  
33

34 HIS HONOUR: Q. Who said that?

35 A. Mr Marriott.  
36

37 Q. All of those things?

38 A. Yes. I was 14 and I was terrified.  
39

40 MR URQUHART: Q. When he said to you "This is  
41 slander" --

42 A. Yes.  
43

44 Q. -- did you say anything in response to that. Can you  
45 recall?

46 A. I do recall saying "Not if it's true". I may have  
47 been scared but I was not going to be bullied and lied to

1 and I knew the truth.

2

3 Q. Can you recall whether Mr Marriott said all of those  
4 things at once or was it there was an exchange?

5 A. It was kind of a - a bit of a continuation and  
6 certainly he was very gruff and, you know, from my point of  
7 view he was very - he was trying to intimidate. He was  
8 trying to - it was threatening. It was behaviour to try  
9 and change what was happening, I guess, is the only sense,  
10 and he ran out of steam after the threats came out and then  
11 he looked at Dennis and Dennis looked at him, and I  
12 continued to sit there and say not a lot, and he said  
13 "Well, Dennis, it's up to you. This is about you. What do  
14 you want to do about it? This young lady is, you know, in  
15 a lot of trouble here" and Dennis went "Yes, she is and  
16 it's terrible but I guess if she's willing to apologise and  
17 assure that this is not going to happen again and she will  
18 not say these sorts of terrible things about me again we  
19 may be able to let it go this time", and there was a bit of  
20 to and fro from the two of them as to - nowadays you would  
21 take it as a good cop bad cop thing, and Mr Marriott went  
22 "Well, what do you have to say about that?", and given that  
23 this was - it may have only gone on for five minutes, I  
24 don't know, I felt like I had been in there for an hour.  
25 I- you know, my parents had never been notified, they were  
26 not there. I was, you know, Shanghaied by these two  
27 adults, one who should have been protecting me and, you  
28 know, didn't.

29

30 Q. Which one is that?

31 A. Mr Marriott was the principal of the school. He just  
32 had been given some evidence of something not appropriate  
33 happening to children and instead of just asking me about  
34 it, instead of just taking it to the authorities or sitting  
35 on it for a minute, he called the one man it was about in  
36 the office and made me face him.

37

38 Q. So what did you do with respect to this offer for you  
39 to apologise?

40 A. Given that I felt like Diane had betrayed me and  
41 given my two and a half years at the hostel already and the  
42 amount of torment and bullying and victimisation I had  
43 suffered there already, and I had just survived and  
44 survived, I decided I had nowhere to go with this. The man  
45 who probably could have helped me wasn't helping me. I had  
46 nowhere to go. Who else was going to help me if not the  
47 principal of the school? So I just decided my best option

1 was to apologise.  
2  
3 Q. Can you remember what you said?  
4 A. Yes, I do. Because I remember thinking about it  
5 before I said it and I looked Dennis squarely in the eyes  
6 and I said "I am sorry if what I wrote offended you".  
7  
8 Q. Can you recall his reaction to that apology?  
9 A. Yes, he got quite pissed off. He looked over at the  
10 principal and looked and did his - his smug look had gone,  
11 which was nice, and he coughed a little and went "Well, all  
12 right then. Let that be it then" and I got sent out of the  
13 office.  
14  
15 Q. Can you recall if Mr Marriott said anything after you  
16 had made that apology of sorts?  
17 A. No, not that I - it was "Thank you, you are finished  
18 here" kind of, you know, "You may go now" stuff.  
19  
20 Q. Did your principal, Mr Marriott, ever ask you why you  
21 wrote it?  
22 A. No.  
23  
24 Q. Or if it was true?  
25 A. No.  
26  
27 Q. Was there any follow-up after that?  
28 A. Not a word. Never.  
29  
30 Q. Do you remember seeing Diane again after that?  
31 A. Yes, I had to walk back in the class that she was in  
32 after that meeting and I remember walking back in the class  
33 and glancing over at her and I just couldn't fathom why she  
34 had done this to me. I didn't understand if she had or  
35 hadn't and I just had to look away. I was - I was a mess  
36 by this stage. I had to look away and to this day Diane  
37 and I have never spoken again until this.  
38  
39 Q. Until recently?  
40 A. Until Mr Donald Barrett contacted me and said that he  
41 got my number or my information from - and that he had  
42 spoken to someone called Diane Pascoe and do I remember  
43 her, and I went "Yes, I do".  
44  
45 Q. Mr Don Barrett, he's an investigator with the inquiry?  
46 A. Yes, he was an investigator for the inquiry, yep.  
47

1 Q. So when did this all happen?  
2 A. Just a couple of weeks ago. Apparently she had  
3 already made a statement and then that led him back to me  
4 over the same incident.  
5  
6 Q. Ms Haddow, after that meeting that you had with  
7 Mr Marriott with Dennis McKenna present --  
8 A. Yes.  
9  
10 Q. -- can you recall whether life remained the same for  
11 you at the hostel?  
12 A. The same would have been nice even though that was  
13 pretty horrible. It got 10 times worse. I ended up being  
14 expelled from the hostel a few weeks before the end of last  
15 term.  
16  
17 Q. Prior to that - you have mentioned here that this note  
18 exchange with Diane happened in second term --  
19 A. Yes.  
20  
21 Q. -- the middle term -  
22 A. Middle term of the year.  
23  
24 Q -- of what was a three-term school year back then. So  
25 leading up to the time that you got expelled and after that  
26 meeting you had with the principal --  
27 A. Yes.  
28  
29 Q. -- what sort of things were happening to you during  
30 that period of time?  
31 A. I was always moved in the dorm to the place where the  
32 naughtiest child was and I think I had actually earned my  
33 way back down the dorm a little bit until this and now --  
34  
35 Q. So was that a system that was in place?  
36 A. It's just what he did. So we knew within a few weeks  
37 of Year 8 that everyone just got placed, you thought, but  
38 it wasn't. The naughtiest child got put at the very front  
39 of the dorm. So that was good, it was close to the toilet,  
40 it worked for me.  
41  
42 Q. So you were placed there, yes?  
43 A. Yeah, I got moved again to the front of the dorm for  
44 the last term, so I thought "Good", and I - I mean  
45 certainly there was no treats, there was no extra special  
46 activities, there was no extra - I really was under the  
47 regime of having to keep my head down and do absolutely

1 everything by the book. There were instances, Dennis would  
2 run what he called "forums", which in general were  
3 children's meetings, Year 8s, 9s and 10s. He would have us  
4 and then apparently he would have the Year 11 and 12s but I  
5 didn't know about those. So all of the 8, 9s and 10s, so  
6 in effect about 50-odd students would all sit in the dining  
7 room during supper - after study during supper time, and it  
8 was a forum with Dennis sitting there quite happily  
9 orchestrating the whole event where he would allow people  
10 to stand up and talk about something they were unhappy  
11 about, discuss something that they didn't like or they  
12 would like done differently. In essence, a really good  
13 idea for a group of --  
14

15 Q. Yes, I was going to say, isn't this the opportunity?

16 A. Isn't that what I do with my children in the  
17 classroom? Absolutely. In essence a very good idea.  
18 Unfortunately, in this case most of us who knew we had  
19 something to say knew that we couldn't because if you tried  
20 you would be tormented, intimidated and bullied afterwards  
21 to a degree that you wouldn't. It was also known by this  
22 stage - I mean I was in Year 10 by this stage - that you  
23 don't say anything bad about the hostel or that you wanted  
24 anything different because it was Dennis's way or no way.  
25

26 Q. So was this forum ever conducted by someone presiding  
27 over it other than Dennis McKenna?

28 A. No, no adult. He would actually let some of his more  
29 favourable students run it, so the ones that were - been  
30 more manipulated by him, I guess, in a sense. On one of  
31 these occasions I had actually - seems minor now but, given  
32 everything on top of it, I had been and got orthotics in my  
33 shoes for a flat foot and my mum had spent a lot of money  
34 and got - and I had to wear special shoes, I could not wear  
35 the hostel-designated uniform shoes, and she got a --  
36

37 Q. Sorry, they were a brand of shoes that were --

38 A. We had to wear exactly the same sort of shoe and  
39 exactly the same sort of skirts and shirt and tie and  
40 jacket.  
41

42 Q. But shoes, not just the same colour but -

43 A. Pretty much the same - we were told where to buy them  
44 from and which ones. So if yours were even slightly not  
45 looking like the other ones there would be comments and you  
46 would be in trouble or your parents would be told to buy  
47 new ones. It wasn't worth the grief, and my mum had got a

1 letter from the podiatrist to say that I had to wear these  
2 different shoes for these things to work. She went to  
3 Dennis, she gave him the letter, she said "I don't want  
4 anything coming back on Kylie about this because we need to  
5 do this for her ankles", "Yep, no worries". At one of  
6 these forums, after the letter incident, one of these  
7 forums, one of his boys, and I remember the boy clearly but  
8 he was certainly one who had been manipulated enough that  
9 he would do whatever Dennis asked whenever Dennis asked,  
10 including bullying other people, and he stood up and he  
11 said "I want to know why Kylie is allowed to wear different  
12 shoes and no-one else is" and Dennis sat smugly beside him  
13 the whole time. This turned into five or more of them  
14 standing up and having a go at me for this and why do I  
15 think I'm so special. I was stood up in front of these 50  
16 students and made to answer for this. I was just 14 years  
17 old and doing what my mother had told me to do for my best  
18 health interests and Dennis happily let these other  
19 children ridicule me, bully me and intimidate me to the  
20 point where I was in tears defending my right to wear my  
21 orthotics. That was just one of the many things Dennis  
22 used to do.

23

24 Q. You mentioned that you got expelled --

25 A. I did.

26

27 Q. -- a few weeks before --

28 A. The end of the year.

29

30 Q. -- the end of third term or the end of the year?

31 A. Yes.

32

33 HIS HONOUR: Q. Is that expelled from the hostel?

34 A. From the hostel, yes

35

36 MR URQUHART: Q. So not from the school?

37 A. No. And by the way, my parents were never told about  
38 the letter. The school never contacted them.

39

40 Q. I will just clarify. So when you say "the letter"  
41 then, you mentioned this incident with the forum happened  
42 after the letter?

43 A. Yes.

44

45 Q. You are referring to the note, are you?

46 A. The note, sorry. The note at the school, yes. The  
47 note at the school, sorry. Yes, there was many, many

1 little incidents of me just having to keep my head very,  
2 very low and he had managed to strip most of my self-worth  
3 in the time I was there and towards the end of the year we  
4 had gone home on a closed weekend and we all caught the bus  
5 for the towns in one direction, we would catch the bus. We  
6 were the Jerramungup bus and Ongerup was on the way, and on  
7 the Sunday night coming back on the bus we - I was sitting  
8 next to another Ongerup boy having a good old time,  
9 everyone is talking and laughing on our way back to the  
10 hostel. Another girl from Jerramungup stood up and walked  
11 past us. Now, she walked past and she had her pants and  
12 they were stuck up her bottom a bit and I went - I won't  
13 say her name but I said, you know, "Such and such, your  
14 shorts are up your bum, better pull them out" and she went  
15 "Yeah, ta" and walked off and that was it, we continued our  
16 conversation, everyone else laughed. Got back to the  
17 hostel that evening, everyone unpacked, had dinner,  
18 everyone was getting ready for bed and I got called down to  
19 the office at the hostel and I walked in there and there is  
20 Dennis and the other boy from Ongerup and this  
21 girl and Dennis started on at me. He actually was - he was  
22 raising his voice and he was always quite abusive about us  
23 and called us things like "tarts". Back then the words  
24 were "scraggs" and "sluts" and things".

25

26 Q. To your face?

27 A. Yeah, inadvertently, to our face or around us about  
28 us, he would go "You Ongerup tarts". It would quite a  
29 general, us Ongerup girls apparently. So he went "I've had  
30 enough of you girls. What's this about you upsetting this  
31 girl" and I was dumbfounded. I didn't even know why I was  
32 there again. I went "Why?", "You've had a go at her. You  
33 pick on her and you make her feel bad because her parents  
34 have to make - her mother has to make her clothes and they  
35 are poor and you are picking on her. You said this  
36 horrible thing to her on the bus", and I went "I'm wearing  
37 clothes my mother made me. We are not very rich either. I  
38 didn't, I was actually trying to help her out so she didn't  
39 walk down the bus looking silly". Anyway, so I did stand  
40 up back to him and he started yelling. He went "No, you're  
41 not. You're a mean, nasty little good for nothing Ongerup  
42 tart" and started carrying on at me and yelling and I just  
43 sat there dumbfounded and I had had enough of this man and  
44 he turned around and he started yelling at the boy next to  
45 me, and --

46

47 Q. He was the boy that was sitting next to you on the

1 bus?  
2 A. Yes, and he said "And you, you're no better. What the  
3 hell are you doing hanging out with these stupid tarts and  
4 who do you think you are" and I recall very clearly the way  
5 he yelled at this boy, the way he spoke to him, he just  
6 demeaned him and he was nasty, he was - Dennis was really  
7 evil in the way he was speaking to this boy and I don't  
8 know why but I remember standing up and standing in front  
9 of this boy and looking Dennis in the eye and saying "Don't  
10 yell at us, do not yell at us, you do not need to raise  
11 your voice. You can talk to us nicely or don't speak to us  
12 at all". So for some reason I needed to protect this boy.  
13 Didn't go down very well. Dennis completely lost it. He -  
14 he absolutely revoltingly screamed "Get out of my office  
15 you little tramp, get out of here. I have had enough of  
16 you. This is the end of you" and he was abusive. "Get out  
17 there and I don't want to see your face or see anything to  
18 do with you again" and I was terrified, and I ran up the  
19 stairs and ran up to the dorm and by the next day I went to  
20 school, because that was night-time, everyone was in bed.  
21 By the time I got back from school my mum was there to pick  
22 me up because I had been suspended because I had been  
23 insubordinate. They were the words. I had been  
24 insubordinate to Dennis and I had been suspended.

25  
26 Q. Do you know how long you had been suspended for?

27 A. Three days. By the second day at home in Ongerup we  
28 had a letter saying I had been expelled.

29  
30 Q. Did you see that letter?

31 A. I remember seeing it because my mum was furious.

32  
33 Q. Did you see who had written that letter?

34 A. As far as I recall, it was from Dennis. I don't  
35 recall any details, if it was from board members on behalf  
36 of or anything like that. I do know it was, according to  
37 Dennis - it was from Dennis and I had been expelled.

38  
39 Q. For what?

40 A. For --

41  
42 Q. Can you recall?

43 A. My inappropriate - from what I can remember, it was my  
44 inappropriate behaviour and my unsuitability for hostel  
45 life. My parents had a meeting, they called a meeting with  
46 the board members of the hostel and I remember when they  
47 went up to the hostel to see them they came home completely

1 distressed because they weren't heard, they were told "This  
2 is the way it is and your child has misbehaved". My mother  
3 clearly stated to them that there were no warnings, there  
4 was no line of, you know, corrective behaviour or anything  
5 like that and Dennis said "Yes, there has been" and mum  
6 said "No, there hasn't" and the board said "Too bad".  
7 and there was just nowhere for my parents to turn.  
8 I know my mother wrote a letter to the Country Hostels  
9 Authority requesting information as to why I had been  
10 expelled. She never got an answer.

11  
12 Q. Are these things that your mum has told you about the  
13 outcome of the meeting with the board?

14 A. It is things my mum has told me, yeah. It is things  
15 my mum's told me. My sister. You know, my dad's passed  
16 away now but he said he recalls all that and if you look  
17 into some of the minute records kept from the Country  
18 Hostels Authority you will see that there is a request from  
19 the Hostels Authority to Dennis asking for an explanation  
20 on the expulsion of Kylie Jane Haddow and there was never  
21 any answer to it.

22  
23 Q. How do you know that?

24 A. Because we did some research into some of the - before  
25 the Inquiry was called we knew there was a much bigger  
26 story to be told.

27  
28 Q. Finally, Ms Haddow, you remained at the school then  
29 for years 11 and 12?

30 A. We private boarded in town - for the rest of the year  
31 and then private boarded the following year. I didn't  
32 finish year 12, I was way too traumatised. I went from  
33 being a very, very bright, capable student in year 7 - A's  
34 and everything - to pretty much failing all of my school  
35 because I had no self-worth. I was in survival mode every  
36 day of my life in high school.

37  
38 MR URQUHART: Thank you, Ms Haddow. They are the  
39 questions I have, sir, for this witness.

40  
41 HIS HONOUR: Mr Hammond?

42  
43 MR HAMMOND: No, thank you.

44  
45 HIS HONOUR: Ms Reynolds.

46  
47 <CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS REYNOLDS:

1  
2 MS REYNOLDS: Q. Ms Haddow, were you sitting in the back  
3 of the court when I was questioning?  
4 A. No, I wasn't. I was running late.  
5  
6 Q. No problems. You stated that you were a student  
7 between the years 1984 and 1986; is that correct?  
8 A. Yes.  
9  
10 Q. I just want to clarify the last questioning that my  
11 learned friend was asking you about. In 1987, which would  
12 have been year 11, is that correct?  
13 A. No, I was in year - in '87 when I was in year 11. '86  
14 was my last year at the hostel, I was in year 10 but  
15 I private boarded year 11.  
16  
17 Q. In 1987 were you still attending Katanning senior high  
18 school?  
19 A. Yes.  
20  
21 Q. When did you finish up with Katanning senior high  
22 school?  
23 A. Probably the end of year 11 but, yes, officially the  
24 end of year 11 if you don't count my wagging days.  
25  
26 Q. Do you recall that there were a number of principals  
27 during your time at Katanning senior high school?  
28 A. Not a number but I believe there was at least two.  
29 I don't recall a big turnover.  
30  
31 Q. Do you remember when Mr Marriott started being  
32 principal at Katanning senior high school?  
33 A. No.  
34  
35 Q. Had he left Katanning senior high school by the time  
36 you had finished there?  
37 A. I've got to be honest with you, I have no idea.  
38 I stayed as far away from the man as I possibly could.  
39  
40 Q. During your time at the school was the PA system often  
41 used to call students to the office?  
42 A. Yes.  
43  
44 Q. Was that during your whole time at Katanning senior  
45 high school?  
46 A. Yes, to the best of my knowledge. Yes, it was a way  
47 of getting people around.

1  
2 Q. Can I suggest to you that the time Mr Marriott was  
3 principal at school, which was - I'll let you know - the  
4 beginning of 1985 and he left Katanning high school at the  
5 end of 1986. Can I suggest to you that during that time,  
6 when he required a student to be present at his office he  
7 used what we could call rostered runners. He sent someone  
8 out to go and fetch the students to come back to the  
9 office?  
10 A. If you say so.  
11  
12 Q. So that is not your recollection of how you were  
13 called to his --  
14 A. I don't recall that.  
15  
16 Q. Can I suggest to you that there was never a meeting  
17 between Mr Marriott, Mr McKenna and yourself?  
18 A. No, you can't. I was there.  
19  
20 Q. It wasn't somebody else that you spoke to?  
21 A. No, it wasn't.  
22  
23 Q. It wasn't a deputy principal?  
24 A. No.  
25  
26 Q. A headmaster?  
27 A. There was a principal --  
28  
29 Q. Form master?  
30 A. No. It was in the principal's office. I can see the  
31 office, I can point to you - I could walk you there if  
32 you'd like to come.  
33  
34 Q. So you're clear in your mind that --  
35 A. Yes.  
36  
37 Q. -- it was Mr Marriott that you spoke to?  
38 A. Yes. It was the principal of the school.  
39  
40 Q. You were giving evidence about you being suspended  
41 from the hostel, which led to the expulsion from the  
42 hostel?  
43 A. Yes.  
44  
45 Q. But you gave evidence that you were never actually  
46 suspended from school?  
47 A. No.

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Q. Or expelled from school?

A. No.

Q. Can I suggest to you that that suspension took place around the end of October 1986?

A. Very possibly, yes; the hostel one, yes.

Q. Can I take you back to the time that you recall your meeting with Dennis McKenna and Mr Marriott. What time period between that suspension and the previous meeting?

A. Well, I'm saying it was somewhere towards the end of second term and then the suspension happened middle to the end of third term.

Q. So you gave evidence that you believed it was at the middle of the year, the second term?

A. Yes, towards the end of the second term.

Q. Do you recall what month that may have been?

A. No, I don't.

MS REYNOLDS: That's all the questions, thank you.

HIS HONOUR: No questions from any other counsel?

MR JENKIN: No, thank you, sir.

HIS HONOUR: Very well. Thank you very much, Ms Haddow. That completes your evidence, you're free to go.

THE WITNESS: Am I able to say something, just (indistinct)?

HIS HONOUR: Yes, you may.

THE WITNESS: Thank you. I would like to add something and in all fairness to everyone who can't be here and speak - and I'm certainly not going to mention anyone's names at all - but for every one of us who have got to stand here and give evidence in this Inquiry, there are hundreds more who are not able to. They'd have so much to tell and it's really important but what they've got to say doesn't come under the parameters of the Inquiry, so it's not relevant and not needed.

To all of those I actually want to say I want to hear

1 their story and I think it's really important and they do  
2 matter, and they care very deeply for what happened to  
3 everybody and how it affected their lives and for the lives  
4 of all those people we lost, they matter. Because of this  
5 one man, Dennis McKenna - Mr Blaxell - and his family and  
6 his supporters and all of those adults who at one time or  
7 other made a choice to allow it to continue: with due  
8 respect to all of you and all the men and women who are  
9 working really hard at the Inquiry, who are working really  
10 tirelessly - absolutely - to fulfil the obligations under  
11 the terms, I do believe you care very greatly about what  
12 happened to us and you feel the enormity of the emotions  
13 and the destruction of what's happened but unfortunately  
14 the Inquiry is working within the law and working within  
15 constraints of the law. The law does not deal with emotion  
16 or justice as we morally see it. It only deals with the  
17 law. Law disregards justice as we as human beings wish to  
18 seek or the actual recognition, repent and repair of the  
19 massive emotional, psychological and physical damage done  
20 to so many young lives.

21  
22 I would like it to be made very clear we were  
23 children. We were sent to a boarding school for isolated  
24 children. The "hostel", as it was called, was set up by  
25 the government as a cheaper alternative to the private  
26 schools in Perth. We were not delinquents or troubled  
27 youth, we were all just kids with our whole life ahead of  
28 us and so much potential. It was the government's  
29 undertaking to provide a safe place for us. The government  
30 alone allowed Dennis McKenna to run a cult-like situation  
31 for 15 years. So many times on so many bases there was  
32 cause for concern or opportunities for the government body  
33 in charge - Country Hostels Authority - to remove him from  
34 his unskilled employment, his employment of all his  
35 unskilled family members, to the misappropriation of funds  
36 over the years that were documented through the Authority -  
37 our parents' money, that is - to the constant suspensions,  
38 expulsions of students with no procedures followed and no  
39 explanation. It's my understanding that the people who ran  
40 the Hostels Authority remained in their positions for the  
41 entirety of Dennis' reign with only a couple of staff  
42 changes, therefore they could not have possibly missed  
43 these discrepancies. In fact, we have had these authority  
44 figures, along with high-profile politicians, paraded in  
45 our lives at the hostel on many occasions.

46  
47 It was a government who allowed for many years for

1 children to live in an environment where all our liberties  
2 were taken from us. Many children - girls and boys -  
3 suffered sexual abuse and hundreds also suffered bullying  
4 at its worst, torment, marginalisation, victimisation and  
5 we were belittled, vilified and treated as worthless human  
6 beings.

7  
8 Because of this disgusting and disgraceful treatment  
9 of hundreds of innocent children the ripple effect it has  
10 on families and communities is unquantifiable. Siblings  
11 haven't spoken to each other for decades. Parents are  
12 dissociated from their children. Whole communities hold  
13 beliefs about children - who are now adults - and their  
14 families that are completely fabricated by Dennis McKenna  
15 and his cohorts. Us as children now - we're adults - we  
16 have our own cause and effect of broken marriages, lost  
17 jobs, inability to function within authorities. Our  
18 children suffer the scars. There are many with addictions  
19 and ongoing psychological issues. Parents who paid for us  
20 to be there are now in shock and distress at learning the  
21 enormity of it all and there are those of us who have taken  
22 our lives.

23  
24 I say to you all again - your Honour and all your  
25 learned colleagues who are here to help us - I understand  
26 you are fulfilling the Inquiry's obligations but will it  
27 ever fulfil what actually happened? It's disturbing that  
28 as victims, in the complete breakdown of all authority of  
29 duty of care during his reign, that these people are still  
30 getting protected; that their needs and consequences of  
31 naming them also matters. Simply by the action of  
32 suppressing their names you actually take us back to a time  
33 when that happened to us all the time: when Dennis McKenna  
34 used the same sort of actions to manipulate us, to control  
35 us. It was these secret, hidden things that aimed to  
36 protect him and not us.

37  
38 I ask you, with respect, your Honour, who are you  
39 protecting? Because if it's these adults' families and  
40 their children, who is protecting us and our families and  
41 our children? Who is out there now? Because we are all  
42 still suffering this. We have been for decades.

43  
44 Dennis McKenna got away with what he did for so long  
45 through the support, inaction and choices of doctors,  
46 dentists, principals, teachers, police, politicians, shire  
47 councillors, Country Hostels Authority staff, staff members

1 at the hostel and yes, even some parents. I can assure you  
2 not all of Katanning thought he was wonderful and held in  
3 regard. There are some very decent people in Katanning who  
4 could not stand him but there was enough of those in  
5 authority to protect him and cover up for this monster and  
6 all he has done.

7  
8 To all of you adults who made a choice to protect him  
9 and believe him, it is because of you that man caused so  
10 much destruction and shame on you. And to all of you out  
11 there who are his victims: I am so very sorry that it was  
12 allowed to happen to you and I am so sorry that people  
13 aren't hearing you and you do matter and you are important  
14 and worthwhile to us. Thank you, your Honour.

15  
16 HIS HONOUR: That was very powerfully spoken and some of  
17 the matters you have mentioned are the very matters on  
18 Inquiry and I have to keep an open mind but I want you to  
19 know --

20  
21 THE WITNESS: I understand that, your Honour.

22  
23 HIS HONOUR: I want you to know that I've not only  
24 listened to you but I've heard you.

25  
26 THE WITNESS: Thank you, I understand that.

27  
28 HIS HONOUR: Thank you.

29  
30 <THE WITNESS WITHDREW

31  
32 MR URQUHART: Your Honour, would we be able to take a  
33 short five minute break now before I call the next witness?

34  
35 HIS HONOUR: Yes.

36  
37 MR URQUHART: I just need to mention something to her  
38 regarding the progress of how she is going to give her  
39 evidence.

40  
41 HIS HONOUR: Very well. I will adjourn for a short time.

42  
43 SHORT ADJOURNMENT

44  
45 HIS HONOUR: Yes, Mr Urquhart.

46  
47 MR URQUHART: I thank you for that short break. I now

1 call Jodie Ann Brown. Mrs Brown is in the back of the  
2 hearing room and Mrs Brown will take the oath.  
3  
4 <JODIE ANN BROWN, sworn:  
5  
6 <EXAMINATION-IN-CHIEF BY MR URQUHART:  
7  
8 MR URQUHART: Q. Mrs Brown, your full name is Jodie Ann  
9 Brown?  
10 A. Yes.  
11  
12 Q. Again I apologise for this but we need to know your  
13 age now. Are you 42 years old?  
14 A. I am.  
15  
16 Q. Were you born on 28 February of 1970?  
17 A. Yes.  
18  
19 Q. You have two children?  
20 A. I do.  
21  
22 Q. And you are currently a part-time swimming teacher  
23 with the Department of Education?  
24 A. I am, yes.  
25  
26 Q. You reside in the Perth metropolitan area?  
27 A. I do.  
28  
29 Q. You are the older sister of Kylie Haddow, who gave  
30 evidence just before the break there?  
31 A. I am.  
32  
33 Q. We have already heard from your sister that your  
34 parents lived in Ongerup, which is some considerable drive  
35 to Katanning?  
36 A. It is, yes.  
37  
38 Q. We have also heard from your sister that you too  
39 stayed at the Katanning hostel whilst attending the  
40 Katanning high school?  
41 A. I did, yes.  
42  
43 Q. Can you just tell us what years they were?  
44 A. I was at the hostel in 1983, 1984, 1985 and 1986. At  
45 the end of 1986 I asked mum and dad not to send me back and  
46 we found a place to privately board in town and I continued  
47 my education in 1987 at Katanning senior high school.

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Q. As of 1987 you were in year 12?

A. Yes.

Q. So you completed years 8, 9, 10 and 11 at the school whilst boarding at the hostel?

A. I did, yes.

Q. Is it the case that you too share your sister's views about the fact that the Katanning hostel was highly recommended and had a great reputation that --

A. The Katanning hostel, yes, it was highly recommended, had a wonderful reputation. They did a lot of community things, they presented well in their sports. The children did well in their academic studies, a high percentage of them went onto year 11 and 12 because in those days you could drop out in year 10. So it was the best place to be.

Q. If I could ask you, please, whether you yourself, whilst you were at the hostel, observed any situations regarding children and Dennis McKenna that drew your attention?

A. That's a very broad heading.

Q. Yes.

A. There were numerous occasions during my four years at the hostel that I saw Dennis inappropriately dealing with boys and there were numerous occasions while I was at the hostel where he would bully, victimise and discriminate against individuals that I had no reason why he was doing it but he would do it in a public forum.

Q. With respect to what you saw regarding his contact with boys, if we just stay with that for the moment. Can you recall what you saw there?

A. What I saw there in year 8 and probably didn't take a lot of notice of was there were - the year 8 and 9 boys would be hanging off Dennis, sitting on his - some would be sitting on his knees. The man very rarely went anywhere without, you know, a group of people satelliting around him. He very rarely went anywhere by himself.

Q. Is that within the hostel grounds or --

A. Pretty much - yes, within the hostel grounds for sure and if he was going - if we were going out or we were doing something outside of the hostel he would want a group of people around him. He would very rarely --

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Q. When you say "group of people" you're talking --

A. Group of children around him, yes.

Q. Boys and girls; boys or girls?

A. If we were outside the hostel it would be boys and girls, depending on - of course if he went to sport, went to football, it would just be the football boys.

Q. Yes.

A. But if we were doing our community things - if we were planting trees for desalination, if we were picking up rubbish there would be - we'd all be dropped off along the road, but there would be a group of people left that would be around Dennis.

Q. In light of what you observed regarding that conduct, in particular towards boys, you described as --

A. In year 8, like I said, in year 8 I didn't actually notice anything too out of the ordinary. I thought it was very - this is where it all starts - I thought it was very friendly, very open the way that he had the year 8 boys sitting close to him, maybe sitting on his knee; "isn't this like a family environment. Isn't this like home". You know, I was 12, 13. It was a nice friendly atmosphere.

By the time I started in year 9 I was noticing changes and I was reacting differently to the way his interaction with the boys started. I guess flags went up for me because I started to feel uncomfortable when he was doing the things he was doing with the boys. When there were boys sitting on his knees I started to notice that the boy didn't look so relaxed. The boy didn't look actually that comfortable. The boy didn't look like he wanted to be there, because I had got to know the boy over 12, 18 months, two years.

When he would walk into the dining room you could see particular boys cringe. You could see particular boys physically cringe and put themselves out of harm's way. You would go, "That's a bit strange. He was flavour of the month last week, why is he doing that?"

Dennis had, as you've heard multiple times before, he would come up and he would grab the boys from over their shoulders and he would start massaging their shoulders which is, I guess, seen as a relatively in-evasive touch,

1 but then the hands would go down the front of the shirt.  
2 So while he - not necessarily in the shirt, but down the  
3 front of the person's body. While he is doing that the boy  
4 is facing you. You are looking full-on at the child that  
5 he is doing this to. You are looking at Dennis himself.  
6 You are looking at the smug look on his face and you are  
7 looking at the boy. You are not seeing accepting - what  
8 you are seeing in the boys' faces started to make me think  
9 that something was not right, started to make me think that  
10 something was happening that these children weren't  
11 comfortable with, and I was not comfortable to be around  
12 him in any situation where he was around boys.

13  
14 Q. Did you discuss this with anyone; first with anyone at  
15 the hostel who might be hostel staff, apart from Dennis  
16 McKenna?

17 A. No. I didn't discuss it with anyone at the hostel.  
18 There was nobody on staff at the hostel that you could  
19 trust.

20  
21 Q. Why do you say that?

22 A. Because they were all family members. They were  
23 either family members or past students. The time I was  
24 there - the four years I was there Robin McKenna and Wendy  
25 McKenna were the main - Robin was there for probably a year  
26 and a half; Wendy was there for the whole time as a  
27 permanent staff member, and we had other staff members that  
28 floated in and out. We had two ex-students come back to be  
29 female supervisors. We had --

30  
31 Q. Why couldn't you trust them?

32 A. They came back when I was in year 10. My feeling is  
33 if you came back to the hostel voluntarily you either  
34 agreed with Dennis or you had no idea what was happening.  
35 So if you agreed with Dennis why would I trust you? Why  
36 would I even trust you? Why would I even try to convince  
37 you that he wasn't this great big shiny show that we all  
38 got to see.

39  
40 Q. With respect to your parents, did you ever tell your  
41 parents specifically about what you had seen that you now  
42 regarded as inappropriate touching by Dennis McKenna?

43 A. I did. Mum was probably a little bit head in the sand  
44 about it. Dad was aware that things was happening. Not  
45 "aware that things was happening". Dad was aware that  
46 Dennis was a bit of a loose cannon and he didn't trust him.  
47 He was very glad that we were girls and we weren't boys.

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My now husband was at the hostel at the same time. My family's known him since he was 10 years old, and basically from my husband's second year onwards my father would ask him leading questions to make sure he was out of harm's way.

Q. But aside from that did your parents do anything else?

A. No.

Q. Did you ask them to do anything else?

A. No, I didn't ask them to do anything. We were all working on gut feelings, and if you weren't there and you didn't see the behaviour you had no cold hard evidence. As it will come out later, we still didn't have any cold hard evidence. We just had very distinct gut feelings and very distinct reactions to, you know, boys' reactions and the ways that boys had changed since we'd been there.

Q. Can I ask you whether you approached anyone, other than your parents, with respect to what these gut feelings might have been?

A. In year 11 --

Q. All right, so in year 11, so 1986.

A. In 1986 a girlfriend from the hostel and myself became brave enough and decided something needed to be done. We approached some teachers at school.

Q. Who was that girlfriend - surname?

A. That girlfriend was Rhonda Goode.

Q. Can you recall those teachers that you approached or decided to approach?

A. I can. It was a Mr Bourke, a Mr Jones and a Mr Lockhart.

Q. Firstly, Mr Bourke, was he a teacher of yours?

A. He was my maths teacher.

Q. And Mr Jones?

A. Was my economics teacher.

Q. Mr Lockhart?

A. Was the phys ed teacher and our year coordinator. He had been our year coordinator in year 8, year 9, year 10, year 11, so he knew the group of kids quite well.

1  
2 Q. I suppose as students you all held teachers in  
3 different degrees of regard?  
4 A. Well, we did - yeah, we did hold teachers in different  
5 degrees of regard.  
6  
7 Q. What about these three?  
8 A. These three teachers were - the phys ed teacher we -  
9 we chose the phys ed teacher because he was our year  
10 coordinator. He had been our year coordinator for year 8,  
11 year 9, year 10 and year 11. Some of the boys we had  
12 concerns about he knew and he knew well. We were hoping  
13 for a bit of - yeah. My maths teacher I respected and I  
14 trusted and I - yeah, I respect and trusted my maths  
15 teacher, and I thought he would be someone that I could  
16 trust and put my trust into. The economics teacher was a  
17 teacher to both of us. We were both in his economics  
18 class. He was relatively new to the class and was a  
19 relatively young teacher and was quite - "radical" is not  
20 the word - but he was quite open. He was quite new. It  
21 was a breath of fresh air, and I know I figured he hasn't  
22 been sucked in by Dennis' hype yet. He hasn't been sucked  
23 in. He hasn't been in Katanning long enough to be sucked  
24 in by the "Dennis show", by the "Dennis hype". So we had  
25 some chance of him hearing us impartially.  
26  
27 Q. It is year 11, it is 1986?  
28 A. Yep.  
29  
30 Q. Can you recall then where it was - firstly, I will ask  
31 you this: is it the case that you met these teachers  
32 individually or collectively? How did it work, the first  
33 time?  
34 A. The first time - the first time we met with the three  
35 of them.  
36  
37 HIS HONOUR: Q. With who, sorry?  
38 A. With the three teachers, with --  
39  
40 Q. With all three?  
41 A. Yep. I'm a hundred percent that a Mr Lockhart and a  
42 Mr Bourke was there. I'm not a hundred percent that  
43 Mr Jones was there.  
44  
45 Q. Are you able to say how that came about, how they came  
46 to be together and that sort of thing?  
47 A. We would have asked for it. We would have requested

1 it. They were also a group of teachers that hung out a  
2 little bit together. And it was in the phys ed office at  
3 school.

4  
5 MR URQUHART: Q. Mr Lockhart, Mr Bourke - you're not  
6 certain about Mr Jones --

7 A. Yeah.

8  
9 Q. -- and yourself and?

10 A. Rhonda Goode.

11  
12 Q. Can you recall where the phys ed office was?

13 A. The phys ed office at that time was in - it was in the  
14 school - was in a hall way in the centre quadrangle of the  
15 school. The school was set up in big squares and it was in  
16 the central run of buildings. It was a small phys ed  
17 office, a very small phys ed office at that stage. By the  
18 time I left school we had a brand new building and they had  
19 phys ed offices in the gymnasium.

20  
21 Q. On this particular occasion can you recall what was  
22 said?

23 A. I can't recall word-by-word what was said. We have  
24 got --

25  
26 Q. Can you recall who spoke out of you and Rhonda?

27 A. Knowing both of us, we probably spoke over the top of  
28 each other. Knowing both of us we probably did that. We  
29 said that we were very concerned that Dennis was sexually  
30 interfering with boys at the hostel and that something  
31 needed to be done and, "What do we do?" "Where do we go?"  
32 "Can you help us?"

33  
34 Q. Can you recall whether there was a response to that?

35 A. I can recall them not being surprised at our  
36 allegations. I can recall them not being shocked at our  
37 allegations. They didn't shut us up. They didn't say, you  
38 know, "You're being stupid. Go home". I can't say who  
39 said it, but they went, "We know something is happening but  
40 we" - yeah - "we don't know what to do", or "yeah, we know  
41 something is happening but we need proof".

42  
43 Q. Did they say anything further about what that proof  
44 would require?

45 A. They did, because we were - I was a very indignant  
46 young lady at that stage. I went, "What sort of proof do  
47 you want?" Like, "You've got to be joking! What proof do

1 you want?" They said, "Until the boys come to us and tell  
2 us that something is happening we can't do anything."  
3

4 I can remember being gobsmacked by that, and I can  
5 remember saying, "You want so and so to come up to you and  
6 put their hand up and say 'this man has been interfering  
7 with me'?" I still can't believe that that was the depth  
8 of evidence that they needed before they could do anything.  
9

10 HIS HONOUR: Q. Just before you go on, when they said,  
11 until the boys come to us" et cetera, they couldn't do  
12 anything, who was saying this? All of them or one or two  
13 of them or what?

14 A. It was probably a Mr Lockhart. We're talking 25 years  
15 ago.  
16

17 Q. Sure. No, it is very hard?

18 A. Jumbled conversations.  
19

20 Q. I am just asking what you remember. If you don't  
21 remember you don't.

22 A. No, I don't remember who exactly was saying that.  
23

24 MR URQUHART: Q. Now, if you can just answer "yes" or "no"  
25 to this. Did you give the names of any one to them?

26 A. I gave them names of people we were concerned about.  
27

28 HIS HONOUR: Q. How many names were there?

29 A. I gave four names that I'm willing to lay my life on.  
30 There was - there was a possible list of 50, but there were  
31 four people that I was very concerned about and --  
32

33 MR URQUHART: Q. You hadn't seen, though, anything by way  
34 of sexual interference of --

35 A. I had seen nothing by the way of sexual interference.  
36 We had been at boarding school - I had lived with these  
37 boys for four years by this stage. I had lived with them  
38 in a hostel situation where I had seen them at breakfast, I  
39 had seen them at lunch, I had seen them at tea. I had  
40 classes with them. I had been in same house groups with  
41 them. I had met up with them down at the cinema. I had  
42 been roller skating with them. They were brothers - for  
43 want of a better description, we lived in a brother/sister  
44 relationship - probably some not-so-brothers - but over  
45 four years I saw one particular boy disintegrate before my  
46 eyes. And he was in my maths class which was, you know,  
47 ties back to the maths teacher. You know they - people

1 don't - boys - people don't do that for no reason at all.  
2  
3 Q. Can you recall on what basis this meeting finished?  
4 A. I came away from the meeting relieved that someone had  
5 believed us.  
6  
7 Q. So you had no doubt about that?  
8 A. I had no doubt that they had believed us. I came away  
9 from the first meeting relieved that someone had believed  
10 us. I - I went back to the hostel with some - waiting for  
11 some repercussions, because there is always the element of  
12 distrust. There is always the element that somewhere along  
13 the line Dennis is going to find out. He always finds out.  
14 So there was that.  
15  
16 Q. That never happened?  
17 A. That never happened. And I was hopeful that something  
18 would happen.  
19  
20 Q. Was there some passage of time when this subject  
21 matter came up again?  
22 A. There was quite a passage of time before this subject  
23 came up again. This was towards the end of year - yeah,  
24 end of year 11. So this happened towards the end of  
25 year 11.  
26  
27 Q. So again that is 1987?  
28 A. '86.  
29  
30 Q. Sorry, 1986. My apologies.  
31 A. I chose at the end of 1986 not to go back to the  
32 hostel. I couldn't bear doing my final year of school at  
33 the hostel. There was just no way. The petty incident  
34 that broke the camel's back, so to speak, was that we got  
35 elected head boy and head girl each year. I had been  
36 elected head girl, and he had told some of the year 12  
37 girls. And then two or three weeks later he then pulled  
38 them back in and said, "Oh, no. No. We are not going to  
39 give it to her, and we are not going to give it to Rhonda.  
40 We are going to give it to somebody else". In hindsight,  
41 he did that so that the year 12 girls would immediately run  
42 back and tell us. And me, on my little high horse --  
43  
44 Q. When you say, "he" you're referring to?  
45 A. To Dennis. Dennis did that so that it would come back  
46 to us. And me, on my little high horse, decided that I  
47 wasn't going to - that was it. That was the end. That

1 there was no more that I was going to play party to; there  
2 was no more that I was going to let him manipulate me;  
3 there was no more that he could hurt me with, so I left the  
4 hostel.

5

6 Q. You made up your mind then --

7 A. Yep.

8

9 Q. -- by the end of year 11 that's what you were going to  
10 do?

11 A. Well, I mean he had expelled Kylie under no, you know,  
12 small circumstances. So the family had been through  
13 that. Mum and dad were quite happy for me to stay at the  
14 hostel. They were quite happy for my education not to be  
15 interrupted. I was doing my TEE at that stage. I was not  
16 so smart. I was doing six TEE subjects, so I was under  
17 quite a bit of pressure. They had no intentions of  
18 disrupting my education, so it was my choice. I couldn't  
19 solve the situation that happened to Kylie. I couldn't  
20 save Kylie in that situation, so I guess it was my way of  
21 making a stand, my way of going.

22

23 Q. Getting back to that original question I asked you,  
24 where I was going to ask whether the subject matter came up  
25 again?

26 A. Yep. It came up in year 12, 1987, two or three times  
27 informally, probably only with one or two teachers. Only  
28 with either a Mr Bourke or a Mr Jones. Not necessarily  
29 with Mr Lockhart.

30

31 HIS HONOUR: Q. Can you just pause and go back. You said  
32 there's quite a passage of time there. You spoke about  
33 towards the end of year 11.

34 A. End of year 11 we had the initial meeting with the  
35 teachers.

36

37 Q. I see. That was the initial meeting.

38 A. Yes. Towards the end of year 11 we had the initial  
39 meeting with the teachers. Then we obviously had the  
40 school holidays and then we came back. When I came back I  
41 was no longer a hostel kid, I was a towny. So I was more  
42 free to have informal chats with teachers because I was at  
43 the school more often.

44

45 MR URQUHART: Q. So you had these informal chats?

46 A. Yes.

47

1 Q. On two or three occasions with either Mr Bourke or  
2 Mr Jones?  
3 A. Yes.  
4  
5 Q. How clear are you about these particular informal  
6 discussions?  
7 A. Not a hundred percent clear of these ones.  
8  
9 Q. All right.  
10 A. Not a hundred percent clear, no.  
11  
12 Q. You can't remember the precise number of times?  
13 A. Yes, I can't remember the precise number of times, and  
14 I wouldn't be able to tell you which point in the year it  
15 was --  
16  
17 Q. Okay.  
18 A. -- what happened.  
19  
20 Q. What is the best then of your recollection of --  
21 A. It wouldn't have been in-depth talks. It was along  
22 the lines of "Remember what we said before? Are you  
23 watching out for? Have you been watching?" You know,  
24 "Have you been" - and they would have gone - and yeah.  
25  
26 Q. "And they would have gone" - well, can you recall what  
27 they said? I know it is a long time ago.  
28 A. It's a long time ago. I didn't get any cold hard  
29 evidence back. I didn't get anything back going "Yes, we  
30 are watching them", "Yes, we" - it was like "We are onto  
31 it. Don't worry about it. We are doing the best we can".  
32  
33 Q. Did they say anything about what would be required for  
34 the matter to move forward?  
35 A. That they're just waiting for the boys to come  
36 forward.  
37  
38 Q. Did you approach any of the boys that you had concerns  
39 about as to what these teachers were saying to you?  
40 A. No.  
41  
42 Q. Was there any reason for that?  
43 A. That's a - it's a huge betrayal of trust. Not even a  
44 betrayal of trust. This is the insidious incidents that  
45 you are talking about. How do you go up to someone and go  
46 "By the way, I know you are being abused there. Best thing  
47 you can do for yourself is go and see your teacher"? There

1 was no way to approach the subject. "Let's have a coffee  
2 and talk about it." There was --  
3  
4 Q. I realise the dilemma you faced here, nevertheless --  
5 A. Yes, under no circumstances did I speak to any of the  
6 boys.  
7  
8 Q. You said that you always believed that these teachers  
9 were accepting your word for it?  
10 A. Yes.  
11  
12 Q. And that they never accused you of lying?  
13 A. No.  
14  
15 Q. Or send you away or just dismissed it?  
16 A. No, no.  
17  
18 Q. With respect to Mr Stuart and Mr Jones, they were two  
19 teachers that you held in high regard?  
20 A. They were, yeah.  
21  
22 Q. So did that not have a bearing on your ability to  
23 approach these boys and say "Look, there are some teachers  
24 here who are prepared to listen"?  
25 A. The older I got - you know, I probably would have - if  
26 I was brave enough to do this in Year 8 and 9 I probably  
27 wouldn't have even thought twice about going up to the boys  
28 and saying "Please go and tell the teachers, there's people  
29 there listening to your story". By the time I got to Year  
30 11 and 12, I actually now had some understanding of what  
31 that abuse detailed of what that abuse meant of the  
32 personal invasions of - and I couldn't do that. I - it  
33 wasn't my right to go and invade their world and - no. God  
34 damn wish I had but I didn't.  
35  
36 Q. Can you recall any occasion in 1987 that your  
37 recollection is better than what it was with respect to the  
38 other?  
39 A. In 1987 we had a graduation party and at the  
40 graduation party we were - it was the end of school where  
41 we were big grown up people by this stage and those three  
42 teachers were there again and Rhonda and myself were there  
43 again. We found ourselves in a situation where it was only  
44 just us and we had a discussion about it again.  
45  
46 Q. Can you recall if Rhonda was with you on that  
47 occasion?

1 A. I thought - yes.  
2  
3 Q. You thought or you are not 100%?  
4 A. I'm sure she was but these are 27-year-old memories.  
5  
6 Q. Yes, I appreciate that. On that occasion, can you  
7 recall what was said?  
8 A. We basically went into it again like, you know, "This  
9 is still happening, what are we doing". The teachers  
10 expressed sympathy with our situation. They, you know,  
11 expressed sympathy and they expressed concern but again  
12 were saying "There's not much we can do until we have cold  
13 hard evidence and the only way we can have cold hard  
14 evidence is if someone owns up to it".  
15  
16 Q. So those three teachers you have named before were  
17 there?  
18 A. Yes.  
19  
20 Q. Can you recall which one of them said that?  
21 A. No, I can't.  
22  
23 HIS HONOUR: Q. So it was always a collective  
24 conversation of everyone listening to each other, was it?  
25 A. Yes.  
26  
27 MR URQUHART: Q. Was that the last occasion that you  
28 raised this with --  
29 A. That would have been the last occasion that I had a  
30 chance to raise the subject.  
31  
32 MR URQUHART: I am mindful of the time but I have nearly  
33 finished.  
34  
35 HIS HONOUR: I think we should continue.  
36  
37 MR URQUHART: Yes, thank you sir.  
38  
39 MR URQUHART: Q. Can you recall whether there was  
40 anything involving you and Dennis McKenna that was the  
41 final nail in the coffin, if I could call it that?  
42 A. I had - a final nail in the coffin? I had run-ins  
43 with Dennis along the ways. I can remember one particular  
44 incident - I can't remember - we worked this out the other  
45 day, didn't we? I would have been in Year 10, so it would  
46 have been in 1985. For some reason I was in the office  
47 being told off for something and another - a year 12 boy

1 was in the office with me at the time. Dennis was going -  
2 I got told off for so many things that I can't actually  
3 remember what it was but obviously it was important enough  
4 that it was only the two of us there, and Dennis was  
5 ranting and raving at us and once again threatening -  
6 threatening us with expulsion, threatening us with being  
7 sent home and all those sorts of things. So he started on  
8 at me, then he started on at the guy with me, and by this  
9 stage he was standing up behind his desk and he was red and  
10 he was foaming at the mouth and he was banging on his desk  
11 and he was ranting and raving and it got - you were quite  
12 used to Dennis ranting and raving and so it didn't phase  
13 you all that much but this got to the stage where it took  
14 that next step and it was getting a little scary. So I got  
15 up and started ranting and raving at him and went over and  
16 started banging at his desk as well and said "If this is  
17 what's happening, if this is what you have to do we are  
18 sitting here until you get our parents in. You need to get  
19 my mum in, you need to get his mum and dad in and we are  
20 staying here until our parents get here and then we can  
21 sort it all out" and he very, very quickly backed down and  
22 said there was no need to get the parents involved and that  
23 he thinks that maybe I was overreacting and that I needed  
24 to calm down and we dissipated, we got --

25

26 Q. So that was one of?

27 A. That was one of. I have - you weren't allowed to have  
28 boyfriend/girlfriends at the hostel. I had met my husband  
29 there and had been dating my husband for quite some time at  
30 the hostel. We got called into his flat at one particular  
31 point in time. Once again, can't remember when. Called  
32 into his flat. There was a group of our peers there so  
33 there would have been people from my husband's year, he's a  
34 year older than me, and people from my own year sitting  
35 there, probably no more than about 10 of them, with Dennis,  
36 to tell us how inappropriate it was for us to be boyfriend  
37 and girlfriend, how, you know - whatever it was. Can't  
38 have been that important because I glossed over it and  
39 married the guy, so.

40

41 Q. Was it the case that you left the hostel on your own  
42 accord, on your own terms?

43 A. I left the hostel on my own accord, yes, with my head  
44 held high and thumbing authority.

45

46 Q. Did you subsequently hear that there was another  
47 explanation being put out as to why it was you were -

1 A. I wouldn't be surprised. No, I didn't hear it, but  
2 no, no, I would not be - have been surprised in any way,  
3 shape, form or size.  
4

5 Q. But you didn't hear that yourself?

6 A. No. Because the poor people who gave me that  
7 information would have been shot, poor messengers.  
8

9 MR URQUHART: Thank you, that's all the questions I have  
10 of this witness.  
11

12 HIS HONOUR: Mr Hammond, have you got anything?  
13 Mr Jenkin, no. Thank you, Mrs Brown. That completes your  
14 evidence. You are free to go.  
15

16 <THE WITNESS WITHDREW  
17

18 HIS HONOUR: We will adjourn for lunch and I think I am  
19 resuming at 2 o'clock to deal with the application in  
20 respect of the suppression orders. So we will adjourn  
21 until 2.  
22

23 LUNCH ADJOURNMENT  
24

25 RESUMED  
26

27 HIS HONOUR: In the course of this inquiry I have decided  
28 on four occasions to suppress information the subject of  
29 evidence at the hearing. One of those suppressions has  
30 since been lifted but the remaining three are the subject  
31 of an application by various media organisations to have  
32 them set aside.  
33

34 The first of the three remaining suppression orders is  
35 at page 52 of the transcript where I suppressed the name of  
36 a primary school principal who is now deceased. This was  
37 achieved by having the witness write the principal's name  
38 on a piece of paper which then became exhibit 1. I then  
39 determined that the information so written down would be  
40 suppressed and that it would be suppressed for the present;  
41 in other words, I suppressed it on a temporary basis.  
42

43 At page 58 of the transcript I suppressed publication  
44 of the evidence of a witness that she had been [information  
45 not relevant] in circumstances that were irrelevant to  
46 this inquiry. That suppression was made permanently.  
47

1           Lastly, at page 70 of the transcript I suppressed  
2 publication of the name of a deceased politician. That  
3 politician was the subject of hearsay evidence that he was  
4 connected to a decision by the Department of Community  
5 Welfare to terminate the investigation of a complaint made  
6 by a child residing at St Andrew's Hostel. On this  
7 occasion the suppression was once again achieved by having  
8 the witness write the name on a piece of paper which then  
9 became an exhibit. I then suppressed publication of the  
10 name in the following terms:

11  
12           I am going to order that it is in the public interest  
13 that we suppress the name for the present and in due  
14 course, as a result of any further investigations, I  
15 will decide whether or not the name should become  
16 public.

17  
18           The present application is made on the grounds that I  
19 have no power to make suppression orders or, alternatively,  
20 and if I do have such power, I did not exercise that power  
21 properly.

22  
23           Before I deal with these submissions, it is relevant  
24 to note that in the practice directions of this inquiry  
25 items 20 and 21, assure potential  
26 witnesses that their evidence can be received confidently  
27 in certain circumstances. Items 37 to 41 inclusive of the  
28 practice directions set out a media protocol which is  
29 intended to protect victims of sexual abuse from any  
30 unwanted publicity.

31  
32           The reasons for the inquiry taking these measures  
33 should be obvious. The inquiry needs the cooperation of  
34 former victims to fulfil its mandate. Some of those  
35 victims will be reluctant to come forward if there is a  
36 risk of them being publicly identified.

37  
38           The present application needs to be considered against  
39 the background of the provisions of the Public Sector  
40 Management Act which govern the practice and procedure of  
41 the inquiry. Section 24J(3) provides that I am not bound  
42 by the rules of evidence and that I may inform myself as I  
43 think fit. I am also to act according to equity, good  
44 conscience and the substantial merits of the case without  
45 regard to technical qualities or legal forms.

46  
47           Section 24J(4) provides that to the extent that the

1 Act does not prescribe the inquiry's practice and  
2 procedure, it is a matter for my determination. The Act  
3 does contain some limited provisions as to practice and  
4 procedure but the manner in which this inquiry is conducted  
5 is largely a matter for me to determine.  
6

7 When applying these provisions, I determined at the  
8 start of the inquiry that these proceedings should be  
9 conducted publicly. Although this inquiry is not a court  
10 or tribunal administering justice, I also determined that it  
11 should be conducted consistently with the principle of open  
12 justice. Nevertheless, it is within my power to conduct  
13 hearings privately, if that becomes necessary. To date  
14 that has not been necessary and I do not expect that it  
15 will become necessary. However, the fact that I have that  
16 power is a significant consideration when dealing with the  
17 present application.  
18

19 Likewise, it is significant that I have power to  
20 receive evidence by way of written statements and, if  
21 necessary, with particulars of identity of a witness  
22 omitted. Similarly and for reasons I will shortly outline,  
23 I consider it is open to me to adapt procedures of this  
24 type when it is necessary to do so to ensure procedural fairness.  
25

26 I will now turn to the question of whether or not I  
27 have power to make suppression orders. Having given that  
28 question careful consideration, I have come to the  
29 conclusion that I do not. My reasons for that conclusion  
30 are as follows.  
31

32 Firstly, the Act does not contain any express power  
33 for a special inquirer to make a suppression order.  
34

35 Secondly, and as the inquiry is not a court, it does  
36 not have any inherent or common law powers to make  
37 suppression orders. It follows that if there is such a  
38 power, it would have to be implied from the language of the  
39 Act but, in my view, there is no room for any such  
40 construction of the legislation.  
41

42 In this regard, my power to determine the practice and  
43 procedure of the inquiry cannot be reasonably construed to  
44 include orders suppressing publication of evidence. It  
45 also cannot be said that the ability to make such orders is  
46 necessary in order that the inquiry can fulfil its function  
47 because, as I have already observed, other measures can be

1 taken to protect special witnesses.  
2

3 Lastly and most significantly, there is no provision  
4 of the Act which will enable enforcement of a suppression  
5 order. Accordingly, I have come to the decision that I  
6 have no power to make suppression orders and that I was  
7 in error in purporting to do so on four separate  
8 occasions.

9 That finding certainly disposes of the order I made at page 58 of  
10 the transcript in relation to the evidence of the witness that she  
11 had been [information not relevant]. As the suppression order I  
12 made was invalid and of no effect, that means that there is no  
13 restriction on her evidence being publicised. However, I understand  
14 from counsel for the applicants that his clients do not  
15 intend to publish that evidence so there is no cause for  
16 that witness to be concerned.  
17

18 With regard to the two occasions when I suppressed the  
19 names written on pieces of paper, the position is different  
20 because those names are not yet in the public domain. In  
21 this regard, the evidence of exhibits 1 and 3 falls into  
22 the same category as evidence taken in camera or the  
23 omissions in any written statements which might be  
24 tendered. It follows, until that evidence is released in  
25 public, there is nothing which can be suppressed.

26 This being so and consistent with the thrust of the application,  
27 I believe I should reconsider afresh whether or not each  
28 name should be released to the public.  
29

30 In making each of those determinations I must take  
31 account of two competing principles. Firstly, there is the  
32 principle of open justice which favours the release of the  
33 information. Secondly, there is the requirement that I act  
34 according to equity and good conscience, which in turn  
35 requires procedural fairness towards those who will be  
36 adversely affected by the release of the information.  
37

38 It is well established that personal reputations is an  
39 interest which attracts the protection of procedural fairness.  
40 Decisions of the High Court to that effect include *Annetts v*  
41 *McCann* (1990) 1278 CLR 54 and *Ainsworth v CJC* (1992-92)  
42 175 CLR 564. In *ICAC v Chaffey* (1991) 21 NSWLR 31,  
43 Gleeson CJ referred to the process of reasoning that is  
44 necessary as:  
45

46 *A conscious weighing of the public interest in*  
47 *openness of proceedings against the harm to reputation*

1                   *which can result.*

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His Honour also observed at 28 that procedural fairness does not mean that proceedings must be conducted in such a way as to guarantee that no harm will be done to reputations.

9                   His Honour went on to state at 28:

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*Proceedings before courts frequently carry a risk, sometimes almost a certainty of damage to reputation. Sensational and damaging allegations of misconduct made and widely publicised on one day might not be contradicted until a considerable time later, and even if they are ultimately held to be baseless, the publicity given to that conclusion may not match or counteract the publicity given to the original allegation. Even so, the common law has historically manifested an emphatic preference for the open administration of justice. It would be a strange paradox if the requirements of procedural fairness were found to include an obligation to conduct proceedings in such a way as to minimise the risk of damage to reputation.*

26  
27                   In my view, the correct approach to the decision whether or not to release each name, is that the principle of open justice is paramount, but I must also consider any procedural measures which would remove or reduce the risk of unjustified harm to reputations.

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33                   In this regard, it is interesting to note that his Honour the Chief Justice dealt with this very topic in his submission this week to the Joint Standing Committee on the Corruption and Crime Commission. I respectfully agree with what his Honour had to say concerning unjustified damage to reputations.

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40                   In the present instance, the two individuals whose reputations will be damaged are both dead. In my view, this fact does not obviate the need for procedural fairness, particularly as they are not able to respond to the allegations. I consider that I could not be said to act in good conscience if I unnecessarily allowed unjustified damage to their reputations.

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1           When I previously decided to suppress the two names I  
2 did so temporarily because the continuing investigations  
3 could conceivably result in additional evidence which might  
4 place their alleged actions in a different light. However,  
5 in respect of the primary school principal, it is most  
6 unlikely that these investigations will reveal anything of  
7 relevance. It is possible that the principal may have  
8 taken some steps such as speaking to the high school  
9 principal but in all probability that will never be known.  
10 Accordingly, there is no good reason to defer my decision  
11 on the question of release and I have come to the decision  
12 that his name should now be released. I will do that  
13 shortly by reading out the name in exhibit 1.  
14

15           In respect of the politician's name in exhibit 2, it  
16 is likely that the continuing investigations will uncover  
17 further evidence. The inquiry first had contact from  
18 Mr Humphries on 9 February, and for that reason the  
19 investigation that his information has prompted is still in  
20 its early stages. It has already proven to be a fruitful  
21 line of inquiry and I am confident that further and more  
22 reliable facts are likely to become known.  
23

24           At present all we have is Mr Humphries' third hand  
25 evidence that the named politician was connected with a  
26 decision to terminate his investigation of the St Andrew's  
27 Hostel. Mr Humphries was unable to vouch for the accuracy  
28 of this information because it was something that was told to  
29 him by a supervisor. It was also his understanding that  
30 the supervisor in turn had received that information from  
31 someone else at the department's head office.  
32

33           The inherent unreliability of this evidence is  
34 obvious. It cannot provide a sound foundation for the  
35 inevitable damage to the politician's reputation which  
36 will occur when the name is released. The inquiry is  
37 presently pursuing the source of the information given to  
38 Mr Humphries and it is likely that there will be further  
39 evidence as to the circumstances surrounding the  
40 termination of his investigation.  
41

42           In my view, the requirement for procedural fairness in  
43 these circumstances can be met by delaying the release of  
44 the name until all relevant evidence that is available is  
45 placed in the public domain. This will not intrude on the  
46 principle of open justice because in the end all of the  
47 facts uncovered by this inquiry will be disclosed to the

1 public.

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There is one further reason why the politician's name should not be publicly released at this time. The investigators will be asking potential witnesses to remember an event which occurred 30 years ago. No doubt their memories will have been stirred by the publicity surrounding Mr Humphries' evidence but it is most important that those memories are not contaminated by what they see and hear in the media. The identity of the politician allegedly involved is of the utmost importance and it is essential that we have the independent recollections of potential witnesses as to who that politician was.

For these reasons, I have decided to delay disclosure of the name in exhibit 2 until the second phase of these hearings. I can well understand why members of the public, and particularly the victims of Dennis McKenna, would like to know that name now. I ask that they be patient, given that they have already waited many years for answers and that they will learn of the politician's name in several weeks time. At that time they will also be informed of all relevant facts that the inquiry by then will have uncovered.

I will now read the name in exhibit 1. The name of the primary school principal is Brian Downes.

SHORT ADJOURNMENT

HIS HONOUR: Please be seated. Mr McCarthy, have you got a matter to raise?

MR McCARTHY: Yes, your Honour.

HIS HONOUR: Yes.

MR McCARTHY: Has your associate handed up to you two copies of the transcript?

HIS HONOUR: Yes, I can see that.

MR McCARTHY: A small amendment on page 200, your Honour. My recollection is that I said, "And I understand it was Darryl, the brother of Mr Stephens that was giving evidence", to make that clear.

1 HIS HONOUR: I've got a "Z" before Mr Stephens, which - I  
2 see of the Mr Stephens who was giving evidence. I  
3 understand.  
4  
5 MR McCARTHY: Yes.  
6  
7 HIS HONOUR: Yes, well, that looks right.  
8  
9 MR McCARTHY: Yes.  
10  
11 HIS HONOUR: Has it been checked on the tape?  
12  
13 MR McCARTHY: No, your Honour.  
14  
15 HIS HONOUR: Probably - I am sure that's right.  
16  
17 MR McCARTHY: I am sure that's right too, your Honour.  
18  
19 HIS HONOUR: And also the name to be changed.  
20  
21 MR McCARTHY: Yes, most importantly.  
22  
23 HIS HONOUR: All right. Have you got any comment, Mr  
24 Urquhart?  
25  
26 MR URQUHART: No comment, whatsoever, sir.  
27  
28 HIS HONOUR: All right. Well, certainly I'll direct that  
29 those corrections be made.  
30  
31 MR McCARTHY: If it please, your Honour.  
32  
33 HIS HONOUR: Thank you. Yes, Mr Urquhart.  
34  
35 MR URQUHART: Thank you, sir. The next witness is Rhonda  
36 Moore, and Mrs Moore is in the back of the courtroom, the  
37 hearing room rather, and Mrs Moore will take the oath.  
38  
39 HIS HONOUR: Very well.  
40  
41 <RHONDA KATE MOORE, sworn:  
42  
43 <EXAMINATION-IN-CHIEF BY MR URQUHART:  
44  
45 MR URQUHART: Q. Now, Mrs Moore, do you have a middle  
46 name?  
47 A. Kate.

1  
2 Q. Kate. So it's Rhonda Kate Moore?  
3 A. Correct.  
4  
5 Q. And I, again, as I've been saying to all the female  
6 witnesses that I've been calling, I apologise for this, but  
7 I will have to ask your age and date of birth, if I can.  
8 A. 23 July 1970, and I'm 41.  
9  
10 Q. Thank you very much. And you're currently married?  
11 A. Yes, I am.  
12  
13 Q. And your maiden name was --  
14 A. Is Goode.  
15  
16 Q. Was Goode. Is that spelt G-O-O-D-E?  
17 A. Correct.  
18  
19 Q. Right. Thank you. You reside in the Perth  
20 metropolitan area?  
21 A. Correct.  
22  
23 Q. All right. Thank you. Now, Mrs Moore, I would like  
24 to take you back to your high school years. Was it the  
25 case that from Year 8 through to Year 12, you were a  
26 boarder at a particular hostel?  
27 A. Yes, I was a boarder at St Andrew's Hostel, but I  
28 didn't finish all the way through to the end of Year 12. I  
29 left slightly towards the end, so the last term of Year 12  
30 I boarded out privately in Katanning itself.  
31  
32 Q. Right. When the appropriate time comes, I might ask  
33 you something more about that.  
34 A. Sure.  
35  
36 Q. So you were there from Year 8 and 1983, through to  
37 Year 12?  
38 A. Correct, yes.  
39  
40 Q. And why was it that you were boarding there. I know  
41 it was to go to the Katanning high school, but why did you  
42 have to board?  
43 A. Well, we come from a little town called Newdegate, and  
44 I think it's about 250km from Newdegate to Katanning, and  
45 that was the nearest - there was certainly - there was a  
46 high school in Lake Grace, which was about 60km away, but  
47 that only went up to Year 10, and our parents decided to

1 send us all to a senior high school, and the closest one,  
2 and the one that they could afford, was in Katanning.

3

4 Q. Right. So you say "we". So you had some siblings?

5 A. Yes, I have two older sisters and a younger brother.

6

7 Q. All right, then. And did you go to Katanning High  
8 School?

9 A. Yes, we did.

10

11 Q. And did you all stay at the hostel?

12 A. Yes, we did.

13

14 Q. Now, did you have any sisters there whilst you were  
15 there staying at the hostel?

16 A. Yes, we're all two years apart. So when I started in  
17 Year 8, I had a sister in Year 12 and a sister in Year 10.

18

19 Q. Now, Mrs Moore, we've heard evidence - a lot of it in  
20 some detail - regarding ex-students' experiences at the  
21 hostel, but if I can just confine your evidence to whether  
22 you noticed any conduct by the warden, Dennis McKenna,  
23 there that caught your attention, if I can call it that?

24 A. Sure. I guess the first thing that I really noticed,  
25 and the thing that sticks out in my mind was being in Year  
26 8 and walking into the office area, Dennis was sitting on a  
27 chair and had a boy on his lap, and it was a - I think it  
28 was one of the Year 9 boys, I don't particularly recall who  
29 it was, but I remember thinking he wasn't one of our age  
30 group. He was sitting on his lap, and Dennis had his hand  
31 right on the crease between the crotch and the thigh, and  
32 he was rubbing it up and down, sort of towards the boy's  
33 private parts, and I remember looking at that and I just  
34 thought, "Oh, that's not normal." That's not something  
35 that I consider to be normal", and I remember the way that  
36 my mind worked as I - I - I just thought, "Well, my dad  
37 doesn't do that to my brother, so that mustn't be right,  
38 and that was the first really big thing. I had been - my  
39 sisters had spoken to me about being careful around Dennis  
40 and not to go into a room on your own. Not to go into  
41 Dennis's room and things like that, so there was several  
42 conversations with me before I even went there,  
43 particularly with my sister who is two years older than me.

44

45 Q. Right. So that particular first occasion that you can  
46 recall --

47 A. That was the first occasion, yes.

1  
2 Q. -- did you notice whether Mr McKenna saw you?  
3 A. Yes, he had a conversation with me. I walked in and  
4 asked a question and he sat there quite happily talking to  
5 me and answering whatever Year 8 question that I - that I  
6 had.  
7  
8 Q. I gather from what you say, you didn't stop doing  
9 that?  
10 A. No, and he didn't remove his hand. It was quite open.  
11 He didn't remove his hand from the boy's lap or anything  
12 like that, and there was a number of other students in the  
13 room as well. It wasn't just myself and the boy on his lap  
14 and Dennis, there was a couple of - because there was  
15 always a number of chairs in the office area, and sometimes  
16 people would just go in there to talk because - I mean, he  
17 was supposedly also providing pastoral care for the  
18 students as well, so you could go into the office and talk  
19 to him and ask him questions.  
20  
21 Q. Yes. Do you recall any other occasions?  
22 A. There's lots of occasions where I saw him with -  
23 either brushing down boys' arms, having his arms around  
24 boys and putting his hands into their shirt front, and just  
25 sort of - sometimes rubbing, sometimes just standing there  
26 with his hand around with his - with his hand on their  
27 chest area.  
28  
29 Q. Did you ever observe these boys were reacting to this  
30 contact?  
31 A. Yes, but it - to them they - they didn't look really  
32 distressed. They - they sort of looked like it was fairly  
33 normal --  
34  
35 Q. Right.  
36 A. -- that it was a regular thing, and then as you get  
37 older you sort of become used to it as well.  
38  
39 Q. In all the time that you were there, did you ever  
40 observe any conduct of a like nature by Dennis McKenna  
41 towards the female students of the hostel?  
42 A. No, I didn't.  
43  
44 Q. And are there any other occasions other than - well,  
45 other demonstrations that you've already told us about that  
46 you recall Dennis McKenna doing towards boys?  
47 A. Not of a physical nature. I think he was quite

1 careful with his conduct when there was girls around and  
2 other people around and, yes, but his general - he stood  
3 too close to the boys, you know, within their personal  
4 space, and crowded them and things like that, which I found  
5 as - when I was younger, confusing, but as I got older, I  
6 guess you had far more awareness of what our understanding  
7 was about what was happening.  
8

9 Q. Right. And just on the question of him doing these  
10 sorts of things when there were other people around, can  
11 you recall any occasions in which you saw this type of  
12 conduct and there were other adults present? If you can't,  
13 that's fine.

14 A. I can't really, but it was such a normalised behaviour  
15 for him that I am sure that the other supervisors would  
16 have observed it a lot, as much as what we did as girls at  
17 boarding school.  
18

19 Q. And you said that you first saw that in Year 8?

20 A. Yes.  
21

22 Q. Did that sort of behaviour - how long did that sort of  
23 behaviour - did you observe of Mr McKenna?

24 A. It went on the entire time that I was there. I - I  
25 found that he seemed to - as the new crop of boys came  
26 through, he would seem to start picking up and having more  
27 contact with some of the boys. There was always cute  
28 little boys. You know, they were a little bit under  
29 developed, blondy hair sort of thing, and he seemed to  
30 befriend them and take them into his little group. So -  
31 about that - and that happened. And it was just a regular  
32 thing when the new Year 8s came in, or the new kids came  
33 in, they were - well, now I know that the term is groomed,  
34 but at that time I didn't. We just thought that they were  
35 in Dennis's little group.  
36

37 Q. May I ask you now something about that, that little  
38 group. Did that group ever comprise of boys and girls, or  
39 just girls or just boys, and what did you note about that?

40 A. Generally it was just boys that seemed to be part of  
41 Dennis's little group. When we were going to - at the  
42 hostel, it was a good thing to be on Dennis's good side.  
43

44 Q. And why was that?

45 A. Well, because if you were on his bad side you got  
46 punished very badly, and Dennis seemed to understand how to  
47 victimise individual students quite well, and he understood

1 how to press everybody's buttons. So, for example, when I  
2 was in my younger years, I hated getting up early in the  
3 mornings, so if he wanted to punish me he'd put me on  
4 kitchen duty where you had to get up and be ready for  
5 school, and then you'd go in and cook the toast and that  
6 sort of thing. And then when I was older and I was trying  
7 to study, he put me on kitchen duty so that you wouldn't  
8 finish doing the dishes until about 8.30 at night, and then  
9 this leaves you with a very short amount of time in order  
10 to do your homework. So he pressed all my buttons very  
11 well.

12  
13 Q. So did you ever say anything to him about that?

14 A. I think I was quite verbal about my not being happy  
15 with him picking on me. Certainly as I got older I was  
16 more confident and had a different relationship. I didn't  
17 look for his approval as much because when you're younger  
18 and you first go there, you're trying to tow the line, and  
19 you're trying to do everything that he wants you to do, and  
20 you're trying to get his approval, because it was a good  
21 thing to be in his good books. You know, he - you didn't  
22 necessarily get rewarded, but you didn't get punished and  
23 you got, you know, given accolades about, "You should  
24 behave like this student because, you know, that's the way  
25 we expect people to behave", and things of that nature.

26  
27 Q. With respect to those students that were in his good  
28 books, were they treated with any special privileges or  
29 anything like that?

30 A. Look, I don't know. I can't speak for what happened  
31 with the boys, I don't know.

32  
33 Q. Okay.

34 A. Sorry.

35  
36 Q. Okay. I'll ask you this way: was there ever an  
37 occasion when you were part of that group, albeit  
38 temporarily?

39 A. Yes, yes. There were occasions when I was part of  
40 that group, and I think part of that group that he had -  
41 that was his little group of whatever you'd like to call  
42 us; you would be rewarded with even things that are,  
43 looking back - being rewarded with house captain positions  
44 and prefect positions and things like that, was part of  
45 that sort of stuff, and being - just given more privileges.

46  
47 Q. Okay. And those privileges - can I ask you this:

1 Were you aware of movies that would be shown to particular  
2 students?  
3 A. Yes, yes, we were. That was more definitely for the  
4 boys.  
5  
6 Q. Yes.  
7 A. The boys - there was often talk about that sort of  
8 thing where the boys were - they'd go to Dennis's flat to  
9 go and see movies. It was not particularly something that  
10 the girls were invited to, it was --  
11  
12 Q. Do you recall an occasion though in which you went to  
13 see one of these movies?  
14 A. Yes, I do, yes.  
15  
16 Q. Can you recall how that came about?  
17 A. I can't remember exactly how it came about, whether I  
18 was invited in or I happened to be in Dennis's flat, I am  
19 sure you've gone through this --  
20  
21 Q. Yes.  
22 A. -- was quite close to where the telephones were, and  
23 whether I had been on the phone to my parents and then  
24 invited in, but I was invited in to Dennis's room, and a  
25 movie was being put on.  
26  
27 Q. Can you remember what year you were in?  
28 A. I was in Year 9 --  
29  
30 Q. So you were --  
31 A. -- and I worked that out because of which of my  
32 siblings was there, and wasn't. My eldest was gone and my  
33 younger brother had not yet come to boarding school.  
34  
35 Q. So it was the year you were turning 14?  
36 A. 14, correct.  
37  
38 Q. And there was a movie. And how was that being played?  
39 What sort of machine was it?  
40 A. It was a VCR.  
41  
42 Q. And what part of the flat was this?  
43 A. In the lounge room. He had - you walked into his room  
44 and he had a lounge room. He had a number of lounge chairs  
45 that were in a fairly L-shape, and the TV was in the  
46 corner - TV and VCR was in the corner. So as you walked in  
47 to where the lounge room was, it was immediately on the

1 left side, the TV was.  
2  
3 Q. Can you recall how many boys were there, about?  
4 A. There was probably about six or seven of varying ages.  
5  
6 Q. Any idea - an estimate as to the ages?  
7 A. Well, one of them - one of them was in Year 11.  
8  
9 Q. Yes.  
10 A. And I think there was a few - there was a couple of  
11 boys that were his age, and there was a couple of younger  
12 ones too, I believe.  
13  
14 HIS HONOUR: Q. Did you say a couple in Year 8?  
15 A. I think they may have been younger than me, yes. And  
16 I was in Year 9 at the time, so they would have been in  
17 Year 8.  
18  
19 MR URQUHART: Q. And had the video started --  
20 A. No.  
21  
22 Q. -- before you went in?  
23 A. No, the video hadn't started, and Dennis was there as  
24 well --  
25  
26 Q. Yes.  
27 A. -- and asked - he asked me to, you know, sit down, and  
28 I remember I sat down on the floor in front of one of the  
29 lounges, so I wasn't actually sitting on one of the  
30 lounges.  
31  
32 Q. Right. And the video was - began to play?  
33 A. The video began to play. As it was put in, one of the  
34 boys, Meggsie, said, "Rhonda, I think you should leave".  
35  
36 Q. So "Meggsie" was his nickname?  
37 A. Meggsie was his nickname.  
38  
39 Q. Okay. Yes. He said you should leave?  
40 A. He said I should leave and --  
41  
42 Q. And how old - was he in your --  
43 A. He's Year 11.  
44  
45 Q. Year 11, right.  
46 A. Yes, he was Year 11 at the time, and he was a friend  
47 of my sister's.

1  
2 Q. I see.  
3 A. So he, I guess, was aware what was going to be  
4 happening, and I certainly wasn't aware of what was going  
5 to be happening, and all of the other boys sort of went,  
6 "No, no, no, she's staying here, she's staying here with  
7 us", and so I just sat there. And the video was put on.  
8  
9 Q. Can you recall the contents of that video --  
10 A. Yes.  
11  
12 Q. -- now, with this passage of time?  
13 A. Yes, the video was - it was violent bestiality. And  
14 at the time - I mean, I was 14. I hadn't really even seen  
15 anyone naked or anything like that, and it was very  
16 confronting. After about 10 minutes I got up to leave, and  
17 the boys sort of made all comments again, making fun of  
18 you, because - and so I sort of sat back down again, and  
19 then after about 45 minutes to an hour, I just couldn't  
20 stay there any longer. It was something that I had never  
21 seen before, and it was very shocking, and I didn't - there  
22 was some sounds being made behind me, and I didn't like  
23 the - I didn't like the sounds, so I got up enough guts to  
24 just get up and go, and not worry about what anyone was  
25 saying to me.  
26  
27 HIS HONOUR: Q. When you say "bestiality", you mean sex  
28 between animals and humans?  
29 A. Yes, women and horses and things like that and, you  
30 know, as I said, I barely even saw - I certainly had never  
31 seen anyone naked on TV before.  
32  
33 MR URQUHART: Q. Right. Did anyone else leave, can you  
34 recall?  
35 A. No. I do recall Dennis leaving, going into his room,  
36 and I can't recall whether somebody went with him, but I  
37 feel that they did, but I was - it was very much in my  
38 peripheral vision, because I - really, I was sitting there  
39 and I was quite scared. I was just feeling really stupid  
40 for being in there, especially having been warned by my  
41 sisters not to go into his room and things like that, and I  
42 really felt like I was doing something very wrong.  
43  
44 Q. The reaction of the others that were there - were you  
45 able to observe that or not?  
46 A. It seemed to be quite normal for them. It seemed to  
47 be that it was normal. And when I - I left, a few of the

1 boys made comments about, you know, "You're being a big  
2 baby", or that sort of thing, just sort of calling you a  
3 wuss and those sorts of things, as they did in those days.  
4 And I left and went up to my dormitory and went into bed  
5 and I've never actually spoken about it at all until the  
6 investigation opened up.

7  
8 Q. So just very recently?

9 A. Yes, yes.

10  
11 Q. Now, Mrs Moore, if I could take you now to Year 11.  
12 Do you recall being on a particular committee that year?

13 A. In Year 11 I was on the - are we talking about the  
14 School Ball Committee?

15  
16 Q. That's right, yes.

17 A. Yes.

18  
19 Q. And do you recall an occasion where - were there other  
20 members of that committee, students?

21 A. There was. I was on representing - because it was a  
22 Year 11/12 ball, I was on representing the Year 11s. There  
23 was a couple of other people. I think there was another  
24 boy may have - and another border may have been on there  
25 with me, and a couple of kids from town, Year 11, and there  
26 was a couple of teachers as well, as part of the School  
27 Ball Committee - so it was an amalgamation of teachers and  
28 students.

29  
30 Q. Right. And do you recall an occasion where the  
31 students went on a trip to Perth?

32 A. Yes.

33  
34 Q. Right.

35 A. We came up to Perth. I am unsure what it was for. I  
36 can't recall whether it was part of, say, a country week,  
37 sporting reason or sometimes we just came up to Perth for  
38 long weekends on - on trips with Dennis; we'd all hop on  
39 the bus and just go up to Perth and we'd stay. But on this  
40 particular occasion Dennis dropped us off, the Year 11s and  
41 the Year 12s, off at Pinocchio's nightclub here in Perth.

42  
43 Q. How many of you would of there been?

44 A. There would have been, I would say, about nine to a  
45 dozen of us.

46  
47 Q. So this is 1986?

1 A. Correct.  
2  
3 Q. Right. Okay. So he dropped you off --  
4 A. Yes.  
5  
6 Q. -- at Pinocchio's. So can you recall what he said in  
7 the lead-up to this?  
8 A. I can't - he said that he was going to take us to a  
9 nightclub and that it would be a lot of fun. And I  
10 remember that the group was quite excited about it, because  
11 we were a bunch of country kids and never been to a  
12 nightclub or anything of that nature, and he always built  
13 things up to be lots of really good fun, things that you  
14 really ought not be doing. I mean, you ought not be taking  
15 16 and 17-year-olds to a nightclub in Perth, and taking  
16 them into a licensed premises. So we were quite excited,  
17 and he dropped us off there and said that he would be back  
18 for us and pick us up, and left us there on our own, the -  
19 as a bunch of 16 and 17-year-old kids from the country.  
20  
21 Q. Right. And were you all able to get into the  
22 nightclub?  
23 A. We were all able to get into the nightclub. I feel  
24 that Dennis - I'm trying to remember, but I believe that my  
25 memory is that Dennis spoke to the bouncers to - when we  
26 went in, but we all got in without any problems at all.  
27  
28 MR URQUHART: I see. Okay.  
29  
30 HIS HONOUR: Q. How long were you left there for? How  
31 long were you there for?  
32  
33 MR URQUHART: Yes.  
34  
35 THE WITNESS: I'd say about two hours.  
36  
37 MR URQUHART: Q. And what happened there amongst the  
38 group?  
39 A. Well, of course, everyone was great, dancing, and  
40 there was, you know, a lot of looking around - wide-eyed  
41 bunch of kids from the country. A number of the Year 12s  
42 and the Year 11s purchased alcohol and were drinking drinks  
43 like scotch and coke, that sort of drink, mixed drinks,  
44 rather than beer or anything of that nature. And a number  
45 of children also somehow or other got cigarettes and were  
46 smoking as well.  
47

1 Q. Right. Okay. And did you imbibe at all?  
2 A. I didn't purchase any alcohol, but I did have a sip of  
3 Goonies - I'm fairly sure it was Goonies' scotch and coke.  
4  
5 Q. I see.  
6 A. And it was - yes, normal 16-year-old's response to  
7 that sort of thing. It was quite fun.  
8  
9 Q. And did Dennis McKenna subsequently pick you all up?  
10 A. Dennis subsequently picked us all up and then smelt  
11 the alcohol and cigarettes on everyone, although we  
12 probably would have smelt like cigarettes anyway.  
13  
14 Q. It would be a fair bet back then?  
15 A. Being in the nightclub, and we went back to our  
16 accommodation, and then he got everyone together and then  
17 said, "There's going to be consequences of you drinking  
18 alcohol and smoking cigarettes, and we'll deal with it when  
19 we get back down to the hostel." And so when we got back  
20 down to the hostel he told everybody that the people that  
21 were there who drank alcohol were not allowed to go to the  
22 school ball any more. And I remember being really upset  
23 about not being able to go because I felt that I hadn't  
24 actually purchased it, and being on the School Ball  
25 Committee, that I'd organised this whole event, I'd  
26 actually made my ball dress as well, and spent a lot  
27 of hours sewing this ball dress, and I felt really, really  
28 upset about not being able to go, and I felt that it was  
29 very unjust of him to make this ruling when he was the one  
30 that dropped us off in that environment, and the children  
31 just reacted in a normal way --  
32  
33 Q. Yes.  
34 A. -- in that environment that you'd expect them to  
35 react.  
36  
37 Q. Right.  
38 A. And we were totally unsupervised.  
39  
40 Q. Were you allowed to go to the ball in the end?  
41 A. I was allowed to go to the ball in the end because I  
42 went to the teachers at the school and probably cried like  
43 a baby and said that, "I can't come to the school ball any  
44 more because, you know, we went up to Pinocchio's", and  
45 explained the whole incident to them, and said - I would  
46 have said something along the lines, "I didn't even buy any  
47 alcohol and I'm getting punished for it".

1  
2 Q. So can you recall that? Can you recall who you spoke  
3 to so far as the teachers are concerned?  
4 A. I'm not sure. I think Ms Patroni was on the School  
5 Ball Committee. There was a male and a female.  
6  
7 Q. All right.  
8 A. I don't know whether - yes.  
9  
10 Q. So the ban from the school ball was made by Dennis  
11 McKenna?  
12 A. Dennis McKenna, correct.  
13  
14 Q. And then it was, in effect, overruled?  
15 A. Yes.  
16  
17 Q. What about the other students who had attended  
18 Pinocchio's, were they allowed to go to the ball or not,  
19 can you recall?  
20 A. I can't recall exactly. I think I was in some  
21 respects - I can't remember. I do think that - I think  
22 Dean Hull might have been on the committee with me - I'm  
23 trying to remember - and that he was allowed to go as well  
24 because he was part of the organising committee. I think  
25 what happened was the other Year 11s were not allowed to  
26 go.  
27  
28 Q. I see.  
29 A. But I really - I'm sorry, I can't recall fully.  
30  
31 Q. Now, you also gave evidence on how Dennis McKenna told  
32 off the group for smoking as well.  
33 A. Yes, yes.  
34  
35 Q. Was there any punishment metered out for that?  
36 A. There was. What Dennis did is he got all the children  
37 who had been smoking up - when we had dinner at the meal  
38 time, and he stood them up in front of everybody and made  
39 them smoke a cigarette in front of everybody and then made  
40 fun of them saying, you know, "Well, it's not so cool now,  
41 is it, when you're up in front of everybody", and just  
42 generally made them feel quite embarrassed. They all -  
43 certainly the girls, I know, went off crying afterwards,  
44 and they were all very embarrassed and mortified by the  
45 event.  
46  
47 Q. Okay. Now, we've already heard evidence how there was

1 a smoking area set aside at the hostel --  
2 A. Yes.  
3  
4 Q. -- with seemingly Dennis McKenna's permission. Do you  
5 know the area I was referring to?  
6 A. I do, it's --  
7  
8 Q. Was that in place when you first started there?  
9 A. When I first started there I remember a Year 12 boy, I  
10 only remember one boy being - sitting on a bench in the  
11 barbecue area there smoking, and after he left there was no  
12 one smoking at all, as far as I know. Well, certainly no  
13 one went to that quadrangle area.  
14  
15 Q. So that was 1983 you saw the boy there?  
16 A. Yes.  
17  
18 Q. And thereafter?  
19 A. No one, as far as I'm aware.  
20  
21 Q. Okay. Mrs Moore, you've recounted the matters that  
22 you saw Dennis McKenna do towards boys - the hand on the  
23 upper leg, down their shirts and things like that. And you  
24 saw that from Year 8 onwards, as I understand your  
25 evidence?  
26 A. Yes.  
27  
28 Q. And did you ever raise those specific matters with,  
29 say, your parents?  
30 A. We did have conversations with our parents about how  
31 Dennis was behaving, and that we felt the boys were being  
32 abused by Dennis, and I remember sitting around the table  
33 with mum and dad and I guess mum and dad said, "Well,  
34 unless the boys come forward, you know, what can we do to  
35 help, and it's not specifically you that's being abused, so  
36 we can't do anything", and then our focus then became our  
37 younger brother --  
38  
39 Q. Yes.  
40 A. -- to make sure that he was protected and fully aware  
41 of what Dennis was doing, and what he needed to do to get  
42 himself through to Year 12 without actually being abused.  
43 And we often did this as a group of girls anyway, talked to  
44 the boys that - specially if they were the young sibling or  
45 the cousin or something like that, you'd say to them  
46 quietly, "Don't go into Dennis's flat alone", you know,  
47 "Never go in there at night", and things of that nature to

1 warn them, so that they became more aware of protecting  
2 themselves.

3

4 HIS HONOUR: Q. Was that just you and your sisters  
5 warning your brother, or parents as well?

6 A. My parents as well told my brother that he should not  
7 go into Dennis's flat under any circumstances.

8

9 Q. It's easy to get the impression that he's widely known  
10 throughout the community that there's a problem in this  
11 hostel?

12 A. Yes, I do. I do very much - felt that it was widely  
13 known throughout the community. I also - I don't want to  
14 specifically talk - I've already discussed about saying  
15 teachers' names, but I often felt that I had very  
16 non-specific conversations with teachers as I got older  
17 about Dennis's behaviour, and I really felt that they  
18 already knew that something was happening.

19

20 HIS HONOUR: You can mention teachers's names. It's all  
21 right to mention them.

22

23 THE WITNESS: Yes.

24

25 MR URQUHART: Well, I suppose - I was going to get to that  
26 now, sir.

27

28 HIS HONOUR: Yes.

29

30 THE WITNESS: Yes.

31

32 MR URQUHART: Q. So I'm just going to ask one final  
33 question regarding that last topic.

34 A. Sure.

35

36 Q. When was it that your younger brother started there?

37 A. He started two years after me, so his first year was  
38 1985.

39

40 Q. Okay. Yes. Now, you mentioned there that you raised  
41 it in a non-specific manner with teachers?

42 A. Yes.

43

44 Q. I know it's a long time ago, but can you recall  
45 occasions where you spoke to a teacher or teachers in which  
46 you were more precise in what you had to say?

47 A. Yes. I - I recall going to see our year coordinator,

1 which was Mr Lockhart.  
2  
3 Q. When you say "we"?  
4 A. I believe that it was Jodie Haddow and myself went to  
5 see Mr Lockhart, and it was either Year 10 or Year 11.  
6  
7 Q. So that's 1985 or 1986, is that right?  
8 A. Correct, yes.  
9  
10 Q. And you believe it was Jodie --  
11 A. Yes.  
12  
13 Q. -- but you are not certain about that.  
14 A. I'm 80% certain.  
15  
16 Q. Were you and Jodie friends back then?  
17 A. Yes, yes, we were. We were great friends. We were in  
18 the same peer group. We played sport together. Yes, very  
19 good friends.  
20  
21 Q. And do you know how it came about that the decision  
22 was made to go and see Mr Lockhart?  
23 A. I don't know what prompted it, but it was a general  
24 feeling - I was going through a more rebellious stage of  
25 trying to push back Dennis's control of - of me, and just  
26 thought - thinking, "This is just wrong", and that more and  
27 more boys I felt were being abused by Dennis. And Jodie -  
28 I believe Jodie came to me and said, "We really should do  
29 something about this", and we went to go and speak to Mr  
30 Lockhart about it.  
31  
32 Q. And can you recall where you went to speak to him.  
33 A. I believe it was in the PE office --  
34  
35 Q. Right.  
36 A. -- which may have been shared with either the social  
37 studies or the maths office, one of those two.  
38  
39 Q. So you both went - you went there, and you were 80%  
40 sure you went with Jodie?  
41 A. Yes.  
42  
43 Q. Can you remember actually going with somebody else?  
44 A. Yes, absolutely.  
45  
46 Q. All right. So the two of you went?  
47 A. Yes.

1  
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Q. You saw Mr Lockhart. Do you know whether that was a pre-arranged meeting or did you - if you can't recall, that's fine.

A. No, for some reason I felt like we went in earlier, before school started, but I'm not 100% sure on that, I'm sorry.

Q. Now, can you recall - so you and Jodie speaking to Mr Lockhart?

A. Yes, we did, yes.

Q. Before I get to that, are you able to recall whether there were any other teachers present?

A. In the back of my mind I feel like there was someone there, but I can't recall because my focus was on talking to Ian Lockhart and having Jodie there with me.

Q. Right.

A. Yes.

Q. So can you recall who spoke to Mr Lockhart?

A. Well, both of us. I certainly had a lot to say about talking about boys being, we believed, abused; talking about Dennis's behaviour; talking about the way that Dennis was treating the girls, and asking him for some help or direction.

Q. So it was actually extended beyond what you were saying was an abuse of boys, and extended to girls as well, did it?

A. Yes, in terms of the way that he was psychologically, you know, psychologically twisting the girls around.

Q. I see.

A. Yes.

Q. Now, I know it's a long time ago, but can you recall the terminology that was used, or with respect to what you were saying about the boys?

A. I think I would have been fairly - it is a long time ago.

Q. Yes.

A. And I don't recall absolute specific conversations, but knowing the sort of person that I am, I think it would have been quite verbal in saying that Dennis was abusing

1 the boys, and that we should be doing something to protect  
2 them.

3

4 HIS HONOUR: Q. Can I just clarify there. When you say  
5 "abusing", do you remember what - how you would have  
6 described the abuse at the time, or not?

7 A. I know - I remember one of the boys coming up to me  
8 and saying that, you know, Dennis would get them to give -  
9 to masturbate him, and I am sure I would have mentioned  
10 that to Mr Lockhart, but I can't recall, but I am sure I  
11 would have made some reference to things of that nature,  
12 and then - and I guess by that time, sort of 15, you're  
13 becoming far more aware, and I suspected that it was far  
14 more than that.

15

16 Q. So you would have indicated abuse of a sexual kind?

17 A. Yes, yes. I don't just mean - certainly that's what  
18 the focus of the talk was, and also from the girls' side  
19 of - point of view, is the way that we were treated.

20

21 Q. Now, do you recall whether anything was said in  
22 response to what you - you think was Jodie, with these  
23 concerns?

24 A. I can't remember specific things that Mr Lockhart said  
25 to Jodie, no. I - I have a feeling that he said something  
26 about speaking to his wife - going home and speaking to his  
27 wife about it. For some reason there's something in the  
28 back of my mind that his wife may have been a social worker  
29 or something of that nature. I don't know why I think  
30 that, and I cannot substantiate it in any way. It's just  
31 something that has sort of popped back into my memory.

32

33 Q. Right.

34 A. I - I do recall him saying that he had to, you know,  
35 think about what we were saying, and get back to us, and  
36 there was no real response from him that I can recall and  
37 it was just a - it was just more or less swept under the  
38 carpet, and then it was just the - as you were on the  
39 verandah, you know, "How are you going? Is everything  
40 okay?", and --

41

42 Q. What, is it - this subsequent to this now?

43 A. Subsequent to this.

44

45 Q. Yes.

46 A. And because you haven't had any support or help from  
47 them, the standard response is, "Yes, everything is fine",

1 because you just felt like you had to deal with everything  
2 on your own.  
3  
4 Q. Now, you said the - you haven't got any response from  
5 "they". I think you used the word "they"?  
6 A. Did I? From him.  
7  
8 Q. Right.  
9 A. Yes.  
10  
11 Q. I'm just clarifying that, right.  
12 A. Yes.  
13  
14 Q. So your recollection is that there was no other  
15 teacher became involved in this meeting. If that's your --  
16 A. That's --  
17  
18 Q. -- that's fine.  
19 A. Yes, that's what it is.  
20  
21 Q. Now, if I could move now to when you were in Year 12?  
22 A. Yes.  
23  
24 Q. I think you had some positions there when you were - I  
25 think you mentioned you were - were you the school --  
26 A. House captain.  
27  
28 Q. -- house captain, so --  
29 A. House captains. I was a prefect as well.  
30  
31 Q. Prefect. So as a prefect with the hostel?  
32 A. With the hostel, that's right.  
33  
34 Q. All right. So was that at Dennis McKenna's --  
35 A. Behest.  
36  
37 Q. -- instigation or behest, if you want to call it that?  
38 Yes.  
39 A. I'm not - I can't recall how picking of the prefects  
40 came about; but, yes, I believe it was Dennis and the  
41 supervisor's choice. I never recalled voting to be a  
42 prefect and certainly when I was in Year 10 and was given a  
43 prefect's badge, I was told, you know, there was a - a  
44 prefect badge has never been given to a Year 10 in the  
45 history of the hostel.  
46  
47 Q. I see.

1 A. So as far as I know, it was Dennis and the other staff  
2 members that chose the positions.

3  
4 Q. Okay. Now, when you were in 12, in Year 12, do you  
5 recall another occasion when you raised this matter  
6 concerning Dennis McKenna and the boys at the hostel?

7 A. Yes. When I was in Year 12 I was involved with a  
8 couple of other students and some teachers - a sort of  
9 discussion group where, with regards to - the Prime  
10 Minister had an education discussion group happening, and  
11 each school was asked to put in a paper and it was to do  
12 with education, and we were making a submission as  
13 Katanning senior high school kids to the Prime Minister;  
14 and, yes, I was very proud about that, and the - the  
15 principal, Mr Young, was part of this group, and we would  
16 go into the staff room and we'd have meetings and discuss,  
17 you know, educational matters and where we thought the  
18 focus should be going through to 2020 and that sort of  
19 things.

20  
21 Q. So this was 1987, you're talking --

22 A. Correct.

23  
24 Q. Okay. So you'd have these staff room meetings with  
25 the principal, Mr Young?

26 A. That's right.

27  
28 Q. And they would be more than just one occasion?

29 A. More than just one occasion, because we were making up  
30 this submission. Before, Mr Young was quite an austere  
31 principal, so he wasn't someone that, as a student, that  
32 you felt that you could go to with any, you know, pastoral  
33 care issues or anything like that. He was very much an  
34 administrator.

35  
36 Q. I see. All right. And you recall speaking to him -  
37 that's relevant to this Inquiry - with respect to one of  
38 those meetings.

39 A. I do recall as the meeting broke up he took me aside  
40 and asked me how everything - how things were going at the  
41 hostel, and how I was being treated by Dennis, and I had a  
42 very loose conversation with him about Dennis' behaviour  
43 with the boys because I had no - I didn't have any trust -  
44 like I just didn't trust this guy at all. So as I was  
45 saying this stuff, and I did have - I wanted to vent and  
46 get this stuff out so that something would happen about it,  
47 but as I'm saying it I'm thinking to myself at the back of

1 my brain, "I'm going to be in really deep trouble with  
2 this. This is going to get back to Dennis. So I then  
3 extricated myself and just went out, and he sort of pushed  
4 me out too. He really didn't want to know what I was  
5 saying.

6  
7 Q. Okay. Well, just concentrating then on what you were  
8 saying --

9 A. Yes.

10  
11 Q. -- you were going to give an explanation of how you  
12 might not have been as direct --

13 A. Yes.

14  
15 Q. -- as you could have been. Can you recall what words  
16 to the effect of that you were saying?

17 A. I would have said something like - that Dennis was  
18 touching the boys, something of that nature. That is  
19 usually what I would say.

20  
21 HIS HONOUR: Q. Now, this is in response to a question  
22 by him. He had initiated the discussion on this topic?

23 A. He initiated the topic. I had no relationship with  
24 him, other than having these meetings with him to start  
25 this, you know, whatever it was, Prime Minister's education  
26 - I can't actually recall what that is either --

27  
28 Q. And could you?

29 A. -- and he just asked me about how things were going  
30 with Dennis and the hostel.

31  
32 Q. Did that seem a strange question at the time, or not?

33 A. It seemed - look, teachers often asked you how things  
34 were going, and I always felt like it was in inverted  
35 commas, like "How are things going?", sort of thing. I  
36 look back now and I really feel that people in the  
37 community were aware that there was a problem, but not  
38 having any direct evidence or no one coming forward didn't  
39 give them any opportunity to help in any way.

40  
41 Q. And I think this was the first time I've heard  
42 evidence of someone like that initiating an inquiry on the  
43 subject, or making a query about the subject --

44 A. Yes.

45  
46 Q. -- so from the circumstance which that occurred, can  
47 you suggest any explanation why he was asking you this?

1 A. No, perhaps because he got to know me a little bit  
2 better. It may have been in response to things that he  
3 heard, I don't know. He didn't explain himself. And once  
4 I sort of vented a little bit, he then just sort of  
5 shuffled me out. So it was almost like too much  
6 information that I was giving him, and he didn't really  
7 want to deal with that. It may have just been my response  
8 to a question, you know, "How are things going?", and then  
9 I've gone 'blerrr'.

10

11 MR URQUHART: Right. I don't know how the transcript is  
12 going to go --

13

14 THE WITNESS; Sorry about that

15

16 MR URQUHART: -- spelling that. Never mind, we'll leave  
17 it up to them.

18

19 Q. So you said that to him, but was there any follow-up?  
20 Did he inquire further about what you were saying --

21

A. No.

22

23 Q. -- at that time or subsequently?

24

A. No, no follow-up at all. No follow-up at all.

25

26 Q. So you've recounted two occasions there where you've  
27 approached the teacher and a teacher in his capacity as a  
28 principal --

29

A. Yes.

30

31 Q. -- about raising these matters. And I think you also  
32 said to - when his Honour asked you questions a little  
33 while ago now, that there were other non-specific  
34 occasions, or you didn't specify precisely what it was to  
35 other teachers; is that correct?

36

A. Yes.

37

38 Q. All right. So there was - those were the only two  
39 cases that you can recall in which you raised something in  
40 a more or less direct manner?

41

A. Yes, and really the - the one - the only one where I  
42 had any expectations that something might come out of it  
43 was the meeting with Mr Lockhart.

44

45 Q. And I need to ask you this then - that being the case,  
46 you have no recollection of raising this matter in a more  
47 precise or direct manner with either two - first I'll ask

1 you - do you know the teachers Mr Stuart and Mr Jones?  
2 A. Mr Stuart - Mr Jones, definitely. He was called  
3 Stuart Jones, I believe.  
4  
5 Q. Sorry, Mr Jones, yes. I'm getting a bit confused,  
6 it's a long week.  
7 A. Yes.  
8  
9 Q. Mr Jones and - I've gone blank here.  
10 A. Mr Bourke.  
11  
12 Q. Mr Bourke. Mr Bourke, yes. Do you recall those two  
13 names?  
14 A. I recall having very close relationships with both  
15 those teachers, very easy to talk to. Mr Bourke, I  
16 believe, coached the basketball team.  
17  
18 Q. Yes.  
19 A. Mr Jones was my economics teacher. I do recall having  
20 conversations with Mr Jones, but I didn't feel like they  
21 were very specific, but I did feel that he had an  
22 understanding that there was a problem with the way the  
23 boys were being treated at the hostel, which is what I said  
24 before. Often the teachers were aware - I believe that the  
25 teachers were aware that things were happening, but because  
26 none of the boys came forward, they felt that - maybe they  
27 felt like they didn't have any - it was all innuendo and  
28 rumour.  
29  
30 MR URQUHART: Right. Sir, that's all the questions I have  
31 for this witness, thank you.  
32  
33 HIS HONOUR: Right. Now, I'm sorry, Ms Morgan, I didn't  
34 invite you to announce yourself, but you are here in Mr  
35 Hammond's place.  
36  
37 MS MORGAN: Thank you, your Honour.  
38  
39 HIS HONOUR: Do you have any questions?  
40  
41 MS MORGAN: Just two questions.  
42  
43 <CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS MORGAN:  
44  
45 MS MORGAN: Q. You mentioned subsequently to your  
46 discussion with Mr Lockhart after your meeting with him  
47 that it - after that, it was just sort of, "Hi, how are you

1 going?", as you were passing on the verandah?  
2 A. Mmm-hmm.  
3  
4 Q. Before your meeting with Mr Lockhart, had you had a  
5 more personal relationship with him? Would you generally  
6 engage with him more than just that?  
7 A. Yes, absolutely. He was our year coordinator. You  
8 could go and ask him anything you liked. He was a, you  
9 know, very approachable teacher.  
10  
11 Q. So you just think - okay. So you think that  
12 conversation is the reason he sort of - was it - I guess  
13 was the backing off initiated by him, or by you and Jodie?  
14 A. I think it may have been more him. I think we  
15 conducted ourselves in our normal manner and I think he -  
16 he sort of kept - he stepped back.  
17  
18 Q. And you said that nothing ever came about. He said he  
19 would speak to his wife and get back to you, but just  
20 nothing ever happened?  
21 A. No, there was no - I don't recall any direction or any  
22 specific help from him.  
23  
24 Q. Okay. And the conversation that you had with Mr  
25 Young --  
26 A. Sure.  
27  
28 Q. -- you said that nothing - nothing came from that  
29 either, that you - you were quite blunt or - sorry, you  
30 were vague?  
31 A. No, I was non-specific. I was vague and non-specific.  
32 It was the sort of conversation you'd have with someone who  
33 you had no trust in, that you were worried that the  
34 conversation would get back to Dennis, and that you would  
35 be punished for talking about the issues. So it was a  
36 question he asked me about, as I recall, about how things  
37 were going at the hostel, and I felt comfortable to vent  
38 and say, well, you know, whatever the issues were at the  
39 time, and then brought up about the boys, and that I felt  
40 that the boys were - I wouldn't have used the word "abuse",  
41 because I didn't even really know that word.  
42  
43 MS MORGAN: I'm really sorry, I misinterpreted one of your  
44 words that you said when you said "abuse" - I thought you  
45 meant in conversation --  
46  
47 HIS HONOUR: Q. What word do you think you would have

1 used?  
2 A. I would have probably said something like fiddling.  
3  
4 Q. "Fiddling"?  
5 A. Yes, "fiddling with the boys".  
6  
7 MS MORGAN: Q. And he didn't question you any further on  
8 that at all?  
9 A. No, he just sort of shuffled me out after that came  
10 around. He just sort of shuffled me out the door, and I  
11 really didn't have a lot of contact with him after that at  
12 all, because that was towards the end of doing the  
13 submission.  
14  
15 MS MORGAN: Right, that was all, thanks.  
16  
17 HIS HONOUR: Thank you. Mr Jenkins?  
18  
19 MR JENKIN: No.  
20  
21 HIS HONOUR: Right, very well. No re-examination?  
22  
23 MR URQUHART: Sir, I've overlooked one matter.  
24  
25 HIS HONOUR: Yes, please deal with it, yes.  
26  
27 <FURTHER EXAMINATION BY MR URQUHART:  
28  
29 MR URQUHART: The witness using the word "punishment"  
30 during questions from my learned friend.  
31  
32 Q. And I did say I was going to get back to this --  
33 A. Yes, we were talking about the consequences --  
34  
35 Q. -- Mrs Moore, and I overlooked it.  
36 A. -- of having the --  
37  
38 Q. I'm talking about what happened to you towards - when  
39 you were in Year 12, towards the end of Year 12. Did  
40 something happen there with you at the hostel involving  
41 yourself and Mr McKenna?  
42 A. Yes.  
43  
44 Q. That's Dennis McKenna, that is?  
45 A. Yes, Dennis McKenna. As - when I was in Year 12, I  
46 was isolated from the rest of the girls. What happened was  
47 Dennis put me into a room by myself, which was actually one

1 of the supervisor's room, and this was directly across the  
2 door from where Wendy and Neil McKenna resided, and I was  
3 moved into that room and then unbeknownst to me, Dennis  
4 then got all of the girls together and told all of the  
5 girls that no one was allowed to come and speak to me at  
6 all, if anyone was seen speaking to me, they would be  
7 punished, and that I was completely isolated and wasn't to  
8 have anything to do with them, and I was just there  
9 floating on my own within a community of girls. And it  
10 took - one of my friends talked to me all the time, but one  
11 of the other girls stopped talking to me at school and I  
12 thought, "Oh, I've just done something to upset her"; it's  
13 a bunch of girls living with each other, you often, you  
14 know, get a bit annoyed with each other sometimes, and you  
15 get over it, but it took about two weeks for my best friend  
16 at the time to tell me that this meeting had occurred, and  
17 that Dennis had spoken to all the girls and said that I was  
18 isolated and I wasn't to be - I wasn't to speak to them,  
19 they weren't allowed to come to me. I guess you need to  
20 understand that at the time I was - all the younger  
21 children used to come to me for a lot of pastoral care. So  
22 if there was a lot of - you know, a girl having problems or  
23 anything like that, they used to come and I would help them  
24 and, you know, answer any of their questions and all that  
25 sort of stuff. So I was a leader in the community that the  
26 younger kids could come and see.

27  
28 Q. And were you given any explanation as to why you were  
29 moved to this room?

30 A. No, I wasn't given any explanations. I do remember  
31 Wendy saying to me, "Oh, we think that you should move to  
32 this room because you're having a lot of interruptions with  
33 your study and we want you to focus on your studies and do  
34 really well", and I remember thinking it was a little bit  
35 strange, but the girl that was in the room with me I didn't  
36 get on with very well, because we had shared accommodation  
37 in Year 12, and I was doing a more academic course and she  
38 wasn't, so she had a lot of spare time, and I did find her  
39 quite interrupting, so I was quite happy in some respects  
40 to move out, until I realised what the real reason was and  
41 why I was even sitting at the dining table and no one  
42 actually talking to me at the dining table and everyone  
43 talking to each other.

44  
45 Q. Right. Now, if you can't recall then by all means say  
46 so, but can you recall whether this move to the separate  
47 room took place before or after that conversation you had

1 with the principal, Mr Young, in Year 12?  
2 A. It must have taken place afterwards, because it was -  
3 I was moved in there in the second - in the second half of  
4 the year, because I wasn't in there for very long before  
5 Dennis - because as a consequence of moving into this room,  
6 Dennis started picking on me quite a lot, which I was quite  
7 a strong person, so I could withstand quite a lot of his  
8 stuff and his little games that he played, but after a  
9 while it really got on top of me and then that came - when  
10 I found out that he had isolated me from the girls and had  
11 that specific meeting saying that no one was allowed to  
12 talk to me, I went and confronted him in the office, and  
13 had a very loud verbal argument with him in the office and  
14 he - as part of that argument I said, "I know what you're  
15 doing to the boys", and then he physically threw me out of  
16 the office, and then that is what precipitated me then  
17 being very upset and going to my parents and saying, "I  
18 can't stay there any longer, he's making my life really  
19 difficult, and I need to leave the area", and then my mum  
20 contacted someone who is related by marriage to my father,  
21 and asked her if she knew anyone who would take a border  
22 for the last few weeks of school, and I moved out.

23  
24 Q. What did you move into?

25 A. I moved into a house in Katanning with a couple called  
26 Gaye and Raynor somebody or other. I can't remember their  
27 last names, and they had a little granny flat that was  
28 attached to their house, and they had very young children.

29  
30 Q. Okay.

31 A. And, you know.

32  
33 Q. You said there that you now say it was - it had to  
34 have been after that discussion you had with Mr Young in  
35 the staff room --

36 A. Yes.

37  
38 Q. -- because it was the second half of the year. Why  
39 are you able to say that?

40 A. Because I - we didn't - the Prime Minister's  
41 submission was towards the start of the year. That's the  
42 only thing that I can recall. I - it's a long time ago.

43  
44 Q. Yes, certainly.

45 A. So that's - and I think that it would have been - it  
46 didn't take very long, it was just a number of weeks that  
47 we met, so it may have taken a month or two months, and I

1 feel that that's what it was - that it was towards the  
2 first half of the year, and it was after that.  
3  
4 MR URQUHART: Thank you, Mrs Moore. That's the only other  
5 matter I need to clarify. Thank you, sir.  
6  
7 HIS HONOUR: Good. Well, that completes your evidence.  
8 Thank you so much.  
9  
10 THE WITNESS: Thank you.  
11  
12 HIS HONOUR: Thank you. You are free to go.  
13  
14 <THE WITNESS WITHDREW  
15  
16 HIS HONOUR: And that's all for today, I gather.  
17  
18 MR URQUHART: It might be a convenient time, sir, yes.  
19  
20 HIS HONOUR: So we'll adjourn now until 10 o'clock on  
21 Monday.  
22  
23 AT 3.24PM THE HEARING ADJOURNED  
24 TO MONDAY, 27 FEBRUARY 2012 AT 10AM  
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