

have stated that...*“this would suggest that Conlon actively recruited child migrants on the Council’s behalf whilst being aware that they could be at risk of sexual abuse.”*<sup>25</sup>

25. The evidence before this Inquiry raises real questions as to whether children were being trafficked to the dominions for the purposes of carrying out hard labour and sexual abuse. It is shocking and horrific to discover that someone could be recruiting children to Homes when he has knowledge of sexual abuse within them. This would clearly amount to child trafficking today. In other words, the organised movement of a child, with the knowledge that they were likely to be exploited, and that the child would be rendered vulnerable forms part of child trafficking networks today. Children are rendered vulnerable by the fact that they do not have close relatives at their destination and have a lack of access to basic services (such as education or medical services). The questions which former child migrants have been asking for years are only now starting to be answered.

## **II (a) WHAT SUPPORT AND REPARATIONS HAVE BEEN SPECIFICALLY PROVIDED TO FORMER CHILD MIGRANTS FOR SEXUAL ABUSE?**

### **Support**

26. In my first statement, I set out CMT’s service model, addressing how CMT supports former Child Migrants who have suffered abuse, sexual or otherwise.

27. CMT has received specific funding for its work supporting those who have suffered sexual abuse. Since 2013 the Australian Royal Commission into Institutional responses to Child Sexual Abuse (ARC) has provided annual funding to CMT to assist former child migrants prepare their written statements of historic childhood sexual abuse and appear before Commissioners in Private Sessions to deliver their oral testimony. In March 2016, the ARC held private sessions at CMT’s Nottingham office with former child migrants who now reside across the UK.

28. CMT has designed its service model to provide an appropriate environment, professional skills and expertise required to respond effectively to older people who have experienced serious, unresolved trauma and loss in their early lives. This clearly includes, but is not exclusive to, childhood sexual abuse within institutional settings.

29. The key elements of the service include:

- Social work led agency that remains grounded in social work values. All managers are social work trained and all continue practicing as part of their role, to ensure the agency remains focused on the developing needs of former child migrants.
- Trauma informed services delivered by an independent, specialist agency with no links to past perpetrators of historic abuse
- Safe, non-institutional environment for service delivery, for example operating from a warmly furnished house rather than a sterile office,<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> EWM000402\_005.