

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

CGG

Support person present: No

1. My name is CGG. My maiden name was. My date of birth is 1956. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.
2. I am providing a statement in relation to my brother's experiences as a child migrant. His name was CGW. He was known as CGW CGW died in 2015.

Family background

3. My mum, married my dad, in 1947. My sister and I have the same mother and the same father. I was born and brought up in Blackburn, West Lothian.
4. CGW has the same mum as me but I don't know about his father. His parents were not married. I don't have a copy of CGW birth certificate, but his date of birth was 1942. I think was my mum's foster father, which is where my mum got the name from.
5. My mum came from Alloa. As far as I know, my mum was staying in a bedsit in Glasgow when CGW was born. He was born in Stobhill Hospital in Glasgow. When he was an adult, CGW went to visit the hospital when he was in Scotland. I know that he was baptised at St. Theresa's Church in Possilpark, Glasgow. My mum had CGW and

then along came [REDACTED], CGW half-brother, on [REDACTED] 1944. My mum was engaged to [REDACTED] dad, but I think he was a soldier and he got killed.

6. I think my mum was having trouble paying the rent. She was told to leave so she turned to the Catholic Church. She put CGW into an orphanage, Nazareth House in Carlisle. I have a photograph of CGW taken in Glasgow around that time. You can see from it that he has a lazy eye.
7. [REDACTED] had a floppy arm and something wrong with his leg. He dragged his leg. I wondered if he had polio, but I don't think he did. I think that's why [REDACTED] didn't go into care, because they wouldn't take him. He remained with my mum.

Nazareth House, Carlisle

8. I have been shown by the Inquiry a copy of a register entry from the Sisters of Nazareth, indicating that CGW was admitted to Nazareth House on [REDACTED] 1945. That is my understanding, that he was three years old at the time. My mum was still staying in Glasgow at the time. I don't know why CGW ended up in Carlisle. Maybe the Catholic Church took him there. My mum used to go and visit CGW at the orphanage, back and forwards. My mum told me that she used to go to Carlisle with [REDACTED]. She said she couldn't have kept the two of them.
9. CGW never mentioned Nazareth House in Carlisle. The records obtained by the Inquiry indicate that my mother promised to pay five shillings a week for CGW care. She did tell me that she sent money to the home. I see that these records also say that my mother gave permission for CGW to go to Australia.
10. My mum met my dad and they got married in 1947. My dad had already been married. His wife had died and he had a big family. My mum told my dad about CGW. As far as I know, my dad was quite upset about it. He was upset about him being in a home. He told my mum that they would go to Carlisle to get CGW. My mum and dad went through to Nazareth House. My mum told me that they asked for CGW and the nuns told them

that he was away. They asked where he had gone and they said he was away to Australia. I think that was in 1948.

11. My mum tried to find out where [CGW] had gone in Australia. The Sisters of Nazareth wouldn't give her any more information. They told her that he was away over to Australia to get adopted, for a better life. All my mum knew was that [CGW] was in Australia, she didn't know where. They told her if she wanted him back in Scotland, she'd have to pay for his fare back. My mum didn't have the money. They were out of contact for over forty years.
12. My mum kept going back to the Catholic Church to try and get some feedback from them, about [CGW]. She did write a letter to him once, to say that I had been born. I think she handed the letter over to the sisters at the Catholic Church. They said they'd make sure that he got the letter. I found out years later that [CGW] got the letter the day he left the orphanage. I was about one year old at the time.
13. My mum also went to the Salvation Army and said her son had been sent over to Australia. She asked if they would be able to help her find him. They wouldn't help her.

Migration to Australia

14. The register entry I have been shown by the Inquiry indicates that [CGW] was discharged from Nazareth House on [REDACTED] 1947. That accords with my understanding, that he was migrated when he was about five years old. He didn't see any family members before he left.
15. I have a copy of the migration form. It looks like whoever filled out the form made a mistake and started by inserting my mum's details instead of [CGW]. The address, "[REDACTED] Glasgow" which has been scored out must have been my mum's address. My mum's date of birth was [REDACTED] 1917, which they have written on the form. In the section about parent or guardian consent, it states, "[REDACTED] [REDACTED]." My mum saw this document, which appears to record her consent for

CGW to go to Australia. She said she never filled in any forms or anything like that. She said she didn't sign anything to say that CGW could migrate. That is not my mum's writing. We know that. My mum squiggled. She would have made spelling mistakes. That's not my mum's signature. It's too neat.

16. CGW told me that he remembered going onto the ship. He said that the children were told they were going on a journey and that they were going on a big ship. He said the nuns spoke to the him and said he was going on an adventure. They said he'd love it and he'd get ice cream. He told me he didn't want to go and that he was wanting his mum. It was all a mystery to him.
17. He told me that all the children going to Australia saw a doctor and had their tonsils taken out. He told me about the bus journey to the ship, which he said was quite long. I know that the ship sailed from Southampton. He remembered having a wee suitcase with some clothes in it.
18. He sailed to Australia on the ship, the Asturias. I have a photograph of the ship. CGW had the photograph presented to him by the Australian Government. The Sisters accompanied the children. He was kept below deck for the whole journey. CGW age group were all below deck. They weren't allowed to go up and play on the deck, in case they fell overboard. One of CGW friends, ██████████, was also a child migrant. He was a wee bit older than CGW. He died two years ago. He was allowed to play on the deck. He told me that the ball they were playing with was forever going over the side. He told me that some kids did fall overboard on the journey. They didn't get rescued. They were child migrants as well.
19. CGW was friends with another child migrant who travelled with him on the Asturias. He was Irish. His surname was ██████████ and I think his first name was ██████. I met up with him in Australia when I went out to visit CGW, but he died a few years ago. ██████ and ██████ were the only two from the ship that CGW spoke about. They took CGW under their wing.
20. CGW told me had a touch of sea-sickness on the journey. He remembered being sick quite a lot. The older boys had to look after the younger ones. Some of the older boys

bullied **CGW** because he was being sick and crying for his mum. I remember him telling me that they got as much food as they wanted on the ship. That was a good memory for him.

21. When they arrived, **CGW** told me that they disembarked from the ship and were separated into age groups. I think they were met by one of the Christian Brothers, Father **MDJ**. **CGW** was then taken to the orphanage. I think he went to Castledare first and then later moved to Clontarf.

Castledare Boys' Home, Wilson and Clontarf Boys' Home, Perth, Western Australia

22. Castledare was more or less in Perth. I think **CGW** told me that Castledare was mixed, with boys and girls living there. It was staffed by the Christian Brothers. He told me they stayed in dormitories there. was away out in the countryside. **CGW** did have distinct memories of Clontarf, because I think he spent most of his time there. When I visited **CGW** in Australia in 1994, he took me to visit both Castledare and Clontarf.

Routine at Castledare and Clontarf

Mornings and bedtime

23. **CGW** told me that they'd be up at six o'clock in the morning. They would go and do a bit of work. They then came back for breakfast.
24. **CGW** told me that he used to sleep outside at Clontarf. Even in the winter time, he used to sleep outside on a veranda.

Mealtimes/Food

25. [CGW] told me that breakfast entailed porridge, that looked like slops. They also got pigs teats to eat. [CGW] told me they didn't get fed again until six o'clock at night when it was slops again. If they didn't eat the food, he told me they got a slap about the head.

Washing/bathing

26. [CGW] spoke about a big washroom where they all went in to get washed.

Clothing/uniform

27. All [CGW] had to wear was a pair of khaki shorts and a vest. He never had any shoes.

Leisure time

28. I think the children had some leisure time after six o'clock at night, when they had finished whatever work they had to do. I remember [CGW] telling me that they got to play on a Sunday, after church. He told me they would go swimming, try to steal food and try to escape. [CGW] friend, [REDACTED], was with him at Castledare and Clontarf.

School

29. [CGW] told me that he got some schooling, maybe about two hours a day. The children were mostly used for work with very little schooling. [CGW] needed glasses. He couldn't see. He was a teenager before he actually got glasses, which was wrong as well. They should have been seeing to his eyesight, but all through his time there he needed glasses. That affected his education. [CGW] couldn't write or read properly when he left the Christian Brothers.

Religious instruction

30. [CGW] said that they had to go to church on a Sunday. They had to be smartly dressed, but they only had khaki shorts and a vest so it was a clean pair of khaki shorts and a vest on a Sunday.

Work

31. [CGW] described doing labouring work at Castledare. He would build things. At Clontarf, [CGW] was hired out to people to work. He wasn't paid for the work. He told me was sent to a farm once. He had to work there. He told me that he thought he was going out there to be sized up for being adopted, but he was sent out there to work. Because he didn't do what he was meant to do, he got a beating from the owner. He then got another beating when he went back to the orphanage.

Birthdays and Christmas

32. [CGW] told me that he never celebrated a birthday at Castledare and Clontarf. There was only one person who was brought up at Christmas and that was God.

Visits/Inspections

33. [CGW] remembered visitors would come to both homes to view the children for adoption. The children would be told to go away and get themselves spruced up, but [CGW] was never picked. He didn't mention anything about inspections taking place.

Family contact

34. He had no contact with his family at home. [CGW] was told that his mother was dead and he had no living relations. The Christian Brothers told him his mother was a whore and she was dead and that was why he had been shipped over to Australia.

Running away

35. I think CGW tried to run away from Clontarf a couple of times, but they always got him and he went back to the home. Once he and [REDACTED] ran away together. I think there were quite a few others with them. They planned to run away and made their escape during the night. They walked and walked and walked. He told me they were feeling hungry. They came to some place and asked for something to eat. The boys were given some food to eat. The person asked where they were heading and they said they were trying to get into city. The children went on their way and the Christian Brothers came to get them. The person must've known where they were from because of their clothing and told the Christian Brothers. The children were taken back and they got a beating for it. [REDACTED] told me that the [REDACTED] in Western Australia was friendly with the Christian Brothers. The police were corrupt and they knew what was going on at the orphanages, but they just took the boys back.

Deaths of children

36. CGW spoke about a boy falling off a cart. The cart ran over the top of him and he died. He took me to the boy's grave. CGW was at the orphanage at Castledare when that happened. After CGW died, I spoke to [REDACTED] about that. He remembered that too. There were quite a few graves at the orphanage at Castledare. Some of the children died through illness. I'm not saying they were all murdered, but they were really, in my eyes. They didn't get medical attention if they were ill, they were beaten and they were malnourished. No doctors were called and they were just left to get on with it. I don't think they were ever taken to hospital. They weren't properly looked after and they were beaten and in my eyes that's murder.

Abuse at Castledare and Clontarf

37. CGW told me that the Brothers maintained discipline with a stick. He told me they could be beaten for anything, for example, not doing their work properly, not making their beds or talking. It was very strict. There was no love at either place. They never got

any praise. They never had any dignity. He remembered the Brothers who hit him with a stick. He named them, but I can't remember their names.

38. He took me to Castledare when I visited him in 1994. An old man was in a field, weeding it with a hoe. He was stooped over. It was one of the Christian Brothers. CGW told me that he was one of the abusers. I told CGW I was going down to see him, but he told me not to and that I'd get into big trouble.
39. CGW told me that he'd been raped, often, by a Christian Brother at Castledare. It was really upsetting for him. I was totally shocked. He didn't say what age he was when that happened. He did name who it was, but I can't remember who the person was.
40. He told me that he was sexually abused and beaten at Clontarf as well. He didn't go into more detail than that, but he said it was on a regular basis. He said it went on quite a lot with other children as well.
41. At Clontarf, he showed me a pulley in a room with lockers. It was about six feet off the floor. He said the Christian Brothers would lie the boys on the pulley, up high. The Christian Brothers would let the pulley go and it would stop just above the floor. That was one of the punishments. I don't know whether CGW was put on the pulley, but he said he saw it happen to others.

Reporting of abuse at Castledare and Clontarf

42. There was nobody for CGW to speak to at Castledare or Clontarf. If he complained about anything, he told me he just got a beating. I asked CGW if he told anybody at the time. He said that he did, but he just got a beating for it. He told another Christian Brother, who he thought he speak to and trust. He learned to keep his mouth closed. He never mentioned telling anybody else about it.

Leaving Clontarf

43. I think CGW left Clontarf in 1957, when he would have been fifteen or sixteen. He didn't get any support or help from the Christian Brothers after he left. He worked as an apprentice jockey. CGW had been working at the place whilst he was still at the home. He was hired out and worked with the horses, which is where his love for horses grew. He hadn't been turning up and the master had contacted the home to tell the Christian Brothers. When he went back to the home, he got a beating. After he left, he still went back to that same person and got a job. He became an apprentice jockey after he left. It was somewhere in Western Australia. I've got a photograph of him on a horse, winning a race. But after that, he had an accident. I think he had a head injury. He couldn't ride the horses again after that. He loved horses.

Life after being in care

44. CGW was also in the army for two years. I think it was his national service. He told me that he was discharged because he [REDACTED]. The person had made sexual advances towards CGW so he retaliated.
45. After he had to stop being a jockey, CGW did the odd labouring job. Then he became a truck driver with Western Power in Australia, which he did until he retired. He loved it. He travelled all over Western Australia. He retired when he was sixty years old.
46. CGW got married to [REDACTED] in 1980. They had never met before. He was in a pub and got talking to a barmaid. She told him he would get on with her mum and gave him the address. CGW started writing to her. They first met one another on the day they were getting married. He called her the "Dragon Lady." They got divorced in 2010, but they still stayed in the same house for financial reasons. The house was CGW. He worked and paid the mortgage. From the minute they got married, [REDACTED] never worked. CGW was just a meal ticket for her and her four siblings.

47. [CGW] got Australian citizenship eventually, on 28 October 1996. I think he had to apply for it. I have the actual certificate. When he came to visit me, [CGW] had a British passport. He was able to get his pension in Australia.

Reunion with family

Child Migrants Trust

48. I know that [CGW] went to the Child Migrants Trust around 1989. They were meeting up in a hotel in Perth. I think there was a great big queue, right out the door. [CGW] went there and he told Margaret Humphreys his story. He gave them what details he had. He knew my mum's name and he knew that she was married again. He knew about me, because of the letter telling him I had been born. It all snowballed from there.
49. Until the Child Migrants Trust found his family, [CGW] knew about me and [REDACTED], but he didn't know about [REDACTED] or my dad's children. [CGW] was ecstatic. At last he had a family. He felt like he was somebody. He knew where he came from. He knew he had a mum and he had sisters and a brother.
50. Around 1990, the Child Migrants Trust phoned my brother [REDACTED] and asked if he knew a [REDACTED]. My mum didn't have a phone at the time. [REDACTED] said he couldn't remember her address, but gave them my phone number. They phoned me. I was in my bed sleeping because I had been working nightshifts. They asked if I was [CQG] [REDACTED] and told me that they were looking for my mum. I told them she didn't have a phone, but I gave them her address in Edinburgh. I don't think I even asked who it was who was calling.
51. The phone call was on my mind for the next couple of nights at work. I was talking to my line manager and he said he fancied going out to Australia. He asked if I'd ever been and I said I hadn't. He asked if I had anybody in Australia and I said I had a brother. He asked where he stayed and I said I didn't know. He asked whether I'd like

to find him and I said I'd love to find him, but I didn't know how to go about it. [CGW] was on my mind and I wondered if that phone call had been about him.

52. Two weeks later, my mum phoned me. She told me the Child Migrants Trust had found [CGW] [CGW] then wrote to my mum and my sister. He didn't have my address.

First visit to Scotland in 1992

53. The Child Migrants Trust brought [CGW] over to meet his family in 1992. Although the Child Migrants Trust found [CGW] family, the Restoration Fund hadn't been set up at that time. [CGW] got a bank loan to come over to Scotland and meet his family.
54. My mum had just moved into a pensioner's house in Edinburgh. My sister had her own house and we met [CGW] there. [REDACTED] and I had to stay in the bedroom because that was the way it had to be. [CGW] had to meet my mum first, then [REDACTED] and then me.
55. Seemingly, he came into the house with Margaret Humphreys and another social worker. [CGW] went to give my mum a cuddle and she pushed him away. He told me that she had just pushed him away. I told him she wasn't a loving person and that I never got cuddles or anything from her. I said to him that she was probably scared of him. I thought my mum might be scared that [CGW] would think she had sent him to Australia. [CGW] didn't blame my mum for what happened to him.
56. He met my sister after my mum, but I wasn't there to witness that. Then he met me. He said, "You're [CGG] You're the baby." He gave me a big hug and I gave him a hug back.
57. My sister didn't like [CGW]. She was all for [CGW] before he came. She would tell me they'd had a letter from [CGW] and he was looking forward to meeting us. When she met him, she didn't like him. I think it was because he wasn't educated. He was rugged. [CGW] just spoke his mind, he was straight to the point. He didn't beat about the bush. You had to take the way he was brought up into consideration. You had to keep reminding yourself of that.

58. The first time he came to Scotland, CGW met me, my mum, [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who was my half-brother through my dad, and [REDACTED], who was [REDACTED] wife. I took CGW over to meet [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] knew about CGW because my mum used to say she had a son in Australia.
59. CGW had a wee box when he lived with my mum in Glasgow. He played with it when he was little. My mum had kept the box. When CGW came over to Scotland, he recognised the box.
60. He stayed with my mum for one week. I had to go back home to Blackburn the day I met CGW for the first time. I worked night shifts at the time and I needed to go back to work. My mum didn't have a phone at the time. I said I would come the following Saturday and pick him up. I told him he could stay with me for the weekend and meet my husband, [REDACTED].
61. A week later, I went and picked up CGW. Things weren't going too well in Edinburgh. My mum didn't understand. CGW had nightmares about what happened to him in the homes. My mum was scared of him. He was also drinking. He was drinking at breakfast and my mum didn't like that. He came back to Blackburn with me. He stayed for two weeks. He was meant to go back to Edinburgh the next again weekend, but he didn't want to go back. I said that we'd told my mum and my sister he'd be back through. Neither of them had a phone. I said they'd just have to add two and two together.
62. CGW loved the two weeks he spent with me. It was great. I took him into Edinburgh and we went to the castle. We went up to Perth. He met my parents-in-law. They were staunch Catholics. I don't think they believed CGW when he told them what had happened to him.
63. I had taken two weeks off my work, sick. I had to tell CGW I'd be in deep trouble and I had to go back to work. He agreed to go back to my mum's. I told him I'd be at the airport to see him off. When I took him back to Edinburgh, [REDACTED], my other half-brother, came to meet him. It was, "Brother this, brother that, brother the next thing."

But that was it. He never saw **CGW** again until he was going away in the aeroplane, back to Australia. I don't blame **CGW** for that. **CGW** was a bit of a recluse and he kept himself to himself. Things didn't go well in the last week. They never hit it off. **CGW** was drinking. My mother had a phone bill to pay and my sister had an electricity bill to pay. **CGW** paid for those.

64. When **CGW** was leaving, he told me that I'd need to come over to Australia. I told him I'd love that but it would take me about a year to save up. I told him I didn't know how he'd managed to come across and he told me that he had taken out a bank loan. I told him that was a silly thing to do but he said he was desperate and that he wanted to see his mum. He said he had been told that she was dead and he wanted to see her.

Trip to Australia in 1993-4

65. I kept in touch with **CGW** after he went back to Australia. We would phone and write letters to one another until I went back to visit him. I went to Australia at Christmas time in 1993. I think I came back in 1994. I was there for four weeks. I stayed with **CGW** the whole time, which was a big mistake.
66. **CGW** stayed at **CGW** at that time, which was just down the road from the Child Migrants Trust in Perth. I eventually learned the boundaries; what to say, what to do, what not to do. I met **CGW** friends. I met a lot of child migrant people. We had a party at **CGW** house.
67. I went with **CGW** on his truck, up to Carnarvon. We went with another truck driver, who was driving. It would have been **CGW** way of letting me see Australia without having to pay. It was a twelve hour ride in this truck. I told **CGW** I needed the toilet. We were away out in the middle of nowhere. I was worried about the snakes.
68. **CGW** wanted to show me where he had lived. He took me to Castledare and Clontarf. He said, "This was my home." I said, "This wasn't home, this was a prison camp." He told me that the children built this and the children built that. He pointed out brick walls and buildings. It was shocking. He pointed out a picture of Father **MDJ** His canvas

painting was in the foyer of the Castledare. I asked CGW why it was there, like he was some kind of God. We weren't there long.

69. CGW took me out places, but we had to be back for three o'clock every day. That was time for drinking. He'd have a couple of drinks in the afternoon, then he would have a sleep. He would get up and have his dinner and then he would start drinking again. CGW would make digs at me. She would ask how my mother could have signed those papers for CGW to come over to Australia. I told her my mother would not have done that. I said that she wasn't a mother to CGW and she wasn't a mother to me either, but she had never sent her son over to Australia.

2000 – 2011

70. CGW came back over to Scotland around March 2000. That was the year that CGW died. CGW still had to pay for his own fares to come across. I don't think the Family Restoration Fund had been set up yet. I had my son, CGW by that time. CGW couldn't stay with me. I only had two bedrooms and I couldn't put up with the drinking with my son in the house. He stayed with CGW and CGW for four weeks. It was the worst four weeks of their lives because CGW was drinking. He was okay in the morning but by five o'clock, that was it. He would start his talking and all of that CGW came over to visit me once. If I was wanting to see him, I had to go over to my brother's house. It was difficult because CGW had to be in bed for seven o'clock.
71. CGW took CGW bowling, because he liked that. CGW and CGW took him away up north. CGW told them he was going out and went to the pubs in Inverness. CGW went out looking for him. CGW came back eventually. CGW and CGW had also taken CGW to visit my mum. They were pleasant to one another because he was only there for a couple of hours. My sister CGW was pleasant to him as well because she wasn't having to put up with him staying there.
72. I went over to see CGW on a Friday afternoon, around teatime. CGW came with me and we'd brought him a present. We went in and CGW was sitting watching the cricket on the telly. CGW and his brother, CGW were sitting, all dressed up. I asked what

was going on and they said they were going to the Kaim Park in Bathgate for a meal, before CGW went home in the morning. I went up the stairs to speak to [REDACTED]. She said I could've come with them. I told her I didn't even know they were going out and that I had [REDACTED] with me.

73. I didn't want to cause a scene or an argument. I got [REDACTED] coat on, picked up the present and walked out the door. I went home and I broke my heart. I was so disappointed in what CGW had done to me, not coming over to visit me or [REDACTED]. I was really angry. CGW went away to Australia the next day. Two days later, I went over to [REDACTED] and they told me that CGW had been upset. I told her I was upset too, that he'd come all those miles and he never once came over to the house. He was too busy going to the pub, too busy drinking.
74. When CGW got back to Australia, he phoned me at four in the morning. I told him how I felt and that I wasn't happy. We left it at that. I went through and saw my mum. She told me that CGW kept phoning. I told her that at the end of the day, she was the one that wanted to meet up with her son in Australia. I asked her what sort of a welcome he had been given. She said she was frightened and physically afraid. I told her CGW knew that and if he had been going to hurt her, he would have done it before now. I told her that all CGW wanted was a cuddle or for her to tell him she loved him, some kind of motherly love. I said to her that she didn't have that in her.
75. The next time CGW phoned my mum's house, [REDACTED] told him not to phone again. She told him that our mum had senile dementia and that he should stop calling the house and annoying her. CGW kept phoning me. I couldn't take anymore. I told him that. I asked him to stop phoning at three or four o'clock in the morning and that he was getting us up out of bed. I said that if he couldn't phone at a decent time, he shouldn't bother phoning at all. I've regretted saying that to CGW from that day to this. I was under so much pressure. My mum and my sister were at one side and CGW was at the other side. I was stuck in the middle, listening to this going on.
76. We were out of contact for about ten years. I had ovarian cancer and I went through chemotherapy. My mum then died in 2009 and [REDACTED] died in 2011. It had been eating

me up inside. CGW had the right to know about his mum dying. I felt I'd been a bad person. After [REDACTED] died, I told my husband that it was eating away at me. He said I should just phone CGW. I said it wasn't as simple as that. I contacted the Child Migrants Trust and spoke to them. They were lovely. They told CGW about our mum. Within the next couple of days, CGW phoned me.

77. I told CGW I'd treated him rotten. I said he'd already been treated very badly, being sent away to Australia, and I had just put the icing on the cake. But that was us, back on track again. I've not been there, I've not been through what he went through. I was that bit older and I understood. The drinking was the only way he could blank things out. We had a wee talk and he said he'd not be drinking as much. I used to Skype CGW on a Sunday, at ten o'clock in the morning. If the Skype hadn't taken place by half ten, it was a phone call. I knew CGW was afraid of getting rejected again.

2012 onwards

78. CGW came to Scotland again in 2012. He told me the Child Migrants Trust had money from the government. There was a trust fund for child migrants to visit their families. He stayed for three weeks. He didn't stay with me. I told Ian at the Child Migrants Trust the truth. I said it was no problem for CGW to come over, but he couldn't stay with me. Ian said he understood and it wasn't a problem. CGW stayed in a bed and breakfast just along the road. I went down every morning and brought him up to my house. I took him back down at night.
79. I was in a different house by then. We'd moved into my father-in-law's house, which had three bedrooms. I'll never forget being out the back and CGW looking up, asking how many bedrooms we had. I told him we had only had two. I couldn't have him to stay. We would have fallen out over his drinking.
80. My husband got on okay with CGW but there was a line there. I tried to tell him CGW didn't know any better and that he hadn't had an upbringing with family. CGW didn't speak to my sister, [REDACTED]. I took CGW over to [REDACTED] house a couple of times, but

other than that he spent time with me, my husband and my son. We went to Edinburgh, Glasgow and things like that.

81. I went out to Australia with my son, [REDACTED], the following year for two weeks. We travelled with the Family Restoration Fund. It was 2013. By this time, CGW had moved house to Maddington in Western Australia. He was still sharing a house with [REDACTED] although they were divorced. They had come to an agreement. Whoever died, the other person got to stay on. That person could sell the house and the other person's half went to their family. We stayed at the Bentley Motel. CGW took me out to meet [REDACTED]. She was very nice. She had a boyfriend by then. CGW told me he used to listen in on their conversations. There was never a dull moment with CGW. We visited the Child Migrants Trust as well.
82. In 2015, [REDACTED] and I were going to go back over to Australia to see CGW. I had asked CGW to come to Scotland, but he said he didn't think he was fit to take the flight. We arranged it through the Child Migrants Trust and the Family Restoration Fund paid for it. CGW would Skype me, counting down the days and saying he missed me. I told him I missed him too.
83. One Sunday in July, I Skyped him and he didn't answer. The week before, he had been on Skype and he hadn't looked well. He just looked awfully bloated. I asked him if he was alright. He said he was alright, but he was a bit cold. I asked if he was still off the cigarettes and told him to tell me the truth. He said he was back on them.
84. I tried to Skype him again on the Monday and the Tuesday, but there was no reply. I wondered if he had gone to see [REDACTED], whom he called his grandson. [REDACTED] lived out on the coast and sometimes CGW would go and stay for a couple of days. My husband told me to phone the house, but I didn't want to speak to [REDACTED]. I was up most of Wednesday night. My husband got up and pulled the phone out the socket because we get sometimes get nuisance phone calls.
85. I got up at half nine the next morning. I put my laptop on to Skype CGW. The first thing that came up was Facebook. There was a post from one of his step-daughter's

children, saying, "Sorry I never got to say goodbye, my Aussie dad." It was [CGW] photo. I told my husband that I thought something had happened to [CGW]

86. I phoned the Child Migrants Trust. I told them I'd been trying to get in touch with [CGW] They told me to hold the line and Margaret Humphreys came on. She said they'd been trying to get in touch with me all morning. She told me that [CGW] had passed away. [CGW] had been away for the weekend. She came back and [CGW] wasn't up. She chapped on his door and didn't get an answer. She went in and he was lying on the floor. He had been at the pub on the Saturday. He had been playing the puggy machine and he had won \$1000. He had given \$50 to the barman and put the rest in his pocket and went away home. I had Skyped him on the Sunday and never got an answer, so it must've happened the night before.
87. [REDACTED] and I were meant to go to Australia for a holiday, but it turned out we were going for [CGW] funeral. We went over on the same flights. I spoke to [REDACTED], [CGW] [REDACTED] was a friend. He was new in the area where [CGW] stayed. He was looking for a new watering hole. When he went to the pub, [CGW] was the first man to greet him and welcome him. It turned out he was a [REDACTED] He made up [CGW] [REDACTED] and kept him right with other things. I had to sign an affidavit in relation to his will.
88. When we were planning to visit in 2015, I had told my husband I was going to ask [CGW] to come back to Blackburn to stay. It wasn't to be. I brought [CGW] ashes back to Scotland. I miss [CGW]

Impact

89. [CGW] time in Castledare and Clontarf did affect him. Things that we take for granted, like personal hygiene and eating, were difficult for [CGW]. A sparrow ate more than [CGW] That was because he never got the food while he was in the orphanages. [CGW] told me couldn't have children. I understood that was because of the sexual abuse at the orphanages.

90. [CGW] had nightmares about his time in the orphanages. Most of the time it was the alcohol that blocked it out. I think he did attend counselling to talk about his drinking, but other than that I don't know.
91. [CGW] didn't really have any education at the orphanages. I think he did well for himself. He worked right up until his retirement. I don't think he knew the value of money. He didn't want to be left without anything. He wanted to make sure he could have food and a roof over his head.
92. It's not easy. It's not easy for the person who was sent to another country. They've got to come back over here. Our way of life is different from Australia. The climate is different. When [CGW] came over and stayed in the bed and breakfast in 2012, I asked him to move back to Scotland. He said he'd love to, but he couldn't stand the cold.

Reporting of Abuse

93. I don't know whether [CGW] ever reported the abuse he experienced to the police in later life. I know my mum phoned the police. When [CGW] first came to Scotland in 1989, he stayed with my mum for the first week. My mum was always getting on to [CGW], telling him he shouldn't be drinking. He said it was the only way he could blunt things out of his mind and block out what happened to him.
94. My mum asked what had happened and he told her he had been sexually abused. My mum phoned the police. They came to the house. The police phoned the Child Migrants Trust and spoke to somebody to verify what [CGW] was saying. I didn't know about that until after [CGW] had died. The Child Migrants Trust told me that my mum had phoned the police.
95. As far as I know, [CGW] was just glad to be shot of Castledare and Clontarf and have his freedom. I know that [CGW] gave a statement in evidence at the Child Migrants Trust. He did get compensation, but it wasn't that much. What it was, I don't know. He did get compensation in the March before he died. I think it was from the Catholic Church.

Records

96. The Child Migrants Trust helped CGW to recover some records, including the migration form. I brought his papers back to Scotland. I have provided copies of these to the Inquiry. One is an acknowledgement of receipt of his records, signed by CGW in 1990. There is an extract of the baptism register of St. Theresa's Church. There were also letters from the Child Welfare Department in 1958 and 1959. CGW also had a copy of a letter dated 13 October 1999, asking to obtain an original copy of his birth certificate, which he sent to the Catholic Migration Centre in Perth.

CGW thoughts on child migration

97. When I first found out about child migrants, I was shocked. CGW told me it had been going on for years and years, not just to Australia, but to Canada and Africa too. He said people thought it was good and that the nuns would look after them and bring them up. He said that wasn't the case, it didn't work like that. I told him I knew that it didn't work like that. That was the only thing he ever really said.
98. CGW did tell me that there was only one thing he was glad about and that was that I was never sent over to Australia. He said I probably would have been next. He was right. If it hadn't been for my brother, taking me in when I was little it would have been me. Child migration was still going on when I was born in 1956.
99. When Gordon Brown apologised in 2010, CGW said, "That pommy prime minister was a bit bloody late with his apology." He was quite foul-mouthed about that and Kevin Rudd, the Australian prime minister's apology. He said half the child migrants were already dead or they'd been murdered. I think he meant that a lot of the children had been neglected, beaten and malnourished and hadn't survived. A lot of them had become alcoholics as adults and hadn't survived. If they got married, 90% of their marriages didn't last.

Lessons to be learned

100. I don't know what will happen through this Inquiry. What I would like to see is that nothing like this ever happens again to children. Children are innocent people. They have a right to be brought up with their families. It's too late for most of the child migrants, this being brought to light.
101. Although **CGW** got compensation, that wasn't enough. He was too late on in life, getting compensation. It was too late for him to enjoy a bit of money. If he'd had a good education, he'd have been able to work for his money and get what he could afford. **CGW** never had that. He struggled all his life. I was proud of him, though, for what he achieved in his life.
102. My mum never got any compensation. She was in poverty for most of her life. She never got any compensation for them stealing her son, because that's what they did. They stole children to build up another country with slave labour. It's shocking.
103. I have no objection to my witness statement being published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry. I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed..... **CGG**

Dated..... 16/05/19