

Witness Name: David Hill  
Statement No.: 3  
Exhibits:  
Dated:

## THE INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

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### Witness Statement of David Hill

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I, **David Hill**, will say as follows:-

I have made this additional witness statement in relation to Part 2 of the inquiry following the discovery of new information in archives in Australia and further disclosures to the IICSA. The statement also includes additional information asked of me by the IICSA.

#### UK Government, the UK Fairbridge Society and the protection of Fairbridge children after 1957

1. In 1957 the British Government and the UK Fairbridge Society entered a formal agreement that would involve substantial reforms to Fairbridge Farm Schools to bring the schools in Australia 'up to date' with the 'modern day child welfare standards' that prevailed in Britain at the time. [PRT000028]
2. However, after the agreement was reached and for many years – including when I was at Fairbridge Molong between 1959 and 1961 - none of the agreed changes were introduced and Molong continued to operate to standards below those stipulated by the British Government.
3. The UK Fairbridge Society and the British Government should have ensured the reforms they had agreed to were adopted. When none of the agreed reforms were introduced the British Government should have halted further child migration to Fairbridge and ceased providing funds to Fairbridge.
4. The failure to ensure that better standards of care were applied to the child migrants was a further betrayal of the children's welfare by the British Government. A little more than a year before, in 1956, and following the Fact Finding Mission to Australia, the British Government had put Fairbridge Molong and another nine child migrant centres in Australia on a 'blacklist' and suspended approvals for more children to be sent to Australia, including the Fairbridge Farm School at Pinjarra in Western Australia. Having determined the centre 'not fit' for children, Fairbridge then exerted some well documented political pressure and the 'blacklist' was abandoned and hundreds more children – including me – were sent to a school deemed unfit for children.

**DPA**