

- iii. The state authorities played a limited role at the time. This contributed to the lack of access that the boys had to adults outside the institution to whom they may have disclosed their conditions, including the abuse.
- iv. The physical conditions at the institutions permitted no privacy and required boys to be naked in front of the Brothers and each other.....this created a physical environment where the boys had no privacy from the Brothers.
- v. The Christian Brothers failed to provide all boys at the institutions with an opportunity to obtain an education.
- vi. The evidence at the hearing included many allegations of boys being sexually, physically and emotionally abused. Eleven men gave evidence and made allegations of sexual abuse against 16 named Brothers. The sexual abuse involved being observed naked in the showers by some of the Brothers and being abused in the dormitories, in Brother's rooms, during movie screenings and in the grounds. They spoke of sexual abuse by other boys. They also told of emotional, physical and psychological abuse by some of the Brothers. Most of the boys did not report the abuse; one of those who did received a belting.
- vii. In each of the decades from 1919 to the 1960's the relevant Christian Brothers Provincial Council knew of allegations of sexual abuse against some Brothers in Christian Brothers institutions around Australia.
- viii. The leadership of the Christian Brothers during the period 1947 to 1968 failed to manage each of the institutions so as to prevent the sexual abuse of children living in those institutions.

110. The findings of the Commissioner were very positive and I felt vindicated.

### **United Kingdom involvement**

- 111. I have never had any contact from the British authorities regarding my abuse. This is despite the fact that they were clearly responsible for sending me to Australia.
- 112. Although I have not had any contact from the British authorities, the Christian Brother's and Australian government responses to our allegations were very critical of the British authorities involvement. I exhibit an extract from an MP's evidence to a Parliamentary assembly in 1993. This is exhibited at [OJC26].

### **Research and advocacy**

- 113. Over the years I have been a keen researcher and advocate in relation to child migrants and the treatment of boys by the Christian Brothers. Being involved in this work has helped me, to some extent, come to terms with what happened to me.