

Special Inquiry into St Andrew's Hostel

Hearing

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

Tuesday, 28 February 2012 at 10am  
(Day 6)

Before: The Hon Peter Blaxell

1 HIS HONOUR: Yes, Mr Urquhart?  
2  
3 MR URQUHART: Thank you, sir. The first witness at  
4 today's hearing will be Anissa Maree Williams and  
5 Ms Williams will be giving her evidence via video link.  
6  
7 HIS HONOUR: Very good.  
8  
9 MR URQUHART: Ms Williams will take the oath, sir.  
10  
11 HIS HONOUR: Thank you. Ms Williams, can you hear me?  
12  
13 MS WILLIAMS: Yes, I can, your Honour.  
14  
15 HIS HONOUR: I am Peter Blaxell, the person conducting the  
16 Inquiry. I think you have a bible there; is that correct?  
17  
18 MS WILLIAMS: Yes, I do.  
19  
20 HIS HONOUR: Do you have a card to read?  
21  
22 MS WILLIAMS: Yes.  
23  
24 HIS HONOUR: If you could read out the oath, thank you.  
25  
26 <ANISSA MAREE WILLIAMS, sworn:  
27  
28 HIS HONOUR: Now you will be asked some questions by  
29 Mr Urquhart. Tell me when you can see Mr Urquhart.  
30  
31 THE WITNESS: Sorry, your Honour, I can hardly hear you.  
32  
33 HIS HONOUR: Can you see Mr Urquhart?  
34  
35 THE WITNESS: Yes, I can.  
36  
37 HIS HONOUR: He is about to ask you some questions. Very  
38 good, Mr Urquhart.  
39  
40 <EXAMINATION-IN-CHIEF BY MR URQUHART:  
41  
42 MR URQUHART: Q. Ms Williams, can you hear me clearly  
43 enough?  
44 A. Yes, I can.  
45  
46 Q. Your full name is Anissa Maree Williams?  
47 A. Yes, it is.

1  
2 Q. You currently reside in Queensland; is that right?  
3 A. Correct.  
4  
5 Q. You are a director of marketing for a wine and tourism  
6 association; is that right?  
7 A. Yes, I am.  
8  
9 Q. How old are you?  
10 A. 38.  
11  
12 Q. The reason I ask that is we need to establish some  
13 years and how old you were when you were at school. If I  
14 can take you to that now, when you were growing up, where  
15 did your family live?  
16 A. About 10ks north-east of Dumbleyung.  
17  
18 Q. About how far is that from Katanning?  
19 A. In driving time, it's about just under an hour.  
20  
21 Q. For high school, did you go to the Katanning high  
22 school?  
23 A. Yes, I did.  
24  
25 Q. As a result of the distance of your family's house  
26 from Katanning, did you stay at the St Andrew's or  
27 Katanning hostel?  
28 A. Yes, I did.  
29  
30 Q. Can you recall for what years you stayed at the  
31 hostel?  
32 A. From 1986 to 1990.  
33  
34 Q. Was that from year 8 through to year 12?  
35 A. Yes, it was.  
36  
37 Q. Ms Williams, did you know a fellow student there at  
38 the hostel by the name of Todd Jefferis?  
39 A. Yes, I did. Our families have known each other for  
40 generations.  
41  
42 Q. How long had you known Todd for?  
43 A. Since I was little.  
44  
45 Q. In 1990, were you aware that Mr Jefferis had made a  
46 complaint against someone?  
47 A. Yes, I was aware that he had made a complaint about

1 Dennis McKenna around August 1990.  
2  
3 Q. Shortly after that, do you recall what happened to  
4 Todd insofar as attending the hostel and the school was  
5 concerned?  
6 A. Like many students, he was expelled, as far as I am  
7 aware. It was obviously not clearly explained to us, but  
8 he was no longer allowed on the premises.  
9  
10 Q. When you say "the premises", are you referring to the  
11 hostel or the school or both?  
12 A. The hostel.  
13  
14 Q. Can you recall who was responsible for expulsions back  
15 in those days?  
16 A. I believe it was Dennis McKenna.  
17  
18 Q. Was anything said to you and your fellow students who  
19 stayed at the hostel about Mr Jefferis once he was  
20 expelled?  
21 A. We were not to speak to Todd or have anything to do  
22 with him. That was common with anyone who was expelled  
23 from the hostel.  
24  
25 Q. Can you recall who gave you that direction in relation  
26 to Todd?  
27 A. I believe it was Wendy. I'm not a hundred percent  
28 sure. The directive came from the top, it came from  
29 Dennis. Also, with past experience, it was common  
30 knowledge that you didn't speak to any expelled students.  
31 He then continued to go to Katanning senior high school and  
32 you were also encouraged not to speak to townies or day  
33 students.  
34  
35 Q. "Townies" is a description for day students?  
36 A. Yes.  
37  
38 Q. You mentioned there someone by the name of Wendy. Who  
39 was Wendy?  
40 A. Wendy was Dennis's sister-in-law.  
41  
42 Q. Can you recall what role she played at the hostel?  
43 A. She was the head female supervisor.  
44  
45 Q. Can you recall whether there was a year 12 ball or  
46 dance towards the end of that year?  
47 A. Yes, every year there was a year 12 ball that was put

1 on by the high school.  
2  
3 Q. With respect to that, were you told anything in  
4 relation to Todd?  
5 A. Todd and I had planned to go to the ball together  
6 prior to his expulsion and I was informed that that would  
7 not occur.  
8  
9 Q. You and he were not allowed to go together?  
10 A. Definitely not.  
11  
12 Q. Again, who informed you of that?  
13 A. To be honest, I'm not a hundred percent sure. Once  
14 again, I thought it was Wendy.  
15  
16 Q. Did you actually go to the ball?  
17 A. I was still allowed to go to the ball and a date was  
18 organised for me that was deemed appropriate.  
19  
20 Q. "Deemed appropriate" by whom?  
21 A. Dennis.  
22  
23 Q. When you say that a date was organised for you, who  
24 organised that?  
25 A. I believe Dennis. I was told by other students that I  
26 would be asked by a particular boy, as a directive from  
27 Dennis.  
28  
29 Q. Was Todd at the ball?  
30 A. Yes, he was.  
31  
32 Q. Did you have any contact with him?  
33 A. Definitely not. I was not allowed near him.  
34  
35 Q. Was Dennis McKenna at the ball?  
36 A. No, I don't believe so but he had plenty of people to  
37 ensure - to, for want of a better word, spy on you.  
38  
39 Q. When you say "people", what group of people are you  
40 talking about? Students? Teachers? Others?  
41 A. All of the above; mainly students.  
42  
43 Q. Based on that, you did not have any contact with Todd  
44 at the ball? You did not talk to him?  
45 A. No, no.  
46  
47 Q. Did not dance with him?

1 A. No.  
2  
3 Q. Did you have an experience at the year 11 ball in  
4 relation to this type of thing?  
5 A. Yes. In year 11 a day student asked me for one dance,  
6 which I accepted, and on returning to St Andrew's, I was  
7 reprimanded for it.  
8  
9 Q. Reprimanded for what?  
10 A. For having a dance, one dance.  
11  
12 Q. Reprimanded by whom?  
13 A. Dennis.  
14  
15 Q. I am just a bit lost here. You had a dance with a day  
16 student at a high school dance. What were you reprimanded  
17 for?  
18 A. Because I was socialising or fraternising with a  
19 student. You were never given any explanation, not a clear  
20 explanation.  
21  
22 Q. Can you recall what Dennis McKenna said to you on that  
23 occasion?  
24 A. No, not - no, not in that case. I mean, reprimands  
25 happened on a weekly and monthly basis so, unfortunately,  
26 that one doesn't stick.  
27  
28 Q. Can I take you back now, please, to a time after you  
29 became aware that Todd had made a complaint against Dennis  
30 McKenna in 1990. Can you recall an occasion in which  
31 Dennis McKenna spoke about this?  
32 A. I can. I can recall being in his flat with a number  
33 of other senior students and I recall him sitting in a  
34 two-seater sofa with boys around him. He was touching boys  
35 inappropriately and he was very upset and I believe there  
36 was a tear in his eye and he stated that Todd was lying and  
37 that we were not to speak to him and if - yeah, defaming  
38 Todd.  
39  
40 Q. When you say he was "touching boys inappropriately" on  
41 that occasion, can you recall what type of touching that  
42 was?  
43 A. He had one year 12 boy at his feet and he was placing  
44 his hand on his chest and rubbing his chest and his  
45 shoulders and his head, and he had another one sitting next  
46 to him as well, but mainly it was the boy in front of him.  
47

1 Q. Can you recall what the boy in front of him was doing  
2 when that was happening?  
3 A. He was just sitting there, looking at us.  
4  
5 HIS HONOUR: Q. Are you saying that the boy had his back  
6 towards Dennis McKenna, the boy in front?  
7 A. Correct, your Honour.  
8  
9 HIS HONOUR: Thank you. I understand.  
10  
11 MR URQUHART: Q. Ms Williams, staying with that timeframe  
12 after Todd had made the complaint, do you recall whether  
13 anything was organised regarding that subject matter?  
14 A. Sorry, what are you asking?  
15  
16 Q. I am asking you whether anything - whether you became  
17 aware of anything being organised regarding --  
18 A. Yes. There was a parents' meeting organised to  
19 discuss the situation.  
20  
21 Q. Did you know Todd's stepmother?  
22 A. Yes, I did. Cathy Jefferis, or Catherine.  
23  
24 Q. Did she ask you anything in relation to this meeting  
25 that had been organised?  
26 A. Yes, she did. Most Fridays we were allowed to take a  
27 bus downtown in Katanning to buy basic amenities -  
28 toothpaste, etc - and whilst I was downtown, Cathy found  
29 me, I believe it was in the chemist, and she was very  
30 upset. She had heard there was a parents' meeting and  
31 wanted to be present at it to inform the parents of this  
32 terrible situation and she told me she had been refused the  
33 details and was banned from attending, but she was  
34 determined to warn the other parents, so she begged me for  
35 the information. I was extremely scared at this stage.  
36 Dennis was watching me and had threatened me with expulsion  
37 on a number of occasions and obviously there were other  
38 students downtown. After that, Cathy got very upset with  
39 me, we had known each other for a long time, so I gave her  
40 the information and I believe she then attended the  
41 meeting, and I was in awe of her at that stage, I have to  
42 say.  
43  
44 Q. Why was it, Ms Williams, that you did not want to give  
45 this information to Cathy when you were well outside the  
46 hostel grounds?  
47 A. Because there were other students downtown as well and

1 they would tell Dennis immediately that I had spoken to  
2 Cathy.

3  
4 Q. What would you be concerned about if that was to  
5 happen?

6 A. I would have been expelled and that would have meant  
7 that I wouldn't be able to finish school and go to  
8 university, as I had hoped.

9  
10 HIS HONOUR: Q. When you say you were in awe of Cathy  
11 Jefferis, can you explain why you were in awe?

12 A. Because she was the only parent fighting, from what I  
13 knew. So many turned a blind eye or were brainwashed into  
14 believing that Dennis was wonderful. Cathy and Todd, I  
15 call them my bravest of the brave. They went against  
16 everything - entire communities - to bring this to light.  
17 You know, they were ostracised by everyone.

18  
19 MR URQUHART: Q. Ms Williams, you mentioned there how  
20 Dennis McKenna would threaten students at the hostel with  
21 expulsion. Can you recall whether he said anything else to  
22 you or to the group about what he could also do, following  
23 the expulsion?

24 A. That he would ensure that no boarding school would  
25 take us and - well, no school, in fact, and he would  
26 destroy other lives and our potential education and  
27 careers; his tentacles went as far as all the country  
28 hostels. At that stage, interest rates were at 19 percent  
29 and my parents had just purchased another farm and,  
30 financially, couldn't afford to send us to Perth, although  
31 I wouldn't be surprised if his tentacles went as far as  
32 Perth boarding schools as well.

33  
34 Q. Did you believe him when he said --

35 A. Yes.

36  
37 Q. -- these sorts of things?

38 A. I'd seen it happen to other students; once they were  
39 expelled, he made sure their lives were destroyed.

40  
41 HIS HONOUR: Q. Are you able to give an example of that?

42  
43 MR URQUHART: Sorry, Ms Williams, his Honour asked you a  
44 question. The camera has just gone to his Honour now.

45  
46 THE WITNESS: Sorry, your Honour.

47

1 MR URQUHART: Did you hear his Honour's question?  
2  
3 HIS HONOUR: Q. You said that he had destroyed the lives  
4 of students who had been expelled. Can you give an example  
5 of that?  
6 A. Well, if students couldn't find day boarding at  
7 Katanning, they had no option; they went home. I am aware  
8 of one student who committed suicide as a result, so yes.  
9  
10 Q. How old was that student at the time of committing  
11 suicide, approximately?  
12 A. He would have been about 15 or 16. He was a couple of  
13 years older than me. His sister was in our year, and she  
14 was also expelled in year 11 and I know she is still  
15 traumatised by it.  
16  
17 MR URQUHART: Q. Ms Williams, you mentioned some things  
18 that Dennis McKenna would say and do to you and other  
19 hostel students, but can I ask you now about some specific  
20 incidents involving you. You mentioned that you started  
21 staying at the hostel in year 8.  
22 A. Yes.  
23  
24 Q. Can you recall an occasion in year 8 when you were  
25 spoken to by two year 12 students?  
26 A. Yes. I was called aside. I had been playing  
27 basketball on the courts with a couple of male students and  
28 I was called in and reprimanded and told that Dennis  
29 believed that I was a manipulator of men and I was not to  
30 speak to any boys and playing basketball was deemed  
31 inappropriate - which, as a year 8 student who - I was 12  
32 and I had grown up with a brother and male cousins and  
33 thought it was just natural to throw a few hoops.  
34  
35 Q. Did you then stop interaction with male students after  
36 that?  
37 A. Yes, I did.  
38  
39 Q. These male students that you were playing basketball  
40 with, were they hostel students or townies?  
41 A. Hostel students.  
42  
43 Q. I want to go now to year 9. Do you recall another  
44 occasion when something happened to you?  
45 A. Myself and three other students in year 9 were called  
46 to the dining room - well, called in front of the dining  
47 room; the dining room was full of all the students. There

1 was a table on the left-hand side which was where a number  
2 of year 11 and 12 boys were sitting, and Dennis was sitting  
3 behind them. They made us stand up in front of all the  
4 students and then called us "sluts" and "lowlifes" and many  
5 other defamatory words.

6  
7 Q. Who actually called you that?

8 A. It was the boys. I cannot recall exactly who because  
9 I knew it was coming from Dennis. The only person I saw  
10 was Dennis.

11  
12 Q. So it was the boys who were at that table?

13 A. Yes. Dennis was very good at getting people to do his  
14 dirty work for him.

15  
16 Q. When they started calling you those derogatory names,  
17 did you hear or see whether Dennis McKenna did anything?

18 A. He was just smiling.

19  
20 Q. You were in year 9 so you were, what, 14 years old?

21 A. I was only 13 because I'm born in December.

22  
23 Q. How did you take that? I know it sounds like a stupid  
24 question, but --

25 A. I was devastated. No explanation could be given why  
26 we were called these names. Also, from that time, you  
27 know, students were also warned not to speak to us anymore;  
28 we were "bad" girls, not to be socialised with in any way.

29  
30 Q. Were there other similar incidents in which those  
31 sorts of things happened to you and these three other  
32 girls?

33 A. It happened on a regular basis. Another situation is  
34 we would have award nights where they - it was like an  
35 academy awards and you would be given gold records for  
36 particular movies or songs that Dennis and the staff  
37 thought related to you. Myself and three girlfriends were  
38 awarded "The Witches of Eastwick" prize, which was a movie  
39 about women who manipulated a man, and he thought that  
40 appropriate and it was a running joke for many years. He  
41 would also have radio shows and his favourite song for me  
42 was "Uptown Girl", because he thought that I was too good  
43 for myself.

44  
45 Q. What would happen on those occasions with the radio  
46 show?

47 A. Either he would lock the door on his office and

1 control the PA system in the morning and there'd be various  
2 - like, I wasn't the only student; other students were  
3 awarded songs. Sometimes it was year 11 and 12 boys, under  
4 encouragement from Dennis, doing it.

5  
6 HIS HONOUR: Q. The songs would actually be played over  
7 the PA; is that what you are saying?

8 A. Yes, they were, your Honour. They'd be played in the  
9 morning for half an hour or an hour, various songs, with  
10 titles awarded to students and they were always defamatory.

11  
12 MR URQUHART: Q. The song that was played in your case?

13 A. Billy Joel, "Uptown Girl".

14  
15 Q. Can you recall any other songs that were played  
16 regarding other students? If you can't, that's okay.

17 A. No, unfortunately not.

18  
19 Q. Ms Williams, it is clear what the short-term effects  
20 of this would be for you. Are you able to tell us - and if  
21 you don't want to, that is fine - have there been any  
22 long-term effects?

23 A. I think there wouldn't be one student who hadn't felt  
24 something by attending St Andrew's. Everyone has suffered  
25 either physical or emotional abuse, or manipulation; some  
26 of us just have larger scars than others and,  
27 unfortunately, some of the boys have terrible scars. I  
28 think there's the continued helplessness that you feel.  
29 You feel that maybe if you had just tried a little harder,  
30 you could have found someone who would listen, someone who  
31 had power. You wish that maybe you'd screamed a little  
32 louder on the outside and not just the inside and, if you  
33 had, maybe people like Todd would have been protected, that  
34 so many students wouldn't have had to go through what they  
35 did, and that never goes away. It never goes away at all.  
36 But then there's the more personal part where you realise  
37 that you didn't trust any males; that even when you left,  
38 that you'd built up walls to protect yourself from Dennis  
39 and other supervisors, and you couldn't let anyone in, you  
40 couldn't let anyone touch you because of that, and Dennis's  
41 words never left your head. But nothing compared to what  
42 other students went through.

43  
44 Q. I appreciate that and the words that never left your  
45 head that Dennis would say or get others to say, are you  
46 able to tell us what they are, in particular?

47 A. Oh, just, "She says a slut", "She's a lowlife", "She's

1 not worth living", "Tart" - it goes on.

2

3 Q. Ms Williams, if we just go back to that occasion in  
4 the dining room when you were in year 9 when those more  
5 senior boys disparaged you with Mr McKenna standing by, can  
6 you recall what happened later that evening regarding  
7 Dennis McKenna and yourself?

8 A. Yes. Later that evening - so, after dinner you would  
9 go to study for an hour or so. Whilst in the study, myself  
10 and one other girl who was standing up front were summonsed  
11 to Dennis's office via the PA system. I remember walking  
12 down the hall and it was like the walk of shame because  
13 students would look at you and go, "Hmm, she's going to get  
14 told off again." I walked into the office and Dennis was  
15 very upset. He was teary and said that he was sorry, that  
16 he really did love us and how sorry he was, and then he  
17 offered us peppermint choc-chip ice-cream - because that  
18 would make it all go away.

19

20 Q. How did that make --

21 A. Dealing with Dennis - sorry?

22

23 Q. No, go on.

24 A. I was saying that dealing with Dennis, for me, was  
25 like dealing with Jekyll and Hyde; I never knew who I was  
26 going to get, and if he said he was sorry, he would never  
27 do that in public, so all the other students still thought  
28 you were a bad person.

29

30 Q. I think you have already clarified this but when he  
31 made that apology to you in year 9, that was not the end of  
32 his victimisation of you; is that right?

33 A. No, not for myself and for many students. It was - as  
34 I said previously, it occurred very regularly.

35

36 Q. Can you recall, in the first one or two years of you  
37 being at the hostel, receiving any warnings by older  
38 students?

39 A. I'm like, yes when I was in year 9 a student who was -  
40 a male student who was about two years older than me said  
41 that he'd been kept back from school they were - regularly  
42 with her - with boys they were often kept back; education  
43 was the lowest priority. And when he was kept back he was  
44 required to go through my cubicle and a number of other  
45 girls' cubicles. He confiscated our diaries and suggested  
46 that we never write a diary in the future.

47

1 Q. Did he say why he was confiscating your diaries?  
2 A. He just said Dennis had directed him.  
3  
4 HIS HONOUR: Who said this, the male student or McKenna?  
5  
6 MR URQUHART: Yes. I think it was the male.  
7  
8 Q. That was the male student who said that to you?  
9 A. Yes, he'd taken our diaries for Dennis.  
10  
11 HIS HONOUR: Q. And he warned you not to write in your  
12 diaries again, is that right, or write diaries again?  
13 A. This student warned me so it wouldn't happen to me  
14 again.  
15  
16 MR URQUHART: Q. Did you notice any other invasions of  
17 your privacy while you were there at the hostel?  
18 A. At times my mail had obviously been opened,  
19 particularly when I received a letter from a particular  
20 female student. She was the female student that I was also  
21 standing with in front of everyone in year 9 and had gone  
22 down to Dennis' office with. She - her parents removed her  
23 from St Andrew's and sent her to boarding school in Perth  
24 and she would write to me. We, being 14, 15-year-old  
25 girls, write smiley faces on the envelopes and love hearts  
26 and they wouldn't join them up; it was obvious that the  
27 envelope had been opened and not closed correctly.  
28  
29 Q. So are you talking about envelopes that you'd received  
30 from her?  
31 A. Yes. If I received a letter from her she would put  
32 smiley faces on it, on the back of it, where the seam was  
33 on the envelope.  
34  
35 Q. So was it the case that all the letters that you  
36 received looked like they'd been opened or only some?  
37 A. Only some, particularly if I received a letter from  
38 her. We also - our phone calls were listened in on when we  
39 were on the public phone which was located in next to the  
40 office. There was usually a student made to sit in the  
41 breezeway to listen to our conversations or Dennis would be  
42 nearby. Also on a number of - on one to two occasions in  
43 year 12 I used to be in a twin room and on two occasions  
44 I opened the door and one of the female junior supervisors,  
45 Maryanne, fell in because she'd had her ear to the door  
46 listening to any conversation I may have.  
47

1 Q. So you recall that junior supervisor's first name?  
2 A. Yes.  
3  
4 Q. She wasn't a member of the McKenna family?  
5 A. No, she wasn't but she was --  
6  
7 Q. Was she there for - go on. I was going to ask you was  
8 she a staff member that you felt you could confide in?  
9 A. Definitely not. She had very little respect from  
10 students or Dennis and she was like a puppet of Dennis.  
11 She was only there for a short period of time.  
12  
13 Q. You mentioned how Dennis McKenna would either make  
14 himself or get other students to make derogatory marks  
15 about hostel students?  
16 A. Mmm-hmm.  
17  
18 Q. Do you recall whether he made derogatory remarks about  
19 other students?  
20 A. Yes. He - particular to females that he wanted to  
21 belittle at the school, particularly if they were  
22 good-looking girls, he would belittle them. One of them I  
23 recall was a straight A student with an impeccable  
24 reputation. Because she was pretty Dennis called her a  
25 "tart" and a "slut" as well.  
26  
27 Q. Were you present when he said those things?  
28 A. Yes, definitely. He said it in my presence, knowing  
29 that I was friends with her, our families knew each other.  
30 He also said it in front of her male cousins who were also  
31 attending the hostel.  
32  
33 Q. With respect to this rule that Dennis McKenna had  
34 about hostel students associating with townies or  
35 non-hostel students at the high school, do you recall an  
36 occasion involving yourself and a townie in year 12?  
37 A. Oh, yes. I was friends with a townie when I was in  
38 year 8 but after I was warned that I was to not have any  
39 involvement with her I stopped being friends; you know, was  
40 still polite and nice but stopped being true friends and -  
41 but however, our parents in year 12 played golf together at  
42 a regional championships and they thought it would be a  
43 lovely idea if we had a sleepover. So they organised for  
44 me to stay at this friend's house for a night. My mother  
45 called me up to tell me that she'd organised for me to stay  
46 there. My telephone --  
47

1 Q. You were at the hostel when she called you up?  
2 A. Yes, I was.  
3  
4 Q. Where did you take that phone call?  
5 A. At the only place there was, the public phone in the  
6 breezeway, near Dennis' office.  
7  
8 Q. Sorry, I interrupted you.  
9 A. And I said "Oh, I don't think it's a good idea, mum,  
10 I don't think so". She was like "No, you're staying, don't  
11 be crazy. I'll ring Dennis". Before she even had a chance  
12 to ring, Dennis hauled me into the office and said what  
13 kind of stunt did I think I was playing at; who did I think  
14 I was and that "That's it, you're gone", "You're expelled",  
15 basically.  
16  
17 Q. Expelled for what? What were you expelled for?  
18 A. Because I was going to stay at a town student's house  
19 and he thought I'd manipulated the situation and got mum to  
20 agree to me to stay there, not the other way. He then  
21 realised that he didn't really have a leg to stand on  
22 because I questioned him with that. I said "What could  
23 I be expelled for?". So then when mum rang up he allowed  
24 me to go but warned me that if I ever pulled a stunt like  
25 that again, that was the end of me.  
26  
27 Q. Would you go away with your family on holidays during  
28 the time that you were at high school?  
29 A. Yes, we would go away every Easter and Christmas.  
30 Christmas to Bustleton, Easter was always Bremer Bay. We'd  
31 gone there since I was a little girl with many other  
32 families from Dumbleyung on fishing trips. We would all  
33 camp at Bremer Bay.  
34  
35 Q. And you used to enjoy yourself, those trips to  
36 Bremer Bay?  
37 A. Oh, in primary school it was idyllic. You know, all  
38 camping around the fire, fishing, squeaky sand,  
39 sharing Easter eggs together.  
40  
41 Q. Did that enjoyment continue into high school?  
42 A. Definitely not.  
43  
44 Q. Why was that?  
45 A. I discovered when I got to high school that Bremer Bay  
46 was a sinful town and that if you went there you were also  
47 a slut and a tart and you hung around with Ongerup and

1 Jerramungup sluts and tarts who also went there and  
2 basically it was deemed inappropriate to go to Bremer Bay  
3 for holidays. So I would beg my parents not to go. They  
4 didn't understand; it was a family tradition.  
5  
6 Q. How did you get this information about Bremer Bay?  
7 A. Dennis would tell stories about what students had been  
8 up to - 99 per cent made up - when they were in Bremer.  
9 Bad things.  
10  
11 Q. Do you have a younger brother?  
12 A. I do. Timothy.  
13  
14 Q. How much younger is he to you?  
15 A. Two school years; 18 months.  
16  
17 Q. Did he become a boarder at the hostel?  
18 A. He did. He joined two years later.  
19  
20 Q. So 1988?  
21 A. Correct.  
22  
23 Q. When he joined did any students say anything to you?  
24 A. Yes. A couple of the boys that had warned us of other  
25 things, such as our diaries, said that I should watch my  
26 brother; watch him, be careful.  
27  
28 Q. Did they say why?  
29 A. They just said "Watch him around Dennis".  
30  
31 Q. Did you subsequently do that?  
32 A. Yes. We were very close. I kept a very close eye on  
33 him.  
34  
35 Q. Ms Williams, you'd told us --  
36 A. And I'm pleased to say --  
37  
38 Q. Sorry, go on.  
39 A. No, I just said and I'm pleased to say that it worked.  
40  
41 Q. Now, you have told us earlier about that occasion when  
42 you were in Dennis McKenna's unit after Todd Jefferis had  
43 made the complaint and you saw some inappropriate touching  
44 by Dennis McKenna of a year 12 student who was seated in  
45 front of him. Was that the only occasion that you saw  
46 Dennis McKenna do something like that?  
47 A. I only saw - I mean, he regularly touched people

1 inappropriately but I didn't see anything further than that  
2 and --

3

4 Q. When you say "people", who in particular?

5 A. Boys. Boys.

6

7 Q. Can you recall what sort of touching that was?

8 A. It was always just rubbing their chests and their  
9 shoulders and their head. Always ensuring that he had a  
10 boy sitting next to him or on his lap, if they were  
11 younger. But a number of those boys also categorically  
12 told us that Dennis wasn't doing anything further, so.

13

14 Q. Did you notice anything about the boys that seemed to  
15 be close to Dennis McKenna? Did you notice anything about  
16 some of those boys' personal backgrounds that you were  
17 aware of?

18 A. Not at the time. Looking back, I realise that a  
19 number of the boys that have been his victims were from  
20 either broken or not close families or they may have been  
21 like the black sheep of the family but not in every case.  
22 He seemed to - in year 12 there was much debate when Todd  
23 raised this issue and for every couple of boys that were  
24 saying what he did there was always the popular boys, they  
25 were always - played football and his favourites, like,  
26 told us that nothing was happening and, you know, people  
27 like Todd were lying. Though I'm sure many have changed  
28 their comments now. I mean, they were pressured to say and  
29 do many things.

30

31 Q. By asking you these lot of questions I am not in any  
32 attempt being critical of your parents, okay. But did you  
33 raise any of these matters that you observed that Dennis  
34 McKenna was doing, with either your mum or your dad?

35 A. I mainly raised my concerns with how he treated us;  
36 that I thought things weren't right. I also raised issues  
37 about another male supervisor. To be honest, I probably  
38 didn't say enough but my parents were like many -  
39 brainwashed to believe that St Andrew's was a wonderful  
40 place. My mother was a teacher and before we went to  
41 St Andrew's she, obviously like good teacher/parents,  
42 investigated St Andrew's and did what a - you know, show it  
43 in great light and so in a way she believed that I was just  
44 an ungrateful teenage girl who didn't want to go to  
45 boarding school. My father didn't believe. He'd seen  
46 someone falsely accused before, so he certainly didn't  
47 believe when accusations were made against Dennis and

1 another male supervisor and he also believed that - you  
2 know, coming from a very traditional background and that  
3 you only got told off if you were bad. So my comment to  
4 him when I said that, you know, Dennis had stood me up and  
5 called me these things, his automatic response was that  
6 "Well, you must have been bad because you get told off when  
7 you're bad and when you're good you don't". You know, my  
8 parents are wonderful people but, you know, they'd never  
9 faced such a person before. They'd been farmers in a small  
10 community, very innocent and our family had lived there for  
11 five generations. They had never faced such a manipulative  
12 man before and therefore didn't see it when it was in front  
13 of them.

14  
15 Q. You referred to another male supervisor there. Who  
16 are you referring to?

17 A. Neil McKenna, Dennis' younger brother.

18  
19 Q. Did he have a position at the hostel when you were  
20 there?

21 A. He was the head male supervisor and he was married to  
22 Wendy McKenna, the head female supervisor.

23  
24 Q. Then when you were in year 10 can you recall whether  
25 another family member joined the staff; that is, the  
26 McKenna family?

27 A. Yes. Gunda McKenna, which was a sister-in-law as  
28 well, became the head female supervisor of Reidy House and  
29 her two children joined her as well.

30  
31 Q. With respect to Neil McKenna, although he was the  
32 senior male supervisor, did you have much contact with him?

33 A. Yes, we did. He loved girls - he loved to have girls  
34 around him. He was a very different personality to Dennis.  
35 He was joyful and fun and, you know, liked to have a good  
36 time and reasonably good-looking, so he'd like to flirt  
37 with the girls and ensure he had an entourage around him  
38 wherever he went.

39  
40 Q. Would he do other duties than simply supervising the  
41 boys?

42 A. Oh, he would do other duties with provisions and  
43 driving school buses, et cetera.

44  
45 Q. With respect to driving the school bus, can you recall  
46 the occasions that he did that?

47 A. Most vividly, he would drive the bus and if you were

1 lucky you got to sit next to him on the bus. There was a  
2 metal platform between the driver's seat and the passenger  
3 seat and if you were one of his favourites you got to sit  
4 there with him.

5

6 Q. How would that come about that you'd get to sit there?

7 A. He would ask you to come and sit by him.

8

9 Q. Were there any occasions when you were asked to sit  
10 there?

11 A. Yes. In year 9 there was at least three occasions  
12 that I was asked to sit there.

13

14 Q. Can you recall, did you have any interaction with him  
15 on those occasions?

16 A. Yes. He would laugh and joke and flirt with me and,  
17 you know, (indistinct) - gently touch me and then on the  
18 third occasion he would do things like as he was trying to  
19 change the gears he would rub his hand up your leg. Most  
20 of the time you were in a sports skirt, so you had a very  
21 short skirt on, and he would brush his hand on your breast  
22 - not that I really had much then but - and other  
23 inappropriate touching that he could get away with while he  
24 was driving the bus.

25

26 Q. What was your reaction to this?

27 A. The first time I was on the bus I was so excited to be  
28 one of his favourites and the third time I freaked. My  
29 hackles went right up, I knew it was wrong. Before I just  
30 looked at it that he was being nice and then I realised no,  
31 this was going too far. My parents had taught us stranger  
32 danger and things like that.

33

34 Q. Did you tell anyone at the time then?

35 A. No. My head female supervisor was his wife.  
36 I couldn't tell her. Other - he was doing this to other  
37 girls and they weren't saying anything. I didn't know who  
38 to speak to. I just decided from that day on that I would  
39 have to learn how to protect myself very quickly. I made  
40 sure that I was still friends, I guess - you know, still be  
41 nice - but that I was always calculating. That I was never  
42 alone with him, that I would never be in the storeroom with  
43 him and I would never go to the red room with him. I would  
44 never sit near him. If I was in the cinema I would make  
45 sure I was always three or four seats down and just, yes,  
46 always calculating, making sure I was not alone.

47

1 Q. You mentioned there the cinema. Is that the cinema  
2 that was on the hostel grounds?  
3 A. Yes, it was.  
4  
5 Q. Would you work at the cinema yourself?  
6 A. Yes. Neil liked to have girls to usherette and - so  
7 I tried to avoid that. I tended to work in the ticket  
8 sales or sometimes the cafeteria. Another mechanism I did  
9 was Wendy often worked on ticket sales, so if I was closer  
10 to her I felt safer. I thought he wouldn't dare do  
11 anything to me if she was around. But if you worked  
12 anywhere it gave you the opportunity to watch the movie,  
13 that was one of the perks of working in one of those three  
14 jobs.  
15  
16 Q. On those occasions at the cinema did you notice  
17 anything that caught your attention regarding what Neil was  
18 doing?  
19 A. Obviously I became very aware of different things Neil  
20 was doing with many other girls and on occasion I noticed  
21 him with other students, even younger students -  
22 particularly younger students - that he would touch them  
23 inappropriately in the cinema.  
24  
25 Q. Can you recall what sort of touching that was?  
26 A. Oh, holding their hands, rubbing their legs, their  
27 breasts. Depending how dark it was and depending if Wendy  
28 was there.  
29  
30 Q. Do you know where Neil McKenna resided when he was the  
31 senior male supervisor?  
32 A. Initially him and Wendy resided in a flat in the  
33 girls' wing and then a few years later they moved to a  
34 house on the property, which was meant to be the warden's  
35 house but he never used it.  
36  
37 Q. Did you notice anything during that time frame when  
38 Neil McKenna was staying at the warden's house?  
39 A. When he was at the warden's house and Wendy was away  
40 I noticed girls coming and going from his house; a couple  
41 in particular.  
42  
43 Q. Would they be in pairs or what number of girls would  
44 you see go in there?  
45 A. Oh, no, just one girl at a time.  
46  
47 Q. In all the years that you were at the hostel and then

1 at Katanning high school, can you recall ever being asked  
2 by a teacher about anything that you have given evidence  
3 about today?  
4 A. Not until year 12, no teacher ever showed an interest  
5 but when I was in year 12 my form teacher asked - sat my  
6 brother and I down. In form rooms you were there with your  
7 siblings. He sat us down and asked if we were all right.  
8 He said "I'm very worried about you. Are you all right?"  
9  
10 Q. You said that was in year 12?  
11 A. Yes.  
12  
13 Q. Year 12 was when Todd made the complaint about Dennis  
14 McKenna?  
15 A. Yes.  
16  
17 Q. Can you recall - if you can't, that's fine - whether  
18 this teacher raised that with you before or after Todd had  
19 made the complaint?  
20 A. I believe it was after but I can't recall exactly.  
21 You know, he was worried about our behaviour. He was  
22 worried that I was falling behind with my schoolwork as  
23 well.  
24  
25 Q. So I gather you then had the opportunity of telling  
26 this teacher what was on your mind. Did you do that?  
27 A. No. He was a wonderful teacher but he was only second  
28 year out, I believe, so he was very young and I'd seen and  
29 heard - I'd heard that Dennis had destroyed other teachers'  
30 careers and I didn't want to risk that for him and I knew  
31 as a junior teacher he would have very little power to  
32 achieve anything in the system.  
33  
34 Q. Can you recall what you said to him?  
35 A. I think I just shrugged my shoulders and went -  
36 I don't think I responded.  
37  
38 Q. You said your brother was there also?  
39 A. Yes.  
40  
41 Q. Can you recall if he was responded at all?  
42 A. No, I can't recall. I believe he said he was fine but  
43 I can't recall exactly.  
44  
45 Q. Thank you for that, Ms Williams.  
46  
47 MR URQUHART: That's all the questions I have for

1 Ms Williams.  
2  
3 HIS HONOUR: Any questions from counsel. Mr Saayman?  
4  
5 MR SAAYMAN: Yes, sir, thank you. Just very briefly.  
6  
7 <CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR SAAYMAN:  
8  
9 MR SAAYMAN: Q. Ms Williams, my name is Mr Saayman and  
10 I appear on behalf of some of the boarders at the hostel.  
11 If I may, just quickly: you have referred to a number of  
12 incidents, the most telling being the incident where you  
13 were called up before the dining room in year 9.  
14 A. Mmm-hmm.  
15  
16 Q. Do you recall if there were any other adults present  
17 on that occasion?  
18 A. No. If there were they would be other supervisors but  
19 I don't recall.  
20  
21 Q. In terms of your residing at the hostel, is it not the  
22 case that other teachers and adults entered on and off the  
23 premises for various duties and tasks?  
24 A. Yes. There were some student - I mean some teachers  
25 that were brought over during study period to help you but,  
26 you know, they provided little assistance during the study  
27 period.  
28  
29 Q. In regards to those people, and particularly the  
30 teachers that came onto the premises, did any of the  
31 victimisation, inappropriate touching or behaviour over the  
32 PA system that you have described, did any of that occur in  
33 their presence?  
34 A. No. Usually when teachers were brought over it was a  
35 very controlled environment, such as study period and on  
36 (indistinct).  
37  
38 Q. And in regards to the time at the cinema when you were  
39 doing work at the cinema, and you have described  
40 inappropriate touching by Neil McKenna, were there any  
41 other adults present on any of those occasions?  
42 A. The cinema was open to the public, so there would have  
43 been. I can't recall. The cinema was open every weekend,  
44 so you're talking of many cases and incidents.  
45  
46 Q. In particular were there ever any board members in  
47 attendance; this is board members of the hostel?

1 A. We rarely saw the board members. I mean, some of them  
2 were parents, so obviously they'd see their children but we  
3 rarely had much to do with them, no. I mean, they would be  
4 there for official occasions but once again in a controlled  
5 environment. They certainly would have seen concerts where  
6 the boys were required to often cross-dress and things but  
7 I can't recall of any other incidents.

8  
9 Q. Can you give a description as to how blatant was Neil  
10 McKenna's conduct; how obvious was it?

11 A. Well, other students could have seen it but obviously  
12 mainly the students that were able to work in the cinema.  
13 That's when he would normally do it, when there was only a  
14 handful of students and they would normally be other girls  
15 and - yes, it wasn't - it was blatant to me because I was  
16 also - had experienced the situation, so I believe my eyes  
17 were wider open than many.

18  
19 Q. In terms of when other members of the public were at  
20 the cinema, what was his conduct then?

21 A. Well, also at the cinema we would sit at the back, so  
22 other people were in front of us. So unless they left to  
23 go to the toilet they wouldn't have seen anything.

24  
25 MR SAAYMAN: Thank you very much. I have no further  
26 questions.

27  
28 HIS HONOUR: Mr Jenkin?

29  
30 MR JENKIN: No.

31  
32 HIS HONOUR: No re-examination?

33  
34 MR URQUHART: No thank you, sir.

35  
36 HIS HONOUR: Thank you very much, Ms Williams. Your  
37 evidence has been very helpful. We will now cut the video  
38 link. Thank you very much.

39  
40 THE WITNESS: Thank you, your Honour.

41  
42 <THE WITNESS WITHDREW

43  
44 HIS HONOUR: I will take a short 10 minute break.

45  
46 MR URQUHART: Thank you, sir.

47

1 SHORT ADJOURNMENT

2

3 HIS HONOUR: Yes, Mr Urquhart.

4

5 MR URQUHART: Thank you, sir. The next witness is William  
6 Bernard McPharlin. And Mr McPharlin will take the  
7 affirmation, thank you, sir.

8

9 <WILLIAM BERNARD MCPHARLIN, affirmed:

10

11 <EXAMINATION-IN-CHIEF BY MR URQUHART:

12

13 MR URQUHART: Q. Now, Mr McPharlin, your full name is  
14 William Bernard McPharlin?

15

A. Yes, sir.

16

17 Q. And how old are you?

18

A. 59, sir.

19

20 Q. And do you reside in Mandurah?

21

A. That's correct.

22

23 Q. And you currently have your own courier business?

24

A. Yes.

25

26 Q. And you also have another part-time position as well?

27

A. Yes, sir.

28

29 Q. With a - is it a wheat bulk --

30

A. CBH.

31

32 Q. CBH. All right. Now, Mr McPharlin, is your partner a  
33 Glenys Flanigan?

34

A. Yes, sir.

35

36 Q. And how long have you been together with Glenys for,  
37 approximately?

38

A. 35-odd years.

39

40 Q. Okay. And are you the stepfather of her two children,  
41 Shaun and Derek Flanigan?

42

A. Yes, sir.

43

44 Q. And you also have a child of our own from Glenys?

45

A. Yes, sir.

46

47 Q. Right. Okay. Mr McPharlin, I want to take you back,

1 please, to the time when you were in Pingrup. Now, can you  
2 recall when that was?  
3 A. Yes. A fair while ago, sir. We left there about  
4 13 years ago, and I went out there when I was approximately  
5 25 years old, so I was there for a fair while, yes.  
6  
7 Q. Okay. So you were there some time in the - in the  
8 1970s?  
9 A. Yes, 1977, roughly.  
10  
11 Q. 1977. And what were you doing there out at Pingrup?  
12 A. When I first went out there I had a job with a farmer.  
13  
14 Q. Yes.  
15 A. And I went out there and worked there. I think they  
16 mainly got me out there to play football really, rather  
17 than work, but I still did both.  
18  
19 Q. Yes, okay. I gather which one you enjoyed the most.  
20 And then after that did you become a shearing contractor?  
21 A. Yes, sir.  
22  
23 Q. And did you also own the hotel there?  
24 A. That's right.  
25  
26 Q. With Glenys?  
27 A. Yes.  
28  
29 Q. And am I right in saying Pingrup is about 50 miles or  
30 80km from Katanning?  
31 A. East of Katanning, yes, sir.  
32  
33 Q. East of Katanning. Now, was Shaun - did Shaun and  
34 Derek - that's Glenys's children, your stepsons - stay at  
35 the Katanning, St Andrew's Hostel whilst they went to the  
36 Katanning high school?  
37 A. Yes, they did, sir.  
38  
39 Q. And if I could take you, please, to some time in or  
40 around the end of 1984. Can you recall something that  
41 Shaun - that's Glenys's older son, is that right --  
42 A. Second.  
43  
44 Q. -- second son, told her?  
45 A. Yes, sir.  
46  
47 Q. All right. Can you just tell us what that was about?

1 A. He just said that - he came home a bit upset. They  
2 used to come home weekends, from memory. He was a bit  
3 upset and come and told his mother that the housemaster had  
4 called him into his office or some place similar, and had  
5 undid his fly on his pants while he was standing next to  
6 him.

7  
8 Q. Yes.

9 A. He did that back up and the housemaster undid it  
10 again. And then he did it up and walked out of the door,  
11 and I believe he - he either came - went to somewhere and  
12 rang his mother or, he's told her as soon as he's come home  
13 on the weekend.

14  
15 Q. And was that information subsequently conveyed to you?

16 A. Straightaway, yes.

17  
18 Q. All right, then. And did you find out who the  
19 identity of the headmaster was?

20  
21 HIS HONOUR: Housemaster.

22  
23 THE WITNESS: Housemaster.

24  
25 MR URQUHART: Q. Housemaster, sorry, housemaster?

26 A. Yes, Dennis McKenna.

27  
28 MR URQUHART: Sir, if I can just have a brief word with Mr  
29 Rafferty, who's just walked in.

30  
31 HIS HONOUR: Yes.

32  
33 MR URQUHART: I'll just tell him where we're at at this  
34 point in time.

35  
36 HIS HONOUR: Yes, certainly.

37  
38 MR URQUHART: Yes, thank you very much, sir.

39  
40 Q. Now, as a result of what Glenys's son had told her,  
41 did you and Glenys make a decision regarding the two boys?

42 A. Yes, we booked them into Lake Grace high school, and  
43 they advised us, from memory, that it would have to happen  
44 at the start of the next term, which was very close, and -  
45 but - then she went in and took their gear and got them out  
46 of the school and just took them home.

47

1 Q. Right. When you say "the school", you mean Katanning?  
2 A. From the hostel --  
3  
4 Q. Yes, from the hostel?  
5 A. -- and the school, yes.  
6  
7 Q. Thank you. Now, if I could take you to 1985 now?  
8 A. Yes.  
9  
10 Q. Do you know Coral and David Trezise?  
11 A. Yes, I know them well.  
12  
13 Q. And how did you know them?  
14 A. I worked for Dave, and plus they lived just pretty  
15 much neighbours straight over the road for a long time.  
16  
17 Q. So about how long have you known them for?  
18 A. I - I've known Dave since I - virtually since I moved  
19 to Pingrup.  
20  
21 Q. I see.  
22 A. Yes.  
23  
24 Q. So again we're going back to the --  
25 A. Long time.  
26  
27 Q. -- 1970s some time?  
28 A. Yes.  
29  
30 Q. Now, can you recall some time in 1985 either or both  
31 Mr and Mrs Trezise asking you for something?  
32 A. Yes, I believe it was Coral came over and she asked if  
33 we got hit for withdrawal fees for taking our kids out of  
34 the hostel, if we had to pay up because we didn't give any  
35 notice and I said, "No, we didn't, we haven't heard boo  
36 from them." And she asked me if I could write a letter to  
37 that effect saying that we hadn't, because apparently they  
38 were stinging her for fees for taking her daughter out.  
39  
40 Q. Right. And did you agree to do that?  
41 A. Yes, sir.  
42  
43 Q. And did you hand them a letter?  
44 A. Yes, I did.  
45  
46 Q. I'm going to show you now a document, and maybe if we  
47 can put it up on the screen, thank you Madam Associate.

1 Under the barcode number 299 - 0299.  
2  
3 Q. And do you recognise that document?  
4 A. Yes, sir, that's my writing.  
5  
6 Q. If we just go to the top now. We can see it's dated  
7 22 August 1985, 37 Carrie Street, Pingrup. Was that your  
8 address at the time?  
9 A. Yes, sir.  
10  
11 Q. And you just address it "To Whom It May Concern"?  
12 A. Yes.  
13  
14 Q. Can you recall where or what the Trezises were going  
15 to do with this letter?  
16 A. I would have - I thought that she was just going to  
17 use the letter as evidence to the fact that we didn't get  
18 charged to take our - take our kids out of the school, so  
19 why should she, out of the boarding house.  
20  
21 Q. Okay. And does that letter give a brief summary of  
22 this occasion regarding your or Glenys's two children, your  
23 stepsons?  
24 A. Yes.  
25  
26 Q. I just want to draw your attention to the last three  
27 lines. Before I do that, if we can just go to where it  
28 says, "Yours faithfully". Is that your signature that  
29 appears immediately below "Yours faithfully"?  
30 A. Yes; yes, sir.  
31  
32 Q. And underneath that, is that the signature of who?  
33 A. My missus, Glenys.  
34  
35 Q. Okay, then. Last three lines there, it reads:  
36  
37 The children were removed because they both  
38 complained of suspicious suggestions made  
39 to them by the housemaster, one Dennis  
40 McKenna.  
41  
42 Now, you've told us that it was Shaun who made the  
43 complaint, so can you offer any explanation as to why you  
44 referred to both the children and not just one?  
45 A. I thought that they had both complained, but Glenys  
46 seems to think - she - the same thing, a long time ago she  
47 thinks it was only Shaun, but I thought - yes, well, at the

1 time I thought they both did.  
2  
3 Q. Okay.  
4 A. But it could well have been that one was of a  
5 different character and may have chose to say nothing --  
6  
7 Q. I see.  
8 A. -- which a lot of them do.  
9  
10 Q. But back in August 1985, it was your belief it was  
11 both?  
12 A. Yes, sir; yes, sir.  
13  
14 MR URQUHART: Thank you, sir, I'll tender that document.  
15  
16 EXHIBIT #8 LETTER BARCODED 0299, DATED 22/8/1985 BY  
17 MR MCPHARLIN  
18  
19 MR URQUHART: Q. Mr McPharlin, I want to take you now to  
20 the following year. Can you recall receiving a letter in  
21 regards to that letter that you had written and given to  
22 the Trezises?  
23 A. Yes, sir.  
24  
25 Q. All right. Can you recall where that letter - who  
26 wrote that letter to you?  
27 A. I believe it was Peter Molinari from Taylor, Nott &  
28 Murray it may have been called then.  
29  
30 Q. Right. Is that a firm of --  
31 A. Solicitors.  
32  
33 Q. -- solicitors in Katanning?  
34 A. Yes, sir.  
35  
36 Q. And did you know that at the time?  
37 A. Yes, sir.  
38  
39 Q. I'm just going to show you, or put up on the screen  
40 maybe, the document number, now barcode 0256, please. Can  
41 you just have a look at that letter - you've either got a  
42 hard copy there, or up on the screen. Do you recognise  
43 that?  
44 A. Yes, I recognise that.  
45  
46 Q. That's a letter addressed to both yourself and your  
47 partner Glenys. And if we just scroll down, it's dated 8

1 October 1986, and it refers in the second paragraph there  
2 that:

3  
4 We enclose a copy of a letter dated 22  
5 August 1985, apparently signed by you.

6  
7 Was that the same letter that we just looked at a moment  
8 ago?

9 A. Yes, I believe so.

10  
11 Q. And then it also says, the last sentence:

12  
13 It was attached to a letter written by  
14 Mrs Colin Trezise to the Chairman of the  
15 Country High Schools Hostels Society. The  
16 last sentence in your letter is libelous  
17 toward Mr McKenna.

18  
19 And then it goes on to say that:

20  
21 If you were to sign and return to us the  
22 enclosed form of apology, he will consider  
23 not taking any further action.

24  
25 A. That's right.

26  
27 Q. And if we go on to the second page now, is that the -  
28 the other page that's attached to the letter?

29 A. Yes, sir.

30  
31 Q. All right. And it reads, "In an open letter" - it's  
32 addressed to Mr Dennis McKenna of St Andrew's Hostel, Round  
33 Drive, Katanning:

34  
35 In an open letter dated 22 August 1985, we  
36 made the following statement in respect of  
37 the residence by the children of the  
38 undersigned Glenys Flanigan at the St  
39 Andrew's hostel.

40  
41 And then it quotes that last sentence that we went through  
42 a moment ago:

43  
44 The children were removed because they both  
45 complained of suspicious suggestions made  
46 to them by the housemaster, one Dennis  
47 McKenna. We now unreservedly withdraw the

1 statement and any imputation of impropriety  
2 it conveyed. We admit that the statement  
3 is without foundation. We regret making  
4 the statement and we tender to you our  
5 sincere apology.

6  
7 If you just scroll down a bit further:

8  
9 Yours faithfully,  
10 Signed B McPharlin  
11 Signed G Flanigan.

12  
13 Did you sign that --

14 A. No, I didn't, sir.

15  
16 Q. -- apology?

17 A. No, I didn't.

18  
19 Q. And any reason for that?

20 A. Because it was all rubbish. I've always believed that  
21 if you tell the truth you don't get into trouble. And  
22 Mrs - they tried to frighten us and, in fact, missus was  
23 all - she may have even signed it and sent a copy in there,  
24 that's how frightened she was that they were going to take  
25 everything. And what happened next, I was in - in at the  
26 lawyers' place seeing Peter Murray, who was actually my  
27 lawyer that I was just seeing over something totally  
28 irrelevant, he was --

29  
30 Q. I see, this is Mr Murray from Taylor Nott & Murray?

31 A. -- from the same company. He's a friend of mine, and  
32 I walked past Peter Molinari's door and he said to me, "You  
33 better sign this, Bill, he's going to sue you for  
34 everything you've got." This is only a short time after  
35 the letter was sent. And I said, "Peter" - I'll try and  
36 remember the exact words I said. I said, "Peter, you can  
37 tell him to start suing because I've heard a few things  
38 around that there's a bit more going on than just my kids,  
39 and I'm going to start doing a bit of digging myself if you  
40 want to keep going down that way." He said, "Okay", and I  
41 walked off.

42  
43 Q. And is it correct that Dennis McKenna never  
44 subsequently --

45 A. Nothing.

46  
47 Q. -- issued proceedings against you and Glenys for

1           defamation?  
2           A.    Nothing whatsoever.  
3  
4           MR URQUHART:   Yes, thank you, Mr McPharlin.  I now tender  
5           that two-page document, sir.  
6  
7           EXHIBIT #9 LETTER FROM TAYLOR NOTT & MURRAY, BARCODED 0286  
8           AND DATED 8/10/1986  
9  
10          MR URQUHART:   And that completes my evidence of this  
11          witness.  
12  
13          HIS HONOUR:   All right.  Any questions from counsel?  
14  
15          MR SAAYMAN:   No, sir.  
16  
17          MR JENKIN:    No, sir.  
18  
19          HIS HONOUR:   Mr Rafferty, are you appearing.  
20  
21          MR RAFFERTY:   May it please, your Honour, I appear on  
22          behalf of Mr Colin Philpott.  I have no questions for this  
23          witness.  
24  
25          HIS HONOUR:   Thank you for that.  Well, Mr McPharlin, that  
26          completes your evidence.  Thank you very much, you're free  
27          to go.  
28  
29          <THE WITNESS WITHDREW  
30  
31          HIS HONOUR:   Yes, Mr Urquhart.  
32  
33          MR URQUHART:   Thank you, sir.  I call now David Lloyd  
34          Trezise.  Mr Trezise is in the back of the court and he  
35          will take the oath.  Sorry, sir, he was outside.  I asked  
36          him to stay outside the court while Mr McPharlin gave his  
37          evidence.  If he can be called.  
38  
39          <DAVID LLOYD TREZISE, sworn:  
40  
41          <EXAMINATION-IN-CHIEF BY MR URQUHART:  
42  
43          MR URQUHART:   Q.  Now, Mr Trezise, your full name is  
44          David Lloyd Trezise?  
45          A.    That's correct.  
46  
47          Q.    And how old are you, sir?

1 A. I'm 65.  
2  
3 Q. And do you reside in the Perth metropolitan area?  
4 A. I do.  
5  
6 Q. And you're now retired?  
7 A. That's correct, yes.  
8  
9 Q. And, Mr Trezise, where were you living in 1984?  
10 A. We were living in Pingrup.  
11  
12 Q. And when you say "we", that's yourself and your wife?  
13 A. And family, yes.  
14  
15 Q. Your wife Coral?  
16 A. Yes.  
17  
18 Q. And how many children do you have?  
19 A. I have three.  
20  
21 Q. And was one of those children named Jacqueline?  
22 A. Yes.  
23  
24 Q. And do you recall what school Jacqueline attended when  
25 she started high school?  
26 A. Her first high school was Katanning.  
27  
28 Q. Yes. And can you recall how long she stayed there  
29 for?  
30 A. Just the 12 months.  
31  
32 Q. Now, how old is Jacqueline now?  
33 A. She's 40.  
34  
35 Q. 40?  
36 A. Yes.  
37  
38 Q. All right. So doing the maths there, did she attend  
39 St Andrew's hostel in 1984?  
40 A. That's correct.  
41  
42 Q. Right. Now, Mr Trezise, if I could take you now  
43 please to the Christmas school holidays of that year,  
44 right, 1984, and going into 1985?  
45 A. Yes.  
46  
47 Q. Do you recall your daughter saying something to you

1 regarding the hostel?  
2 A. Yes. She - when she came home she said, "I'm not  
3 going back there." And, of course, we - we quizzed her why  
4 not, and she just said it was a horrible place, terrible  
5 atmosphere, and she wasn't going back.  
6  
7 Q. And did she refer to anyone in particular?  
8 A. In particular she referred to Dennis McKenna. She  
9 said that she - he made her feel sick the way he used to  
10 have boys hanging off him and on his knee and fondling them  
11 and so forth.  
12  
13 Q. And so as a result of that, what arrangements then did  
14 you make for your daughter's high school education that  
15 following year, 1985?  
16 A. Well, since, I think it was 1983, we'd been trying to  
17 get a school bus run to take high school children from  
18 Pingrup, the town, and as it turned out some out of town,  
19 to meet up with the Lake Grace bus to do their high  
20 schooling at Lake Grace.  
21  
22 Q. I see. And did that eventuate.  
23 A. It did, but not - it didn't eventuate until 7 February  
24 of 1985.  
25  
26 Q. Yes.  
27 A. And up to that time we were sort of on tenterhooks as  
28 to where Jackie would go. We did bring her to Perth and  
29 take her to one of the private schools, but as it turned  
30 out that didn't have to eventuate.  
31  
32 Q. So she was able to go to the Lake Grace high school?  
33 A. She was able, with about four or five other kids, to  
34 go up to Lake Grace, yes.  
35  
36 Q. That's for Year 9?  
37 A. Yes, she did Year 9 and 10, and then - then she did  
38 what was called in those days a mixed mode - it was sort of  
39 a semi-correspondence course with computers and phones and  
40 things. Yes, she got a good TEEing and went on to get a  
41 good university degree.  
42  
43 Q. Good. Once you found out that your daughter was able  
44 to go to the Lake Grace high school --  
45 A. Yes.  
46  
47 Q. -- did you and your wife advise anyone about that?

1 A. In fact, we notified the high school with a letter on  
2 23rd January, even though we were still on tenterhooks  
3 whether the bus was going to eventuate or not.  
4  
5 Q. And so you advised the high school?  
6 A. Yes.  
7  
8 Q. What about the hostel?  
9 A. In writing, and rang Dennis McKenna.  
10  
11 Q. Yes.  
12 A. And we had had discussions with Alan Parks, and we  
13 told him that it was likely that Jackie would go to Lake  
14 Grace.  
15  
16 Q. And Alan Parks was who?  
17 A. Well, Alan Parks was a member of the board for out of  
18 town, out of town - it was the board of the high school --  
19  
20 HIS HONOUR: Board of the hostel, I think you mean.  
21  
22 THE WITNESS: He was on the hostel board, yes.  
23  
24 MR URQUHART: Okay.  
25  
26 Q. Now, once you notified the hostel about that, did a  
27 dispute then take place?  
28 A. Well, I can't say exactly when their dispute started,  
29 but they initially - McKenna said, "Well, you haven't given  
30 us enough notice for your child to be withdrawn, you're up  
31 for a year's fees", and we argued that. And then he came  
32 back - and I think we may have had a letter from the board,  
33 I can't remember, that said we were due for three months or  
34 one term's fees and, okay, we thought about that, and in  
35 the meantime there was a lot of gossip going around town  
36 that Dennis McKenna was telling people that we couldn't pay  
37 our bills and we weren't financial enough to pay our bills,  
38 and that got our back up, and we asked Bill McPharlin for a  
39 letter stating what treatment he had had.  
40  
41 Q. All right. Before we get to that --  
42 A. Yes.  
43  
44 Q. -- so what position did you and your wife take with  
45 respect to what you should pay the hostel?  
46 A. Well, initially because of those letters we didn't  
47 think we should have paid anything.

1  
2 Q. Okay. All right. Now, you mentioned letters. Did it  
3 come to your attention that other parents had taken their  
4 kids out of the hostel?  
5 A. Yes, with no - no notification at all, one of them;  
6 and the other - little notification.  
7  
8 Q. So I don't know if you mentioned the names, but can  
9 you recall who you got these letters from?  
10 A. Yes, there's Bill McPharlin, and Norman and Pat Neve  
11 had come to see us because they had heard some of the  
12 gossip that was going around.  
13  
14 Q. Right. And did you subsequently receive two short  
15 letters from them?  
16 A. Yes.  
17  
18 Q. One from each - one from Mrs Neve, and one from --  
19 A. Bill McPharlin and his partner Glenys Flanigan.  
20  
21 MR URQUHART: Okay. I'm just going to show you now - I'll  
22 give you a hard copy - to show up on the screen, if we just  
23 show barcode number 0299, which I think is exhibit 8, from  
24 memory.  
25  
26 HIS HONOUR: Exhibit?  
27  
28 MR URQUHART: Yes.  
29  
30 Q. And, Mr Trezise, if you need a hard copy, if you can't  
31 make out that one, we can give you one.  
32 A. No, I can see the signatures on that.  
33  
34 Q. All right. You can see that?  
35 A. That's one of the letters, yes.  
36  
37 Q. That's one of the letters. And now if we can put up  
38 barcode number 0300.  
39 A. Yes, that letter was from Mrs Pat Neve.  
40  
41 Q. Mrs Pat Neve, N-E-V-E?  
42 A. That's right.  
43  
44 Q. And that one's dated 20 August 1985?  
45 A. That's right.  
46  
47 Q. We've read out the other one before when Mr McPharlin

1 gave evidence, so I'll just read this one out.

2 A. :

3

4 To whom it may concern,

5

6 We removed our daughter from St Andrew's  
7 hostel without a term's notice because she  
8 was on the verge of a nervous breakdown.  
9 We wrote to the hostel board stating our  
10 case, and nothing more was heard or said  
11 about it from the board.

12

13 I remain yours truthfully,

14

15 Yours truly,

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

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54

55

56

57

A. Yes.

MR URQUHART: Okay, I tender that letter now.

EXHIBIT #10 LETTER FROM MRS P NEVE, DATED 20/8/1995 AND  
BARCODED 0300

MR URQUHART: Q. Now, can you recall whether you and  
your wife did anything in relation to those letters?

A. We sent a copy of those letters to the hostel with a  
covering letter. I don't think that was returned -  
answered. We sent one in due course to the Chairman of the  
Country Hostels Authority --

Q. Yes.

A. -- Mr Philpott. We either sent one or made mention of  
it to the Minister for Education.

Q. Yes.

A. And I understand now, reading some of the old  
correspondence, that also the Ombudsman was given a copy of  
those letters.

Q. All right. I'll show you that correspondence in a  
moment.

A. All right.

Q. In the meantime, if we can stay with these letters.  
Did you read those letters before they were sent off?

A. Yes, I did.

1  
2 Q. And did you notice anything about what Mr McPharlin  
3 and Ms Flanigan had put in their letter?  
4 A. Yes, I did.  
5  
6 Q. And what was that?  
7 A. What sent alarm bells ringing was the last piece of  
8 the letter about his boys - I forget the exact word.  
9  
10 Q. Yes. "Suspicious suggestions" --  
11 A. That's right.  
12  
13 Q. -- "made to them" --  
14 A. That's right.  
15  
16 Q. -- "by housemaster, one Dennis McKenna"?  
17 A. Yes. Bear in mind at that time the old town grapevine  
18 was growing well, and it was being well fertilised, and  
19 there were rumours around that things were going on at the  
20 hostel. Our daughter told us a lot of what went on, but we  
21 always felt there was probably something else to it.  
22  
23 HIS HONOUR: Q. Just dealing with that, you say the town  
24 grapevine was going on as well fertilised. From the talk  
25 about town, what was your understanding of what was general  
26 knowledge in that regard, at that time? This is 1986, I  
27 think, wasn't it?  
28 A. 1986.  
29  
30 MR URQUHART: Well, 1985.  
31  
32 HIS HONOUR: 1985, yes.  
33  
34 THE WITNESS: Well, what originally got our back up was  
35 that McKenna was telling people that we couldn't pay our  
36 bills and all this type of thing, which wasn't right. And  
37 it was quite embarrassing.  
38  
39 HIS HONOUR: Q. When it came to - you said things were  
40 going on. What were you referring to there, at the hostel?  
41 A. At the hostel. Well, from what our daughter told us,  
42 I've told you some of it, that McKenna was - used to fondle  
43 boys and that type of thing and --  
44  
45 Q. I'm talking about the town grapevine. You're  
46 obviously talking about what things were being spoken in  
47 the community generally?

1 A. Well, what was coming back to us was this fact that we  
2 couldn't pay our bills, and that offended us. That was the  
3 main thing that offended us.  
4  
5 Q. When you said the town grapevine was going on and it  
6 was well fertilised --  
7 A. Yes.  
8  
9 Q. -- and I think you said it was general knowledge that  
10 things were going on --  
11 A. Yes. Well, my wife had heard things. She ran a  
12 dancing school and kids used to talk to her and mention  
13 things to her. Obviously there was something going on.  
14 You didn't have to be too perceptive.  
15  
16 Q. What types of things did you yourself hear by way of  
17 rumour was going on?  
18 A. Well, the fiddling of boys. That was one of the  
19 things, and the way McKenna was treating some of the kids.  
20  
21 HIS HONOUR: All right. Yes, Mr Urquhart.  
22  
23 MR URQUHART: Q. Mr Trezise, staying there with 1985, do  
24 you recall an occasion where you got information regarding  
25 this matter that was something more than just a rumour?  
26 A. Yes, I do. A neighbour of ours - I don't think I can  
27 mention his name --  
28  
29 HIS HONOUR: Yes.  
30  
31 THE WITNESS: A lad that we had quite a bit to do with his  
32 growing up --  
33  
34 MR URQUHART: Q. Before you mention his name, can we  
35 just establish this from you - and let me get this clear.  
36 This lad, he never said to you that he was the subject of  
37 any sexual abuse at the hands --  
38 A. No.  
39  
40 Q. -- of Dennis McKenna?  
41 A. No, no, no. Just after he left school, he came out  
42 and helped me do some fencing.  
43  
44 Q. And his name?  
45 A. His name was John Jolly. I knew John and his brothers  
46 really well and the parents, and John asked me why Jackie  
47 wasn't going back to the high school, and I merely said to

1 him, "She refuses to go back there." And he said, "Oh,  
2 yeah, that's fair enough." I said, "How did you find the  
3 hostel?" And I can't recall his exact words, but amongst  
4 what he said, he said, "And that McKenna fiddles with boys.  
5 Then straight away I put two and two together and, you  
6 know, alarm bells rang.  
7

8 HIS HONOUR: Q. What year was it when John Jolly helped  
9 you do the fencing?

10 A. It was 1985.  
11

12 MR URQUHART: Q. So at that stage, apart from the  
13 rumours that you had heard around town, you got some  
14 information from your daughter, Jackie?

15 A. Yep.  
16

17 Q. You had read what Bill McPharlin and Glenys Flanigan  
18 had written in their letter that they gave you?

19 A. Yep.  
20

21 Q. Then you had this information from Mr Jolly.

22 A. That's right.  
23

24 Q. As a result of that then, did you do anything?

25 A. Yes. At my first opportunity I approached Garth  
26 Addis, who I had known since the early 1960s, and I felt  
27 quite comfortable to talk to him, because he was on the  
28 board.  
29

30 Q. When you say "the board", are you referring to the  
31 hostel board?

32 A. Hostel board, yes.  
33

34 Q. Is it the case that you know that Mr Addis has since  
35 died?

36 A. Yes.  
37

38 Q. So you approached him?

39 A. Yes.  
40

41 Q. Can you recall how long after you got that information  
42 from Mr Jolly that you spoke to Mr Addis?

43 A. To Garth, yeah, it wasn't very long. I can't remember  
44 exactly when, but it wasn't long after.  
45

46 Q. Can you recall how you spoke to him? Was it over the  
47 phone, was it a meeting, correspondence - how was it?

1 A. I think it was at a sporting venue, and I called him  
2 aside and I said to him I thought there were some  
3 irregularities going on at the hostel and he asked me what.  
4 I told him the information that John had given me.  
5

6 Q. In particular, can you recall, to the best of your  
7 recollection, what you said to him?

8 A. I just told him that I had it on pretty good authority  
9 through John Jolly and from a letter from Bill McPharlin,  
10 which he would have already read no doubt, that there was  
11 something fishy going on at the hostel.  
12

13 Q. Did you expand on that at all?

14 A. Yes, I told him that Mr McKenna was fiddling with  
15 boys.  
16

17 Q. Can you recall Mr Addis's response to that?

18 A. Yes, he took exception to it and gave me a lecture on  
19 how good a fellow this McKenna was. I was quite taken  
20 aback by his reaction, and I did mention to him, because of  
21 this grapevine, I had heard that his son might have been  
22 one of the ones involved so he should look in his own home  
23 as a starter.  
24

25 Q. Can you recall the manner in which you described that,  
26 the phrase you used?

27 A. I think it was just, you know, "Please look in your  
28 own backyard and start looking at this."  
29

30 Q. When you mentioned that, when you referred it  
31 personally to him, did his reaction change?

32 A. No, he still wasn't happy.  
33

34 Q. Can you recall telling anybody else after you had got  
35 that reaction from Mr Addis?

36 A. Yes. It wasn't that long after - and I can't recall  
37 exactly when - I was talking to Alan Parks, and I mentioned  
38 it to him.  
39

40 Q. Again, why was it that you specifically raised it with  
41 Alan Parks?

42 A. Well, I'd known Alan Parks since the early 1960s and  
43 I knew he was on the board.  
44

45 Q. Again, the hostel board?

46 A. The hostel board, and I felt comfortable with going to  
47 approach him.

1  
2 Q. Can you recall the occasion when you spoke to him  
3 about this?  
4 A. No, I spoke to him on several occasions. I can't -  
5 not the first - the first occasion I cannot say exactly  
6 when it was, but it wouldn't have been long after the  
7 reaction I got from Garth Addis.  
8  
9 Q. Can you recall a specific occasion that you raised  
10 this with Mr Parks?  
11 A. Yes, some time after that - I'm not sure exactly the  
12 year or time, Mr Parks might be able to enlighten you - but  
13 I was constructing a dam catchment on his property and he  
14 jumped up on the grader and we discussed the catchment and,  
15 after we had spoken about that, I reminded him of our  
16 discussion.  
17  
18 Q. Can you recall what you said to him?  
19 A. Yes, that John Jolly gave me that information and he  
20 should --  
21  
22 Q. Did you tell Mr Parks what that information was  
23 A. Yes, yes. I told him, you know, that McKenna was  
24 fiddling with boys and I trusted John implicitly and that  
25 either they just had - they'd had letters or were getting  
26 letters from us and there was also a mention of that in the  
27 letters, which was referring to Bill McPharlin's letter.  
28  
29 Q. Can you recall Mr Parks's response to that?  
30 A. He didn't really respond. I got the impression that  
31 they had closed ranks and they weren't going to talk about  
32 it.  
33  
34 Q. Mr Trezise, you mentioned that in 1985 you had the  
35 facility bus service to Lake Grace high school.  
36 A. Yes.  
37  
38 Q. Nevertheless, how far was Lake Grace away from  
39 Pingrup, approximately?  
40 A. About under 50 kilometres anyway.  
41  
42 Q. We know that there was the hostel at Katanning high  
43 school. Can you recall whether at around this time there  
44 were any discussions regarding the hostel being constructed  
45 at Lake Grace?  
46 A. Yes.  
47

1 Q. Can you remember when that was in relation to this  
2 time frame we're talking about, 1985?  
3 A. Well, it could have been late in 1985 or into 1986.  
4 I can't recall exactly.  
5  
6 Q. With respect to that, can you recall whether you  
7 attended any meetings regarding that subject matter?  
8 A. Yes.  
9  
10 Q. The construction of a hostel.  
11 A. Yes. The P&C at Lake Grace invited us to that  
12 meeting.  
13  
14 Q. Can you recall who was there?  
15 A. There was a collection of people from outer areas and  
16 one of the speakers was Mr Philpott.  
17  
18 Q. Do you know his first name?  
19 A. Yes, Colin Philpott.  
20  
21 Q. Did you know what his role was in all of this?  
22 A. I knew he was the chairman of the Country High School  
23 Hostels Association and we had been trying to get meetings  
24 with him, but hit a brick wall.  
25  
26 Q. Meetings regarding what?  
27 A. Well, correspondence we'd had with them - with him.  
28  
29 Q. Regarding whether you had to pay any fees?  
30 A. That's right --  
31  
32 Q. Or --  
33 A. -- and, also, we forwarded him the letters that we had  
34 from other parents and we asked him what he thought was  
35 just, that the other parents never had to pay anything but  
36 Dennis McKenna, and we considered that the board - well, we  
37 had words to the effect that Dennis McKenna was out to get  
38 us because we were starting this service to Lake Grace.  
39  
40 Q. Did you speak to Mr Philpott at all at this meeting?  
41 A. Yes, I did.  
42  
43 Q. When was it in relation to the meeting?  
44 A. After the meeting, when the meeting was finished. My  
45 wife and I followed him out and we stopped him on his way  
46 to his car and said there were matters that we wanted to  
47 talk about and we wanted to talk about those letters and

1 the fact that we were singled out when our children were  
2 taken away from the school to pay extra - the fees.  
3  
4 Q. So you raised with him the subject matter of the fees?  
5 A. Yes.  
6  
7 Q. Did you raise with him any other subject matter?  
8 A. Yeah, the matter of information I'd had about boys  
9 being fiddled with.  
10  
11 Q. Can you recall what you said to him in that regard?  
12 A. Yeah. I said to him to look at the letter from Bill  
13 McPharlin and take it as read.  
14  
15 Q. Did you say anything else?  
16 A. I did eventually. He was as mad as a hornet and he  
17 said, "You wrote that letter and forwarded it to people."  
18 And I said, "That's easy to prove. We'll do a writing -  
19 easy to prove. Our writing's nothing the same. Get some  
20 correspondence from each of us."  
21  
22 Q. When you were saying to him to read the letter, what  
23 were you referring to?  
24 A. I was referring to the whole letter.  
25  
26 HIS HONOUR: Q. Was he suggesting that you forged that  
27 letter, is that what you are saying?  
28 A. He suggested that I forged the letter and wrote the  
29 letter. When he accused me of doing that, I said, "Well,  
30 nobody's taking any notice here. We'll see you in court."  
31  
32 MR URQUHART: Q. I know you were concerned with him  
33 regarding whether you had to pay any fees or not, so that  
34 was one matter. I want to concentrate on the other matter.  
35 If you can take your mind back, Mr Trezise and to the best  
36 of your recollection let us know what you said to him  
37 regarding the other matter.  
38 A. Well, I said - I remember saying to him that this has  
39 been heavy on our minds ever since we had this information  
40 and it didn't seem that anybody was listening.  
41  
42 Q. When you said "this information", what --  
43 A. I was referring to the information that John Jolly had  
44 given us and the information in Bill McPharlin's letter.  
45  
46 Q. Did you say that to him?  
47 A. Yes.

1  
2 Q. What that information was?  
3 A. Yes, yes. Well, he knew. He had the letter.  
4  
5 Q. But what did you remind him of as to what that  
6 information was?  
7 A. Well, McKenna was fiddling with boys at the hostel.  
8  
9 Q. So his reaction to that? You already mentioned that  
10 he accused you of writing the letter yourself.  
11 A. Yes.  
12  
13 HIS HONOUR: Q. You said he was "angry as a hornet".  
14 What was that in relation to?  
15 A. Well, the accusation that nobody would take any notice  
16 of it and this letter - he thought that we'd written the  
17 letter.  
18  
19 HIS HONOUR: Q. That you'd forged the letter?  
20 A. We'd forged the letter.  
21  
22 MR URQUHART: Q. Did he ask you to provide any further  
23 information --  
24 A. No.  
25  
26 Q. -- regarding the allegation you were making about  
27 Dennis McKenna fiddling with boys?  
28 A. No. It was just the fact that we'd been singled out  
29 and there were rumours that we didn't appreciate getting  
30 around. He was aware of them, the board was aware of them,  
31 and we'd had enough of it and obviously he was taking - he  
32 just accused me of forging a letter and then I was as mad  
33 as a hornet.  
34  
35 Q. You've mentioned that you've looked at some  
36 correspondence. I'm going to just show you some now. Is  
37 it the case that regarding this payment of fees was, for  
38 want of a better word, a rather long running battle?  
39 A. Mm.  
40  
41 Q. I'm going to show you now, if you can put up on the  
42 screen, firstly, the document barcoded 0303.  
43 A. I've got no hope of reading that.  
44  
45 Q. Just have a look at that. Can you recognise that?  
46 A. Yes.  
47

1 Q. Is that a letter that your wife forwarded to  
2 Mr Philpott?  
3 A. Yes.  
4  
5 Q. Dated 17 September 1986. Did you have any  
6 involvement, to your recollection, in writing this  
7 particular letter?  
8 A. I would have discussed most of it with her, I would  
9 imagine, yes.  
10  
11 Q. I just want to take you to the second page now. That  
12 first sentence we see at the top of the page under the word  
13 "department."  
14 A. Yep.  
15  
16 Q. It reads:  
17  
18 We have sent you copies of letters from  
19 parents who had pulled out their children  
20 from the hostel without a term's notice.  
21  
22 Can you recall what those letters were?  
23 A. Yeah. Those letters were the letters from McPharlin,  
24 Flanigan and the Neve family.  
25  
26 Q. I just want to take you to the line:  
27  
28 We have nothing against him.  
29  
30 Do you see that there? It's about halfway down the page.  
31 It starts:  
32  
33 What has Mr McKenna got against us? We  
34 have nothing against him. We think he runs  
35 an excellent hostel.  
36  
37 Do you see that?  
38 A. Yes. That would be something that my wife wrote.  
39 I had a lot against him at that time.  
40  
41 Q. Do you agree with that line, or not?  
42 A. No, I don't agree with that line.  
43  
44 MR URQUHART: I tender that letter.  
45  
46 HIS HONOUR: There is going to be a series, is there?  
47

1 MR URQUHART: There will be one more.  
2  
3 HIS HONOUR: That is exhibit 11.1.  
4  
5 EXHIBIT #11.1 LETTER DATED 17/9/1986 FROM MRS TREZISE TO  
6 MR PHILPOTT  
7  
8 MR URQUHART: I think this one could be possibly marked  
9 11.2. It's addressed to the Minister for Education.

10  
11 Q. Can you look up on the screen, barcode 0302.  
12 Familiarise yourself with that letter, if you can,  
13 Mr Trezise.

14 A. This is about the same time as the other letter.

15  
16 Q. Yes, it's dated 6 October 1986. Again, has it been  
17 written by your wife? Can you recognise her signature  
18 there at the bottom of page 2?

19 A. Yes, that's my wife's letter.

20  
21 Q. And it's addressed to the Minister for Education.  
22 A. It is.

23  
24 Q. I want to take you to the second page now and down the  
25 bottom of the last paragraph and, once more, it's just the  
26 fourth line from the bottom in similar terms to the passage  
27 from the previous letter I showed you:

28  
29 Honestly we have nothing personal against  
30 Mr McKenna or anybody else. We just wanted  
31 to be treated fairly.

32  
33 Again, did you have any involvement in the writing of that  
34 particular portion of the letter?

35 A. No, but bear in mind, in the capacity as an  
36 earthmoving contractor, I spend a lot of time away from  
37 home and my farm was 100 kilometres from Pingrup and  
38 sometimes in busy season I went out there for weeks on end,  
39 and we probably didn't even have a telephone in 1986. We  
40 were new land farmers - the last lot of new land that was  
41 released in the southern part of the State.

42  
43 Q. The 78 Carrie Street address which appears on that  
44 letter, is that an address separate from your farm?

45 A. From the farm, yes.

46  
47 Q. You had a house at Pingrup and then you had the farm

1           how far away?  
2           A.    Just over 100 kilometres - 102 kilometres.  
3  
4           MR URQUHART:    I tender that letter, too, thank you, sir.  
5  
6           HIS HONOUR:    That will be 11.2.  The last one is 11.1.  
7  
8           EXHIBIT #11.2 LETTER DATED 6/10/1986 FROM MRS TREZISE TO  
9           THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION.  
10  
11          MR URQUHART:    Q.    Mr Trezise, with respect to the issue  
12          regarding the debt, the payment of a fee, did you end up  
13          paying one term's fee, you and your wife?  
14          A.    Yeah.  We were reminded from the hostel that we had  
15          signed something to that effect that we were liable for a  
16          term's fee if they never had a term and a few days or  
17          something, and we had a letter from their lawyers, which  
18          they wanted us to sign, exonerating --  
19  
20          Q.    I'm just about to show you that now.  If we can put up  
21          on the screen barcode 0254.  Just have a look at that  
22          letter.  Is that the letter you're referring to?  
23          A.    Yes.  
24  
25          Q.    Is that dated 8 October 1986 and is it from the law  
26          firm Taylor Nott & Murray?  
27          A.    Yes.  
28  
29          Q.    Is it the case, if we could just scroll down, that the  
30          first part of that letter refers to you paying the amount  
31          of \$950, being fees for the first term 1985 in respect of  
32          Jacqueline?  Do you see that there in the first paragraph?  
33          A.    Yes.  
34  
35          Q.    Then, I think you've already mentioned this, does it  
36          go on to raise a second topic starting with the paragraph,  
37          "Also" about halfway down?  
38          A.    Yep.  
39  
40          Q.    Do you see that?  
41          A.    Yes.  
42  
43          Q.    It states:  
44  
45                  Also, we are instructed to respond to  
46                  Mrs Trezise's letter to the Country High  
47                  School Hostels Authority dated 17 September

1 1986 and, in particular, the letter  
2 attached to it bearing date 22 August 1985  
3 and the signatures of B McPharlin and  
4 G Flanigan.

5  
6 A. Yes.

7  
8 Q. It continues:

9  
10 That letter contains the following words,  
11 "The children were removed because they  
12 both complained of suspicious suggestions  
13 made to them by the house master, one  
14 Dennis McKenna." This statement is  
15 libelous. By you publishing this statement  
16 you are party to the defamation. We have  
17 advised Mr McKenna that he has a firm basis  
18 for the issue of a writ not just against  
19 the authors of the statement but also  
20 Mrs Trezise. If, however, you sign and  
21 return to us the enclosed form of apology,  
22 he will consider not taking any further  
23 action.

24  
25 I just go over the page now, the next page, and it is  
26 addressed to Mr Dennis McKenna of St Andrew's hostel, and  
27 essentially it involves your wife unreservedly withdrawing  
28 the statement and any imputation of impropriety it  
29 conveyed:

30  
31 I admit that I was wrong in publishing the  
32 statement. I regret its publication and  
33 I tender to you my sincere apology.

34  
35 Yours faithfully...

36  
37 It is supposed to be signed "Mrs Coral Trezise".

38 A. Mm.

39  
40 Q. Do you remember seeing that letter at or about that  
41 time, 8 October 1986?

42 A. Yes.

43  
44 Q. Did your wife end up signing that document?

45 A. No. There was no way we would have signed that  
46 document.

47

1 Q. Mr Trezise, I understand that you might want to say  
2 something a little bit later on regarding this matter. Is  
3 that still what you want to do?  
4 A. About the hearing?  
5  
6 Q. Yes. Is that right?  
7 A. Yeah, I would.  
8  
9 Q. You might be able to raise that with his Honour once  
10 the questioning of you has been completed.  
11  
12 MR URQUHART: Thank you, sir. That's all the questions  
13 that I have.  
14  
15 HIS HONOUR: Do you tender that last letter?  
16  
17 MR URQUHART: I'm sorry, sir, I do tender that.  
18  
19 HIS HONOUR: That is exhibit 11.3.  
20  
21 EXHIBIT #11.3 LETTER DATED 8/10/1986 FROM TAYLOR NOTT &  
22 MURRAY.  
23  
24 HIS HONOUR: Q. You want to say something, do you?  
25 A. Can I read it to you?  
26  
27 HIS HONOUR: You may.  
28  
29 THE WITNESS: Thank you:  
30  
31 I have no wish to defame any innocent  
32 persons. I do wish, however, that justice  
33 be served where appropriate. I consider  
34 certain persons mentioned in correspondence  
35 inflicted a slur on our reputation and this  
36 caused us much embarrassment and concern  
37 for many years.  
38  
39 HIS HONOUR: Thank you for that. There will probably be  
40 some other questions. Mr Saayman?  
41  
42 MR SAAYMAN: No, sir, no questions.  
43  
44 HIS HONOUR: Mr Jenkin?  
45  
46 MR JENKIN: No, thank you, sir.  
47

1 HIS HONOUR: We've got some new appearances. Mr Davies?  
2  
3 MR DAVIES: Yes, sir. I don't wish to ask any questions  
4 of this witness.  
5  
6 HIS HONOUR: Thank you. Ms Keeling?  
7  
8 MS KEELING: Yes, your Honour, I do.  
9  
10 HIS HONOUR: Who do you represent?  
11  
12 MS KEELING: I represent Mr Parks.  
13  
14 <CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS KEELING:  
15  
16 MS KEELING: Q. Mr Trezise, you say that you can clearly  
17 recall having a discussion with Mr Parks when a dam was  
18 being constructed on his property.  
19 A. No, a catchment was being constructed.  
20  
21 Q. A catchment; is that right?  
22 A. Yep.  
23  
24 Q. Mr Parks would say that his diary has that on 15 April  
25 1986. Does that sound about right?  
26 A. That could be right.  
27  
28 Q. So that was some time after Jackie left school?  
29 A. Yep.  
30  
31 Q. And you were still at that stage embroiled in the  
32 argument over the fees; is that right?  
33 A. I'm not sure. What was the date?  
34  
35 Q. 1986?  
36 A. Yeah, what month?  
37  
38 Q. April?  
39 A. April? Yes, we would have been. Yes.  
40  
41 Q. In one of these letters, if I can put it to you, it's  
42 barcode 0303.  
43  
44 MR URQUHART: Exhibit 11.1, sir.  
45  
46 MS KEELING: Q. You wrote or your wife wrote:  
47

1 Mr Alan Parks had told me I had to give  
2 some kind of notice of our intentions.

3  
4 So you had obviously spoken to Mr Parks about the issue of  
5 the fees?

6 A. Yes, he and the board were well aware that we were  
7 trying to get this bus run going and we were, if you like,  
8 between a rock and a hard place, because if the bus run  
9 hadn't got going and it was interesting circumstances that  
10 we did get a definite word on that, and it was - we got  
11 that information on 7 February 1985 and I forget when the  
12 kids were to go back shortly after.

13  
14 Q. So it's likely then that your discussion with Mr Parks  
15 on the digger or the machinery that you were using  
16 encompassed both the issue of the fees and any comments you  
17 might have had about Mr McKenna?

18 A. No, it was mainly about McKenna, from my memory.  
19 I think I've - I had already spoken to Alan Parks about the  
20 fees, and it hasn't been mentioned that I engaged the  
21 lawyer to write to the board in 1985 and we were about to  
22 engage him to go to court so we could tell our story in  
23 court under oath, and we were notified I think first by  
24 McKenna, or my wife was called on the phone, and then  
25 I think there was a letter - or there may not even have  
26 been a letter - to say that, "We're not taking any action  
27 against you." And then we paid the amount that was owing,  
28 which was - you're saying it's \$950. Well, that's what it  
29 was then. We paid it. I had more important things to do  
30 than be going to court cases and that sort of thing at the  
31 time.

32  
33 Q. When you spoke to Mr Parks on the tractor on the farm,  
34 you say he didn't respond?

35 A. No, no. He --

36  
37 Q. You don't recall his response or are you saying you  
38 got no response?

39 A. Oh, I think he shook his head and was reluctant to  
40 talk about it.

41  
42 MS KEELING: Thank you, your Honour.

43  
44 HIS HONOUR: Mr Rafferty?

45  
46 MR RAFFERTY: Thank you, sir. I seek leave to  
47 cross-examine Mr Trezise.

1  
2 HIS HONOUR: Yes, you may.  
3  
4 <CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR RAFFERTY:  
5  
6 MR RAFFERTY: Q. Mr Trezise, I just want to get the  
7 chronology of this right. You pull your daughter out of  
8 St Andrew's in early 1985, correct?  
9 A. Yes.  
10  
11 Q. Shortly after that, the bus to Lake Grace is confirmed  
12 and it starts operating; is that correct?  
13 A. No. The bus was confirmed on 7 February. I think  
14 they're - the kids went back to school a day or two later.  
15  
16 Q. So close to the time where you decided for Jackie not  
17 to go back to school, the bus starts operating?  
18 A. Yes, but we had written to McKenna and said - because  
19 there was no way our daughter was going back there --  
20  
21 Q. I understand all of that. I am not criticizing any of  
22 that, I am just trying to get the chronology right.  
23 A. That was on 23 January.  
24  
25 Q. So 15 days later, the bus service is confirmed?  
26 A. Yes.  
27  
28 Q. The bus service to Lake Grace is much more convenient  
29 --  
30 A. Yes.  
31  
32 Q. -- as far as your daughter Jackie's education  
33 requirements were concerned?  
34 A. Yes.  
35  
36 Q. Subsequent to that, you are lobbed with a bill for the  
37 --  
38 A. Yes.  
39  
40 Q. I think you said - is it the year or the first term at  
41 St Andrew's?  
42 A. The first term of the - well, initially McKenna wanted  
43 us to pay for a year.  
44  
45 Q. You certainly were not having any of that?  
46 A. No.  
47

1 Q. Then at some point in time that changed to they wanted  
2 money for a term?  
3 A. Yes.  
4  
5 Q. I think the amount - and I appreciate it is a long  
6 time ago, Mr Trezise - was about \$950 that was being  
7 requested of you?  
8 A. Yes.  
9  
10 Q. You did not want to pay that \$950 because, in your  
11 mind - and I don't criticise you for this, it seems  
12 relatively fair - you did not see any basis to pay that  
13 amount of money?  
14 A. Well, I knew I was being singled out and there was a  
15 vendetta against me and this was one way of getting at me.  
16  
17 Q. You were, in effect, really being duded, weren't you?  
18 You were being charged for something that you received  
19 nothing for?  
20 A. That's right.  
21  
22 Q. From that time on - which would be, shall we say,  
23 somewhere early in 1985 --  
24 A. Mmm-hmm.  
25  
26 Q. -- your primary focus in relation to St Andrew's was  
27 that you were not going to pay that one term's amount of  
28 money, you were not going to pay that \$950?  
29 A. That wasn't our primary focus at all. After John  
30 Jolly told me what he did and I had no response from two  
31 more board members, I wanted that to come to the fore.  
32  
33 Q. You say that this occurred, the conversation with  
34 Mr Jolly, some time in 1985?  
35 A. Yes.  
36  
37 Q. Would that be right?  
38 A. Yes.  
39  
40 Q. After that point in time with Mr Jolly, you say that  
41 there were really two focuses for you: one was the  
42 nonpayment of the fees and the other was to make people  
43 aware of what Mr McKenna was doing, correct?  
44 A. There was only two people I told what John said and  
45 that was Mr Addis and Mr Parks.  
46  
47 Q. Not Mr Philpott?

1 A. Oh yes.  
2  
3 Q. Well, you have just given evidence on oath that there  
4 were two people that you told. Was it also Mr Philpott as  
5 well?  
6 A. Initially, that's all I told.  
7  
8 Q. Prior to 6 October 1986, you say that you had a  
9 particularly bad position as far as your attitude towards  
10 Mr McKenna was concerned?  
11 A. Yes. Well, you wouldn't have to have a very high  
12 level of conception to realise what was going on.  
13  
14 Q. I agree with you entirely, if you had that knowledge  
15 at the time you say you did.  
16 A. Mmm.  
17  
18 Q. Can we have exhibit 11.1 put back up on the screen,  
19 please? Now, you would agree with me - do you need your  
20 glasses on for this, sorry, Mr Trezise?  
21 A. Yes.  
22  
23 Q. Would it be easier with a copy in front of you? Do  
24 you have a copy there?  
25 A. Which one is it?  
26  
27 Q. It is the one addressed to Mr Philpott.  
28 A. All right.  
29  
30 Q. Do you have that in front of you, sir?  
31 A. Yes.  
32  
33 Q. We will just go through this piece by piece. Do you  
34 agree that is a letter from yourself and your wife to  
35 Mr Philpott, the Country High Schools Hostels Authority in  
36 Perth and it is dated 17 September 1986?  
37 A. Well, this one is dated 19/9/86.  
38  
39 Q. No, that says "Received 19/9/86".  
40 A. Oh yes.  
41  
42 Q. Just above that?  
43 A. Yes, yes.  
44  
45 Q. Do you agree with that?  
46 A. Yes.  
47

1 Q. You gave evidence that you would have discussed this  
2 letter with your wife, correct?  
3 A. Yes, no doubt I would have.  
4  
5 Q. Let's face it, the two of you - as far as not paying  
6 the fees was concerned and feeling that you were not  
7 obliged to pay the fees, that was something that you and  
8 your wife, at that time, would have discussed a lot?  
9 A. Yes.  
10  
11 Q. If there had been any correspondence or any  
12 discussions in relation to that, it would have been between  
13 the two of you, correct?  
14 A. Well, most of it.  
15  
16 Q. If one person was speaking or writing, that would have  
17 been on behalf of both of you, correct?  
18 A. Well, I don't agree with this section at the back that  
19 we had no beef with McKenna.  
20  
21 Q. Mr Trezise, I will come back to that portion.  
22 A. Righto. Yes.  
23  
24 Q. What I am asking you is a general question.  
25 A. Yes?  
26  
27 Q. As far as you and your wife were concerned, one had  
28 the authority to speak on behalf of the other?  
29 A. Generally, yes.  
30  
31 Q. The two of you, before this letter was sent, would  
32 have had a number of discussions about the nonpayment of  
33 the \$950?  
34 A. Yes.  
35  
36 Q. You agree with me that that letter to Mr Philpott  
37 solely relates to the nonpayment of the fees, correct?  
38 A. Well, I haven't --  
39  
40 Q. I will give you an opportunity to read it. Take your  
41 time.  
42 A. Mmm-hmm. Okay.  
43  
44 Q. I will put the proposition again, now that I have  
45 given you the opportunity to read that.  
46 A. Mmm.  
47

1 Q. That letter dated 17 September 1986 to Mr Colin  
2 Philpott solely related to your issue in relation to the  
3 payment of fees at St Andrew's hostel, correct?

4 A. Yes.

5

6 Q. There is no mention in that letter of any suggestions  
7 of impropriety relating to Dennis McKenna at that time, is  
8 there?

9 A. In this letter?

10

11 Q. In that letter?

12 A. No.

13

14 Q. Do you agree with me that in the third paragraph on  
15 the second page, the last sentence reads:

16

17 We have nothing against him. We think he  
18 runs an excellent hostel but our daughter  
19 is a homely daughter and even though  
20 Mr McKenna spoke very highly of our  
21 daughter when she was at the hostel, she  
22 still wasn't happy even though she covered  
23 up her emotions while boarding away.

24

25 Now, you will agree with me that in that sentence, the  
26 plural "we" is used twice. Do you agree with that?

27 A. Was this the end of the letter?

28

29 Q. No, it is the third paragraph on that last page.

30 A. Oh yes.

31

32 Q. It is the last sentence in that paragraph.

33 A. Yes.

34

35 Q. I will let you read that.

36 A. That we were --

37

38 Q. I will just ask that question again before I give you  
39 a chance to explain. Twice in that sentence the plural  
40 "we" is used, correct?

41 A. Mmm.

42

43 Q. Yes? You have to answer; it is being transcribed.

44 A. "We totally reject the board's" - the line you are  
45 talking about is "We totally reject the board's" --

46

47 Q. No, no. Sorry, I will make this clear. Do you see

1 the paragraph that begins, "The hostel board voted 5 votes"  
2 --  
3 A. Oh yes, yes.  
4  
5 Q. The last sentence in that paragraph starts, "We have  
6 nothing". Can you see that?  
7 A. Yes.  
8  
9 Q. Do you agree that that sentence uses the plural twice?  
10 A. Yes, it does.  
11  
12 Q. That is a statement of your wife, saying "We" -  
13 meaning her and you - "have nothing against Mr McKenna",  
14 correct?  
15 A. Yes, that's what she said.  
16  
17 Q. No, no. I'm saying what this says.  
18 A. Mmm.  
19  
20 Q. "We", meaning you and your wife, "think he runs an  
21 excellent hostel".  
22 A. Well, that's her words not mine, though.  
23  
24 Q. I understand that.  
25 A. Mmm.  
26  
27 Q. But you gave evidence earlier that you would have  
28 discussed this letter with her, correct?  
29 A. I guess I would have done, yes.  
30  
31 Q. If there had been, at that time - I'm not saying at  
32 some time you didn't have any concerns, but I am talking  
33 about at this time in 1986. If at that time in 1986 you  
34 had had any concerns regarding the propriety of  
35 Mr McKenna's behaviour, you would have had that put in this  
36 letter, correct?  
37 A. Yes, but I don't think I would have read this letter  
38 before it was sent away.  
39  
40 Q. No, but you --  
41 A. Bear in mind that I was a lot - a lot of the time I  
42 was away and that was probably sent, yes, while I wasn't  
43 around, obviously.  
44  
45 Q. But your wife certainly would not be sending letters  
46 away purporting --  
47 A. Quite --

1  
2 Q. -- to speak --  
3 A. Quite possibly.  
4  
5 Q. -- on behalf of you?  
6 A. Quite possibly she would.  
7  
8 Q. But if you had had a difficulty with Mr McKenna, you  
9 would have told your wife, wouldn't you, prior to 17 --  
10 A. Well, we knew what he was up to.  
11  
12 Q. No, stop. Prior to 17 September 1986, if you had had  
13 any issues with Mr McKenna, clearly you would have  
14 discussed that with your wife?  
15 A. Oh yes.  
16  
17 Q. Clearly?  
18 A. Mmm.  
19  
20 Q. But there is nothing in this letter which reveals any  
21 concerns, is there?  
22 A. No.  
23  
24 Q. That letter to Mr Philpott is after you say you had  
25 the meeting with Mr Philpott or the discussion with  
26 Mr Philpott in Lake Grace, isn't it?  
27 A. I can't recall.  
28  
29 Q. Your evidence earlier was --  
30 A. But I would have imagined that that meeting in Lake  
31 Grace was after all this.  
32  
33 Q. Well, you gave evidence before to his Honour that it  
34 was early 1985 or late - sorry, late 1985 or early 1986.  
35 A. Well --  
36  
37 Q. If I am wrong in relation to that, his Honour will  
38 correct me and so will Mr Urquhart, but that is the  
39 notation that I have.  
40  
41 HIS HONOUR: I am not certain about that. I don't recall  
42 that evidence but the transcript will show it, if it was  
43 said, yes.  
44  
45 MR RAFFERTY: Thank you, sir.  
46  
47 Q. In fact, I have - see, Mr Trezise, we don't get

1 statements. We don't have a copy of your statement. I  
2 only get a summary from the Commission. The summary I have  
3 refers to some time in 1985 you spoke to Mr Philpott at a  
4 meeting which had been convened at Lake Grace.  
5 A. Yes, okay.  
6  
7 Q. Have you previously told the Commission in a statement  
8 that this discussion occurred with Mr Philpott at Lake  
9 Grace in 1985?  
10 A. No. I can't recall exactly when the meeting was with  
11 Philpott.  
12  
13 Q. No, that is not the question I am asking; it is a  
14 different question.  
15 A. Yes?  
16  
17 Q. Have you previously told the Commission in a statement  
18 that this meeting at Lake Grace took place in 1985, because  
19 that is what the summary that I have been provided says?  
20 A. Well, I don't recall when I said it was.  
21  
22 Q. Have you told the Commission before that it was in  
23 1985?  
24 A. I don't recall saying that.  
25  
26 Q. Just in relation to that meeting, was that meeting in  
27 relation to putting a hostel in Lake Grace?  
28 A. Yes.  
29  
30 Q. It certainly was nothing to do with - regarding the  
31 provision of a bus service to take children from the Lake  
32 Grace area to the Katanning high school?  
33 A. No.  
34  
35 Q. It had nothing at all to do with that?  
36 A. No.  
37  
38 Q. You say that at some point in time - outside, after  
39 the meeting - you told Mr Philpott that Mr McKenna had been  
40 behaving inappropriately? I am putting that in a general  
41 sense.  
42 A. Well, I told - I said to him - he had a copy of the  
43 letter - that letter, yes.  
44  
45 Q. You don't know whether he had ever received that  
46 letter though, do you? It was sent to the hostel  
47 authority.

1 A. Oh, I'm not sure but he referred to the letter, so he  
2 must have.  
3  
4 Q. Have you previously told the Commission that after  
5 having told Mr Philpott what you say happened, that you  
6 can't remember any other words spoken after that other than  
7 "Read the letter and take it as quoted"?  
8 A. No, we had more words than that.  
9  
10 Q. Yes, but have you told the Commission --  
11  
12 HIS HONOUR: Told the Inquiry.  
13  
14 THE WITNESS: I don't recall.  
15  
16 MR RAFFERTY: The Inquiry. Sorry, sir.  
17  
18 THE WITNESS: The Inquiry?  
19  
20 MR RAFFERTY: I keep making that mistake.  
21  
22 HIS HONOUR: Yes. That's all right.  
23  
24 THE WITNESS: Right, the Inquiry.  
25  
26 MR RAFFERTY: Same thing, yes.  
27  
28 Q. How many statements have you provided to the Inquiry -  
29 written statements?  
30 A. One.  
31  
32 Q. When did you provide that statement?  
33 A. Oh, I was approached by the investigator - an  
34 investigator of this Inquiry when he came to my - to our  
35 place about, oh, a week or ten days ago, something like  
36 that.  
37  
38 Q. That is when you provided the statement?  
39 A. Yes.  
40  
41 MR RAFFERTY: Your Honour, there is a procedural matter  
42 that has arisen and --  
43  
44 HIS HONOUR: I presume you might like access to the  
45 statement?  
46  
47 MR RAFFERTY: I do, sir, and the difficulty is I am aware

1 that this witness has a medical appointment this afternoon  
2 and I certainly do not want to hold him up.  
3  
4 HIS HONOUR: I understand. Mr Urquhart, what do you have  
5 to say about that?  
6  
7 MR URQUHART: I don't have any comment to make, sir.  
8  
9 HIS HONOUR: I think he should be asked to identify the  
10 statement and counsel should have an opportunity to read  
11 it.  
12  
13 MR RAFFERTY: Can I put it in these terms as well: the  
14 summary that was provided to my client in the letter  
15 16 February 2012 in relation to this witness's evidence is  
16 inaccurate, and I will be making further submissions in  
17 relation to other witnesses, but I will do that in due  
18 course.  
19  
20 HIS HONOUR: All right then.  
21  
22 MR RAFFERTY: If I can be provided with the statement?  
23  
24 HIS HONOUR: Can we have the statement produced?  
25  
26 MR URQUHART: I will have to take some instructions on  
27 this.  
28  
29 HIS HONOUR: It is a signed statement, I presume?  
30  
31 MR RAFFERTY: Could I also --  
32  
33 MR URQUHART: Well, I will take some instructions on that,  
34 so we might have to take a short adjournment, sir.  
35  
36 HIS HONOUR: What time is your medical appointment?  
37  
38 THE WITNESS: 2.40.  
39  
40 HIS HONOUR: What if we adjourn reasonably shortly for  
41 lunch?  
42  
43 MR RAFFERTY: Sir, the only other issue is that I will  
44 need to speak to Mr Philpott in relation to the contents,  
45 because obviously --  
46  
47 HIS HONOUR: What if we give you a lunch break now and you

1           could do that?  
2  
3           MR RAFFERTY:   That may be an issue, sir. I was going to  
4           propose this: is there another hearing date where we could  
5           ask Mr Trezise to come back, because this will take some  
6           time and I certainly do not want to jeopardise his medical  
7           appointment.  
8  
9           THE WITNESS:   I can ring my doctor.  
10  
11          MR RAFFERTY:   I understand --  
12  
13          THE WITNESS:   He only has to stitch up my leg. He can do  
14          it tomorrow - or somebody can.  
15  
16          MR RAFFERTY:   I thought it was worse than that.  
17  
18          HIS HONOUR:   So it is not a specialist's appointment?  
19  
20          THE WITNESS:   No.  
21  
22          MR RAFFERTY:   I thought it was a specialist's appointment,  
23          sir.  
24  
25          HIS HONOUR:   There is probably not going to be a problem.  
26  
27          THE WITNESS:   No.  
28  
29          MR RAFFERTY:   No.  
30  
31          HIS HONOUR:   If I take a break for lunch now, that will  
32          give time for you to take instructions, for the statement  
33          to be found --  
34  
35          MR RAFFERTY:   I think Mr Urquhart needs to take  
36          instructions first, before he can provide me with the  
37          statement and there may need to be some argument in front  
38          of your Honour in that regard.  
39  
40          HIS HONOUR:   How long will you need to take instructions?  
41          Five minutes?  
42  
43          MR URQUHART:   Not long, sir.  
44  
45          HIS HONOUR:   I will just break for five minutes.  
46  
47          MR URQUHART:   Thank you, sir.

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SHORT ADJOURNMENT

HIS HONOUR: Mr Urquhart, what is happening?

MR URQUHART: Thanks very much, sir. I have discussed this with my learned friend Mr Rafferty and I have also had a brief discussion with the witness regarding an appropriate time at which he could be recalled for his examination to continue. In that way, the parties can deal with these matters that have arisen. Subject to Mr Trezise's availability - he needs to check his diary - it will be Friday, 9 March at 2.15.

HIS HONOUR: Very well. Mr Trezise, tentatively, we will adjourn your evidence until then. We are looking at Friday, 9 March at 2.15. If there is a problem with that, we will do our best to accommodate you, but that is what works at this stage. You can retire from the witness-box for now, thank you.

THE WITNESS WITHDREW

HIS HONOUR: How are we going for time this afternoon with the remaining witnesses?

MR URQUHART: A little pressed but we will do our best, sir. I understand my learned friend Mr Davies wishes to make an application before we adjourn lunch.

HIS HONOUR: Very well. Yes, Mr Davies?

MR RAFFERTY: Sir, if I can now be excused?

HIS HONOUR: Yes. Thanks, Mr Rafferty. Yes, Mr Davies?

MR DAVIES: Your Honour, I seek leave to appear for Mr Neil Thompson. The application I have is an application to be provided with a copy of the statement or statements that have been provided by Mr Noel Parkin to the Inquiry.

HIS HONOUR: Yes?

MR DAVIES: Briefly, on 24 February I wrote to my learned friend and asked for a copy of the statement or statements. That request was declined on the basis that the letter that was sent to my client set out a detailed summary of what

1 the expected evidence would be insofar as it concerned my  
2 client. The letter, as received, has one paragraph. It is  
3 clear that that is only a very small part of the evidence  
4 that Mr Noel Parkin can give.  
5

6 The problem with the decision to not provide a full  
7 copy of the statement is really three-fold: first, it  
8 involves counsel assisting making an assessment as to what  
9 part of the witness's evidence relates to my client and, in  
10 my submission, counsel assisting is not in a particularly  
11 good position to assess that. The events happened a very  
12 long time ago and they happened over a considerable period  
13 - some 15 years, as I understand it. The chronology of the  
14 way in which these events unfolded is important because of  
15 the cumulative effect of the evidence.  
16

17 HIS HONOUR: I think you will find with Mr Parkin it is not  
18 something that took place over 15 years.  
19

20 MR DAVIES: No, but the --  
21

22 HIS HONOUR: The whole of the events surrounding this  
23 Inquiry took place over 15 years, certainly.  
24

25 MR DAVIES: Yes, but some witnesses - can I put it this  
26 way: some people whose interests might be affected by the  
27 findings made by the Inquiry were present in Katanning for  
28 a period of time and, therefore, the chronology and the  
29 things that happened are important.  
30

31 The second problem is that without a full copy of the  
32 statement, I have no way of knowing whether the witness is  
33 departing from that statement - that is, saying something  
34 in his viva voce evidence that he has not previously said  
35 before - and I have no way of knowing when the statement  
36 was first prepared, given that people are being asked to  
37 bring to mind events that happened some 30-odd years ago.  
38

39 Thirdly, I have no way of knowing if there is  
40 something in the statement that the witness does not give  
41 in evidence because he does not remember it or it is not  
42 brought out. I have no way of knowing whether that might  
43 be important to the interests of my client. In particular,  
44 your Honour, there might be matters concerning how the  
45 witness has come to remember things or why the witness says  
46 things happened on a particular date or that they remember  
47 a particular person.

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In a matter that happened so long ago, matters that bear on the reliability of recollection, particularly for events where there is no documentary written record, the reliability of recollection is very important. In my submission, I should have a proper opportunity to be able to test the reliability of recollection.

I think in all criminal and most civil proceedings in this State, witness statements are provided. Obviously this Inquiry is not litigation but it is required to act in accordance with equity and good conscious. It is my submission that equity and good conscious requires a copy of the statement to be provided.

We did see just before in the cross-examination that was being conducted by Mr Rafferty some of the difficulties that arise where all counsel has is a summary and not the statement. For those reasons, I would ask that your Honour give permission for a copy of the statement to be provided.

HIS HONOUR: Very well. Mr Urquhart, what would you like to say?

MR URQUHART: Thank you, sir. My learned friend quite rightly states the obvious when he says "this Inquiry is not litigation". It is not a criminal trial or, indeed, a civil trial; therefore, different procedures apply. In my submission, the requirements of equity and good conscience can be satisfied by the information that has already been provided to my learned friend's client; namely, a summary of the anticipated evidence with respect to his particular client which may be of an adverse nature.

If, in fact, there is other material that is relevant to his client that is potentially not adverse and favourable to his client, every endeavour will be made by myself to adduce that evidence from the witness in his oral testimony. Should that not happen, then the material is already before your Honour by another means by which your Honour can take that into account.

My learned friend says that counsel assisting may not be able to make a judgment call on what parts of the evidence relate to his client. In my submission, I am able to do that and I am able to identify those portions of this witness's statement which potentially may be adverse to

1 Mr Davies' client. I have provided a summary under the  
2 letter dated 14 February 2012 to that effect. In fact, "a  
3 summary" is probably an incorrect description of it. It is  
4 a detailed, almost verbatim account.  
5

6 HIS HONOUR: At the commencement of this Inquiry, I  
7 determined that procedural fairness required that people  
8 who might be adversely affected by the evidence should have  
9 notice of the substance of that evidence. I did not  
10 specifically consider whether or not such people should  
11 have copies of statements. It probably turns upon the  
12 individual person who is adversely affected.  
13

14 Can I ask you what problems you foresee if statements  
15 are made available? Obviously Mr Parkin's statement, so  
16 far as it relates to Mr Davies' client, would be limited in  
17 scope, so far as it directly relates to him.  
18

19 MR URQUHART: Yes.  
20

21 HIS HONOUR: Sometimes - just talking generally -  
22 statements will contain material which might be about  
23 sensitive matters which have nothing directly relating to  
24 the client in question.  
25

26 MR URQUHART: Yes, sir, there is that.  
27

28 HIS HONOUR: But what problems are there in providing  
29 people potentially adversely affected with more detailed  
30 information, such as the whole of the statement or extracts  
31 from the statement?  
32

33 MR URQUHART: If that exercise were undertaken now, sir,  
34 it raises the question of whether witnesses who have  
35 already given evidence would have to be recalled.  
36

37 HIS HONOUR: Well, I am not inviting that; I am certainly  
38 not doing that. I am conducting an Inquiry within a  
39 timeframe, which has meant we have had to send out notices  
40 of adverse evidence in circumstances where sometimes we  
41 have not had the statements from witnesses --  
42

43 MR URQUHART: That's correct, sir, yes.  
44

45 HIS HONOUR: -- but merely telephone conversations, and the  
46 like. Things have had to be done very quickly in order  
47 that I can meet the timeline that has been set by the

1 government.

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I propose on this type of application to deal with each instance on its own merits. I am not setting any general precedent; I want to determine what is fair in the particular instance involved. We are dealing here with Mr Davies' application in respect of his client Neil Thompson.

MR URQUHART: Yes. In my submission, it might be a little bit premature to make this application. If your Honour is minded to deal with it on a case by case basis, then we should wait until we see how the evidence transpires and whether there would be good grounds for making this application that the provision of the entire statement be provided.

HIS HONOUR: Dealing specifically with Mr Parkin's evidence, what potential problems might there be, for example, in disclosing the whole of the in disclosing the whole of the statement to Mr Davies, on condition that it's not to be shown to anyone else?

MR URQUHART: If it is provided to Mr Davies, then I anticipate, sir, applications will be made by counsel who are appearing for other persons that Mr Parkin refers to in his statement. So I would expect then statements have to be provided to them.

The statements would then have to be made available, it would seem, sir, possibly, to those persons that Mr Parkin names that possibly contain adverse evidence against them. Those persons would have to be provided with his statement.

HIS HONOUR: Which persons, sorry?

MR URQUHART: Those persons who have elected not to engage legal counsel.

HIS HONOUR: Why would that be necessary? Fairness requires that any individual that is going to be the subject of evidence of an adverse nature be given notice of that fact so --

MR URQUHART: That's been done.

1 HIS HONOUR: -- they have the opportunity to be  
2 represented if they wish or to come along and give their  
3 side of the story if they wish. The obvious mechanism for  
4 doing it is to advise on the substance of the anticipated  
5 adverse evidence. They have been told that. If I rule  
6 that Mr Davies should see the statement on behalf of one  
7 particular such person who has chosen to be represented,  
8 why would that mean I would have to do the same for all of  
9 the others who have chosen not to be represented?

10

11 MR URQUHART: If they were to make an application, sir,  
12 I anticipate they would be entitled to that, maybe.

13

14 HIS HONOUR: I don't see necessarily that that would be  
15 so.

16

17 MR URQUHART: Or at least those who are currently legally  
18 represented. There is one other, as I understand it, sir,  
19 and that is Ms Keeling who is acting for Mr Parks. There  
20 will be one other, who I have no doubt would make a similar  
21 application.

22

23 Your Honour has identified time constraints to the  
24 Inquiry. That is a real fact. Your Honour presently has  
25 to report by 31 May. There will be difficulties  
26 encountered if we have to recall witnesses in light of --

27

28 HIS HONOUR: Why would we have to recall witnesses? I  
29 don't see the reason for that.

30

31 MR URQUHART: I am just foreshadowing that might be a  
32 possibility. It's already happened with respect to  
33 Mr Trezise. He's now been recalled. It may be --

34

35 HIS HONOUR: I'll just simply say that my tentative view,  
36 and I'm always open to persuasion in a particular instance,  
37 is that if a person adversely affected by evidence has been  
38 given prior notice of the substance of that evidence and  
39 they have chosen not to be represented at the time or to  
40 seek to question the witness at the time the witness is  
41 giving evidence, it is too late. I don't see any reason  
42 why, simply because a statement has become available, that  
43 would change.

44

45 MR URQUHART: My position is that equity and good  
46 conscience has been satisfied by the summary that has been  
47 provided in relation to Mr Davies' client at this point in

1 time. It may be that circumstances will change and an  
2 application could be made, but at this point in time, sir,  
3 in my submission, there has been adequate notice given of  
4 the potential adverse evidence.  
5

6 HIS HONOUR: I am going to rule that Mr Davies should see  
7 the statement on the basis that it is not to be distributed  
8 or shown to others, because it will contain information  
9 which should be restricted to Mr Davies. Do you make the  
10 same application, Ms Keeling?  
11

12 MS KEELING: Yes, your Honour.  
13

14 HIS HONOUR: I will rule in respect of you as well that  
15 that is so, and that should take place immediately and I'll  
16 now adjourn for lunch.  
17

18 MR URQUHART: Thank you, sir, until what time?  
19

20 HIS HONOUR: I think we'll make it 2.30.  
21

22 LUNCHEON ADJOURNMENT  
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1 UPON RESUMPTION  
2  
3 MR URQUHART: The next witness is going to be Noel Edward  
4 Parkin. Mr Parkin will take the oath thank you, Madam  
5 Associate.  
6  
7 <NOEL EDWARD PARKIN, sworn:  
8  
9 <EXAMINATION-IN-CHIEF BY MR URQUHART:  
10  
11 MR URQUHART: Q. Mr Parkin, your full name is Noel  
12 Edward Parkin?  
13 A. It is.  
14  
15 Q. How old are you?  
16 A. 68.  
17  
18 Q. You just mentioned there to Madam Associate that you  
19 have a problem with one of your arms. Did you suffer a  
20 stroke about 19 years ago?  
21 A. Yes, I did, yes.  
22  
23 Q. Has that affected the right side of your body?  
24 A. Yes. I can't do that (witness demonstrates) on the  
25 one - the same. Fingers don't work.  
26  
27 Q. You are aware, though, that if you need a break during  
28 your evidence at any time you only have to say so?  
29 A. Mmm.  
30  
31 Q. All right? Do you know that?  
32 A. Yes. Thank you.  
33  
34 Q. Don't be tough and try and go through without a break.  
35 If you need to have one, we can, okay?  
36 A. Yes.  
37  
38 Q. Can you tell us where you live?  
39 A. Ongerup.  
40  
41 Q. Ongerup?  
42 A. Yes.  
43  
44 Q. How long have you lived there for?  
45 A. In that area since 1966 but years - 47 years, yes.  
46  
47 Q. You have lived there with your family; is that right?

1 A. Yes, I have.  
2  
3 Q. Your wife is Pamela?  
4 A. It is.  
5  
6 Q. How many children did you and your wife have?  
7 A. We had three.  
8  
9 Q. And their names?  
10 A. Steven - the oldest - Bradley and Craig.  
11  
12 Q. Was Steven born in 1963?  
13 A. Yes, he was.  
14  
15 Q. Was Bradley born in 1965?  
16 A. He was.  
17  
18 Q. Then your youngest son, Craig, was he born in 1969?  
19 A. 9, yes.  
20  
21 Q. Bradley unfortunately died in 2008; is that right?  
22 A. That's right.  
23  
24 Q. After your boys finished primary school was a decision  
25 made as to where they should go for high school?  
26 A. There was going to be Swanleigh in Perth.  
27  
28 Q. Swanleigh in Perth?  
29 A. Yes.  
30  
31 Q. Swanleigh; yes. Did that eventuate, did that happen?  
32 A. With Steven it did.  
33  
34 Q. So Steven went there in year 8?  
35 A. Yes, I guess that's the year. It was a --  
36  
37 Q. The year they start high school?  
38 A. Yes, I think so. Yes, the first year of high school.  
39  
40 Q. What about Bradley, where did he start, first year  
41 high school?  
42 A. He started at Jerramungup, yes.  
43  
44 Q. At Jerramungup? Then your youngest son, Craig, can  
45 you --  
46 A. Started at Katanning.  
47

1 Q. You said that Steven started at Swanleigh when he was  
2 in year 8, or first year high school. Did he go somewhere  
3 else for second year?  
4 A. Yes, he went to Katanning because the hostel was there  
5 and - yes.  
6  
7 Q. So he started there in the second year high school?  
8 A. Yes, yes.  
9  
10 Q. What about Bradley?  
11 A. He started in 1979, yes.  
12  
13 Q. So Steven was two years older than him so he started  
14 at the hostel in 1977?  
15 A. Yes.  
16  
17 Q. Then your youngest son Craig, can you recall when he  
18 started?  
19 A. I guess it would be 1982.  
20  
21 Q. Was he in year 8 then?  
22 A. Yes.  
23  
24 Q. Do you recall who the warden was at the hostel when  
25 your boys started there?  
26 A. Dennis McKenna.  
27  
28 Q. Is it the case that you formed an opinion as to what  
29 he did with respect to two of your boys?  
30 A. Yes, I gave - as I said, when I first met him I had  
31 an instant dislike to him because he didn't, like, seem  
32 right to me.  
33  
34 Q. He didn't seem what, sorry?  
35 A. Right to me.  
36  
37 Q. Right to you?  
38 A. Yes.  
39  
40 Q. Was it the case that your two eldest sons, Steven and  
41 Bradley, he committed sexual offences upon them?  
42 A. Yes. Steven definitely but Bradley is - he - I think  
43 he'd tried to but he had affect him in other ways. He'd  
44 been - Brad was I guess a dyslexic or something like that.  
45 He had a year behind and he had special schooling there  
46 (indistinct) as well.  
47

1 Q. Given your suspicions that you had about Dennis  
2 McKenna, did you do or say anything about that?  
3 A. To McKenna?  
4  
5 Q. Firstly, with anyone?  
6 A. Yes, I said to my wife "I don't like this and I don't"  
7 - yes, to start with and eventually I thought and - because  
8 in 1979 I had a feeling that things weren't right with my  
9 eldest son there.  
10  
11 Q. I am going to ask you something about that, then. So  
12 1979 with your eldest son, that's Steven?  
13 A. Yes.  
14  
15 Q. So judging from what you have already told us, he was  
16 in fourth year high school?  
17 A. Yes, yes.  
18  
19 Q. What was it that raised your concerns in that year?  
20 A. We got a school report at the end of third term,  
21 I guess that it was third term, and to me it was 17 days  
22 off school then and - from the school report. So I rang up  
23 the school and I don't know who I talked to, it was  
24 someone, and they told me that they didn't know why he had  
25 so many days off. So we - my wife Pam and I went to  
26 Katanning to the hostel to see McKenna and Steve was not at  
27 school and we asked McKenna why it was 17 days but no  
28 answer come back and I said to Steven "If you're not going  
29 to go to school you can come home and work for me now" and  
30 I said "You pack your backs and we're off" but it was -  
31 took him to stop at the end of the term for - end of the  
32 term wind-up, which I did there but yes.  
33  
34 Q. So you took Steven out from the hostel and the school  
35 at the end of year 11?  
36 A. No, no. It was 1979, I don't know what year that was.  
37  
38 Q. Yes, sorry, when I say "year 11" --  
39 A. It was the second term, the end of second term.  
40  
41 Q. End of second term it was; I see. Can you recall  
42 telling anybody - speaking to anybody else regarding your  
43 concern about Steven having 17 days off school?  
44 A. I don't even (indistinct) talk to the school and then  
45 talked to McKenna, yes.  
46  
47 Q. What did Steven subsequently do after he finished

1 school there in fourth year?  
2 A. He came - the rest of the term he worked for a farmer  
3 in Ongerup and me on odd days and then the end of the -  
4 next year went for a wool classing at Albany.  
5  
6 Q. So that was 1980?  
7 A. Yes.  
8  
9 Q. You have also mentioned that your second son, Bradley,  
10 started school at Katanning --  
11 A. Yes.  
12  
13 Q. -- in 1979?  
14 A. Yes.  
15  
16 Q. Can you recall how long he remained at the school and  
17 the hostel for?  
18 A. I guess it was 1979 until June 1980.  
19  
20 Q. What was it in June of 1980 that meant he stopped  
21 going to the school and the hostel?  
22 A. I got a phone call from the hostel. My wife Pam was  
23 in England with her mother, visiting relations, so I was  
24 told that he's broke out of the school and disappeared.  
25  
26 Q. So, sorry, Brad had broken out of the school and  
27 disappeared?  
28 A. The hostel, yes, yes.  
29  
30 Q. Sorry, the hostel; yes.  
31 A. Yes. And that's what (indistinct) told me, you see,  
32 and they reckon he'd run amok.  
33  
34 Q. Do you know what he'd done to run amok?  
35 A. Not that I never did because I hadn't spoke to him --  
36  
37 Q. No, but did somebody at the hostel tell you what it  
38 was?  
39 A. Yes, yes, yes. And he would've disappeared and turned  
40 up at Ongerup and - two days later.  
41  
42 Q. How far is Ongerup from Katanning?  
43 A. An hour and a half. A hundred and --  
44  
45 Q. An hour and a half drive?  
46 A. Yes; in the car, yes.  
47

1 Q. So after you found this out about what Brad had done,  
2 did you go and speak to anyone at the school?  
3 A. No, the school rang me and talked about the - suggest  
4 I took Bradley to a psychiatrist in Perth.  
5  
6 Q. Can you recall who it was at the school who  
7 recommended that --  
8 A. At the time I think it was headmaster, I think it was  
9 someone Thompson, yes. I guess that was - or he was. He  
10 was a headmaster there, anyway. I think that was him.  
11  
12 Q. Yes. So he suggested that you take Brad to Perth --  
13 A. In the - yes.  
14  
15 Q. -- to a psychiatrist?  
16 A. Yes. Yes, they'd make the appointment for him to go  
17 there.  
18  
19 Q. Sorry, I missed that, someone coughed.  
20 A. He had made the appointment to go there.  
21  
22 Q. So you think Mr Thompson made the appointment?  
23 A. He did, yes.  
24  
25 Q. Did he say to you where you were to go?  
26 A. Yes. And I recalled it was 1 Kings Park Road but -  
27 yes. That's - this end, anyway, because - furthest  
28 building this end.  
29  
30 Q. So when you say "this end" --  
31 A. And I remember that. That was 90 --  
32  
33 Q. -- closer to Perth?  
34 A. Yes.  
35  
36 Q. The city. Okay.  
37 A. Yes.  
38  
39 Q. Did you take Brad to that psychiatrist in Perth?  
40 A. Yes, we had to go for four days. We come down on the  
41 Monday and stop at my mother's place and took him on  
42 Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock every morning for Tuesday,  
43 Wednesday and Thursday and I had to go back on Friday to  
44 talk to the psychiatrist. I guess it was a psychiatrist.  
45  
46 Q. When you say "we went to Perth", who was that?  
47 A. Bradley and I.

1  
2 Q. So it was just you and Bradley?  
3 A. Yes.  
4  
5 Q. Did you take Bradley to see the psychiatrist?  
6 A. Yes, and dropped him off there and they fed him and  
7 last I heard they supplied lunch for him and I used to pick  
8 him up at 3 o'clock - I think it was 3 o'clock in the  
9 afternoon.  
10  
11 Q. Did you pick Bradley up then at that time?  
12 A. Every time, yes, for three days.  
13  
14 Q. Did you speak to anyone there when you picked up  
15 Bradley?  
16 A. No, just was always there; just knocked on the door  
17 and he'd come out.  
18  
19 Q. He came out, Bradley came out, did he?  
20 A. Yes, yes. Because it was --  
21  
22 Q. Did you see the psychiatrist at all?  
23 A. Yes, I did see the psychiatrist. The first day  
24 I spoke to him in the building "You will look after him"  
25 and come back at a certain time.  
26  
27 Q. I see. Did you remember whether it was a male or  
28 female psychiatrist?  
29 A. Male. A male.  
30  
31 Q. Can you recall his name?  
32 A. No. No, no, no. I had all the paperwork but the  
33 paperwork disappeared then after McKenna was evicted first  
34 time because I didn't think I needed it (indistinct) a  
35 reason to keep it.  
36  
37 Q. So you saw the psychiatrist when you went back to pick  
38 Brad up?  
39 A. Yes - no, not on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday  
40 I didn't.  
41  
42 Q. Okay.  
43 A. I had to meet with the psychiatrist 10 o'clock on the  
44 Friday morning.  
45  
46 Q. On the Friday morning you had to go back and see him?  
47 A. Yes.

1  
2 Q. Did you do that?  
3 A. Yes.  
4  
5 Q. Did you speak to him?  
6 A. Yes.  
7  
8 Q. Can you recall what he said to you or what you said to  
9 him?  
10 A. He said he's - I said "What's the outcome of your -  
11 Brad being here all this time" and he said "I've got some  
12 advice. You have got to get your boy out of that hostel  
13 environment because" - and I said "Why?" he said "I can't  
14 tell you that". I said "Did that bloke again interferes  
15 with the boys, doesn't he?" he said "I can't tell you  
16 that". I said "What's the good to have him in here all the  
17 time". I've got to take him out the hostel, he don't want  
18 to tell me why.  
19  
20 Q. When you said to him "Is that bloke abusing the  
21 boys?" --  
22 A. Yes.  
23  
24 Q. -- who were you referring to?  
25 A. McKenna.  
26  
27 Q. Why was it that at that stage you thought that Dennis  
28 McKenna was abusing boys?  
29 A. Oh, every time we went to the hostel he always was  
30 handling boys. It wasn't good. I didn't think it was the  
31 right thing to do, to handle the boys the way he did.  
32  
33 Q. When you say "handled" the boys --  
34 A. Yes, have arms around them, all that, because he's a -  
35 he was only - looked as a warden. As I went to school we  
36 had the same thing and he wasn't no good either, so I know  
37 what a paedophile acts like.  
38  
39 HIS HONOUR: Q. So you're saying you had had previous  
40 knowledge of a paedophile when you went to school; is that  
41 what you're saying?  
42 A. Yes, when I went to school at Merriden in 1954 we had  
43 a paedophile there.  
44  
45 Q. So for that reason you interpreted what he was doing  
46 in that way?  
47 A. He used to - yes, yes, always sort of - yes.

1  
2 MR URQUHART: Q. What sort of mood were you in after the  
3 psychiatrist said he couldn't tell you what your son had  
4 told him?  
5 A. I said "Well, I'll go to the police", "Oh, yeah, yeah,  
6 yeah", we (indistinct) said - he said "I hold the  
7 (indistinct) everything you hear they can ask me" so I go  
8 down to the hostel board and make a complaint there.  
9  
10 Q. So you say the hostel --  
11 A. Board.  
12  
13 Q. -- board?  
14 A. It was in Perth in - I recall where it was in Adelaide  
15 (indistinct) on the corner there but, you know, the name -  
16 it's 32 years ago.  
17  
18 Q. All right. Can you recall what the name was of that -  
19 you said hostel board that you went to?  
20 A. The name of the person?  
21  
22 Q. No, the name of that association or the group?  
23 A. It was Country High - I think it was Country High  
24 School Hostels.  
25  
26 Q. Country High School Hostels, something like that?  
27 A. Yes, like that, yes.  
28  
29 Q. Did you know where --  
30 A. Yes, yes.  
31  
32 Q. -- that office was?  
33 A. It was in the - you know, I looked it up in a  
34 telephone book. There was a telephone box up the corner in  
35 where the psychiatrist was. So I went to them and get that  
36 out of the telephone book.  
37  
38 Q. So you got the address from the telephone book?  
39 A. Yes.  
40  
41 Q. Did you go down to that place?  
42 A. Yes.  
43  
44 Q. Who were you with when you went down to that place?  
45 A. My son Bradley.  
46  
47 Q. What sort of frame of mind were you in when you went

1 to these offices?  
2 A. Wasn't too happy with the response, after four days  
3 been to Perth and have one person wouldn't back me up or  
4 tell anyone about what Bradley said to this psychiatrist.  
5 So I went to the hostel board and made a thing - I wanted  
6 to make a complaint about this McKenna interfering with  
7 boys.  
8  
9 Q. Can you describe to us how that office area was set up  
10 or that place that you went to?  
11 A. Well, we were - when you went to go through a door, so  
12 it was facing that way (witness indicates). Went through  
13 the door and there was a counter there.  
14  
15 Q. So you went to the counter?  
16 A. Yes, and I just wanted to talk to someone. I asked to  
17 see if there was Colin Philpott was there because I knew he  
18 was the head of the hostel board.  
19  
20 Q. Sorry, who did you ask for?  
21 A. Colin Philpott but - by chance he may be there but  
22 I know he did work for them, he was a chairman of the  
23 hostel authority there.  
24  
25 Q. So did you speak to Mr Philpott?  
26 A. They said "No" and he said "What are you going to  
27 complain about?" I said "Like, I've come to complain about  
28 this thing that was McKenna, you know, interferes with  
29 boys" and the bloke said "You're off your head".  
30  
31 Q. So this bloke that you described --  
32 A. Yes.  
33  
34 Q. -- he was just serving people behind the counter, was  
35 he?  
36 A. No, the one I went to first, he went and got another  
37 bloke from a cubicle or the board out the back there.  
38  
39 Q. And you don't know who that person was?  
40 A. No.  
41  
42 Q. You said what you have just said, you were here to  
43 report that Dennis McKenna is a paedophile?  
44 A. Yes.  
45  
46 Q. What happened then?  
47 A. I said to him - they said "No, we can't take any

1 complaint" I said "What, you're his bum boy as well".  
2  
3 Q. What did you say?  
4 A. I said to him "Are you his bum boy as well".  
5  
6 Q. "Are you his bum boy as well"?  
7 A. Yes, that's McKenna's, yes.  
8  
9 Q. I am expecting then - you probably can recall what  
10 happened next, can you?  
11 A. Yes. He said "If you don't leave I'll call the  
12 police" and he asked for someone - I said "I'm not going to  
13 go until you hear someone about it" and he said - he got  
14 someone to call the police and I waited for about two or  
15 three minutes and I thought "Oh, well" - I thought more  
16 about it and (indistinct) should go and yes.  
17  
18 Q. Is it fair to say that you were quite --  
19 A. Angry.  
20  
21 Q. -- upset and angry --  
22 A. Angry.  
23  
24 Q. -- at that time?  
25 A. Yes.  
26  
27 Q. So you left before the police arrived --  
28 A. Yes.  
29  
30 Q. -- if in fact they had arrived?  
31 A. They come out there when I was going out.  
32  
33 Q. So you saw them arrive, did you?  
34 A. The car's pulled up. I went down to go into my car  
35 then.  
36  
37 Q. So you were able to make your getaway, were you?  
38 A. Yes.  
39  
40 Q. Did you drive back to your house?  
41 A. To Ongerup. No, we went back to - that afternoon we  
42 went back to Ongerup and - yes.  
43  
44 Q. When you were at Ongerup did you do anything about  
45 this matter?  
46 A. I think it was on a Saturday morning and it was end of  
47 June.

1  
2 Q. So the next day?  
3 A. Yes, and I recall it was either Saturday or Monday  
4 morning and I rang and complained - confirmed with the  
5 police and I told them I thought that McKenna was  
6 interfering with the boys and there's - like are they in -  
7 he wasn't nice to me.  
8  
9 Q. He wasn't interested, did you say?  
10 A. No, he wasn't nice to me. He said "You've come to  
11 make up complaints like that and we'll come over and lock  
12 you up"  
13  
14 HIS HONOUR: Q. Sorry, that was on the telephone, was  
15 it?  
16 A. Yes, the policeman --  
17  
18 Q. Who did you ring?  
19 A. The policeman.  
20  
21 Q. Whereabouts?  
22 A. Katanning.  
23  
24 Q. The Katanning police?  
25 A. Yes.  
26  
27 Q. Do you remember which policeman you spoke to?  
28 A. No, no. I asked for the bloke in charge but I don't  
29 know who I got.  
30  
31 MR URQUHART: Q. Did he say why it would be that he  
32 would lock you up?  
33 A. "Like you just" - "You just tell lies", that's all he  
34 said to me.  
35  
36 Q. After that did you do anything?  
37 A. I rang some board - those days when they're at the  
38 school they used to send out the board members of the  
39 hostel to the parents.  
40  
41 Q. I see.  
42 A. So I started ringing some of the names on it because  
43 they had the phone numbers on them as well.  
44  
45 Q. Can you recall who you rang?  
46 A. The names of - I remember ringing Keith Stephens,  
47 I talked to him and he said "Oh, you're telling lies" and

1 down went the phone.  
2  
3 Q. What did you say to Keith Stephens?  
4 A. That this McKenna I think is interfering with boys.  
5  
6 Q. So he said to you as well "You're telling lies"?  
7 A. Yes.  
8  
9 Q. And you say he hung up?  
10 A. Yes.  
11  
12 Q. Do you recall anybody else you called from that list?  
13 A. I don't know. I don't - the one, he was manager of a  
14 BWK Co-op at Katanning, I ring him and told the same story  
15 and he hung up on me as well. I rang the bloke from a  
16 bank, I guess it was the Commonwealth Bank, I think, and  
17 told him and he wouldn't listen to me and thought I was  
18 sick in the head and they also - I guess the other one  
19 I rang was a newsagent, I think he was on the board. There  
20 was another - one more in Katanning, I think he was a  
21 newsagent, but I can't be sure of that.  
22  
23 Q. Anybody else from the board?  
24 A. No, no. No, I didn't - did nothing about that, yes.  
25  
26 Q. Returning back to the psychiatrist. He wouldn't tell  
27 you anything. Did you know what --  
28 A. He did - all he said "You have got to get that child  
29 out of that environment of the hostel. It's not healthy  
30 for him".  
31  
32 Q. Were you aware if there was going to be any report  
33 prepared?  
34 A. Yes. I guess - "What's going to be in the report?" he  
35 said "That'll go back to the school" because he said  
36 "I can't give you a report because you're not paying for  
37 it".  
38  
39 Q. So did you do anything in that regard?  
40  
41 HIS HONOUR: Q. Can I just ask: did you say he said he  
42 was going to send the report to the school; is that what  
43 you said?  
44 A. Yes, because they - and the Education Department did  
45 the paying of the fees.  
46  
47 Q. And he said you weren't entitled to the report because

1 you hadn't paid for it?  
2 A. No.  
3  
4 MR URQUHART: Q. So did you do anything about that?  
5 A. Yes, I don't know what day it was but that week I'd  
6 been at the school and asked them for the headmaster and if  
7 I can talk to him about it but they didn't want to talk to  
8 me. No-one wanted to talk to me about it and I said  
9 "I just want to make a" - "I want to know what's in the  
10 report" but nothing.  
11  
12 Q. Did you end up talking to the headmaster?  
13 A. I can't be sure of that.  
14  
15 Q. At this point in time, after you had that conversation  
16 with the police officer and you mentioned there the names  
17 of the board members that you rang, that's within --  
18 A. Yes, because - I can't remember the names exactly  
19 because it was on a piece of paper and that was 32 years  
20 ago.  
21  
22 Q. Certainly, yes. But you mentioned Keith Stephens?  
23 A. Yes, and I got to come to (indistinct) me and him  
24 because he was the - I thought he was the chairman of the  
25 board at that time but I may be wrong there, though.  
26  
27 Q. The manager of BKW?  
28 A. W Co-op, yes.  
29  
30 Q. Someone from the Commonwealth Bank?  
31 A. Yes.  
32  
33 Q. And someone who owned the newsagency?  
34 A. Yes.  
35  
36 Q. Do you remember if there was anyone else?  
37 A. No, none that I rang, no.  
38  
39 Q. Or anyone that you spoke to?  
40 A. No.  
41  
42 Q. So after your son Bradley had had his assessment, you  
43 mentioned earlier - how are you going? Would you like to  
44 have a --  
45 A. Yes, no, no, that's all right.  
46  
47 Q. Would you like to have a break?

1 A. No, no, no.  
2  
3 Q. Shall I check with your wife about that?  
4 A. She's right.  
5  
6 Q. I know she's right. Are you okay?  
7 A. Yes.  
8  
9 Q. All right, then.  
10 A. She's tell you.  
11  
12 Q. Okay. After Brad had his assessment in Perth in or  
13 around June of 1980, you mentioned there that you took him  
14 out of the school --  
15 A. Yes.  
16  
17 Q. -- and the hostel. Where did he go to school after  
18 that?  
19 A. We called it a bus, it's more - it's Jerramungup  
20 again, because he was here - yes, all he'd want to do is  
21 leave school at that age, at 15, he'd had enough of those  
22 people.  
23  
24 Q. Okay. Now, can I take you now to the following year,  
25 all right, 1981.  
26 A. Yes.  
27  
28 Q. Do you recall Brad playing cricket --  
29 A. Yes.  
30  
31 Q. -- at that time? Who was he playing cricket for?  
32 A. Ongerup cricket team.  
33  
34 Q. And can you recall - was did you subsequently find out  
35 about an incident after a cricket match that he was  
36 involved in?  
37 A. Yes, okay. He went to cricket and come home and, yes,  
38 he didn't say nothing big, and the next morning the police  
39 were on my doorstep. I opened the door and I said, "What  
40 can I do?" He said, "I've come to arrest your son." I  
41 said, "What for?" He said, "Wilful damage and grievous  
42 bodily harm." I said, "Well, where's this complaint come  
43 from?" He said, "Yes, I'm here on behalf of Katanning  
44 police." I said, "Who make the complaint?" He said, "The  
45 Katanning police." I said, "No, who is the person? What's  
46 he done?" He said, "Oh, he's thrown a brick or a stone  
47 through a window, a brick through the window, and smashed

1 the window, and cut the person in it." I said, "Well, what  
2 person?" And he said - I said - he said, "It's a school  
3 bus." I said, "Oh, that McKenna was driving it, was he?"  
4 He said, "I can't tell you that."  
5

6 Q. And we've heard there are a number of McKennas at the  
7 school at various times. Which McKenna were you referring  
8 to?

9 A. No, at that time - I don't even think - I don't  
10 think - there was only one there, I think.  
11

12 Q. Okay. But which McKenna were you referring to?

13 A. Dennis McKenna.  
14

15 Q. Now, can you recall who this police officer - what  
16 this police officer's name was?

17 A. No, he was relieving. I said to him, "To arrest my  
18 son, you've got more than you to arrest my son." I said,  
19 "Well, mate, you've got nothing. If you're come to arrest  
20 him. If it's - if it's the busted the window, and Dennis  
21 McKenna in the bus, I'll go to court and tell them why he  
22 did it." I said, "That bloke is a paedophile."  
23

24 Q. So you actually told that to the police officer?

25 A. Yes, the police officer.  
26

27 Q. So you were telling him the same things that you had  
28 told others?

29 A. Yes, yes, yes.  
30

31 Q. All right. Can you remember that police officer's  
32 name?

33 A. This is a part that I'm not really sure about this. I  
34 know Peter - Peter Taylor used to relieve from Nanga, but  
35 somewhere along the line, I don't think it was from Nanga,  
36 but I think it was from Tambellup, relieving at that time.  
37 It was either 1981 or even 1982 this was, the summer of  
38 that year.  
39

40 Q. I see, the summer of 1981 or 1982. So it might have  
41 been Peter Taylor, but you're not sure?

42 A. No, because I know that Peter used to - because I say  
43 that's why I'm - I've been there long ago, I just can't  
44 remember but it was him, but I thought it would be a report  
45 made by the Tambellup police, so they should have it  
46 anyway.  
47

1 Q. Okay. And how was that left? Was Brad arrested there  
2 and then, like --  
3 A. No, he was out working at that time, and I said, "To  
4 arrest him when he gets home, you'd want more than you so  
5 you come back with your mate, because it will take more  
6 than you two to do it as well."  
7  
8 Q. Okay, then. And did he return?  
9 A. Yes, on his own again. I said, "Where's your mate?"  
10 He said, "No, all charges are dropped." I said, "You're  
11 joking."  
12  
13 Q. And why did you say that?  
14 A. I wanted to go to court so he - Brad was going to be  
15 arrested in the morning, in the afternoon it was all  
16 charges dropped.  
17  
18 Q. So why was it that you wanted your son to be charged  
19 and go to court?  
20 A. So I could tell the - when we went, the court, to tell  
21 people why he did it.  
22  
23 Q. And did you, in fact, speak to your son Bradley --  
24 A. Yes.  
25  
26 Q. -- about this incident?  
27 A. When he got home?  
28  
29 Q. Yes.  
30 A. I said, "What have you done this time ?" He said, "I  
31 threw the rock through the window."  
32  
33 Q. So he admitted to you that he threw the rock through  
34 the bus window.  
35 A. Yes, yes.  
36  
37 Q. And did he say why he did that?  
38 A. Yes, at the poofter, he said.  
39  
40 Q. He said what - the poofter was what?  
41 A. McKenna.  
42  
43 Q. Okay.  
44 A. That's what they called him. Bradley used to call him  
45 the poofter all the time.  
46  
47 Q. Right.

1 A. I don't know whether he called it to his face, but I  
2 wouldn't put it past him.  
3  
4 Q. Okay. So nothing more came of that incident?  
5 A. No, I just - I just couldn't believe it.  
6  
7 Q. Now, you've mentioned earlier, Mr Parkin, that your  
8 youngest son, Craig, went to the Katanning high school and  
9 the hostel in 1982?  
10 A. Yes.  
11  
12 Q. Now, why was it, given what you thought of the warden  
13 there, did your youngest son go there?  
14 A. It wasn't my wish for him to go to the hostel, but his  
15 mother - and I don't hold that against her either --  
16  
17 Q. No.  
18 A. -- but she thought I was wrong about all my  
19 accusations about him at the time - and at the time, and -  
20 until Craig went to the hostel.  
21  
22 Q. And did you - did your wife give any explanations to  
23 you as to why she wanted Craig to go there?  
24 A. I think it was more, his mates were going to there to  
25 go to school, and all he wanted to do was go with his  
26 mates.  
27  
28 Q. So Craig wanted to go?  
29 A. Yes.  
30  
31 Q. And did you say anything to Craig?  
32 A. No - he knew about the poofter, yes.  
33  
34 Q. All right. So what did you say to him?  
35 A. I said, "You be careful, he interferes with boys." So  
36 I told him that.  
37  
38 Q. And do you recall something happening in second term  
39 of that year that your son went --  
40 A. 1982.  
41  
42 Q. -- that's 1982, yes.  
43 A. He was - got a phone call. He was suspended from the  
44 hostel.  
45  
46 Q. Suspended?  
47 A. Yes.

1  
2 Q. And so you got a phone call?  
3 A. Yes.  
4  
5 Q. Do you recall who you got the phone call from?  
6 A. My wife got it, I didn't get the phone call.  
7  
8 Q. Okay.  
9 A. Because I wouldn't talk to the so and so, yes.  
10  
11 Q. So you knew it was Dennis McKenna had called, did you?  
12 A. Yes.  
13  
14 Q. All right. So your youngest son Craig was suspended?  
15 A. Yes.  
16  
17 Q. Do you know for how long?  
18 A. I thought it was expelled, but my wife tells me it was  
19 only suspended for a - and he can go back after a year, a  
20 year.  
21  
22 Q. Okay.  
23 A. But that's what he give me off the term, and we - yes.  
24  
25 Q. And was any reason given as to why he'd been  
26 suspended?  
27 A. McKenna said it was taking money out of canteen money.  
28  
29 Q. Did you speak to Craig about that?  
30 A. I did.  
31  
32 Q. And what did he say in respect to that accusation?  
33 A. He said, like, "The other boy", like, he was only 13  
34 or 12 at the time, and - and, "The older boy was telling me  
35 you can take - take a dollar out and they won't notice",  
36 you see. And it was set up by this other boy to take the  
37 other dollar now and again for that week. In the end of  
38 the week, he - he was given a bit of paper to sign, which I  
39 didn't see, about the - "Sign this, if you do other harm,  
40 taking money or if you tell anyone what goes on here, I'll  
41 take you to the police and you'll be dealt with", but he  
42 was that scared, but he didn't sign it.  
43  
44 Q. All right. Did he say who it was who gave him that  
45 note?  
46 A. McKenna. Dennis McKenna.  
47

1 Q. Now, did you have to pay the hostel fee for that term?  
2 A. Yes, we did.  
3  
4 Q. And did you do anything about asking them for a refund  
5 of that?  
6 A. Yes, we asked them for a refund and they said, "No way  
7 in the world." I said, "You can't suspend him:, and I go -  
8 then I started to bring it up about this - being - the kids  
9 being interfered with and, yes, that didn't go down too  
10 well.  
11  
12 Q. Okay. And after that incident, did you and your wife  
13 decide to change where Craig was being educated?  
14 A. No, at the time he had - he did stay a year at - we  
15 got - applied for board in Katanning and - and then we  
16 got - next year, I think it was the next year, we applied  
17 for board for him at - in Albany, with another school.  
18  
19 Q. So - now with respect to, firstly, how did you feel  
20 about having to pay this fee for that term that your son  
21 had been suspended for?  
22 A. Yes, I wanted it back. I asked for it back as well.  
23  
24 Q. So do you recall speaking to anyone regarding Dennis  
25 McKenna?  
26 A. Yes, yes this bloke was the chairman of the board at  
27 the time.  
28  
29 Q. Can you recall what his name was?  
30 A. Alan Parks from Pingrup.  
31  
32 Q. So you spoke to him?  
33 A. Yes.  
34  
35 Q. Did you know him prior to that?  
36 A. Yes.  
37  
38 Q. How did you know him?  
39 A. I'm a wool buyer, and I used to visit his farm now and  
40 again, yes.  
41  
42 Q. So do you remember what you spoke to Mr Parks about?  
43 A. The - started off with the fees.  
44  
45 Q. Yes.  
46 A. And then it got to - I said to him, "Listen, this  
47 McKenna is interfering with the boys." He said, "No, way

1 in the world." I said, "Just go and ask your own son", and  
2 the kids don't tell lies.  
3  
4 Q. So he told you he was - you were wrong about that?  
5 A. Yes, yes, yes and hang up.  
6  
7 Q. And hung up?  
8 A. Yes.  
9  
10 Q. So it was a phone call, was it?  
11 A. Yes.  
12  
13 Q. And you said --  
14 A. A real heated one as well, and, yes.  
15  
16 Q. Sorry, what was that?  
17 A. Real heated as well.  
18  
19 Q. A real heated, so that was a heated --  
20 A. No-one can get a phone call like that, it was a real  
21 wild.  
22  
23 Q. It was a real - sorry?  
24 A. I was real wild about it.  
25  
26 Q. You were wild?  
27 A. Yes, yes. Another one that didn't believe me.  
28  
29 Q. And you said go and ask your own --  
30 A. Sons.  
31  
32 Q. So did he have --  
33 A. Yes.  
34  
35 Q. Are you aware whether he had sons at the hostel?  
36 A. Yes, in the hostel as well.  
37  
38 Q. So by this time, 1982, you mentioned a number of  
39 people that you had told, and were you telling others?  
40 A. Went to all of them. I used to go to all the parents  
41 and tell them, even when they knew, and no-one believed me,  
42 nothing, and they just - they just thought I was soft in  
43 the head. Maybe I was, but --  
44  
45 Q. Okay. Do you - with respect to that, do you recall  
46 something that happened in Ongerup in 1983?  
47 A. Yes, they used to have a - they used to have team

1 meetings in the town, and this time they had a meeting -  
2 half yearly or what - I don't know when it was, but --  
3  
4 Q. And who was this, Mr Parkin?  
5 A. He used to have meetings with all the people who have  
6 kids that go to the school, hostel.  
7  
8 Q. Yes.  
9 A. And then (inaudible) ones that were going to the next  
10 year, they used to have their meeting in the town.  
11  
12 Q. I see. Okay. And who ran those meetings?  
13 A. I - I don't - I don't know who ran them, but McKenna  
14 was - Dennis McKenna was there, and board members around  
15 the place used to organise them, I think, I think.  
16  
17 Q. Okay.  
18 A. And --  
19  
20 Q. So there was one of these meetings in Ongerup in 1983?  
21 A. Yes.  
22  
23 Q. Did you go to that meeting?  
24 A. No, no, because I had no wish to go anywhere near  
25 that, but, yes.  
26  
27 Q. And was it by this stage - had all your boys gone  
28 through --  
29 A. Yes.  
30  
31 Q. -- the school by that stage?  
32 A. Yes, finished. Yes, finished at that hostel, yes.  
33  
34 Q. Okay. And then do you recall the aftermath of that  
35 meeting?  
36 A. Yes, the next day or the next week or the next month  
37 people come to me and said, "You're wrong about Dennis  
38 McKenna".  
39  
40 Q. And who were these people?  
41 A. The parents.  
42  
43 Q. The parents?  
44 A. Yes.  
45  
46 Q. They were saying you were wrong about McKenna?  
47 A. Yes, yes.

1  
2 Q. And did you say anything to them in response?  
3 A. I said, "He's just a poofter." That's the status. I  
4 say, "Dennis was a paedophile." Yes, that's what might by  
5 '83.  
6  
7 Q. Right. Now, Mr Parkin, do you recall Dennis McKenna  
8 being arrested for the first time?  
9 A. Yes.  
10  
11 Q. Right.  
12 A. Yes, I remember the night before. I'll tell you a  
13 story. We called in this place and this --  
14  
15 Q. Sorry, this is the night before you found out he'd  
16 been arrested?  
17 A. The night before.  
18  
19 Q. Okay.  
20 A. And I - the - we called in - we went to a meeting in  
21 Pingelly, and my wife, I and another person, and they said,  
22 "My wife's birthday today, come in and have a drink for her  
23 birthday".  
24  
25 Q. So someone's inviting you in to have a drink --  
26 A. Yes.  
27  
28 Q. -- for his wife's birthday?  
29 A. When we dropped off at his farm. And, anyway, there  
30 was a boy there, a young boy, and - which I won't name.  
31  
32 Q. No.  
33 A. And I said, "Who's that?" And the woman said, "That's  
34 my son." I said, "What's he - where's he been?" She said,  
35 "Oh, he goes to school at Katanning." I said, "He doesn't  
36 go to the hostel with that poofter paedophile." She looked  
37 at me. There was a bench. Then she got a knife and went  
38 to stab me, and I got out the road, and I said to my wife,  
39 I said, "We gotta get out of here."  
40  
41 Q. Right.  
42 A. So next morning at half past five in the news, and  
43 there was a - McKenna was arrested, and there was the  
44 biggest relief of my life, I think.  
45  
46 Q. Right.  
47 A. It was a good - but further on to that, in the coming

1 days on the Tuesday, I said, "You owe me an apology." She  
2 said, "If I had a knife now, I'd stab you again".  
3  
4 Q. If she had - if she had what?  
5 A. If she had a knife, "I'd stab you again", or she  
6 wouldn't miss me this time.  
7  
8 Q. All right. So she wasn't convinced?  
9 A. No, neither was everyone else.  
10  
11 Q. In fact, is that what you found, even after he'd been  
12 charged?  
13 A. Yes, still today.  
14  
15 Q. Okay. Just after he was charged though, do you recall  
16 speaking to somebody about this?  
17 A. Yes, I was at bowls and then I seen Garth Addis at  
18 bowls at Nyabing, and I said --  
19  
20 Q. Sorry, you were Nyabing bowls?  
21 A. Yes, bowling club. And I said to Garth Addis, he was  
22 the chairman at the time, "Now, what are you going to say  
23 to me now, am I wrong or not?" He said, "You are".  
24  
25 Q. He said, "You are"?  
26 A. Yes.  
27  
28 Q. You are wrong?  
29 A. So I stood up in front of all these people and told  
30 them, "You bastards, go home and ask your own sons. And  
31 you get back to me and then you can tell me you're wrong."  
32 No-one rang me up though.  
33  
34 Q. So did he take up your offer to go and ask his own  
35 sons?  
36 A. I don't know whether he did, but at the time we know  
37 what happened.  
38  
39 Q. All right. Now, Mr Parkin, how are you going? Would  
40 you like a break now?  
41 A. No, that's all right.  
42  
43 Q. Do you know a man by the name of Tom Fisher?  
44 A. Yes, I do.  
45  
46 Q. Now, do you recall having a conversation with him  
47 regarding this matter?

1 A. I do.  
2  
3 Q. So can you tell us about that?  
4 A. I can't remember the year it was.  
5  
6 Q. But was it before or after Dennis McKenna was charged?  
7 A. Before, yes.  
8  
9 Q. Okay.  
10 A. Tom Fisher rang me up and said, "I've got some boys  
11 going to that hostel." He said, I know what you think  
12 about McKenna. You make it - you told everyone, I know  
13 what it is. I want you to come out and tell my sons what a  
14 paedophile is."  
15  
16 Q. And did you do that?  
17 A. I did.  
18  
19 Q. Yes.  
20 A. I did. I had to go around. These boys - one was - I  
21 didn't think - he was only 11 and the other one maybe 12 at  
22 the time.  
23  
24 Q. Did you ask Mr Fisher at all why he couldn't do that?  
25 A. Because I wasn't making accusations about him, and I  
26 had to tell him what a paedophile does to people. And Mr  
27 Fisher said he'd like to - turned it around to the boys,  
28 "You know what - what to do when things like that happen to  
29 you and us", we have - they had - we'll make a plan, and  
30 you get in touch with me, and I'd do the rest. And that's  
31 all I wanted to say about that, thank you.  
32  
33 Q. Okay, fine.  
34 A. Because Mr Fisher - he was one of the - one - one of a  
35 few that believed me.  
36  
37 Q. So Mr Fisher was one of the few that believed you?  
38 A. Yes.  
39  
40 Q. Anyone else?  
41 A. No, no-one. Because I - I always say kids don't tell  
42 lies. You can ask them a question and they'll tell you  
43 lie, but if they come to you, they don't tell lies.  
44  
45 Q. Mr Parkin, you mentioned that your son Bradley passed  
46 away in 2008, yes. I just want to ask you this --  
47 A. Yes.

1  
2 Q. Okay. You don't have to do this if you don't want to,  
3 but would you like to say anything to this Inquiry about  
4 the impact that Dennis McKenna has made on your life and  
5 your families. If you don't want to you don't have to?  
6 A. I'd like to. When it comes to my son, I get upset.  
7  
8 Q. Mr Parkin --  
9 A. That bastard's ruined my two son's lives, and my wife  
10 got MS, and she suffers depression because of this bastard  
11 cause it, and I just can't say a good word about McKenna.  
12 My oldest son was interfered by him, by him, and he's taken  
13 him to court, but he wouldn't tell me, and all those things  
14 because they thought I would kill the bastard, would have  
15 done. All he had to do was tell me.  
16  
17 Q. All right, so --  
18 A. But I knew that he was interfered, because he was a  
19 changed boy.  
20  
21 Q. So you --  
22 A. And all his - all his other - I can call him bastard,  
23 they didn't believe me, and they got to get up and say,  
24 "Oh, I didn't remember", but they remember all right.  
25  
26 Q. So --  
27 A. Everyone remembers what I was - like he gets the  
28 bastard.  
29  
30 Q. So you just mentioned there that your eldest son  
31 Stephen has told you that he wasn't going to tell you what  
32 had happened.  
33 A. Because he didn't want me to go to gaol, because  
34 I would have done just to get rid of the bastard.  
35  
36 Q. Is he right about that? Would you have done something  
37 that would have caused you to go to gaol?  
38 A. It wouldn't have been nice what I would have done to  
39 him. Killing him was too good for the bastard.  
40  
41 Q. Mr Parkin, what impact has this had on you yourself?  
42 A. I don't know. It made me - like all these people  
43 I used to tell - I used to tell everyone - I've been on  
44 farms and people wouldn't talk - still won't talk to me  
45 about it, and I was always wrong.  
46  
47 HIS HONOUR: Q. Perhaps (inaudible) Mr Parkin.

1 A. Yes, your Honour, I know, but I had 38 years of it.  
2  
3 MR URQUHART: Q. Mr Parkin, that's all the questions  
4 I've got for you. Do you think it would be a good idea if  
5 we had a little break now?  
6 A. No, that's all right. I'm sorry, about --  
7  
8 HIS HONOUR: We will see who else wants to ask some  
9 questions. Who wants to go first?  
10  
11 MR DAVIES: I have one or two questions, your Honour.  
12  
13 <CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR DAVIES:  
14  
15 MR DAVIES: Q. Mr Parkin, I appear for Mr Neil Thompson,  
16 who was the headmaster. The events you've described is  
17 that it was reported to you that your son, Bradley, had run  
18 amok, he had been locked up in a room by Mr McKenna.  
19 A. Yep.  
20  
21 Q. He'd escaped from the room and he'd walked home to  
22 Ongerup.  
23 A. Yep.  
24  
25 Q. Is it the case that by the time he got home you had  
26 received a phone call from the hostel?  
27 A. I got a call from the hostel then, the school as well.  
28  
29 Q. And he did get home, I think you said, after two days.  
30 A. On the second day.  
31  
32 Q. Just to be clear about this, I want to make sure my  
33 understanding is correct. Am I correct in understanding  
34 that your son, Bradley, never actually made any allegation  
35 to you that he had been sexually interfered with by  
36 McKenna?  
37 A. He used to call him the poofter bastard. That's the  
38 words he used to use.  
39  
40 Q. So he called him that, but your son Bradley never made  
41 an allegation to you that he had been --  
42 A. No.  
43  
44 Q. -- sexually interfered with?  
45 A. No, but to follow on, Bradley, whether he did or not,  
46 I was right and reckoned he was a pedophile anyway has been  
47 proved, right?

1  
2 Q. I'm not contesting that at all.  
3 A. No, that's right.  
4  
5 Q. I'm only asking whether your son Bradley ever made the  
6 allegation to you, and the fact is that he did not.  
7 A. He said to me he tried, and that's why he broke out,  
8 but that's what he said to me. I believe what he said to  
9 me.  
10  
11 HIS HONOUR: Q. You said McKenna tried it, is that what  
12 you are saying?  
13 A. Yes  
14  
15 MR DAVIES: Q. When did he say that?  
16 A. To me, when he come home.  
17  
18 Q. I think it's the case, isn't it, that throughout  
19 Bradley's life he never said that he had been interfered  
20 with by McKenna?  
21 A. Not to - like, no - no, not interfered - tried to  
22 interfere with him, yep.  
23  
24 Q. You said that the response at the school to this  
25 incident of being locked in the room, breaking out of the  
26 room, walking home, and you say that the headmaster you  
27 think was Mr Thompson arranged or suggested an appointment  
28 for Bradley with the psychiatrist in Perth?  
29 A. Yes, they made an appointment for me, and I think they  
30 faxed the appointment to me, but as I said, the reason  
31 I mentioned Thompson, because he was the one that faxed me  
32 the thing. I can't alter that.  
33  
34 Q. You think it was Mr Thompson who organised that --  
35 A. He was the headmaster at that time, that year, yeah.  
36  
37 Q. Katanning senior high school was quite a sizeable  
38 school, wasn't it?  
39 A. No more than the other country big schools.  
40  
41 Q. Are you aware that there were 43 staff members of the  
42 school in 1980; does that sound about right to you?  
43 A. I don't know.  
44  
45 Q. Were you aware that there were two deputy principals  
46 at the time?  
47 A. No.

1  
2 Q. You were not aware?  
3 A. No.  
4  
5 Q. Were you aware that there was a guidance officer at  
6 the school to deal with the students?  
7 A. There wasn't - yeah, but that wasn't - I mean, the  
8 bloke who rang me up said, "I'm the headmaster" and that's  
9 what I was told. I can only say what he said to me.  
10  
11 Q. Could you be mistaken that it was the headmaster who  
12 organised the appointment? Could it have been someone else  
13 at the school?  
14 A. Someone else may, but I spoke to the headmaster. The  
15 headmaster spoke to me - it was the headmaster.  
16  
17 Q. Assuming you're correct that it was the headmaster who  
18 dealt with that issue of making the appointment, the  
19 situation was, as I understand it, Bradley had run amok, he  
20 had been locked in a room, he had escaped and walked home  
21 to Ongerup and the school's response - whether it was the  
22 headmaster or someone else - was to suggest Bradley be  
23 taken to see a psychiatrist.  
24 A. Yes.  
25  
26 Q. And a series of appointments were set up?  
27 A. Yes.  
28  
29 Q. Over four days?  
30 A. Yep.  
31  
32 Q. And the point of that was to try and find out what the  
33 problem was.  
34 A. Yeah, because he was - Brad was one of those kids that  
35 you had difficulty to read and understand and he got  
36 frustrated and that made him rebellious about the  
37 schooling, yep.  
38  
39 Q. You're not able to say whether the psychiatrist  
40 actually prepared any written report, are you?  
41 A. No.  
42  
43 Q. You don't know?  
44 A. No.  
45  
46 Q. And you're not able to say whether, if there was such  
47 a report, it was sent to anyone?

1 A. What do you mean? It wasn't - didn't it go to the  
2 (inaudible)?  
3  
4 Q. No. Let me put it another way. You don't know  
5 whether there was a written report, you've agreed.  
6 A. I don't know - I didn't say - he said it was -  
7 I didn't pay for it, I wouldn't a copy and he said it would  
8 be sent to the school, the psychiatrist said to me.  
9  
10 Q. You think he said he was going to send it to the  
11 school?  
12 A. The school. They had to pay for it, see.  
13  
14 Q. Do you think you could be mistaken about that  
15 recollection? Is it possible that --  
16 A. No.  
17  
18 Q. No? Did you give an interview in November last year  
19 to South Coast Radio ABC?  
20 A. Yeah, I did.  
21  
22 Q. In that interview, in connection with the  
23 psychiatrist, do you recall the interviewer asking you this  
24 question, saying to you, "So the psychologist in Perth had  
25 picked the problem." Do you remember the interviewer  
26 asking you that question?  
27 A. No. It wasn't - to me it was not a psychiatrist --  
28  
29 Q. Did you give this answer? Did you say on the radio  
30 programme:  
31  
32 Yeah, I said to him he's a pedophile, isn't  
33 he, and he [that's the psychiatrist] said,  
34 "I can't tell you that. I don't want to be  
35 involved."  
36  
37 A. That's what he said to me.  
38  
39 Q. The psychiatrist?  
40 A. Yep.  
41  
42 Q. Did you then as part of this answer say:  
43  
44 The Katanning high school headmaster got an  
45 appointment for him down here.  
46  
47 A. Yes.

1  
2  
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47

Q. And:

And I don't know what happened to the report. It went back to the school, but I didn't do nothing about it.

Did you say that on the radio interview?

A. No, I don't think I said - maybe, but I can't recall that, but that's neither here nor there. As I said, I don't know what happened to the report. That's why I rang the school.

Q. Did the radio journalist then ask you this question, did he say to you:

So are you saying that the psychologist reported back to the school?

And did you give this answer:

I don't know what he did, because he didn't want - because I said I was going to the police and the hostel board and he said, "I don't want to be involved."

Did you give that answer?

A. Yes, the psychiatrist said that.

Q. No, but the journalist asked you --

A. Yeah, I said that - that's what I said --

Q. You said that.

A. -- just a while ago. That's what --

Q. I don't want to prolong it any more, Mr Parkin, but I just want to make it clear that in November last year you said to the journalist who was interviewing you on ABC radio, the journalist said to you:

Are you saying that the psychologist reported back to the school?

And you gave the answer:

I don't know what he did because he didn't want - because I said I was going to the

1                    police and the hostel board and he said, "I  
2                    don't want to be involved."  
3  
4                    Did you give that answer, do you agree with me?  
5                    A.    Yeah.  As I said, that's what I said before.  
6  
7                    Q.    All I'm really putting to you is you're not able to  
8                    say yourself whether there was a report or whether it was  
9                    sent back to the school, are you?  
10                   A.    That's what I said to you before, because no-one told  
11                   me  
12  
13                   MR DAVIES:    Those are the questions, your Honour.  
14  
15                   HIS HONOUR:    Ms Keeling? .  
16  
17                   <CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS KEELING:  
18  
19                   MS KEELING:    Q.    Mr Parkin, I act for Alan Parks.  
20                   A.    Who?  
21  
22                   Q.    Alan Parks.  
23                   A.    Right.  
24  
25                   Q.    You say that after Craig was suspended or expelled  
26                   that you spoke to Mr Parks about the matter.  You were  
27                   aware, weren't you, that in March of that same year  
28                   Mr Parks' second son, Todd, was expelled from the hostel as  
29                   well?  
30                   A.    No.  
31  
32                   Q.    For stealing.  
33                   A.    No.  
34  
35                   Q.    In the same circumstances.  
36                   A.    I don't know nothing about that.  I was (inaudible) on  
37                   my son.  
38  
39                   Q.    So if I were to tell you that, you would agree then  
40                   that Mr Parks would have no real reason to love Mr McKenna,  
41                   would he?  
42  
43                   HIS HONOUR:    That's a matter of comment, I'm afraid.  It's  
44                   not within his knowledge.  
45  
46                   THE WITNESS:    Mr Parks talked about McKenna is not my  
47                   dealings.  What I bring him is complain about McKenna's

1 dealings.  
2  
3 MS KEELING: Q. You said that you took an instant dislike  
4 to Mr McKenna; is that right?  
5 A. Yeah, I did.  
6  
7 Q. And you were quite vocal about that dislike from the  
8 start.  
9 A. Yes.  
10  
11 Q. And he was --  
12 A. Which proves me right.  
13  
14 Q. And he was referred to as a poofter; is that right?  
15 A. Yeah, he everyone did --  
16  
17 Q. When you made allegations or referred to Mr McKenna  
18 around the place, did you refer to him as a "pedophile" or  
19 a "poofter"?  
20 A. Both.  
21  
22 Q. In the same sentence, or --  
23 A. What's the difference? I don't know...  
24  
25 Q. Do you think there might be a difference?  
26 A. Their not normal people, anyway.  
27  
28 Q. Were you aware that after your conversation with  
29 Mr Parks that he sent his youngest son to the school, to  
30 the hostel?  
31 A. I don't know what happened with Mr Parks. I'm not his  
32 keeper  
33  
34 MS KEELING: No further questions, your Honour.  
35  
36 HIS HONOUR: Are there any other questions?  
37  
38 MR SAAYMAN: No, sir.  
39  
40 HIS HONOUR: Any re-examination?  
41  
42 MR URQUHART: No. Thank you, sir. Thank you, Mr Parkin,  
43 that completes your evidence. Thank you very much. You  
44 are free to go.  
45  
46 THE WITNESS: Thank you, your Honour.  
47

1 <THE WITNESS WITHDREW.  
2  
3 MR URQUHART: The final witness for the day is going to be  
4 Bruce Douglas Carmichael. He is here in the hearing room.  
5 Mr Carmichael will take the oath. Sir, there are no  
6 problems with my learned friends leaving now.  
7  
8 HIS HONOUR: No, of course. You are free to come and go  
9 as you wish.  
10  
11 <BRUCE DOUGLAS CARMICHAEL, sworn:  
12  
13 MR URQUHART: Q. Mr Carmichael, your full name is Bruce  
14 Douglas Carmichael?  
15 A. That's right.  
16  
17 Q. If you have any problems hearing the questions --  
18 A. I'm hearing you all right.  
19  
20 Q. I'm not surprised by that, but if anybody else asks  
21 you questions and you don't hear them, ask them to speak as  
22 loudly as I am. How old are you, Mr Carmichael?  
23 A. Just turned 72.  
24  
25 Q. Are you retired now?  
26 A. I beg your pardon?  
27  
28 Q. Are you retired now?  
29 A. Yes.  
30  
31 Q. You were a farmer for most of your adult life; is that  
32 right?  
33 A. A fair bit of my life, yes.  
34  
35 Q. Was it the case that you moved to Western Australia  
36 from South Australia in 1977?  
37 A. That is true.  
38  
39 Q. Whereabouts did you move to when you came here to  
40 Western Australia?  
41 A. When we came to Western Australia we bought two  
42 properties east of Jerramungup. They were two War Service  
43 properties and, yes, we farmed there for a number of years.  
44  
45 Q. When you say "we", are you referring to your wife and  
46 your three daughters and your son; is that right?  
47 A. That's right. We had four kids.

1  
2 Q. Did you remain there during the 1980s, or the early  
3 1980s at least.  
4 A. The early 1980s we were there. We sold out in 1988.  
5  
6 Q. Whilst you were there in the late 1970s and early  
7 1980s, did your two eldest daughters, who I understand were  
8 Annemarie and Linda, did they go to school at the Katanning  
9 high school?  
10 A. They went to Jerramungup school to start with, and  
11 then for secondary schooling they moved to the Katanning  
12 senior high school boarding in the hostel for accommodation  
13 while they were there.  
14  
15 Q. Is that because Jerramungup, or where you had your  
16 properties east of Jerramungup were some considerable  
17 distance from Katanning?  
18 A. Yeah, in the old language, we were approximately 100  
19 miles from Katanning.  
20  
21 Q. So, therefore, it was beneficial for you to have your  
22 daughters boarding at the hostel?  
23 A. That's correct.  
24  
25 Q. Was it the case that Annemarie was there at the hostel  
26 from 1979 to 1981, does that sound about --  
27 A. No, she was there in 1979 and I think she only did one  
28 year there.  
29  
30 Q. Then Linda?  
31 A. Linda went up I think it was for the last term of  
32 1979, because Annemarie was still there, to get her  
33 accustomed to the hostel, and then Linda did 1980 and part  
34 of 1981 until she was turfed out.  
35  
36 Q. I might get to that in a moment. Just for the sake of  
37 completeness, was it the case that your younger two  
38 children, by the time they had got to secondary education,  
39 or high school, the family had moved to Perth?  
40 A. Yes. We had no complaints about the hostel system as  
41 a system, but no way were we going to send our two younger  
42 kids to the Katanning hostel for their secondary education.  
43  
44 Q. Was the reason for that something that your two eldest  
45 daughters had told you?  
46 A. Definitely.  
47

1 Q. And what was that?  
2 A. The things they had come home from the hostel and told  
3 us about Dennis McKenna and his activities with the boys  
4 and his weird and wonderful punishment that he used to  
5 administer to the girls if they stepped out of line.  
6  
7 Q. So staying with his behaviour towards the boys, can  
8 you recall what either of your daughters told you about  
9 that?  
10 A. On a number of occasions they told us how selected  
11 boys were invited to Dennis's quarters for late-night video  
12 shows, pornographic films, getting on the grog with Dennis,  
13 that he provided them with alcohol, and our girls got the  
14 stories about what was happening there from the boys  
15 talking to them during their times at the hostel.  
16  
17 Q. Then you also mentioned something about the punishment  
18 that Dennis McKenna would impose upon the girls.  
19 A. Oh, yes. He seemed to have his favourites amongst the  
20 boys - not all the boys, mind you, but the girls seemed to  
21 be the ones that got picked on with weird and wonderful  
22 punishments. We were paying money to have them educated up  
23 there. Annemarie spent two days washing headstones in the  
24 Katanning cemetery. We thought that was a bit way out as  
25 far as punishment for something she did, but that was only  
26 one of the incidents. He used to think up some pretty  
27 way-out sort of punishments and, yeah, we weren't impressed  
28 with all those sort of things that the girls came home and  
29 told us about.  
30  
31 Q. Am I right in saying, though, that neither of your  
32 girls actually alleged that he was sexually abusing any  
33 student?  
34 A. That is true. I don't think our girls were fully  
35 aware of what sort of actions would have been happening.  
36 The boys weren't telling them of actual physical  
37 interference. It was mainly the stories of the late-night  
38 pornographic films and getting on the grog, which concerned  
39 me. I thought that was a bit way out for a man in Dennis's  
40 position in charge of the hostel. That was my opinion of  
41 it.  
42  
43 Q. I don't think anyone would disagree with that opinion,  
44 Mr Carmichael. In 1979 do you recall making another  
45 purchase?  
46 A. Yes.  
47

1 Q. What was that?  
2 A. In 1979 we purchased another property a bit further  
3 east of Jerramungup. That was a property we bought that  
4 was semi-developed. We bought it from people by the name  
5 of Boyd and Margaret Davies. I can even tell you the  
6 section number - 1618 was the section number of it - and we  
7 got some of the money for the purchase from the  
8 Commonwealth Development Bank.  
9  
10 Q. I'm going to ask you something about that. So you had  
11 to get a loan from the Commonwealth Development Bank?  
12 A. Yes. I got that loan because it was a development  
13 proposition only partly cleared and I wanted to get my foot  
14 in the door with the development bank in case I wanted to  
15 borrow more money from them to develop it.  
16  
17 Q. Did you deal with one particular officer at the  
18 Commonwealth Development Bank?  
19 A. Yes. I only dealt with the one person and I am trying  
20 to think back 30-odd years - I thought his Christian name  
21 was John, but I couldn't remember what his surname was.  
22  
23 Q. You think his Christian name was John, but you're not  
24 sure of his surname?  
25 A. That's correct.  
26  
27 Q. That's fine. Did you have regular dealings with this  
28 person, John?  
29 A. No. It was only arranging the loan. He came out to  
30 look at our farms and inspect the new property we were  
31 wanting to buy and, to the best of my knowledge, that is  
32 the only time I actually met him. I had a number of phone  
33 calls to him over the purchase of the property and, also,  
34 later on.  
35  
36 Q. With respect to the purchase of this property and in  
37 your dealings with him, did you happen to mention where  
38 your two girls were?  
39 A. Yes. He was stationed in Katanning and in our  
40 discussions I must have said to him, "Two of our girls" -  
41 no, Annemarie - only one would have been going to the  
42 hostel at that time, and that's when he told me he was on  
43 the board of that hostel.  
44  
45 Q. I think you mentioned there about some of the things  
46 that your daughters were telling you about Dennis McKenna's  
47 relationship with boys and, also, the punishment he

1 inflicted upon the girls.  
2 A. Yes.  
3  
4 Q. In 1980 did one or both of them give you more  
5 information regarding what they had observed of Dennis  
6 McKenna?  
7 A. Linda told me how one night she was woken up by Wayne  
8 and Robyn, and Wayne was another brother of Dennis's, and  
9 Robyn was his wife - she was woken up some time in the  
10 middle of the night sort of thing and they told her that  
11 Bradley Parkin was very upset and they wanted some of her  
12 Valium tablets that had been prescribed for her by a doctor  
13 because she had disturbed nights at times. She had these  
14 Valium tablets at the hostel, and she went with Wayne and  
15 Robyn down to Dennis's room and she actually saw them give  
16 Bradley some of these Valium tablets for the purpose of  
17 settling him down.  
18  
19 Q. That's something that Linda told you?  
20 A. Definitely.  
21  
22 Q. In a more general sense, can you recall whether one or  
23 either of the girls told you about Dennis McKenna's  
24 behaviour towards the male students in particular?  
25 A. A number of times they referred to the way that the  
26 selected boys, as it was put, were invited to his rooms  
27 late at night for these video and grog parties and it's  
28 something that was well known amongst the students at the  
29 hostel. They discussed it amongst themselves, and it came  
30 home to us.  
31  
32 Q. Did either of your girls have a rather crude  
33 expression for those boys who they regarded as favourites  
34 of Dennis McKenna that they told you?  
35 A. Probably the only comment they would have called them  
36 is "pretty boys" or something to that effect.  
37  
38 Q. Did they say anything to you regarding any rules that  
39 Dennis McKenna had in place?  
40 A. Oh, yeah, very strict rules. If any of the kids took  
41 stories home of what happened at the hostel, they weren't  
42 to divulge them to parents or anybody. Anything that  
43 happened at the hostel had to stay at the hostel and  
44 nothing was to go home. If it did and the kids were found  
45 out, this is where Dennis's weird and wonderful punishments  
46 used to come in.  
47

1 Q. By 1980, as a result of what you were being told by  
2 your daughters, did you decide to do something?  
3 A. It was either towards the end of 1979 or the beginning  
4 of 1980. I am not exactly sure which it was. It was  
5 definitely after I had got this loan from the development  
6 bank and I had met this John character from the  
7 Commonwealth Bank, him being a board member, I was  
8 concerned enough at the situation that I rang him to tell  
9 him what the girls had told me  
10  
11 Q. Now, I will just stop you there. How did you know he  
12 was a board member?  
13 A. He had told me that in our meeting when we borrowed  
14 this money from the development bank.  
15  
16 Q. You are talking about the hostel board, are you?  
17 A. Yes, yes. He told me he was a member of the hostel  
18 board and I knew another member who - another chap who was  
19 a farmer roughly south of Needilup, he was also a board  
20 member but I --  
21  
22 Q. What was his name?  
23 A. Don Crook. He was a farmer there. I had met him, I  
24 knew him, but I elected to ring this chap by the name of  
25 John simply because he was living in Katanning, stationed  
26 there, and I thought he would have a better opportunity to  
27 check out these stories that the girls had brought home  
28 about Dennis and his activities with the boys.  
29  
30 Q. You rang this person whose first name, you think, is  
31 John?  
32 A. Yes.  
33  
34 Q. Can you recall what you said to him?  
35 A. I can't recall exactly what I said in that  
36 conversation but I made him well aware of what our girls  
37 had come and told us and I suggested to him, as a board  
38 member he was in a position that he ought to at least check  
39 it out and see what he could find out, you know, and also  
40 to let me know what he found out.  
41  
42 Q. You said to him what your girls had told you?  
43 A. Yes.  
44  
45 Q. Can you recall what it was you did tell him as to what  
46 your girls had told you?  
47 A. I would have told him about the special boys spending

1 time in his rooms at night-time, late at night, the porno  
2 videos and the grog that he was feeding to them. They were  
3 my concerns at that time, that I thought that was not  
4 appropriate for a man in that position of authority in the  
5 hostel.

6

7 Q. Is it fair to say they were your two major concerns  
8 out of what your daughters had told you: the provision of  
9 alcohol to the boys and allowing them to watch pornographic  
10 videos?

11 A. Yes. They were the points that the girls had  
12 stressed. I don't believe they had put it into words of  
13 physical activities - sexual activities at that time.

14

15 Q. I was going to ask you about that, yes. I suppose I  
16 should clarify something, bearing in mind the time we are  
17 talking about is 1979/1980: you might not have used the  
18 word "videos", I just used that. Do you remember that?

19 A. Well, I use that term now.

20

21 Q. Yes.

22 A. Really, I don't know exactly whether they were videos,  
23 films or exactly what it was, but the boys definitely  
24 talked to the girls about watching pornographic shows.

25

26 Q. You asked him to look into it?

27 A. Yes, definitely.

28

29 Q. Can you recall what his response was when you asked  
30 him to do that?

31 A. He heard me out. He did not argue the point or tell  
32 me it was bull dust and hang up the phone or anything. He  
33 heard me out and said he would look into it.

34

35 Q. Did you hear back from him?

36 A. Yes. I'm not sure of the timeframe. Possibly two or  
37 three weeks later, something like that, when he had had  
38 time to look into it and check it out.

39

40 Q. How was that contact made with you?

41 A. Telephone. He rang me to tell me that he had checked  
42 it out and, as far as he was concerned, there was not a  
43 problem.

44

45 Q. I know it is a long time ago but are you able to  
46 recall the sort of words he used to convey to you that this  
47 was not a problem?

1 A. Well, I think I am right in saying that he - and these  
2 are words that have been sitting in my mind for 30 years  
3 and I believe that he - I can't say the exact words. I  
4 believe he said something to the effect that he hadn't  
5 found a ripple on the water and everything in the garden  
6 was lovely, but that is something that I have had in my  
7 mind for 30-odd years, so I reckon it's probably pretty  
8 close to what it was.

9  
10 Q. Can I ask you whether that is a phrase that you have  
11 used or use yourself?

12 A. That is something that - yeah, it's probably the way  
13 that I speak but it's the impressions that he gave me then  
14 and maybe I picked the saying up from him. I'm not sure.

15  
16 Q. In any event, the indication to you was that there was  
17 not a problem?

18 A. That's correct.

19  
20 Q. Did he say to you what he had actually done by looking  
21 into it?

22 A. No, he never let on anything at all on what  
23 investigation he had done, whether he had fronted Dennis or  
24 whether he had asked other staff members, or what. I don't  
25 know. He never told me that and I have never found out.

26  
27 Q. You didn't ask him? You didn't ask him what he had  
28 done?

29 A. I don't know. I think he was that definite with what  
30 he told me that, you know, that was just the conversation.  
31 He had checked it out and everything in the garden was  
32 lovely, sort of thing.

33  
34 Q. You didn't question him about that; is that right?  
35 Did you accept what he was saying?

36 A. I accepted what he was saying, but at the same time I  
37 have always believed our girls, what they told us, too.

38  
39 Q. Mr Carmichael, this is not a criticism but did you  
40 take the matter further with anyone?

41 A. I didn't take it to anyone else in authority. I spoke  
42 to friends of ours who had a son up there. This was a chap  
43 that I went to school with in South Australia and he moved  
44 over here the same year that we did, in 1977, and he was  
45 farming at Needilup. We told him and his wife and neither  
46 of them believed us. They just said, "No, not Dennis, he  
47 wouldn't have done things like that." Then our girls had

1 occasion to ask their son later on when they were all  
2 adults - this happened when Dennis was first thrown in the  
3 dungeon. Stephen, their son, said of course he knew what  
4 was going on but it wasn't happening to him and why would  
5 he go home and tell his parents because his father, in  
6 particular, wouldn't have believed him.

7  
8 HIS HONOUR: Q. That seems to be the catchcry --  
9 A. That's the way Dennis had people eating out of his  
10 hands, sort of thing, thinking he was such a wonderful guy.

11  
12 MR URQUHART: Q. Mr Carmichael, you mentioned that Linda  
13 stopped going to the hostel and, I think, the school in  
14 1981; is that right, your daughter Linda?

15 A. That's right. She didn't finish that year.

16  
17 Q. Can you explain how that came about?

18 A. She came back to Jerramungup to do a week's work  
19 experience and during that week Dennis rang to say that she  
20 was no longer welcome back at the hostel, "Don't bring her  
21 back", so we did not argue the point about that.

22  
23 Q. Was there any reason for that?

24 A. Yes, I'd had enough of Dennis and the hostel and no  
25 way was I going to take her back there to have her  
26 subjected to any more of his peculiar ways and punishments  
27 and - so yes.

28  
29 Q. So did you take Linda back to the hostel to collect  
30 her belongings?

31 A. Yes, took her back there to pick up her belongings and  
32 when she - belongings and books and so forth. When she  
33 went there to pick them up she came out quite disappointed  
34 to think that a lot of her personal items were no longer  
35 with her gear and the thing that really annoyed her, she  
36 had been keeping a diary of various happenings up there and  
37 in that diary she had all the different ways that you had  
38 to - things you had to do to keep on Dennis' good side and  
39 keep out of trouble and dates of various things that  
40 happened and that was gone, take --

41  
42 Q. The diary was gone?

43 A. Diary was gone. She never got that back and that's  
44 something that either Dennis or some of the staff had  
45 helped themselves to and their other personal items as well  
46 but the diary in particular, she was not happy with that  
47 disappearing because was smart enough and the things that

1 had happened she had been recording them and it was gone.

2

3 Q. With the departure of Linda, did that end your  
4 family's association with the Katanning hostel?

5 A. Yes. We decided then that no way we were taking her  
6 back and we would not be sending our younger kids to the  
7 Katanning hostel, you know, for their further education.

8

9 Q. Mr Carmichael, with respect to dates, and in  
10 particular those dealings you had with the man at the  
11 Commonwealth Development Bank, who you think his first name  
12 was John --

13 A. Yes.

14

15 Q. -- did you provide the Inquiry with part of your bank  
16 documents in relation to that purchase of the property that  
17 you mentioned --

18 A. Yes.

19

20 Q. -- in 1979? All right.

21 A. I dug out a mortgage document about that.

22

23 MR URQUHART: I am just going to ask your Honour's  
24 associate to bring up barcode number 0262, please.

25

26 Q. There you go, Mr Carmichael, you have been provided  
27 with a hard copy of that document?

28 A. Yes.

29

30 Q. We have one up here on the screen.

31 A. Yes.

32

33 Q. If we just scroll down a bit --

34 A. Well, if you look in that - below that mortgage part  
35 it says "Kent location 1618". That's what I said was the  
36 section number. So it's definitely the right one.

37

38 Q. Definitely the right document. In any event, if you  
39 have a look at the lower half of the document, there is a  
40 reference to Bruce Douglas Carmichael and Lorraine Florence  
41 Carmichael --

42 A. Yes.

43

44 Q. -- the mortgagor and the mortgagee being Boyd Colin  
45 Davies and Margaret Davies, which I think you said was the  
46 people that you --

47 A. Yes. They held a first mortgage and - no, they held

1 the second mortgage and the Commonwealth Development Bank  
2 held the first mortgage.  
3  
4 Q. Relevant for our matter, can we see that the mortgage  
5 was dated 23 August 1979?  
6 A. That's right, and that's how I ascertained when I had  
7 had contact with this John from the Commonwealth  
8 Development Bank.  
9  
10 Q. Yes. So either late 1979 or early 1980?  
11 A. Well --  
12  
13 Q. Yes, that's the contact, yes, but with respect to the  
14 telephone conversations you had with him regarding Dennis  
15 McKenna?  
16 A. Telephone conversations had to be after this 22/8/79.  
17  
18 Q. And within a time frame of how long would you  
19 estimate?  
20 A. Well, as I said before, it's either later that year  
21 1979 or the beginning of 1980.  
22  
23 Q. Thank you, Mr Carmichael.  
24  
25 MR URQUHART: I will tender that document please, sir.  
26  
27 EXHIBIT #12 DOCUMENT BARCODED 0262  
28  
29 Q. Finally I would like to jump forward now to 1991. Do  
30 you recall that that was the year that Dennis McKenna was  
31 convicted of a number of allegations relating to sexual  
32 abuse of boys at the hostel?  
33 A. All I can say is I think you're right.  
34  
35 Q. Okay, then. But did you follow the publicity with  
36 respect to that trial?  
37 A. Yes.  
38  
39 Q. And did you and your daughter Linda - did you  
40 subsequently participate in an interview with a journalist  
41 regarding that matter?  
42 A. That is correct.  
43  
44 Q. I think that Linda rang the TV channel. I think it  
45 was Channel 7, and I can't remember who the interviewer  
46 was. Linda thought it was Liam Bartlett and they came out  
47 to our house - we were living in Cannington at the time -

1 and they did an interview of Linda and myself in our lounge  
2 room, and that was shown on TV, in that Linda had described  
3 things that had happened to her at the hostel, and she'd  
4 also described the incident of her tablets being given to  
5 Bradley Parkin, and various other things that she said.

6

7 Q. Did you watch that program that subsequently came on  
8 the television?

9 A. Yes, definitely.

10

11 Q. And shortly after the program was televised, do you  
12 recall receiving a telephone call from anyone?

13 A. Yes. I can't remember the chap's name, but he said  
14 that he was a chairman of the hostel board at Katanning and  
15 I believe that he had two daughters there same time that  
16 our girls were there, and he was quite upset and hurt, I  
17 suppose, is the way to describe it, that his girls hadn't  
18 gone home and told him about the incidents with Dennis.  
19 They were adults by this time, and he asked them if they  
20 knew anything about it, and they said of course they knew,  
21 but they were sworn to secrecy, not to take anything home.

22

23 Q. So you said you can't remember this person's name now?

24 A. No, I can't. I had an idea that he said he was  
25 farming Nyabing or Pingrup way or something, from  
26 Katanning --

27

28 Q. Somewhere there, all right.

29 A. -- but that's not - not dead-set, it's only an idea in  
30 my mind.

31

32 Q. Certainly. And he had said he had been a chairman --

33 A. Yes.

34

35 Q. -- of the hostel board?

36 A. Yes.

37

38 Q. So from that, and from the fact that he was saying  
39 that he had daughters at the school at the same time as  
40 your daughters --

41 A. Yes.

42

43 Q. -- is it your recollection he was referring to the  
44 fact that he was a past chairman as of 1991 when he spoke  
45 to you?

46 A. That's what I understood. I'm not dead sure of that.

47

1 Q. Okay.  
2 A. It was only a telephone conversation. I never  
3 actually met him, but he took the trouble to ring me and  
4 discuss the matter at the time.  
5  
6 Q. Did he say anything about having seen the television  
7 program himself?  
8 A. That's how he came to know about it.  
9  
10 MR URQUHART: I see. Thank you, Carmichael. I will  
11 tender that document, sir, if I haven't already done so.  
12  
13 HIS HONOUR: That's exhibit 12.  
14  
15 MR URQUHART: I've already done that, okay.  
16  
17 HIS HONOUR: Yes, you have.  
18  
19 MR URQUHART: That's all the questions I have.  
20 Carmichael, thank you.  
21  
22 HIS HONOUR: Mr Saayman?  
23  
24 MR SAAYMAN: No, sir.  
25  
26 HIS HONOUR: Mr Jenkin?  
27  
28 MR JENKIN: No.  
29  
30 HIS HONOUR: Well, thank you, Mr Carmichael, that  
31 completes your evidence. You've been very helpful. You're  
32 free to go.  
33  
34 <THE WITNESS WITHDREW  
35  
36 MR URQUHART: Now, just so far as programming is  
37 concerned, the Inquiry won't be sitting tomorrow for public  
38 hearings. However, the next day of public hearings will be  
39 at Katanning, at the Katanning Magistrates Court on  
40 Thursday, 1 March, starting at 10am.  
41  
42 HIS HONOUR: Yes, very well. We'll adjourn until 10am.  
43  
44 AT 4.18PM THE HEARING ADJOURNED  
45 TO THURSDAY, 1 MARCH 2012 AT 10AM  
46  
47