

**ABUSE IN CARE ROYAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY
STATE REDRESS INQUIRY HEARING**

Under The Inquiries Act 2013

In the matter of the Royal Commission of
Inquiry into Historical
Abuse in State Care and
in the Care of Faith-based
Institutions

Royal Commission: Judge Coral Shaw (Chair)
Dr Andrew Erueti
Ms Sandra Alofivae
Ms Julia Steenson

Counsel:

Mr Simon Mount, Ms Hanne Janes, Ms Kerryn Beaton, Ms
Katherine Anderson, Mr Joss Opie, Ms Echo Haronga, Ms Tania
Sharkey, Mr Michael Thomas, Ms Jane Glover and Ms Lorraine
Macdonald appear for the Royal Commission

Ms Sonja Cooper for Survivor Mary Marshall

Ms Sally McKechnie, Mr Alex Winsley, Mr Harrison Cunningham
and Ms Fiona Thorp appear for the Catholic Church

Mrs Guy-Kidd, Mr James Anson-Holland and Ms India Shores
appear for the Anglican Church

Ms Jenny Stevens and Ms Helen Thompson appear for The
Salvation Army

Venue: Level 2
Abuse in Care Royal Commission
of Inquiry
414 Khyber Pass Road
AUCKLAND

Date: 11 December 2020

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

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1 (Opening waiata and mihi)

2
3 **GLORIA WHITE - AFFIRMED**

4 **EXAMINED BY MS JANES**

5
6
7 **CHAIR:** Ata mārie ki ā koutou, nau mai hāere mai ki tēnei
8 hui. Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa. Good morning,
9 Ms Janes.

10 **MS JANES:** Kia ora, Commissioners. This morning our first
11 witness is Gloria White and we will have the affirmation
12 first and then we will proceed with the evidence.

13 **CHAIR:** Good morning. How would you like me to refer to
14 you, Gloria? Is Gloria all right?

15 A. Yes. (Witness affirmed).

16 **CHAIR:** Welcome to the Commission and welcome to your
17 support person.

18 **MS JANES:**

19 Q. Good morning, Gloria. I just want to acknowledge that you
20 have a support person, Paula, with you in the witness stand
21 and you also have whānau who are sitting in the public
22 gallery, so we want to welcome them and thank them for the
23 support today.

24 Your full name is Gloria Jane White?

25 A. Yes.

26 Q. And you have prepared a statement of evidence for the Royal
27 Commission dated the 25th of September 2020. You have a
28 copy of that with you, can you confirm that that is true
29 and correct?

30 A. Yes, I do.

31 Q. Gloria, you haven't in your statement talked about your
32 cultural heritage. Is there something that you would like
33 to share with us about that?

1 A. I'm Māori, I am a quarter Māori. My waka is Tainui and I
2 am registered with that iwi. I affiliate to the hapū of
3 Ngāti Maniapoto and Ngāti Paretekawa.

4 **COMMISSIONER ERUETI:** Tēnā koe, tēnā koutou, tēnei te mihi
5 mahana ki ā koe me tō whānau, nau mai hāere mai ki tēnei
6 hui ki tēnei Kōmihana, ngā mema o te Kōmihana, tēnei te
7 mihi mahana ki ā koe o koutou mana ō koutou tikanga ngā
8 whakaaro ki waenganui. Nau mai hāere mai. Kia ora.

9 A. Thank you.

10 **MS JANES:**

11 Q. Thank you, Commissioner. Gloria, we are going to go
12 through your experiences in Salvation Army Home, The Nest.
13 The Commissioners understand that you would like to read
14 your statement through, so we will start you from
15 paragraph 1 and we will just read through. If there's any
16 stage that you would like to take a break or to stop, just
17 let me know and that will be fine.

18 A. Okay, thank you. My name is Gloria White. I was born in
19 Te Awamutu in the Waikato region in 1960. My birth name
20 was Gloria Jane Harris.

21 My mother's name was Rongorua Queenie Lihou. She was
22 20 years old when I was born. She is now deceased.

23 My birth father's name was George William Alexander
24 Harris. He was 32 years old when I was born. He is now
25 deceased.

26 My mother had seven children while she was living with
27 my father. Later, it became known that some of her
28 children were fathered by her long-term de facto partner.

29 I am the second eldest child of seven siblings. I am
30 the oldest female.

31 I also have an older half-sister who is my father's
32 daughter. Her mother was my father's first wife and she is
33 approximately 9 years older than me. I will also refer to
34 her in my statement.

1 I was told a few years ago that my father also had
2 another child who is my half-brother and an adult now.

3 Experience of being in care. Myself and my siblings
4 were brought up in either Salvation Army children's homes
5 or foster homes.

6 On 3 December 1964, I went into The Nest in Hamilton. I
7 was 4 years old. Two of my sisters came with me into The
8 Nest. We were signed into the home by our father who paid
9 maintenance. At the time of our admission, there were 34
10 children living in the home.

11 I received a letter dated 21 December 2018 enclosing my
12 childhood records from The Salvation Army.

13 Q. And we don't need to go to the exhibit. They are available
14 to the Commissioners.

15 A. This letter dated 8 December 1964 which was written by
16 Matron Major Richardson at The Nest to Lieutenant Colonel
17 of The Salvation Army, this letter states, "This is the
18 case I mentioned to you over the phone. Quite a bad case
19 and the children had to be removed from their home in a
20 hurry. If we had not taken them, they would have gone to
21 the State. The Child Welfare say the home conditions were
22 very bad".

23 There was also recorded by Major Richardson in my
24 Salvation Army childhood records in several places under
25 the pages titled "History of the Child".

26 I was discharged from The Nest on 2 March 1965.

27 Another younger sister went to The Nest having spent
28 some time in a foster family from birth before going to The
29 Nest. She was placed at The Nest by our mother on 27 July
30 1971.

31 My brother spent time, approximately 6 months, in the
32 care of my grandparents before being sent to Hodderville
33 Boys' Home in Putāruru when he was approximately 6 years
34 old.

1 The Grange. I was moved from The Nest into The Grange
2 in Remuera in Auckland on 2 March 1965. I was
3 approximately 4 years and 10 months old at the time and
4 remained under their care until I was 17 and a half years
5 old. The original contract that my father had agreed to
6 was for The Salvation Army to take care of me until I was
7 15 years old. I am grateful that I was allowed to stay
8 longer.

9 I remember the Matrons who looked after me to be
10 Brigadier Blanche Christopher, Major Gwyneth Greig and
11 Major Sophie Mehrtens.

12 My two younger sisters who were placed in The Nest when
13 I was were later transferred to The Grange.

14 Even though my sisters were at The Grange at the same
15 time I was, most of my memories are of me, not of my
16 sisters.

17 At The Grange we weren't brought up to be sisters, we
18 were brought up in my mind as one child of 35 children in
19 the home, or one child of 17 children in the home,
20 depending on the total number of girls there at the time.
21 There was no sense of family with siblings.

22 I have almost no memory of one of my sisters going to
23 the same High School. I don't remember them at the bus
24 stop. I don't remember them in school uniform.

25 I have little memory of another sister. I don't
26 recognise her in photos and that to me seems quite sad.

27 Major Mehrtens, the third Matron I had at The Grange,
28 had actually looked after my aunty and my uncle when they
29 were in the care of The Salvation Army and she'd also
30 looked after my brother in Hodderville, the boys' home in
31 the Waikato. I remained in contact with Major Mehrtens
32 after The Grange closed down. She was a marriage celebrant
33 and officiated at my wedding in 1981, an outdoor garden
34 wedding. I also stayed with her at The Nest which is where
35 she transferred after The Grange closed down. I stayed

1 with her because my grandfather was in Waikato Hospital
2 after suffering a severe stroke.

3 I feel The Grange was understaffed. I knew that it was
4 Major Mehrtens' first job as a Matron, so she was quite
5 inexperienced when she arrived. I now have knowledge of
6 the treatment to another person by Major Mehrtens which was
7 wrong and neglectful, and this makes me very sad.

8 Q. Gloria, you talk from paragraph 24 about the abuse you
9 suffered in The Salvation Army Homes. Can you please read
10 paragraphs 24 through to 58?

11 A. Physical violence. The punishments at The Grange were
12 harsh and the environment was very strict. We would be
13 caned on our naked backside by the Matron as punishment, in
14 particular, by Brigadier Christopher. I remember being so
15 little at the time.

16 In 1966, when I was approximately 6 years old, living at
17 The Grange, I was wrongly accused of stealing a girl's
18 watch at Remuera Primary School. The girl who owned the
19 watch was not living at The Grange. I was told as an adult
20 many years after the fact that the watch was stolen by
21 another girl at The Grange. I was also told that the girls
22 at The Grange knew that this other girl had taken the watch
23 but let me get punished for this crime I didn't commit.

24 After dinner one night at The Grange I was told to go
25 into the Matron's office. She closed the door behind her.
26 The other girls and staff were in the main lounge with the
27 door closed. Once inside the office, I was questioned by
28 Brigadier Christopher as to whether I had stolen the watch.
29 She asked again and again whether I stole the watch from
30 school. I kept saying "no". Brigadier Christopher told me
31 to bend over, she pulled down my underwear and smacked me
32 on the bottom with her large bare hand. I was crying
33 loudly at first and saying "I didn't do it". She then got
34 a stick and repeatedly hit me with the stick. She hit
35 harder when I cried out. She told me she would leave me in

1 the office to think about it, still me bending over with my
2 underwear down. I was told not to move. She went away for
3 a brief period of time and then she came back into the
4 office and questioned me again. I kept saying "I didn't do
5 it" and she kept hitting me with the stick over and over.

6 Eventually when she asked, "Did you do it?", I just said
7 "Yes". I did this to make her stop beating me. I can see
8 now that her intention was to break my spirit and that is
9 what she did. I thought that everything would stop once I
10 told her I had stolen the watch, but I was completely
11 wrong. The physical punishment stopped, but what followed
12 was long-term discipline that was emotionally and
13 psychologically destroying for me and still affects me
14 today.

15 I was ostracized by the other girls because Matron told
16 the girls they weren't allowed to speak to me or play with
17 me. I wasn't allowed to eat with them. This went on for
18 days and days and days. It felt like a whole school term.

19 I was told by Matron that if I had hidden the watch in
20 the garden, then I had to find it and dig it up. I had no
21 idea what she meant and no idea what the watch looked like.
22 I spent hours and days and days in the garden searching for
23 the watch, digging with my bare hands in an attempt to find
24 it. I would hide in the gardens and hide in the bamboo to
25 get away from the stares, taunts and laughter from the
26 other girls. I would be bitten by mosquitoes and spent all
27 afternoon in the garden, sometimes until the lights went on
28 in the home and someone called me inside. I believe that
29 sometimes the staff only knew I was missing when it came to
30 bedtime.

31 This punishment was soul destroying in the extreme and
32 an example of social isolation. I was spiritually
33 disillusioned and felt that God was so cruel. I prayed and
34 prayed for the punishment to stop. I begged for

1 forgiveness for lying to Matron and telling her that I had
2 stolen the watch.

3 I felt abandoned by everyone in every sense of the word.
4 I could be in a room full of people and yet ostracised and
5 abandoned by them. There were times when I was walking to
6 school or going to Sunday school where I was amongst the
7 other girls, but I still felt abandoned and separate. I
8 learned to turn my emotions and thoughts inwards. I came
9 to believe how bad I was, how sinful I was, how disliked I
10 was and how physically dirty I was, as a result of
11 literally digging like a dog in the garden.

12 The punishment I received by Brigadier Christopher is
13 the deepest hurt in my life because I was punished for
14 something I didn't do.

15 Sexual abuse by father. I was sexually abused by my
16 father for an extended period of time between the years
17 1964 to 1974. The abuse started when I was 4 years old and
18 stopped when I was 14 years old.

19 Even though I was in the care of The Grange, I was
20 still released from their care to stay with my father when
21 The Grange closed down over the school holidays. I was
22 also sometimes released into his care overnight if he came
23 to Auckland to visit us. He would book into a motel and
24 sexually abuse me in motels in Newmarket and Remuera.
25 These motels were in close proximity to the Children's
26 Home. I remember on one occasion when a younger sister was
27 also in the same bedsit motel room with a single bed and a
28 double bed side by side. I was sexually abused that night
29 with my sister in the single bed and I was in the double
30 bed with my father. My father would threaten me that he
31 would hurt a sibling if I didn't do what he said or if they
32 were to wake up as a result of me fighting him or pushing
33 him away. Sometimes he would turn up after school
34 unannounced to pick me up and take me back to The Grange

1 and get permission from the Matron to have me stay
2 overnight in a motel room with him.

3 I believe that Brigadier Christopher had a knowledge of
4 the abuse that was happening with my father but despite
5 that, she continued to send me on the two-hour long bus
6 drive, on the long bus ride by myself to Te Awamutu or by
7 car with a family member into the care of my father. On
8 the bus I would cry going down to Te Awamutu and I would
9 cry on the bus ride back to The Grange.

10 The Matrons were our guardians and they had a duty of
11 care and I believe they were negligent.

12 I would not have told Brigadier Christopher directly
13 about the sexual abuse. I suffered such punishment for
14 something I didn't do when I was 6, that I was terrified of
15 her and there's no way I would have told her that I was
16 being sexually abused.

17 I do know that I told another person who was an adult at
18 the time. I know this because she came to visit me when I
19 was living in Tauranga about 10 years ago. She apologised
20 to me for not doing anything about it when I told her as a
21 child.

22 The hardest part of the abuse was that when I was at
23 immediate school in Remuera, I would have to walk to and
24 from school directly past the two motels where my father
25 had sexually abused me, so every weekday morning before
26 school and each afternoon after school I was reminded and
27 recounted the abuse in my head as I walked past those
28 motels.

29 I didn't learn about sex education until the end of my
30 last year at intermediate school. I would have been about
31 12 years old at the time. So, for a long time I knew what
32 he was doing to me was wrong, but I didn't fully understand
33 why. There was no sex education at The Grange, but if
34 there had been, maybe things could have been different.

1 Contact with my mother. I discovered that at times my
2 mother would be a prostitute in Auckland using the name
3 Rangī and at times she would lend me out to men to engage
4 in sexual acts. On three occasions in Auckland and one
5 occasion in Tokanui in the Waikato region, she pre-arranged
6 for me to have sexual encounters with different men. This
7 was always without my prior knowledge. Each time caught me
8 unexpectedly and each time in my mind I forgave her, never
9 expecting it to happen again.

10 The first time this happened was when I was 11 years
11 old. My mother picked me up from The Grange and took me on
12 a day out being to a high-class brothel run by Flora
13 MacKenzie at Ring Terrace St Mary's Bay on the cliffs
14 overlooking Auckland Harbour Bridge. Whilst at the brothel
15 my mother willingly gave me to a man. This was the first
16 time I was sexually abused by a man other than my father.

17 I remember meeting Flora MacKenzie and I remember being
18 told by her and my mother that I would be going to live
19 there permanently. I was taken to a curtained off area on
20 the downstairs floor, where the curtain went round the bed
21 and a small bedside table. I was told I was going to live
22 and sleep there.

23 I was told to get changed into a long dress that they
24 had given me. Photos were taken of me.

25 I was then given a silky negligée to put on, it was
26 apricot or peach coloured and I had a completely see
27 through - it had a completely see through separate outer
28 covering. I was told to go upstairs where I would see a
29 beautiful view over the Auckland Harbour Bridge.

30 I had no idea it was a bedroom upstairs. It was a big
31 open plan room and there was a large circular bed. I am
32 not sure that I even realised it was a bed at first. The
33 bed rotated. When I walked into the room there was a man
34 in there.

1 That man told me I would be his little girl and that's
2 pretty much how he treated me but in a sexual way. I knew
3 what he meant because that's what my father did to me. The
4 man asked my age and I told him I was 11 years old. Even
5 though he knew my age he still abused me.

6 I tried to turn my head away to avoid what the man was
7 doing to me. It got to the point where I was screaming
8 inside my head. My head was spinning. I just lay there
9 from then.

10 I don't remember him leaving the place; there must have
11 been another exit. I know the name of this man. I have
12 always known his name and where he worked. However, I do
13 not wish to identify him in this statement because I fear
14 that there may be photographs and/or video footage of me
15 taken on that day that could surface as a result of me
16 giving a public statement here. I was hurt and confused
17 when my mother returned me to The Grange.

18 I took the negligée back to The Grange and I remember
19 throwing it in the bottom of the wardrobe in a dark corner.
20 Then at some point in my life I became angry with my mother
21 for what had happened. I don't know why but I started to
22 wear the negligée to bed. The Matrons saw me wearing this
23 item of clothing. The Matrons also knew that my mother had
24 given me a whole thing of adult make up in a Nutrimetics
25 carry bag. I believe there were a lot of signs I was being
26 abused and the Matrons chose to ignore the situation or
27 maybe they just - or maybe they thought the power of prayer
28 would make everything all right.

29 At some point my mother gave me an envelope with a
30 packet of contraceptive pills and told me to take them
31 every day. I was only 11 when I went to the brothel and I
32 hadn't had my first period. Over a period of time, the
33 situations my mother was putting me in confused me and hurt
34 me to the point where my head couldn't take any more. I
35 had kept this experience bottled up inside me. I

1 eventually gave the pills to Matron Major Mehrtens, along
2 with a letter explaining that my mother had taken me to the
3 brothel. A copy of the letter I wrote to Major Mehrtens
4 and enclosing the contraceptives is in evidence. This
5 letter was obtained from my MSD records in the Harris
6 family file requesting through Oranga Tamariki in 2020 and
7 sent to me on 8 June 2020. The letter I wrote to Matron
8 Major Mehrtens was also mentioned in my Auckland Hospital
9 Reports I obtained through Child, Youth and Family in 2009,
10 although these letters in my childhood handwriting were not
11 located on my personal file.

12 Even though I wrote that letter to Matron Major Mehrtens
13 when I was 14 years old, the experiences happened earlier.
14 I just couldn't keep it all bottled up inside me any
15 longer. In the letter I wrote, "Please take these, then I
16 know I can't use them. I was so upset last night that I
17 opened them, which is one step closer to taking them".
18 This was me meaning I was going to take all the tablets at
19 once in the hope of overdosing. I wanted to end the pain.

20 I remember when I spent a school holiday in the Waikato
21 with my father. He dropped me off to visit my mother and
22 my mother loaned me out to a man who drove me down a long
23 country road and sexually abused me. This was organised by
24 my mother on the pretext of this man taking me to get milk.
25 We did not get milk. When I returned my mother gave me a
26 large gift pack set of towels and face cloths. These were
27 brought into the house by this man as a gift for me. I was
28 hurt and angry.

29 I remain to this day suspicious of Police and any
30 people in authority. When I was an adolescent and into
31 adulthood, my mother had a lot to do with a Policeman. The
32 Policeman was a Detective Inspector. My mother brought the
33 Policeman one night to see me and my husband at our house
34 in Mt Eden, Auckland.

1 I also remember meeting this Detective Inspector and my
2 mother when I worked at the bank in Queen Street in
3 Auckland. I worked for the securities division as a typist
4 and I met them at a restaurant for lunch close by. He
5 wasn't a Detective Inspector back then. He had the rank of
6 a Detective Superintendent when he retired from the Police
7 force. I was always unsure, and curious, of his
8 relationship with my mother. In my mind I felt he was
9 connected with Flora MacKenzie's brothel.

10 Another person actually has more knowledge than I do of
11 Flora MacKenzie's brothel and she has described hidden
12 rooms and pornographic material held there. Her
13 experiences on her visits are totally different to mine.

14 Q. Gloria, you've talked in your evidence about disclosing
15 abuse to social workers. Can you please read paragraphs
16 59-64?

17 A. Okay. When I was approximately 12 years old, I noticed
18 that The Grange started to receive more welfare children
19 and some of them had been let out of borstal.

20 The State wards came to The Grange with more than we
21 had. They got more pocket money, they got brand new
22 clothes, they got a social worker to themselves. As an
23 adult, I can see that they obviously needed the support of
24 a social worker. But I was always a bit jealous of the
25 State wards because, unlike them, I wasn't offered any
26 support from social workers. I now know this was because I
27 had been placed into The Salvation Army's care by my
28 father.

29 There were two families of girls that were visited by
30 social workers; one family of two sisters and another
31 family of two girls. Whenever social workers came to The
32 Grange, they would meet the State wards in the formal
33 lounge opposite the main front door entrance. The Matron's
34 office was next to the front door on the left as you walked
35 into the home.

1 On two occasions (and it might have been three, but I
2 distinctly remember two occasions) I hid out by the front
3 door just by the lounge while the girls were having their
4 appointment with their respective social workers. I had to
5 be careful not to be seen. When the girls had come out of
6 their meetings, I snuck into the lounge to see their social
7 worker. On at least two occasions, I went in and spoke to
8 the social worker and told them about my father abusing me.

9 I clearly remember that I asked them what a social
10 worker does, and I asked them to help me. I told them what
11 my father was doing to me and the second time I asked the
12 social worker if my father would go to jail. Nothing ever
13 happened, and I don't know whether the social workers told
14 the Matron what I had disclosed.

15 Q. You then go on to talk about seeking your records from The
16 Grange, so if you would like to keep reading from there?

17 A. I was able to obtain my childhood records from The Grange
18 with the assistance of Murray Houston, Referral Officer and
19 Commercial Manager for The Salvation Army. I received 41
20 pages of documents, including "History of the Child".

21 I do not believe that The Grange kept adequate records.
22 The records mainly consisted of correspondence with my
23 father about accounts being in arrears. There was no
24 record of the long-term punishments I received at the hands
25 of Brigadier Christopher, even though there was a section
26 for punishments to be recorded.

27 I recall two other incidents which I believe should have
28 been recorded by The Grange. When I was at intermediate
29 school I was caught shoplifting a small square of eye
30 shadow from the chemist in Remuera on the way home. At the
31 time the incident occurred, I was under a lot of peer
32 pressure. It was a dare from other girls at The Grange
33 that I went to Remuera Intermediate with. I told myself
34 that I might as well do it because I'd already been
35 punished for something I didn't do at age 6, so what did

1 this matter? The Police came to The Grange. I owned up to
2 the incident. I would think something that significant
3 should have been recorded but it was not.

4 There were no records about a time I ran away with two
5 other girls and walked along the shoulder of the Auckland
6 motorway and to the Panmure shops which was approximately a
7 10 kilometre distance from The Grange. My father was
8 called.

9 I believe The Grange should have kept records of when I
10 was taken off the premises by my father, my mother, my
11 older half-sister, potential foster families (overnight)
12 and by the family I went to live with when I eventually
13 left The Grange. I believe these records should also have
14 detailed how long I was away from The Grange each time.
15 Failure by The Salvation Army to record my outings meant a
16 failure to understand the signs or reasons for my unsettled
17 behaviour.

18 My records from The Grange show that up until December
19 1971 I was described as a "well behaved child". However,
20 from December 1971 entries such as "Gloria is quite well
21 behaved on the whole but easily led by the other girls".
22 These began to appear to be recorded about me.

23 In February 1973, a note records that "father has
24 started to get a bit possessive now that she is older".

25 On 6 November 1974, Major Mehrtens wrote to The
26 Salvation Army that I had written a rather disturbing note
27 to her and had made some serious allegations against my
28 mother.

29 I find one of the comments that were written about me to
30 be offensive and I believe that the Matrons should have
31 made more of an effort to inquire about my wellbeing. I
32 feel that if there had been better record-keeping of my
33 behaviour, I could have been better understood by the
34 Matrons and help could have been sought to assist me.

1 I was a troubled child and not the best behaved.
2 Sometimes I would go through periods of not eating and
3 crying all the way through dinner. I would cry through
4 classes at school and often skip classes and cry in the
5 toilets.

6 At High School during my third form end of year
7 examinations, I wrote my name on the head of each exam
8 paper, drew a diagonal line through each of the worksheets
9 and didn't answer any of the questions.

10 I believe the Matrons and the teachers would have
11 observed this behaviour, but still there is nothing
12 mentioned in my records.

13 Q. And then you also talk about obtaining your CYFS records,
14 so if you would like to start reading from paragraph 77
15 through to 92?

16 A. In 2009, I contacted Child, Youth and Family and requested
17 my childhood records. They were sent to me on 3 December
18 2009. I received the following information which I will
19 refer to in evidence. I made a further request in 2019 and
20 the file was sent to me again on 5 June 2019. I kept
21 requesting my childhood records because I thought that
22 maybe each time there would be more information, and that's
23 why I repeated it. My third request for my childhood
24 records was the Harris family file when I discovered that
25 this file existed, and it was separate to the file in my
26 name. This was sent to me by Oranga Tamariki on 8 June
27 2020.

28 In 1974, when I was 14 years old and a student at
29 Penrose High School, I exhibited signs of severe
30 depression. My records show that Major Mehrtens contacted
31 my High School counsellor to advise him that "I appeared to
32 be particularly anxious and clinging to the Major in a
33 particular way that is typical of a much younger child".

34 On 13 November 1974, I was referred by a child
35 psychologist to the Auckland Hospital for a psychiatric

1 assessment to ascertain whether or not some form of
2 medication was warranted, and she also recommended that I
3 receive ongoing support and therapy.

4 It clearly shows that I told the psychiatrist of the
5 outing that I had had with my mother to Flora MacKenzie's
6 brothel and the impact the experience had had on me. This
7 letter was copied to Major Mehrtens, a social worker from
8 the Department of Social Welfare and my high school
9 guidance counsellor. My school guidance counsellor was a
10 male.

11 On 28 November 1974, a Social Welfare officer wrote to
12 the Department of Social Welfare in Hamilton and requested
13 that my father be interviewed about my mother's
14 prostitution. The record also states that I had written a
15 letter to Major Mehrtens about my outing at the brothel. I
16 have obtained a copy of this letter and refer to that in
17 evidence.

18 On 10 December 1974, another social worker wrote a
19 letter stating that she had advised my father of the
20 contents of the conversation that I had with the other
21 social worker and my father travelled to The Grange
22 immediately. The letter records that no further action
23 would be taken by the Department of Social Welfare in
24 Hamilton. Today, I have questions. Why wasn't my mother
25 interviewed? Why were the Police not contacted about the
26 incident at the brothel?

27 On 18 December 1974, my father took me to a child
28 psychiatrist at Auckland Hospital. He stood outside the
29 room when I spoke to the psychiatrist and I didn't feel I
30 could disclose to her what was happening with my father
31 because he was right there, and I was told I would go in
32 first and then my father would go in on his own. The other
33 reason I couldn't disclose to her was her surname was the
34 same as my father's sister's married name and so it was
35 all, it was just all connected and made it difficult.

1 The letter written by the psychiatrist recorded that she
2 had made an appointment for me to see her again on 28
3 January 1975 which did not happen, and I have no record as
4 to why this did not eventuate.

5 The letter also states that I was severely depressed
6 and prescribed 25mg of Amitriptyline which is an
7 antidepressant that I should have been taking daily.
8 Neither the doctor nor the Matron discussed with me the
9 importance of taking the medication or what it would do for
10 me. I believe that as a vulnerable child, I should have
11 been supervised with taking this medication. As a result,
12 I didn't end up taking the medication. The tablets also
13 had a negative connotation for me because of my mother
14 giving me the contraceptive pills.

15 I strongly believe that I was failed by both The
16 Salvation Army and the State as they did not get adequate
17 support for me. The records that they have were just so
18 inadequate. If The Grange and the school had made true
19 records of my behaviour and my movements, they would have
20 seen a pattern that was happening. There were clear signs
21 that I was distressed. I would be crying through entire
22 classes at school. I was "on report" a lot at school,
23 where each teacher had to write comments on my report sheet
24 at the end of each class which I had to present to the
25 office each day after school.

26 Can I take a break here please?

27 **MS JANES:** May we take a short adjournment?

28 **CHAIR:** Of course we will, yes. We will take a break and
29 you let us know when you're ready to come back.

30

31 **Hearing adjourned from 10.47 a.m. until 11.03 a.m.**

32

33 **MS JANES:** Thank you, Commissioners.

34 Q. Gloria, we were just going to start reading from paragraph
35 89, so we'll pick up there.

1 A. There were clear signs that I was distressed. I would be
2 crying through entire classes at school. I was "on report"
3 a lot at school, where each teacher had to write comments
4 on my report sheet at the end of each class, which I had to
5 present to the office each day after school.

6 Why wasn't my mother interviewed? My mother had three
7 of my sisters living in her care in 1974. I believe that
8 her not being interviewed was a failure by the State.

9 If the Matrons had got the support for me when I was 14,
10 if I had received the help I needed from Auckland Hospital
11 to see the psychiatrist and the psychologist, if all that
12 had taken place properly, then what happened to other
13 people was entirely preventable. I strongly believe that
14 if the counselling therapy and antidepressant medication
15 had been given to me as recommended by the Auckland
16 Hospital psychiatrist, then my life subsequent to that, and
17 maybe until today, would have been different.

18 Q. You've also reflected not only on the effect on you of the
19 abuse but also intergenerational issues and how that's
20 affected others. Can you start reading, please, from
21 paragraph 93?

22 A. Over the years I have spent a lot of time trying to
23 research my family history, trying to find answers to a lot
24 of questions in my head and how it relates to who I am
25 today.

26 This research has helped me to understand the
27 generational cycle resulting in me being placed in care
28 with The Salvation Army.

29 Whilst conducting my research approximately 20 years ago
30 at National Archives in Dunedin, I discovered that my Great
31 Grandfather, GRO-B, had been convicted and sentenced in
32 1910 to two years imprisonment for attempted incest.

33 I was shown copies of his prison photographs and
34 obtained the Court transcripts which detailed how he
35 attempted to sexually abuse his daughters.

1 As a result of my great grandfather going to prison, his
2 youngest children, including my grandfather and my great
3 uncle, were placed into the care of Reverend Edward Andrew
4 Axelsen who was the Superintendent of the Dunedin
5 Presbyterian Social Services Association.

6 Reverend Axelsen was convicted of indecent assault on
7 boys and received 6 months imprisonment for each charge. I
8 have no evidence that my grandfather and great uncle were
9 abused but I found it interesting because it's kind of a
10 pattern that has come through to my father's generation.

11 I have received information from extended family members
12 over the years about my mother's family history. My mother
13 and her siblings were brought up in The Salvation Army
14 children's homes for a number of years. My maternal
15 grandfather received a brain injury at some point in his
16 life but continued to work in the King Country. My
17 maternal grandmother went through periods where she could
18 not cope.

19 My mother and some of her sisters were placed in The
20 Grange in Herne Bay which actually closed down in 1959 when
21 The Grange orphanage in Remuera opened. My aunty and uncle
22 were placed in The Nest in the Waikato. I have been told
23 that my mother ran away a lot from The Grange in Herne Bay.
24 I have received my mother's childhood records from The
25 Salvation Army.

26 Impact of the abuse on me and others. I have two
27 children; a daughter and a son. There is an 11 year gap
28 between my two children. Both have the same father. I was
29 married for over 30 years. I love my husband, I still do
30 but we are now divorced. Over time, my husband started to
31 remind me of my father. At times my husband and my father
32 would blur into one and the same person. I blame the
33 trauma of my childhood for my separation and divorce.

34 I have grandchildren that I love dearly but
35 unfortunately without any warning I can be playing with my

1 grandchildren and I'll experience triggers that just take
2 me back into the past. That's really difficult because
3 that's something so beautiful and is happening in front of
4 me but I don't get to enjoy it because it's clouded with
5 the past.

6 Contact with my siblings is something that although is
7 intermittent, makes me feel close and connected and I love
8 being part of their lives. However, interaction with them
9 is also a trigger for me because of all the unhappy
10 memories.

11 I have been getting intensive counselling and community
12 assistance for years now. I am on daily medication which
13 is delivered to my home each morning and night. I have
14 counselling therapy as well as respite care to keep me
15 well. I have been hospitalised in the past with depression
16 and still suffer from it. I have needed more assistance
17 the older I get because I struggle with my mental health,
18 my self-worth, anxiety, depression, complex Post Traumatic
19 Stress Disorder and chronic Dysthymic Disorder,
20 disassociation, hypervigilance due to my childhood abuse.

21 I have no idea why the older I get, the harder it is to
22 stop the bad memories. I have always had these memories
23 but the older I get the harder it is to manage,
24 compartmentalise and block them. I have previously been
25 able to work and do volunteer work at the church
26 opportunity shop and a local primary school. However, in
27 the last 4 years after returning to live in the
28 South Island, I haven't been able to consider voluntary
29 work. I accept the challenges I face now, and I try to
30 live a simple life.

31 Going to the dentist is a challenge for me for fear of
32 gagging which reminds me of the oral sex I was forced to
33 give as a child. I force myself to go to the dentist once
34 a year, but I need to take a support person with me and I

1 have had to be frank and honest with the dentist about my
2 anxiety and history.

3 I had a breakdown in December 2000 due to the PTSD from
4 my childhood abuse, including being taken to the brothel.
5 At the time of my breakdown, it was my daughter's school
6 ball. I was unwell and my family life was hard and I was
7 overworked and not getting enough sleep. I was only
8 sleeping about 2 hours a night. My daughter's ball dress
9 triggered me. It was the slinky clingy fabric that took me
10 straight back to the brothel and the negligée that I was
11 forced to wear.

12 It is hard for me now to see how Flora MacKenzie and her
13 brothel are given so much notoriety. Her operation will
14 always be remembered by me as the procuring of an underage
15 girl to be given to a well-known Auckland businessman. I
16 am horrified that the Ponsonby Community Centre has a room
17 for hire that is named after Flora MacKenzie and is hired
18 out to the Presbyterian Church for use as a crèche.

19 In September 2017, I struggled when I was going through
20 tests at the hospital for uterine cancer. I had symptoms
21 of post-menopausal bleeding and clear vaginal discharge
22 which were with me every waking minute of every day and
23 reminded me of the sexual abuse I had suffered. It got to
24 the point where I couldn't take it anymore and became
25 really unwell and planned suicide.

26 Q. Gloria, we then come to the process where there was events
27 that led to your redress process, so we'll start reading,
28 please, from paragraph 109?

29 A. Okay. A few years ago, I was struggling to cope on an
30 everyday basis and so, in addition to my ACC sensitive
31 claims counselling on Saturdays, I sought help from a
32 Reverend at the Anglican Church. She would say a prayer
33 for me which helped in the short-term.

34 Then when I was no longer driving, I would seek help
35 closer to home at The Salvation Army. One of the people

1 who helped me was a Salvation Army officer named Emma and I
2 told her of my experiences and she would say prayers with
3 me. Eventually in December 2018, when I explained to her
4 that the prayers were only short-term measures for me to
5 cope with memories, she gave me the phone number for Murray
6 Houston, Referral Officer and Commercial Manager based at
7 The Salvation Army Headquarters in Wellington. I rang
8 Murray Houston and left a message for him to call me,
9 telling him that I needed help.

10 When Murray Houston first rang me, he said he wanted to
11 meet with me in person which I appreciated. With regard to
12 where we met, Murray informed me that because The Salvation
13 Army bank with the BNZ, that they have an arrangement that
14 they could use an office at the BNZ if I wanted to meet
15 there. I told Murray that I felt The Salvation Army was a
16 comfort zone for me because that's where I attended a card
17 making activity regularly. I wanted the meeting to be near
18 The Salvation Army premises because I feel comfortable
19 there. I knew the setting and where the toilets were and
20 all that sort of thing.

21 Murray set up a meeting for 18 December 2018. He flew
22 from Wellington to the South Island to meet and arranged
23 for myself and my adult daughter to go to a house that was
24 near The Salvation Army. The house was empty and unmarked
25 and so nobody knew why we were there and I appreciated that
26 privacy.

27 Murray brought a woman with him, Vivienne Hill, to our
28 meeting, which I thought was quite good, especially to have
29 a female presence and I had been advised in advance that
30 she was coming. Murray informed me that he was going to
31 record the meeting and that he would provide me with an
32 audio copy on USB stick of what was said during my
33 interview.

34 At this meeting, Murray told me that I was not the first
35 person to come forward with a complaint about The Grange.

1 I told Murray that I wanted to obtain my records from The
2 Grange to assist me with understanding my childhood better.
3 Murray Houston and Vivienne Hill also told me that they
4 believed me, and I appreciated the effort and way - and
5 they appreciated the effort and way I told my experiences.

6 On 21 December 2018, I received a letter from Murray
7 Houston which included a USB stick with the audio recording
8 of our conversation on 18 December, along with a copy of
9 the files that The Salvation Army held on me.

10 On 16 January 2019, I wrote a letter to Murray Houston
11 thanking him for providing my Salvation Army records and
12 the audio recording of my interview. I provided further
13 information to Murray in this letter. The additional
14 information included memories that had surfaced after we
15 had met on 18 December and the effects that the abuse and
16 my time at The Grange has had on me throughout my life.

17 At the end of the first meeting on 18 December 2018,
18 Murray Houston asked me what The Salvation Army could do
19 for me. I said I didn't know, that I wanted to tell my
20 story of what I had experienced and I had just done that.
21 I didn't think beyond that moment. My daughter asked
22 Murray Houston to explain to me what he meant by that
23 question. Murray explained that he would go away and give
24 it some thought, about what The Salvation Army could do for
25 me. And Murray said that sometimes a monetary settlement
26 and/or a written apology was a solution for some people.
27 He also said that some people could be offended by the
28 mention of a monetary settlement.

29 At the time, I didn't really know what I wanted from the
30 process. I was going through counselling with ACC
31 Sensitive Claims and I told Murray that I didn't want The
32 Salvation Army to offer me counselling with another
33 counsellor.

34 I felt what I needed was an apology from the three
35 Matrons that were responsible for the suffering I had

1 experienced but I discovered that all three had died. I
2 then changed my mind and told Murray Houston that an
3 apology would be appropriate if I received it in writing
4 and could hold it in my hands. That would make a
5 difference to me.

6 Murray visited me for a second time on 14 March 2019,
7 this time without Vivienne Hill. My daughter was also
8 present with me at this meeting.

9 I was shocked when Murray produced the letter of
10 acknowledgment and a monetary settlement offer. This
11 letter is in evidence.

12 Q. I will just stop you there. Because you'd like to read
13 right through your statement without interruption, we will
14 look at those two apology letters at the end.

15 A. Thank you. Murray advised me that there were no conditions
16 to accepting the offer and so if I wanted to tell the
17 newspapers or reporters about my experience, then I could
18 do that.

19 Murray also offered me to get an independent lawyer of
20 my choice to review the offer and that The Salvation Army
21 would pay the legal fees. I didn't want to sign the letter
22 at that point as I wanted to seek legal advice.

23 My daughter organised a lawyer to visit us at my home
24 and he visited us a couple of times. The lawyer's name was
25 Craig O'Connor. On the lawyer's second visit to my house,
26 he said that he had contacted Murray Houston and he asked
27 Murray how he had arrived at the figure. Murray, without
28 breaking confidentiality or names or anything, told him of
29 other incidents where The Salvation Army had made offers
30 and where my situation sat in respect of those offers.

31 I told my lawyer that I didn't want any negotiation over
32 the figure, just that I wanted a sense that it was fair.

33 When I accepted the settlement, I received a written
34 apology which was dated 19 March 2019. I refer to this
35 letter in evidence. It meant so much to me, but I did ask

1 Murray to reword it as the initial letter only stipulated
2 that I was in the care of The Grange in the 1970s and I was
3 actually at The Grange in the 1960s as well as the '70s, so
4 I wanted that reflected in the apology. The initial letter
5 of apology also had the monetary settlement figure
6 disclosed which I asked Murray to remove because I wanted
7 to be able to show people closest to me that I had received
8 the apology and that I was believed. But I didn't want
9 anyone to know how much money The Salvation Army had given
10 me in settlement.

11 I thought the process went very well and I felt
12 supported and listened to by Murray Houston. It took
13 3 months from when I started the process to when I received
14 my apology and settlement.

15 I feel that The Salvation Army did everything extremely
16 well. When I started the redress process with The
17 Salvation Army, the one thing I was afraid of was being
18 abandoned again and Murray seemed to fully understand that.
19 So, even though this process is over for me, I feel like
20 Murray Houston has made an effort to occasionally stay in
21 touch.

22 Murray is aware that I am engaging with the Royal
23 Commission of Inquiry and he phoned me the week before my
24 private session with the Commissioner on 18 September 2019
25 to wish me well. I feel like he has cared.

26 Q. You very briefly touch on the Auckland Hospital and the
27 Ministry of Social Development. Those matters have been
28 read by the Commissioners. Is there anything in particular
29 that you would like to highlight in those paragraphs?

30 A. Only that Auckland Hospital have lost my records. So, if
31 it wasn't for finding those few reports in my Child, Youth
32 and Family records, then I wouldn't have any record of it.
33 And I requested my records more recently because I wanted
34 to understand more and because I was really hoping that I
35 would get some answers that would prove me wrong and that

1 it would say that I had had those follow-up visits to
2 Auckland Hospital and that someone actually cared about me
3 and I didn't just end up being left.

4 Q. And you've also got a claim with the State, and while this
5 is about faith-based redress, do you just want to very
6 briefly state where the State claim is and what you're
7 hoping from that?

8 A. I'm hoping for an apology in writing, in person or
9 publicly, to acknowledge that the Social Welfare,
10 Department of Social Welfare and when I saw the social
11 workers and where there was records of the Social Welfare
12 being involved because in 1965 I was 5 years old and my
13 father had to contact the Social Welfare to actually ask
14 whether we could go to have a holiday with him, or with
15 them. So, there was welfare involvement, I believe, so I'd
16 like an apology that things could have been different if
17 they'd been able to support me. And also, with the
18 Ministry of Health, the reason I wanted the apology from
19 them, is for the loss of my Auckland Hospital records
20 because I feel like I went for those initial appointments
21 and then there was nothing. And I know that that dosage of
22 Amitriptyline that I was prescribed is an adult dose, so I
23 do believe I was severely depressed and I believe that I
24 was let down by Auckland Hospital with regards to follow-up
25 care, you know, for someone to find out what was happening.

26 I have engaged Cooper Legal with regards to hopefully
27 getting some apology from the State. It's never been about
28 money. For me, I want that apology, yeah.

29 Q. And you've talked about The Salvation Army process taking
30 3 months. How long has it been that your MSD, Ministry of
31 Health claims have been outstanding?

32 A. They actually haven't started as yet. Cooper Legal have a
33 lot of caseloads, so I've had communication with them and
34 communication with the lawyers, but they were waiting now
35 until the end of me giving evidence at this hearing.

1 Q. Thank you.

2 A. But they have been - they have started but, no, I don't
3 think anything official has gone to the State.

4 Q. Okay. We'll quickly look at the three documents that we
5 were going to return to but after that I'll also ask you if
6 there are any remarks that you would like to make about the
7 redress process in particular and any improvements,
8 although it sounds like you've had a good experience. And
9 then I know that you have a short statement that you'd like
10 to read. So, we'll first go to exhibit ending in 006.

11 This is the first apology letter that you received from
12 Murray Houston of The Salvation Army. You'll see it's
13 dated the 14th of March 2009. When you received this -

14 **CHAIR:** 2019?

15 **MS JANES:** Yes, sorry, 2019.

16 Q. Gloria, when you received this and you read through it, did
17 you feel that it was personal to you and sufficiently
18 covered what you needed them to acknowledge and apologise
19 for?

20 A. Yes, I did. However, I guess as time went on I felt that
21 it was possibly based on a template but at the time when I
22 received it, I did genuinely think that it was personal to
23 me, yes.

24 Q. So, if one were looking at redress processes, what could be
25 done differently with apology letters, particularly for
26 claimants such as yourself where it's an important, if not
27 the most important part of the redress process?

28 A. When I went into it, I wasn't even expecting an apology,
29 and that's when I said to him if I could hold it in my
30 hands I might be able to feel it, and that is what I did.
31 For future survivors who come forward, I really think that
32 it made a huge difference, and I don't know where I got the
33 strength from to ask him to redo my apology letter, but I
34 think it's really important that the settlement is done
35 separately the letter of apology because I wanted to share

1 my letter of apology with my family and only to those that
2 were close to me but, you know, the other part of it was
3 still very private to me. So, it kind of let me keep my
4 dignity as well.

5 Q. And we honour the strength of going and asking for a second
6 apology which we'll now look at, which is witness exhibit
7 number 7. And so, you had gone to Murray and explained
8 what you needed, and this is the second apology letter that
9 you got, which is the 19th of March 2019. Just to orient
10 the Commissioners, you will see that the issues that Gloria
11 was concerned about have been removed. It still talks
12 about The Salvation Army unreservedly apologises to you,
13 Gloria, and is truly sorry for its actions and the distress
14 those actions created for you.

15 So, when you received this apology, how did that make
16 you feel?

17 A. It touched my heart and it did make me feel good, yes. I
18 felt I'd been listened to.

19 Q. And just for completeness, we'll look at the discharge that
20 you signed as part of your redress process, and that's
21 document SAL ending in 342. And you'll see that you agree
22 to accept a particular sum of money in full and final
23 settlement. And the final clause says, "I acknowledge
24 that, before signing this discharge, I was encouraged to
25 seek independent legal advice".

26 And you've said at paragraph 121 that you were able to
27 speak to this about anything, you were not constrained in
28 any way about talking about the settlement?

29 A. No, I wasn't and at the time, like I might appear as if I'm
30 holding myself together right now because it's the only way
31 I can get through it, but it was really hard for me and it
32 was a really emotional time for me as well, and I was
33 on - I was having respite care when I first saw Murray
34 Houston, just to help me get through it. And the fact that
35 my daughter felt confident with our discussions on December

1 18 with Murray Houston about getting The Salvation Army to
2 pay for a lawyer, she felt confident that it would be okay
3 to ask the lawyer to come to our house, to my house sorry,
4 and that made things so much better for me. Like, going to
5 the doctors can be really a trigger for me. So, not having
6 to go to the lawyers, you know, where it's busy with other
7 people and it's very professional, having Craig O'Connor
8 come to my house and discuss things with me there, and he
9 came out twice, that really, really helped with me getting
10 through this, yeah, and I really appreciate the offer of
11 paying for legal fees was made. It also brought home to
12 me, I guess, the seriousness because when I'd started the
13 journey and started telling Murray Houston my story, it
14 wasn't until I received the letter of apology and the
15 settlement that I realised how serious it was.

16 Q. And was that partly because it was such a quick process as
17 well, that that was an assistance to make you understand
18 what you were doing in terms of full and final settlement?

19 A. Yes, yes, I think so.

20 Q. Is there anything that you want to say further about the
21 redress process? And, if not, I'll have you read your
22 final words and then the Commissioners may have some
23 questions for you.

24 A. No, there's nothing else I want to add to the redress
25 process. But my final words are to The Salvation Army, I
26 would suggest that they publicly invite all children who
27 have been through their children's homes to come forward to
28 share their experiences, both good and bad. If it has
29 already been done, repeat it again.

30 I say to those children who were in the care of The
31 Salvation Army who suffered abuse, come forward, share
32 those secrets, don't let them eat away inside you. You
33 have a right to be heard.

34 I came forward not knowing there was such a thing as a
35 claim or that I was possibly a claimant or that there was

1 such a thing as redress. I didn't even feel like I was
2 complaining. I just needed The Salvation Army to know and
3 feel the hurt and let it out and voice the words. That is
4 what I got most from this process, telling them what had
5 happened, not the money.

6 The Royal Commission need our people to come forward,
7 hear our words, help us heal those childhood wounds to be
8 able to get a better true picture of what happens to
9 children. I would like to think that, at a later date, the
10 Royal Commission can somehow make a recommendation to the
11 government for parity and redress.

12 By that I mean, I know some survivors have received a
13 pittance for the suffering they experienced and continue to
14 experience during their redress process. The length of
15 time to reach a resolution is outrageous. That is in
16 faith-based, other faith-based and State-based care, their
17 redress processes. The Salvation Army have shown in my
18 situation that it is possible to do this in a timely
19 manner. The government agencies have the resources, or so
20 they say. They need to step up, use that money and do
21 better than they are doing now.

22 I have watched every single hearing and evidence given
23 up until now on the Royal Commission website. Those
24 survivors are so courageous. It has helped me to know I
25 wasn't alone. Thank you to all the Commissioners, thank
26 you to Commissioner Sandra who listened to me, gave me
27 courage to speak. Thank you to Commissioner Erueti and all
28 those who have helped my family. Thank you for the support
29 from the wellbeing team who supported me through the last
30 18 months by phone and at this hearing. And a huge thank
31 you to Sarah and Rebecca and to you Hanne Janes, you have
32 made this all possible and guided me through this hearing.

33 To sum it up, you have cared, you've really cared.

34 Thank you for inviting me to speak at this hearing.

35 Q. Thank you very much, Gloria.

1 **MS JANES:** Commissioners, that's the end of my evidence.

2 **CHAIR:** Thank you. I will ask the Commissioners if they
3 have any questions to add.

4

5

6

7

1 **GLORIA WHITE**
2 **QUESTIONED BY COMMISSIONERS**
3
4

5 **COMMISSIONER STEENSON:** Tēnā koe, Gloria, I just have one
6 question. It sounds like you did have a good redress
7 experience with The Salvation Army, which is very good to
8 hear. But you've also mentioned in your closing that you
9 are suggesting that they should go out and publicly ask for
10 other survivors to come forward and I guess I just wanted
11 to know, you know, given the time from when the abuse
12 occurred to when you actually took it upon yourself to
13 approach them, would you have, and I suspect I know what
14 the answer is but would you have preferred them to have
15 reached out to you? And in what way could they have done
16 that, that would have been you know appropriate for you?

17 A. I don't think it would have been appropriate for them to
18 reach out to me because my health has been so delicate, and
19 I think that would have jeopardised my wellbeing because,
20 you know, I have worked hard to have the wellbeing that
21 I've got now. And I think that might have taken me into
22 areas that I wasn't ready to go.

23 **COMMISSIONER STEENSON:** Right, okay. Ngā mihi nui ki a koe.

24 **COMMISSIONER ERUETI:** Tēnā koe, Gloria, thank you for your
25 thank yous. Again, I have a question about the redress
26 scheme operated by The Salvation Army. It is good to have
27 some good news, to have some balance here because it's not
28 always, you know, a horrible experience for survivors going
29 through the redress schemes and I pick up, acknowledge the
30 positive things that you experienced, in particular, their
31 saying they believed you, I see that had a palpable impact.

32 I did wonder though about the information that you had
33 about the process before you went into it because it seemed
34 that, you know, when Murray asked you what do you want, it

1 was what do I want? About whether it was clear to your
2 mind what you were doing and what the options were for you?
3 A. I approached Murray because it was like, I was getting to
4 the stage where I didn't know where else to turn with the
5 memories and things, and that's when I approached him and
6 said I needed help. I guess because over a period of time,
7 and when I first applied for my records from Child, Youth
8 and Family, my daughter had suggested to me that if I ever
9 decided to get them, that she would be interested in
10 reading them. So, it wasn't because, I didn't apply for
11 them because I absolutely needed them myself, it was partly
12 because she had suggested that and that's how I got them
13 originally. And I think that the fact that I had those
14 since 2009, then you know the other records that I managed
15 to get together. And, also, when I was hospitalised with
16 the depression, it was in Kensington Hospital in the
17 South Island and maybe 10 years after that I decided to ask
18 them for my records. So, that was never about seeking
19 redress or even knowing that there was such a thing, but I
20 think that perhaps having those things already in my
21 possession helped me when I did go to Murray Houston. But
22 he also told me that - when I first heard of the Royal
23 Commission, and it was the investigation into State care,
24 abuse in State care, it brought up in my mind I felt it was
25 an injustice because at The Grange there were State wards
26 there but also I was there and I wasn't a State ward, so
27 the abuse and the punishment received there, it felt wrong
28 for it not to include faith-based institutions. But Murray
29 Houston put my mind at rest when I rang him with that first
30 phone call and he said to me that I had always been able to
31 come forward since 2003 because The Salvation Army were
32 contracted to the government. So, that's quite a long time
33 where I hadn't even realised and other survivors will be
34 exactly the same. You know, they don't realise that
35 they're able to come forward and tell their stories.

1 So, back to what your question was, I did have things in
2 my possession that probably helped make that redress
3 process go forward, but I had also read how people were
4 waiting a long time for their records or, you know, copies
5 of their audio and things like that but for me the system
6 worked, yeah.

7 **COMMISSIONER ERUETI:** That raises an important issue where
8 you talk about the State had an agreement with the Church,
9 Salvation Army, we've seen about the inter-connectedness
10 between State care and FBI care and how they overlap and
11 intersect, yet when it comes to redress that's not the
12 case. And I see from your brief, that you go to the Army
13 and now you're going to MSD and now potentially the
14 Ministry of Health, so I'm wondering what it's like for you
15 to have to repeat your experience and the experience of
16 these different processes possibly three times?

17 A. I'm hoping I don't have to repeat it. I'm hoping that my
18 statement here will save me from having to repeat it.
19 Like, all I want from them is an apology. I don't need
20 anything else. I don't need anything else from them, I
21 just want an apology because I just want an acknowledgment
22 that things could have been better.

23 **COMMISSIONER ERUETI:** Okay, kia ora, thank you.

24 A. Thank you.

25 **CHAIR:** Gloria, I don't have any questions, just to thank
26 you and to say how much I appreciate your frankness. It's
27 been a privilege to hear from you, but I will hand you over
28 now to Commissioner Alofivae who I know you already know.

29 **COMMISSIONER ALOFIVAE:** Talofa, Gloria. It was a privilege
30 to hear your experiences in the private session and, again,
31 you have shown enormous courage, strength and bravery to
32 come through to our public hearing today. So, on behalf of
33 the Commission, can I publicly acknowledge that and thank
34 you sincerely with so much gratitude and I want to be able
35 to acknowledge your siblings and your whānau that are here

1 because that is such a show of solidarity for you. You've
2 come an extreme distance with so many challenges but the
3 generous way in which you've shared your story has
4 certainly added to our kete and to our wider body of work,
5 and so for that we're very grateful and we just wish you
6 continued strength as you navigate life going forward.

7 A. Thank you.

8 **COMMISSIONER ALOFIVAE:** And can I just also take a moment
9 to acknowledge The Salvation Army, in particular to Murray
10 Houston, for the very humane way in which the redress
11 process was dealt with. It's clearly been able to embrace
12 you in your vulnerability and it shows that it can be done.
13 So, I just wanted to be able to acknowledge that because
14 Gloria has acknowledged that, so thank you.

15 **MS JANES:** Thank you, Gloria. That concludes the evidence.

16 **CHAIR:** It is a good time for a break.

17 **MS JANES:** A good time for a break.

18 **CHAIR:** It is indeed.

19 **MS JANES:** And we have the next witness, a 15 minute break?

20 **CHAIR:** We will take a 15 minute break, time for a cup of
21 tea I think.

22

23 **Hearing adjourned from 11.50 a.m. until 12.10 p.m.**

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ROY TAKIAHO - AFFIRMED
EXAMINED BY MR SNELGAR

CHAIR: Tēnā koe, Mr Snelgar.

MR SNELGAR: Tēnā koutou e ngā Kōmihana. Tēnei te mihi ki ā koe Roy, nāhau nei, kua tāe mai I tēnei rā I runga I te karanga o te kaupapa tēnei te mihi ki ā koe me tō hoa Vanessa, tēnā kōrua. Ahakoa te taumahatanga o tēnei kaupapa ā kua tāe mai ā ka mihi atu.

Q. Tēnā koe, Roy, thank you for coming today to share your kōrero and to your partner, Vanessa. I greet you and I greet your ancestors as well that bring with you the heaviness of the kaupapa that we're here for today, so thank you for being here.

Just a couple of housekeeping matters, Roy. The first part we've talked about already, is that your statement has already been given to the Commission, so we might not get through the entire statement and that's ka pai, there might be things that we focus on more today to do with the redress process, so don't feel like we need to cover the entirety of your statement.

The second thing is we have an interpreter here, so I will try my best to slow things down myself and there may be occasions that I will just remind you to go slowly as well, just for the benefit of our interpreter.

And finally, it's just the final stage is the affirmation.

CHAIR: Yes. Tēnā koe, Roy.

A. Kia ora.

CHAIR: Nau mai, haere mai. You know this isn't a Court, don't you?

A. Yes.

1 **CHAIR:** I know it feels a bit like it but it's not a Court.
2 I am not going to ask you to swear on the Bible or
3 anything, but just to take an affirmation, is that okay
4 with you?

5 A. Yes. (Witness affirmed).

6 **CHAIR:** Kia ora.

7 **MR SNELGAR:**

8 Q. Kia ora. Could you state your full name?

9 A. Roy Joseph Takiaho.

10 Q. Roy, do you want to bring the microphone just a little bit
11 closer, is that all right? Roy, before today, did you make
12 two statements to the Commission?

13 A. That's correct.

14 Q. And was one statement dated the 23rd of September 2020?

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. And the second the 10th of November 2020?

17 A. That's correct.

18 Q. Were you born in 1972?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. What are you doing at the moment, Roy?

21 A. I study psychology in the Waikato.

22 Q. What year of psychology, are you?

23 A. First year.

24 Q. First year, so just finished your exams, have you?

25 A. Yes, just finished the first year.

26 Q. Congratulations. I'll just move on to talk a bit about
27 your cultural background, you're Māori?

28 A. That's correct.

29 Q. Where is your ancestry from?

30 A. I come from the Far North, Ngāpuhi.

31 Q. That is a great iwi if I must say myself. Were you born in
32 Auckland?

33 A. I was born in Auckland, yes.

- 1 Q. We will start with a bit of a chronology of your
2 background. You were 2 years old when you became a State
3 ward, is that right?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. When you were younger, was your Dad in and out of jail a
6 bit?
- 7 A. Yes, he was always in prison, yeah.
- 8 Q. And your Mum, what do you remember about your Mum?
- 9 A. My Mum was bringing up my older siblings. She was unable
10 to cater for me when I came along, and she was asked for me
11 to be subjected to State ward for her benefits, to be able
12 to cater for my older siblings.
- 13 Q. Is that the Department of Social Welfare who asked?
- 14 A. That's right.
- 15 Q. You had three siblings?
- 16 A. Three older siblings, yeah.
- 17 Q. And were they taken into care as well?
- 18 A. Two of my older brothers were taken into care but they were
19 there for a very minimal time.
- 20 Q. Was it just a few months that they were there?
- 21 A. A few months, less than a year, as I recall, yeah.
- 22 Q. You had a sister as well, is that the other sibling?
- 23 A. Yes, the older sister but she was at home looking after the
24 older siblings at the time.
- 25 Q. So, they were returned. I just want to talk about your
26 experience, what did the Department do with you?
- 27 A. They returned my two older brothers back to my parents but,
28 as I recall, I wasn't included in that. We were in
29 separate places at the time.
- 30 Q. And your parents, did they try and get you returned?
- 31 A. They tried looking for me when I was around about 3-5,
32 between 3 and 5.
- 33 Q. Do you remember what the Department of Social Welfare said
34 about you being placed back with your whānau?

1 A. I recall a report that it was best that I was to stay in
2 the care of the Department of Social Welfare for the
3 benefit of my mother and for - because of my father being
4 in and out of prison, to cater for the three children
5 already, it would be best for her.

6 Q. So, your other siblings were returned but you remained in
7 care?

8 A. That's correct.

9 Q. I want to talk about the first family home, which is a
10 family home in West Auckland. Were you there for a long
11 time, between 2 and 12 years old?

12 A. Between 2 and 12 years old I was in West Auckland with a
13 foster family.

14 Q. Were your two brothers, were they placed at The Nest which
15 is run by the Army?

16 A. I recall, yes they were, not for very long.

17 Q. So, they weren't in this family home with you?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Do you remember which schools you went to while you were at
20 that home?

21 A. I went to New Windsor Primary in Blockhouse Bay at first
22 and then I went to Wesley Immediate, then from there was to
23 Avondale College, and from there was to Rutherford College
24 in Te Atatū South.

25 Q. Over that period of about 10 years, did you have contact
26 with your family?

27 A. I had contact once with my family for 8 hours through DSW
28 for a day, yeah.

29 Q. How did that go for you, that day?

30 A. My siblings were very - they didn't know how to take me. I
31 was introduced as a brother but more introduced as a play
32 friend from down the road. By the time I returned that one
33 day, I'd had two other brothers had come along, so my
34 younger siblings had come along, and they were of course
35 younger, so we took that 8 hours as, more of it being a

1 play thing, that we could go out and as we were children,
2 do things as children, played with bikes and run around.
3 It wasn't seen as it being a family gathering.

4 Q. How did you feel when the meeting with your whānau ended
5 and you had to go back to the family home?

6 A. Well, I felt I was going home when I left, when I got
7 picked up that evening at 6.00. It was - my mother hugged
8 me as a mother does her child but I didn't see my mother as
9 my -

10 **CHAIR:** Take your time, Roy. Would it help if we took a
11 break?

12 **MR SNELGAR:** I will check with Roy. Do you want to take a
13 break, Roy, or just have a little moment?

14 A. I didn't see my mother as my mother that day.

15 Q. Your Mum didn't want you to go back to the home, is that
16 right?

17 A. Nah, she didn't.

18 Q. I'll just move, Roy, on to the family that you were placed
19 with. Were they a Pākehā family?

20 A. That's right.

21 Q. When you're ready, no rush, could you just describe what
22 that household, what that home was like for you?

23 A. They gave me the feeling of a family but produced a lot of
24 fear into me and a lot of hate, being with that family.

25 Q. And there was quite a bit of discipline at that house?

26 A. I was disciplined by the older siblings that were the
27 foster family's biological children.

28 Q. And discipline being beatings, is that right?

29 A. A lot of beatings, yep.

30 Q. Sometimes were you put in the bathroom?

31 A. I was locked in the, yeah, bathrooms, yep, bathrooms.

32 Q. They didn't really let you do much besides going to school,
33 is that right?

34 A. Yeah, that's right, yep.

1 Q. I just want to talk about what's at paragraph 17 of your
2 statement, what happened at the local clubrooms a little
3 bit. Was there some abuse that happened at the local
4 clubrooms?

5 A. Yes, I was subjected to the clubrooms on a daily, pretty
6 much a daily occurrence, with the foster parents being
7 locals of the clubrooms, therefore I was always there with
8 them. I was there for hours at a time. I'd be the only
9 child still there at 9.30/10.00 at night, due to my foster
10 father being an alcoholic. It was the clubrooms for the
11 drinking.

12 Q. I think you said in your statement that you were subject to
13 abuse by people at the clubrooms, is that right?

14 A. That's right.

15 Q. And that happened a number of times by different people?

16 A. Yeah, there was different people, different men there and
17 there was one there that was always the abuser.

18 Q. Just to be clear, it was sexual abuse?

19 A. That's correct.

20 Q. Did you have some visits while you were there from Social
21 Welfare at that home?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Did Social Welfare say something had changed in your
24 behaviour?

25 A. Yes, the social workers would come and I'd be - I knew they
26 were coming because the foster parents would give me the
27 Sunday dress to give the sense to them that everything was
28 all right. So, the social worker would see that front and
29 take it into their account that everything must be going
30 well.

31 Q. But, in your mind, were things going well?

32 A. In my mind, I was being a child. There was things I wanted
33 to say to them, but I wasn't allowed to. I was told to be
34 present and quiet. I was told that they're not here to see
35 me.

1 Q. Did you even speak to a psychologist at some point?

2 A. Yes, I was with a psychologist that one time and he took me
3 to a building once and even that meeting of things reminded
4 me of what happened at the clubrooms, yeah. I knew it
5 wasn't right, but I knew I wasn't allowed to say anything.

6 Q. Who was it that made you feel that you couldn't say
7 anything?

8 A. The psychologist or the counsellor that I was assigned to
9 would be very touchy and because the abuser from the club
10 room had been doing that to me, I felt there was nothing I
11 could do about that.

12 Q. You didn't really speak to the psychologist or anyone else
13 about this abuse?

14 A. No, I wasn't allowed to.

15 Q. What was it like for you, Roy, being Māori and being placed
16 in a Pākehā family?

17 A. I didn't know I was a Māori for a very long time. I didn't
18 even know what family was, I didn't even know what - I'd
19 only known growing up calling my foster parents Mum and Dad
20 and brother. So, I knew of that but as I started to
21 realise by going to school and realising my friends telling
22 me at school who were Māori, going "How come your parents
23 are white?", I go "They're my parents". My Māori friends
24 telling me, "But you're a Māori, they're not Māori". I
25 didn't know, I didn't understand then. Yeah, I just didn't
26 know how to take that but then my Māori friends who were
27 all the same age, of course, they'd tease me about it and
28 things like that, so I had to start thinking about,
29 thinking how come I'm of a darker skin of my parents? And
30 this is after I had actually met my biological parents.
31 And even then, I didn't know, I wasn't told anything. That
32 day was a day to be with my biological family who I'd never
33 met. For what reason, I don't know why they gave me that
34 one day and then took it all away again. So, I couldn't
35 call my brothers my brothers and my Mum and Dad Mum and Dad

1 because I'd been growing up calling my foster family Mum
2 and Dad, so that's how I took it until about 11 or 12 years
3 of age.

4 Q. When you were about 11 or 12, you were still with the
5 foster family, in your statement you talk about beginning
6 to rebel once you realised you were Māori in a Pākehā
7 family?

8 A. That's right. My friends, I started taking the word of my
9 friends and they were saying you shouldn't be there.
10 Where's your real Mum and Dad? And it started to grow on
11 me. When the beatings still kept coming at that age, I
12 started realising how come you're beating me if you're my
13 Mum and Dad? And how come I'm black and you're white?
14 Yeah. And that's pretty well when it started about me
15 saying to my foster parents, "You're not my parents".

16 Q. Eventually, did Social Welfare start moving you
17 from - moved you away from this foster home?

18 A. They took me away from the foster parents and they put me
19 into family homes who were Māoris. Of course, because the
20 foster families started realising the rebellious me as
21 another typical Māori sort of thing. They'd never
22 introduced me cultural significance and stuff, so when I
23 started becoming that rebellious young Māori boy, it
24 started to scare them, that I was becoming like the Māoris
25 that they knew. So, they wouldn't - they couldn't handle
26 who I was becoming, so they asked the Department of Social
27 Welfare, "We can't handle him anymore", yeah.

28 Q. You were moved, were you moved after that to Owairaka?

29 A. After that, I went to a family home in Te Atatū South, no
30 Te Atatū North, yes.

31 Q. Okay. In your time at the - just going to that time, do
32 you remember how old you were when you were moved to Te
33 Atatū?

34 A. I would have been about 12 years of age.

35 Q. Was it after that, that you went to Owairaka?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. Your time at Te Atatū at the home there, were you there for
3 about 3-6 months?
- 4 A. Yes, it was a Christmas period too, I remember that quite
5 vividly. And it was after that holiday, that I was moved
6 on.
- 7 Q. And the foster father there, was he abusive?
- 8 A. The house father, yes, he was a very abusive man also. He
9 was a Māori.
- 10 Q. He had his own family living there?
- 11 A. Living there also, yes.
- 12 Q. When things went wrong in the family, were you the person
13 who suffered?
- 14 A. Yes. It wasn't sexual abuse, it was more physical abuse
15 with that home, with that home, yes.
- 16 Q. And then after that home, is that when you went to
17 Owairaka?
- 18 A. Yep, that's when - I absconded from that house a couple of
19 times and I ended up in another family home in the Te Atatū
20 South after that one which were run by a Māori lady and a
21 Pākehā man, her husband, yes.
- 22 Q. The running away from there, is that when you then went to
23 Owairaka?
- 24 A. That's right.
- 25 Q. When you ran away, were you hanging out with other young
26 people?
- 27 A. I was hanging out with people who were pretty much the same
28 as me, who were runaways also. We were able to accept each
29 other and not ask questions.
- 30 Q. I think you've said in your statement, people that shared
31 similar experiences and backgrounds to you?
- 32 A. That's right, yes. These experiences would have been, you
33 know, things - they weren't spoken of verbally but looking
34 at it, we all knew that we didn't want to be in the houses
35 that we were in.

- 1 Q. Eventually, were you picked up by Social Welfare?
- 2 A. Police.
- 3 Q. Police?
- 4 A. Yep.
- 5 Q. Is that when you were placed at Owairaka?
- 6 A. Yeah, they placed me back in, yeah that first time they put
7 me in Owairaka because I never told them that first time
8 that I had somewhere to stay, I never told them anything
9 but they seen a - there were a group of us that were here
10 in Auckland City that we were too young to be in the city
11 and why are we in the city? And Owairaka was the drop off
12 point for the Police to be able to get us off the street,
13 Mm.
- 14 Q. Do you remember how old you were when you went to the
15 Owairaka Boys' Home?
- 16 A. Yeah, I would have been about 13, I would have been about
17 13, yes.
- 18 Q. Was the decision to place you there, was that made by the
19 Department of Social Welfare?
- 20 A. Social Welfare, yes. They tried to place me back with my
21 original foster family, but I refused to go back there.
- 22 Q. I just want to talk a bit about, first, the initiation
23 process at Owairaka. Are you able to tell us a bit about
24 that?
- 25 A. Yeah. At Owairaka we were expected to see if we were to be
26 able to become part of the children that were there on our
27 first placement there. We were subjected to group
28 beatings. That only happened once because if you were able
29 to get through that beating and say nothing, you would be
30 able to be accepted into this group that were able
31 to - wouldn't say anything, wouldn't nark on anyone. To
32 become a part of that group was a big thing.
- 33 Q. Were you subject to that initiation beating?
- 34 A. Yes, yes.
- 35 Q. And did that happen to all boys that came?

1 A. Yes, and as time went by, I experienced it also as being
2 the - as part of the group that say nothing, see nothing, I
3 had to be loyal to that also and felt I had to be with this
4 group to be able to - the group of us, so that our bonds
5 didn't break and we wouldn't accept anyone when we started
6 becoming it, we knew who to accept and not to accept. So,
7 yeah, we were able to, yeah, we were the dishers out of
8 that eventually. I became part of that group to dish it
9 out to, yeah, the kids that were coming through after me
10 too, yeah.

11 Q. What would happen to you if you didn't participate as part
12 of the beatings for the new -

13 A. You would always be subjected to getting beaten by a group,
14 not by an individual but by groups. We became the group
15 of - at the time, it was a thing like a kingpin sort of
16 thing. I think our motto if it you're not with us, you're
17 against us, yeah.

18 Q. I just want to talk a bit about the abuse that you suffered
19 at Owairaka. In your statement, you've said that you
20 suffered sexual, mental and physical abuse at Owairaka?

21 A. Yes, that's right. From the top part of Owairaka, there
22 was two parts to Owairaka. At the top part of Owairaka,
23 that was the prettified place, that's where we had a lot
24 of - we were able to walk around. We had a recreation
25 room, we had a TV room, we had access to go to our bedroom
26 or our dormitory, and that we could walk around the top
27 part, we could be outside, the top part of the gym would go
28 on outings at the top part of Owairaka there. It was also
29 easy to abscond from there, at the top part. So, when we
30 had enough of being cared for and taken in and
31 looking - we'd take off. And I would take off and I'd go
32 back to the crowd I knew. That happened a couple of times,
33 twice, I took off, came back, put back in the prettified
34 place of Owairaka and then the third time come and that's
35 when the second part of Owairaka came into play for me. I

1 would have been 14 then, 14, and that's when the
2 realisation of incarceration came for me in Owairaka.

3 Q. That second part of Owairaka, was that where the secure
4 was?

5 A. That was the secure unit, and the secure unit there was set
6 out as sort of like a prison environment, with the cell and
7 the big prison door and there was very strict rules. You
8 stepped out of line with those rules, you would get
9 severely beaten.

10 Q. Was it beatings by the staff or -

11 A. By staff, yes.

12 Q. How long would you typically be placed in secure for, Roy,
13 do you remember?

14 A. I was in secure for the first part of that, by my account,
15 it may have been between two to three months, the better
16 part of the end of closer to three months I was there the
17 first time, yes.

18 Q. And just describe secure, was it - were you able to go to
19 school while in secure?

20 A. There was no education in the secure. We had more access
21 to a gym with weights and stuff more than an education.
22 Secure was beaten into us to toughen us up.

23 Q. Do you remember how long, how many hours of the day you
24 were locked up in your cell?

25 A. At times, it would be 12 hours at times, locked in a cell.

26 Q. And did you end up in secure quite a few times over your
27 time at Owairaka?

28 A. Every time after that time, yes, I'd be subjected to
29 lockup, yes.

30 Q. And were you put in lockup for things like not complying
31 with rules?

32 A. Yes, yep, sometimes it was that, about being, yeah, not
33 complying. There was just times when I'd be put in the
34 cell as to be out of the way. The staff would be busy
35 doing something and I'd be subjected to just being put in

1 the cell, shut the door and that was it, pretty well much,
2 yeah.

3 Q. I just wondered if you could just describe it a bit. In
4 the secure unit, was there a single cell and also double
5 cells?

6 A. Yes, there was one man cells and two man cells. I was
7 pretty much most of the time when I was in a locked cell, I
8 was on my own.

9 Q. In your statement you talk about a pattern that you knew
10 about when boys were placed in the single cell?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Can you talk about that?

13 A. That pattern that come along was - those were the cells
14 that were most visited by certain members of staff at
15 certain times of the evening or the day. Those would be
16 times also when we'd all have been - there would be no-one
17 on the floor. It wasn't a big place, the secure unit, it
18 was a square place with the cells. We had little peepholes
19 that you could sort of see out of and you could see all of
20 the cells in that confinement. So, when you heard a cell
21 opening, you automatically, I would automatically look out
22 that peephole and see what was - it just became common, the
23 cells opened and you didn't take any notice of anything
24 else, apart from - and then you'd hear the cell close.
25 When I was subjected to it myself, to the opening of the
26 cell in the dark and having a staff member come in and tell
27 me that I'm bad and good for nothing and to be told but I'm
28 here to talk with you and I'm here to comfort you. So,
29 that was my, the very first time, that was my first
30 experience with the abuser in that single cell and then I
31 started realising that the pattern of it was when we were
32 the ones in the single cells, we were the ones that were
33 going to be targeted by these abusers.

34 Q. The abuse that you suffered in those single cells, was that
35 sexual abuse?

- 1 A. That was sexual abuse, yes.
- 2 Q. You said often at night-time, was it the House Masters
3 would come visit?
- 4 A. Yeah, it wasn't always the same but one of the main ones
5 was the one that was the abuser and he would come down and
6 I can recall my cell being opened at least three times.
- 7 Q. In your statement, you talk about two of those predators,
8 was one a Māori staff member?
- 9 A. That's right, yes.
- 10 Q. And was one also a Pākehā House Master?
- 11 A. Um, yeah, he was, he seemed, yeah, Pākehā, yes.
- 12 Q. Were those the two people that abused you?
- 13 A. Yes, they were the main ones and I recognised the Māori
14 abuser from top house, the top part of Owairaka, and he was
15 the one that would be taking us on outings and stuff like
16 that. So, myself, I was used to this face, so with him
17 having access to the site, he'd be down and he would be a
18 welcoming face because he had taken us out on outings and
19 stuff like that, so he was a good guy and -
- 20 Q. Did staff members give you things like movie nights?
- 21 A. Yeah, those were good nights, they used to have movie night
22 and they used to give us, yeah, we had - we'd get a
23 Crunchie and a Pinky that night and a cup of drink and it
24 was great but also through those movies, we noticed that
25 certain ones of us would get tapped and "come with me", you
26 know, let out of the movie area. When I was the one that
27 was left there not being tapped on the shoulder to come
28 out, we started realising that certain ones would be gone
29 for the whole movie. A common thing of young teenagers,
30 "Where did you go? Did you get extra chocolate or
31 something?", "Oh", it was just swept or shrugged off.
- 32 Q. Did you know what happened to them?
- 33 A. Not at the time, no.
- 34 Q. In your statement, I think you said the movie nights and
35 chocolate was used to cover up?

1 A. Yes, I believe now with us all occupied, it was an opening
2 for the abusers to pick on certain ones.

3 Q. Was there also a gym teacher who was a physical abuser?

4 A. That's right, yes.

5 Q. And did he give you and others hidings?

6 A. Yeah, he was very abusive and physically, he was the
7 punisher, and we'd be punished because we were there. And
8 being in the secure unit, that is what it was, it was a
9 secure away from everything, away from everyone that might
10 see stuff. By being in that confinement, that's as far as
11 it went.

12 Q. You said about a few months in secure the first time but
13 were there other times that you were put into secure for
14 periods?

15 A. Oh yeah, there's other times in secure. It was like it was
16 a period of time that we could be in that secure and then
17 the Department of Social Welfare would take us away, take
18 me away and place me somewhere. It never worked, from that
19 time I couldn't be placed anywhere because I wasn't going
20 to be placed anywhere. I would go back to what I knew and
21 who I knew, which would subject me to be arrested again and
22 put back in Owairaka.

23 Q. You spent a bit of time in and out of Owairaka?

24 A. In and out of there, yes.

25 Q. And just talking about the second time that you saw your
26 family, did you have a cousin that recognised you while you
27 were at Owairaka?

28 A. Yes, my cousin recognised me and it's a funny thing, we had
29 a big fight first and then everything and then after all of
30 that he really looked at me and he seen my mother in my
31 features, and he told his Mum and Dad that used to come and
32 see him and he said, he told them and then they asked if
33 they could have me come out to the visit area. The guy was
34 actually my nephew but his Mum is my first cousin and I
35 never knew them but as soon as when I went out to the visit

1 room I remember very vividly I walked through the door and
2 she straight away said my Mum's name, said "you look just
3 like" my Mum, Cuddles, this was my Mum. And they went away
4 and went and told my parents and the next day they came
5 down from the north and then I was told to go into the
6 visits room and my Mum and Dad and all my siblings were in
7 there, and that was our first real, sort of, like a reunion
8 sort of thing. She knew me straight away, my Mum, and
9 that. So, again, it wasn't with my siblings, it wasn't
10 he's our brother and here's my brothers sort of together,
11 but my Mum - sorry.

12 Q. That's okay, Roy, if you need to have a break at any time,
13 just let me know.

14 A. Yeah, my Mum embraced me, and she took me away from there.

15 Q. So, your Mum took you from Owairaka?

16 A. That day, straight away.

17 Q. And what happened after that?

18 A. They took me home.

19 Q. Back up north?

20 A. Back to the north.

21 Q. Do you remember how long you were in the north for? Maybe
22 we can work back from, we'll talk a bit about Hodderville.

23 A. Hodderville was all before.

24 Q. Before, okay. So, Hodderville was before your Mum came and
25 got you from Owairaka?

26 A. Owairaka.

27 **MR SNELGAR:** Okay. I think we're just having a technical
28 issue with my microphone.

29 **CHAIR:** Okay.

30 **MR SNELGAR:** I wonder if we have a short break?

31 **CHAIR:** Yes. Roy, would you mind if we took a few minutes.
32 Is that all right with you?

33 A. Yes.

34 **CHAIR:** We will take a short break.

35

1 **Hearing adjourned from 12.58 p.m. until 1.02 p.m.**

2

3 **CHAIR:** Kia ora ano.

4 **MR SNELGAR:** I think the technical issue is solved, so
5 we'll go back.

6 Q. Roy, we were talking about your time at Hodderville. Do
7 you remember how old you were when you were first placed in
8 Hodderville?

9 A. 13 years of age.

10 Q. And were you there for about a year?

11 A. A year, yes.

12 Q. Was it Social Welfare that placed you there?

13 A. That's correct.

14 Q. And while you were at Hodderville, did you attend Putāruru
15 School?

16 A. Yes, public school, Putāruru High School.

17 Q. If you have your statement in front of you, just starting
18 with paragraph 56 onwards, are you able to describe what
19 your experience was at Hodderville?

20 A. Compared to the abuse I'd already suffered, Hodderville was
21 the worst place I'd ever been in my young childhood, in my
22 early teenage years, young teenager, the worst and ugliest
23 place I'd ever seen, the most darkest of places.

24 Q. While you were at Hodderville, you suffered sexual, mental
25 and physical abuse; is that right?

26 A. That's right, at its highest.

27 Q. And you say at its highest, was that the worst time that
28 you were sexually abused or times?

29 A. It was the worst of the sexual abuse I'd experienced, yes.

30 Q. Do you remember two perpetrators of abuse?

31 A. Yes, very, very clearly I remember two. The main one I
32 remember very clearly was a Captain Galley, Allan Galley.

33 Q. And were there certain boys that he preyed on in
34 particular?

35 A. Yes, we were all young Māori boys.

1 Q. I think you said in your statement there was also another
2 Captain that was abuser?

3 A. Yeah, there was another Captain there, yeah, he was a
4 family man on-site with his family that was also abuser,
5 yes.

6 Q. And the abuse by Captain Allan Galley, did that occur
7 somewhere in particular?

8 A. Usually it was down the shower block, down the end. There
9 were three dormitories, there was three dormitories and
10 there were two rooms with four beds in each of those rooms
11 down towards a shower block, yes, and that shower block was
12 always dark, and it was the only shower block, yeah.

13 Q. Is that one of the places where the abuse took place, in
14 the shower block?

15 A. Yes, that was one of the main places for especially the
16 sexual abuse, yes.

17 Q. Was another place his office as well?

18 A. Yeah, his office was another place that was off the main
19 dormitory block there, was through another door and through
20 there, there were three offices that was at the front of
21 the house, I think, three offices? Sorry, two offices and
22 the one on the right was Captain Galley's office, yes.

23 Q. Did the Māori boys that were at Hodderville, did you have
24 your own place to stay, your own part of the building?

25 A. Yeah, we had a place at the top of the main house, there's
26 a place up the top and that was to be seen as where the
27 well behaved boys, we were given extra privilege, an extra
28 privilege of being independent, you could say, to be able
29 to cater for our own cooking, which was a good thing
30 because the food downstairs was terrible, so to be able to
31 have our own area to prepare our own feed was something
32 like, yeah, it was about our own independence. We had also
33 our own room up there and we didn't have to associate with
34 the boys in the bottom, down the dorms and that, we didn't
35 have to stay on the line with the boys after school, things

1 like that. We were dismissed straight from the bus, we
2 could go upstairs and go about our duties and stuff. We
3 were given a sense of separation from the boys at the
4 bottom there because we were seen as mature, I suppose.

5 Q. Were you the older boys at Hodderville?

6 A. Yes, we were, yep, at the time I remember we were the older
7 ones, yeah, yep.

8 Q. I know with Owairaka there was an initiation?

9 A. That's right, that was the same at Hodderville but it was
10 on a bigger level than that one. That one was, that was - those
11 were severer initiations, those ones. We had to draw blood
12 on those initiations. We had to be seen that we'd been
13 beaten or that we had given a beating and it was us, the
14 older ones, all of us that would speak about this during
15 the day. We knew when someone was coming, we'd speak about
16 it amongst ourselves and we'd come back, and we'd be quite
17 excited about it, that someone we can go and give a hiding.
18 Yeah, so, these initiations would be delivered in the early
19 hours of the morning, yeah, and it was - my account of it,
20 it was a very brutal attack and the next day I was - you
21 could clearly see that you got a hiding in the night.
22 You'd be, I suppose I'd say, clouds in the sky if you
23 couldn't see a black eye and cut lips, sort of thing, you
24 know, the next day. So, it wasn't taken notice of. It was
25 more of a I know of, I do very clearly remember of a couple
26 that thought great job, yeah.

27 Q. When you say a couple, were those -

28 A. The house bosses or the house -

29 Q. The staff?

30 A. The staff, yeah.

31 Q. Like Owairaka, did you have to go through that initiation
32 process?

33 A. Myself also, yes.

34 Q. And then did you become part of the group that would dish
35 out the initiation?

1 A. That's correct.

2 Q. And did the staff also know about or encourage boxing
3 fights?

4 A. Not Owairaka, in Hodderville, yes, we had a separate room
5 there and they had the boxing gloves in that room and that
6 room was an empty room and it was encouraged to get in
7 there and some of the staff would just say, "Look, get in
8 there, it's you and you tonight in there" and us, the other
9 kids, if we weren't in there we were allowed to stand
10 around the outside of the room, like a fight ring, and we'd
11 be encouraged to go at each other like they would, like a
12 dog fight, and attack each other with the boxing gloves on.
13 But it wasn't - it was accepted to be able to - we were
14 allowed to kick. If the guy you were with fell down, you
15 were encouraged to get in there and kick him or knee him or
16 whatever, yeah.

17 Q. What would happen to the person who lost the fight, do you
18 remember?

19 A. Yeah, sometimes he wouldn't be in the dining room, that's
20 for sure, we'd notice that. A punishment would be dished
21 out from the staff or the staff that had initiated it at
22 that time, they'd dish out a punishment or you'd be subject
23 to go back to your dormitory and stay there until further
24 notice or they'd encourage us to belittle the person.

25 Q. We'll just move on to visits to the staff homes.

26 A. Yes.

27 Q. You talked about one of the staff members had a home
28 on-site?

29 A. Yes, just across the paddock from the main house, yes.

30 Q. Were there occasions where small groups of the boys at
31 Hodderville would go to the home of the staff member?

32 A. Yes, each staff member had a group of us for them to be
33 mentor, there would be a group of maybe 10 of us and he'd
34 be our mentor and he'd be the one that we'd go to, to speak
35 of, to talk to or to ask questions, he'd be the one that we

1 went to. And that one that we had was the one of the house
2 across from the main prison thing house place and he would
3 pick certain ones of us out also singularly and it was - at
4 the time I was there for that year, we were all Māoris,
5 young Māori boys. We had two young Pākehā boys there with
6 us too but it was, yeah, mainly Māoris. He would single us
7 out at times and tell us to go with him to his house across
8 the way there and it would be usually when his children and
9 his wife weren't there, possibly at times, and he'd become
10 a creepy comforter, I suppose, yeah.

11 Q. I think in your statement at paragraph 69, you talk about
12 being disturbed about some of the visits to the homes?

13 A. Yeah, yes, some of them. Yeah, we had an idea what was
14 happening to, I can't say names, but I know of some of the
15 boys, we all formed a bond after these initiation, you form
16 a bond and that, so we knew that there was something going
17 on at these houses with different groups. That house
18 across from the main, that was my sort of like go-to
19 officer, but there was other houses around. There was
20 another block for staff up the road that housed staff too.
21 There was also a house down the bottom of the drive which
22 was the main staff or the manager or the boss, he was the
23 main Captain thing, whatever it was, whatever they call
24 them, sort of thing, and he approved all these kind of
25 things, to go to these houses and everything like that.
26 There was no - yes, so, when we were - when I was with my
27 staff guy there, yeah, he was abusive too.

28 Q. Sexually abusive?

29 A. Sexually abusive, yes.

30 Q. And were there occasions where you spent time with his
31 children at his home?

32 A. Yeah. His children and his wife that were living with him
33 in their house, at those times that's when his whole
34 caseload would be there, would get invited there to go for
35 dinner at his house away from the main house for a change

1 or as a sort of thing to get to know our case officer or
2 they called them Captains, yes Captain, yeah.

3 Q. Do you remember some of things that the staff would say to
4 you? At paragraph 70 you talk about some of the things
5 there?

6 A. Yeah, the main abuser was good at that, Captain Galley,
7 Captain Allan Galley was good at that, telling us that
8 "Jesus loves you" and "like Jesus loves you, also I do"
9 and, "When Jesus is upset, also I am upset", sayings like
10 this kind of thing. "Do you understand what the love of
11 Jesus is? I can share with you the love of Jesus" and all
12 of this, those kind of sayings. At the time, it was
13 someone I thought who sincerely loved me, as this thing
14 that I heard of about Jesus and God and God love and all
15 this but his God love was about sexually abusing in the
16 name of Jesus. How disgusting. And he would read
17 scriptures to us when in our times when we were alone with
18 him, before anything even went on. He used to have a thing
19 called Whinnie the Whale, he would have scriptures written
20 on it, about the love of Jesus for his children and how
21 Jesus and God loves you and gave us a sense of belief that
22 this is what Jesus is about. And anything that was said in
23 this room or when we were alone with Mr Galley there, it
24 was all to do with "Jesus loves you for what you're doing,
25 Jesus accepts you", yeah, "You're now part of the world of
26 the Kingdom of Jesus and the Kingdom of God. What you are
27 doing is good. Pull your pants down", you know. What a
28 disgusting man, yes. And it was - and then afterwards it
29 would be that "Jesus also says that those with a quiet
30 mouth are seen as good children", so it was encouraged and
31 forced upon us and sorry I should be talking on my own
32 account, he forced it upon me that "it would be best not to
33 speak of this, I mean keep it between me, you and Jesus",
34 yeah.

35 Q. Just one point, I think you mentioned Whinnie the Whale.

- 1 A. That was a beating paddle. He beat me with that on
2 occasions. I went to school and I called one of the Pākehā
3 children there an ugliness, an ugly thing there, and he
4 told some teachers at the school and it got back to the
5 house and I was pulled into the office there and Captain
6 Galley pulled out the Whinnie the Whale and pulled my pants
7 down and gave me a good beating with old Whinnie. So, that
8 was his way of showing this is the love of Jesus.
- 9 Q. Thank you, Roy, for sharing all of that with us. Unless
10 there's anything else you wanted to talk about relating to
11 Hodderville, I was going to move on to some of the impacts
12 of the abuse on you.
- 13 A. Right.
- 14 Q. Is there anything else you wanted to mention?
- 15 A. Well, I think that outlines Hodderville pretty well of the
16 abusiveness. That's what it was about, yeah.
- 17 Q. Thank you, Roy. We'll just talk about the impacts of you
18 after these experiences later in life. We are at
19 paragraph 77 if you want to refer to your statement but you
20 talked about how, as a result of the abuse, that you became
21 abuser; was that using physical violence?
- 22 A. Yes. I came to understand the difference between sexual
23 abuse and physical abuse. I also came to understand that
24 sexual abuse is not acceptable, but physical abuse was
25 acceptable.
- 26 Q. At one of the boys' homes, you were introduced to gang
27 colours; is that right?
- 28 A. That's right.
- 29 Q. And that you, yourself, became involved with one of the
30 organisations at the boys' home?
- 31 A. That's right.
- 32 Q. Was that kind of being part of a group and feeling
33 protected?
- 34 A. It was becoming - belonging to a family, Mm.

1 Q. And later in life, you spent some time in prison; is that
2 right?

3 A. That's right, yes.

4 Q. And while in prison, did you come across people that you
5 had met at Owairaka?

6 A. Yes, yes, yeah.

7 Q. I think in your statement you talk about how you didn't
8 need to say anything, that you knew exactly what each other
9 had been through?

10 A. Yeah, we travelled the same journey, we never spoke of
11 these journeys, but we knew of a loyalty.

12 Q. Just on the impact of the abuse, did that impact your
13 relationship with your children and your mokos?

14 A. My children at the time, yes. I didn't have time for
15 children. I didn't know how to cater for my children at
16 the time. I didn't know how to have a relationship
17 meaningfully. And I didn't want to be incorporating the
18 love of Jesus that I knew into a - or the love that I
19 thought was into a relationship that I knew was - that I
20 started realising was love. Well, is this what love is?
21 The abuse? Well, I can't incorporate that into a
22 relationship that I'm with, physically with a woman and
23 with my children. So, it was - I didn't know how to have a
24 relationship, a meaningful, the meaningful relationship.
25 When my children come along, I didn't know how to, I didn't
26 know how to bring them up.

27 Q. In your statement, you said that you've only recently been
28 able to tell your son that you love him and mean it?

29 A. (Nods).

30 Q. And that you are also worried, could you say yes, is that
31 correct?

32 A. That's correct, yep.

33 Q. Were you also worried about the perception that your
34 children might have about your relationship with your
35 mokos?

1 A. Yes, they were a little bit sceptical about my background
2 and how I wasn't there for them. And my son and my
3 daughters give me the privilege of being part of my mokos
4 now and I get to be able to give my children, who are in
5 their adult lives now, something to them through their
6 children that I wish I could have given them at that age.
7 My children are very receptive to me having my mokos.

8 Q. Just going to the year 2004, had you heard about a lawyer
9 Sonja Cooper?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And that she was talking to people about their experiences
12 in care?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And did you then meet with someone from Sonja's office?

15 A. Yes. I didn't meet with Sonja, I met with Carla Friend.

16 Q. What was your motivation? Why did you want to talk to a
17 lawyer about your time in care?

18 A. Well, at first while I was in prison, of course, and it was
19 a widely spoken thing about, for a little while about this
20 lawyer coming who wants to talk with us and for us to give
21 our experiences of certain places from our younger days. I
22 started to listen and I started to talk and I started to
23 bring stuff up and it started to jog the memory a bit and I
24 thought, "I remember that stuff here". And then there was
25 also talk going around about money, you know, and being in
26 vulnerable, a very vulnerable position in the prison and
27 that, a few dollars here, and I thought that sounds great.
28 The motivation there was probably money at the time, to get
29 some money out of them for - I thought, free money, where
30 do you get that? Yeah. I jumped on it and I - but then it
31 started to dawn on me when I actually had the interview,
32 what I'd actually suffered.

33 Q. Was that interview one of the first times you'd talked
34 about -

35 A. Ever.

1 **MR SNELGAR:** I am mindful of the time.

2 **CHAIR:** Yes. We have about three pages to go, plus the
3 additional supplement?

4 **MR SNELGAR:** Yes, probably about another 20 minutes.

5 **CHAIR:** Yes. I think we've probably gone on for a while.
6 Do you fancy a break, Roy?

7 A. No.

8 **CHAIR:** If it's all right with you, the only people I am
9 concerned about are our signers and our stenographer who
10 have been going non-stop now for a while. I think we have
11 to just take a bit of care of them. I don't know what we'd
12 do without these people. All right, as long as they're all
13 right, and if Roy is all right, you are the most important
14 person in the room, Roy, let's press on then.

15 **MR SNELGAR:** Thank you, everyone.

16 Q. So, we talked about this meeting being the first time you
17 talked about what happened, was that first the meeting with
18 the lawyer?

19 A. Yes, the first contact was a phone call with Sonja in
20 prison. Two weeks after that, was when Carla came up to
21 the prison and had the interview with me, yes.

22 Q. Carla was someone who worked with Sonja?

23 A. Worked in Sonja's office, yes.

24 Q. Did you decide pretty early on in the process that you only
25 wanted to engage with The Salvation Army claim process?

26 A. Yes.

27 Q. Was one of your concerns about DSW, Department of Social
28 Welfare, about that process being quite long?

29 A. Yeah.

30 Q. How did you know that that was a long process, do you
31 remember?

32 A. My initial meet with Carla.

33 Q. Okay.

34 A. Yep, how long it was. It just felt like it just went on
35 and on and on, but it also felt such a relief to get, to

1 talk about some of this stuff for once. She came across as
2 very sincere about what had happened in this place and I
3 felt really relieved to talk to someone that was willing to
4 listen to that story.

5 Q. You said that was the first time you'd told anyone about -

6 A. That was the first time ever I'd spoken of anything about
7 that. In the jail at that time, there was a guy there that
8 was in Hodderville with me, we were at Hodderville at the
9 same time, and I hadn't seen this guy for 20 years, so I
10 didn't recognise him from a bar of soap but I heard him
11 talking about it one day in a rec room and I put my ear
12 into the conversation and I hit him up later on, on our own
13 and I told him, "Look, I was Hodderville, I was at
14 Hodderville". Our conversation was, this time we didn't
15 speak of what had gone on, but we did speak of the good
16 times we had in Hodderville and that was enough.

17 And then it was that guy encouraged me to get in touch
18 with Sonja regarding "because we were there they're giving
19 us money". I thought, "Okay then, so what do I do?" So, I
20 went about the process and then, really at that time it was
21 about, "Okay, how much are we getting here?", you know, and
22 that pittance was a little bit of sort of like a, we sort
23 of like said to ourselves, "Did they harm us? Yeah, I
24 think they harmed us", so go about it. Okay, I carried on
25 with that process, with it in mind that it was about money
26 but, again, that's what opened it up for me about the
27 seriousness of what actually did happen.

28 Q. Was answers also something that you - answers for why this
29 happened?

30 A. Some answers to why we were subjected to this and why did
31 they, yeah, and why weren't we allowed to talk about it
32 then?

33 Q. Through this redress process, did you get any answers for
34 why this happened?

35 A. No, not really, no.

1 Q. At paragraph 95 of your statement, you talk about how that
2 person went through something bad in their own life; does
3 that help refresh your memory?

4 A. Yeah, that's probably the most - some clarity out of it,
5 about why it happened, sort of thing, I suppose. Yeah,
6 that would be it, that's probably why I can understand why
7 it was sexual because abuser becomes the abuser, I suppose.
8 Yeah, that's something that I came to understand later on,
9 was that, yeah.

10 Q. The process with The Salvation Army, I'll go into the
11 details soon from the start to the settlement; did that
12 take about 2 years?

13 A. With The Salvation Army?

14 Q. Yes.

15 A. It was way less than that.

16 Q. Less than 2 years, okay. After your first meeting with the
17 lawyer, did you meet with Murray Houston?

18 A. I met with Carla, yeah, and then the next meet was with,
19 yes, the next meet was with Murray Houston, yes.

20 Q. And can you just tell us a bit about that meeting with
21 Murray, how that went?

22 A. Yeah, Murray seemed quite - he wanted to know what happened
23 in Salvation Army. He also said to me he's not - he's only
24 been hired by Salvation Army, he's not with Salvation Army,
25 so I thought, okay, he's not with Salvation Army and he's
26 someone, to me he was someone that would love to get to the
27 bottom of something that had gone wrong and to get my
28 account of what had happened to me in that home. Murray
29 was very fast about things, yeah.

30 Q. When you say fast, did he want to get into the details of
31 the abuse?

32 A. Yeah, pretty straight away, sort of like he wanted to get
33 this interview on paper, process it and get it done, and
34 that's another one out of the way, sort of feeling, yeah.
35 Yeah, I think that's how I felt now, talking about it, yep,

1 yeah, his thing was we'll deal with this as fast as
2 possible for the betterment of myself.

3 Q. Do you remember how long that interview with Murray went
4 or?

5 A. At first, I thought it was hours. It seemed like all day
6 but, yeah, it was, if I count now, it was less than 2
7 hours, yeah.

8 Q. You became aware about that transcript being about 88
9 minutes, is that right?

10 A. Yes, yes.

11 Q. But for you it felt like longer?

12 A. It felt like hours I'd been in that room with him, yeah,
13 talking about everything.

14 Q. Do you remember Murray talking with you about counselling?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. An offer of counselling?

17 A. Yes, he offered a financial sum to deal, fully to help deal
18 with a counsellor, yep, on top of what they offered, yes.

19 Q. That counsellor, was there any counselling available
20 straight after your session with Murray?

21 A. Absolutely nothing.

22 Q. And at the time of this interview, you were in prison, is
23 that right?

24 A. I was in prison, yes.

25 Q. I'll go on to what happened after the interview shortly,
26 but at a time later did you receive a letter from The
27 Salvation Army?

28 A. Yes, that's right, yes. I got a letter of apology, and in
29 that letter it was also - yeah, a letter of apology and a
30 sum of money that would be given to me and also that, it
31 said this is it, this is as far as things go with this,
32 pretty much, that quiet, keep you quiet, yeah.

33 Q. That sum, that settlement sum, was that \$25,000?

34 A. That's right, yes.

35 Q. And some of that went to legal fees?

1 A. No, none of it went to legal fees. It all came to me,
2 the full sum.

3 Q. Right.

4 A. Of \$20,000 with \$5,000 for help with, psychological help,
5 yeah.

6 Q. You talked a little bit about being quite a quick process,
7 is that how you would describe the whole redress?

8 A. Yes, that process, it was a matter of months and that was
9 dealt with. I wasn't in the jail when I had the initial
10 interview with Murray, I was in another jail when that all
11 came through to me, the finalised version of it, yeah.

12 Q. One of the reasons you might have been moved, I'll talk
13 about the incident in the jail. Shortly after your
14 interview with Murray, was there an incident that happened?

15 A. Yeah, it was a matter of a couple of weeks, I know it was
16 before Christmas, it was around about, yeah, probably a
17 week into December and, yeah, I got information from a
18 couple in the unit that we had a convicted paedophile in
19 our unit. And after this first time I'd spoken of the
20 abuse and what had happened to me, this sparked a lot of
21 things in my head, especially to be informed now of a
22 paedophile within my surroundings and walking around me,
23 yeah, I took it upon myself to deal with this paedophile.
24 And I ended up stabbing him six times, the paedophile who
25 was there, I just wanted to - I'd been reminded of
26 paedophilia, it was very fresh in my mind and to get this
27 information, it encouraged me to deal with a paedophile.
28 Yeah, there was no restraints about it. There was no care
29 of what I'd done to him. So, yes, I ended up stabbing him
30 and I ended up getting charged with GBH in the end.

31 Q. You received some more time in prison for that?

32 A. I got another six years on top of what I was - I was
33 already serving six years, so I received another six years
34 on top of that and I was thrown into the big house up top
35 again, up in Auckland Prison again.

1 Q. Was it hard from you going from talking to Murray about
2 what you talked about, back into the prison environment?

3 A. Yeah, that's what it was, going and speaking about it,
4 opening up all this again that had been suppressed for so
5 long and then to speak about it and to be in such a
6 negative environment, it was quite easy to feed on the
7 negativity that was around me to be able to initiate what I
8 had done. Again, I was used to this, to initiating hurt
9 and hate into people, so that interview was what opened up,
10 I said to myself, a can of worms. It was something that I
11 didn't know how to deal with, my emotions and everything
12 were all over the place, I didn't know how to deal with it,
13 but I did know how to deal with it in the context of hurt
14 again.

15 Q. Was there any counselling or psychological support
16 available to you in the prison?

17 A. No.

18 Q. I'll just move on to the final topic, Roy, which is moving
19 forward from your experiences through particularly the
20 redress process with The Salvation Army, is there anything
21 else that you'd like to say about that?

22 A. Moving forward, yeah. I have to firstly say that once I've
23 seen the seriousness of this processes and all that there,
24 it's given me a clear understanding of the seriousness of
25 it and what actually happened and, in some contexts, why it
26 happened to me. It's brought me into an understanding now
27 of it not being about money, but I look forward to it
28 being, as I have been accountable, I wish all my abusers to
29 also be held accountable for wrongs. For our rangatahi and
30 our future to be able to not be subjected to this kind of
31 abuse from, you know, these places that are supposedly to
32 be to help our children, to be able to give our children a
33 future to look forward to, to be able to become someone in
34 their lives without having to be weighted down with abuse
35 and people who just take advantage of our children's young

1 ages and not worry about how they're going to become later
2 on in life.

3 My abusers have helped me to understand that there now
4 is something better out there in life and I don't have to
5 worry about this abuse and that now. I wish for our
6 rangatahi out there to be able to be strong in their
7 journey and their hikoi along their journey without having
8 to worry about our rangatahi now, that they be given the
9 right treatment and be shown the right way without having
10 to be subjected to this kind of stuff that happened in our
11 days, in those days there. That's what I see for myself,
12 not for myself but for the children now that are out there
13 that are so vulnerable to so much things out there, for
14 these organisations to take care of these children also,
15 rather than subject them to abuse.

16 Q. Kia ora, thank you for those comments and I know you've
17 said in your conclusion that you're studying psychology and
18 you want to help children avoid the places that you've been
19 in your life; is that correct?

20 A. That is correct, yes.

21 Q. And children, we're talking mainly about rangatahi, Māori
22 children, is that right?

23 A. I'm open to diversity children but it's just my experience
24 was as a child was Māori children, so I guess our Maori
25 children need a lot of guidance now, yes.

26 Q. Unless there's anything else, Roy, that you'd like to talk
27 about, I'll hand it over to Madam Chair. Is there anything
28 else you wanted to add?

29 A. No.

30 Q. Like I said, they've got your full statement.

31 A. Right.

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ROY TAKIAHO
QUESTIONED BY COMMISSIONERS

COMMISSIONER STEENSON: Tēnā koe, ngā mihi nui ki ā koe mō ōu kōrero i tēnei rā. Thank you for speaking, coming today. I just have one question. You say that you chose not to engage in the redress process with the Department of Social Welfare, and that was around the duration that it took that you heard about. Were there any other barriers that put you off entering into that process or was it just mainly the duration?

A. Yeah, yeah, it's probably the duration, yes, yes.

COMMISSIONER STEENSON: I am just thinking, having to tell your story more than once, was that something else that maybe was something that you didn't want to have to go through?

A. Yeah, I don't want to be repeating this again and again, yes. This is, to me now this is the final chapter, this is the book I'm going to close now at this time. The only way I want to open the chapter of this again, is to be helping our rangatahi later on down the track. That's about it. But, as far as my abuse in care is concerned, this is the place now that it's going to be staying.

COMMISSIONER STEENSON: Tēnā koe.

COMMISSIONER ALOFIVAE: Talofa, Roy, I don't have any questions for you. I just wanted to sincerely thank you for the fulsome and generous way in which you've shared with us this morning, this afternoon.

COMMISSIONER ERUETI: Tēnā koe, tēnā koe mo ōu kōrero i tēnei rā. It seems to me that independence was important to you. That your view was that Murray, Mr Houston, was hired by The Salvation Army, so he wasn't The Salvation Army directly, right? So, I just wanted to confirm that with

1 you, that for you that was an important kaupapa, this
2 independence of the person?

3 A. That's right, yes.

4 **COMMISSIONER ERUETI:** And I wondered, you know, being Māori
5 and listening to you, right from the very start your being
6 Māori, you know, puts you in this context and accounts for
7 your particular experience; right? And I wondered also,
8 whether being Māori approaching The Salvation Army or MSD,
9 whether you would expect that that process itself would
10 reflect your being Māori, your values, your tikanga and
11 reo?

12 A. Well, I don't know how to answer that really.

13 **COMMISSIONER ERUETI:** That's okay. It's a difficult one,
14 right? Because we find, you know, from meeting with
15 survivors, that the disconnection means, it doesn't
16 necessarily mean that's what you want as part of your
17 process for redress but for others it is important, so it's
18 different for different folks. Ka pai. Sorry, did you
19 want to -

20 A. No.

21 **COMMISSIONER ERUETI:** Okay. And, like my colleague, I
22 wanted to extend my acknowledgment to you for your courage
23 and strength in coming and speaking with us today and your
24 candour and talking about your mamae and hurt. I just want
25 to mihi you for coming and talking to us. Kia ora.

26 **CHAIR:** And the last word from me, Roy. I've lost count of
27 the number of times you must have told your story now and
28 we are honoured by the fact that you are leaving your story
29 with us here today. You've given it to, on my count at
30 least, three times to the Royal Commission, you spoke to me
31 in a private session at great length, you've spoken to an
32 investigator and you're now here where you are. We have in
33 our hands your full written statement and documents and I
34 want you just to be reassured that we have not only
35 listened with our ears but we have heard with our hearts

1 and our minds, and I hope that you feel that you have left
2 your story, your account, in safe hands, and I hope that
3 you can feel that and feel you have got some satisfaction
4 out of doing that.

5 I also want you to make sure that when you leave here
6 you take advantage of any support that is offered to you
7 because each time you tell your story it's difficult, it
8 can bring up other things, stir up other emotions, and I
9 hope that you will take advantage of whatever help can be
10 offered, to make sure that you see this last phase of your
11 account through safely. So, go well, Tēnei te mihi ki ā
12 koe, me koe hoki tō kaitautoko - your partner who's sitting
13 there helping you, it's very good that people are prepared
14 to stand by their men in situations like this. And now,
15 the final word, to you, Mr Snelgar.

16 **MR SNELGAR:** Tēnā koe, tēnā tātou, ngā mihi mō tēnei kaupapa
17 ā kua tautoko ngā mihi kua mihia. Ka takoto koe ō kōrero me
18 tēnei rākau, ngā pepa mā mātou nei te Kōmihana
19 (inaudible)...mō ngā tau e heke mai nei. Just to say that
20 you've left your kōrero with us, we accept it, we will
21 carry it on to the next phase, so thank you very much.

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23 **Hearing adjourned from 1.57 p.m. until 3.05 p.m.**

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MS B

EXAMINED BY MS MULLORD

CHAIR: Good afternoon, Ms Janes.

MS JANES: Good afternoon, Commissioners. Our next witness is Ms B and she will be led by Ms Mullord. If we could perhaps have the affirmation.

CHAIR: Good afternoon, Ms Mullord, welcome to the Commission.

MS MULLORD: Good afternoon.

CHAIR: We're going to call you Ms B or Mrs B, how would you like to be referred to?

A. Ms B.

CHAIR: Then, Ms B, just the affirmation before we start. (Witness affirmed). Just before we start, just to let you know, Ms B, we have your full brief of evidence here and all the exhibits and we have read them carefully already, so you are just going to add the human voice to it but just to let you know that we are already very familiar with your story.

A. It's not a story, please.

CHAIR: I beg your pardon.

A. It is a testimony.

CHAIR: I really apologise for that. I have not said story all week and I have suddenly said the wrong word and I really apologise for that. I prefer to call it your account.

A. It is a testimony. I am bearing witness and The Salvation Army know what that means.

CHAIR: Indeed, it is a very significant word, I understand that. I am sorry again for that.

A. That's okay.

CHAIR: Let's get started with your evidence, thank you.

1 **MS MULLORD:**

2 Q. Ms B, you're joined in your seat by your two support
3 people?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Would you like to introduce your support people?

6 A. Yes, on my right is Dr Murray Heasley and on my left is
7 Liz, I don't know her surname but I've known her for two
8 years.

9 **CHAIR:** We know them.

10 A. Liz Tonks.

11 **CHAIR:** We know them both well.

12 A. Yes, I thought you might.

13 **MS MULLORD:**

14 Q. Thank you. Ms B, as we've spoken about before and today,
15 if at any stage you would like to take a break, please just
16 let me or one of your support people know and we can take
17 5 minutes, 10 minutes, 15 minutes, however much time you
18 want.

19 Before we begin your evidence, I understand you would
20 like to briefly address the Commissioners on the reasons
21 why you want to be here today?

22 A. Yes. Why I'm here today is to represent thousands of
23 little girls like me who suffered egregious, brutal, savage
24 abuse in all its five forms, not just sexual, physical,
25 psychological, emotional, verbal, and all the time the
26 government was unwittingly paying them to abuse us. Okay?
27 And I'm representing thousands of little girls behind me.
28 I want you to be aware of that. And it also gives me in
29 recommendations to you some control how we're going to
30 sculpt that this never happens again.

31 There were two points raised by the SA, one was
32 holocaust. I have referred to holocaust. They objected to
33 that. What I'd like to say, if it is perfectly all right
34 for Tariana Turia to say that the Māori experience was a
35 holocaust, I think it's perfectly all right for me to say

1 that, of what people experienced at the hands of The
2 Salvation Army.

3 It won't offend Jews because they have their own word
4 for it, it's called the Shoah. Okay? I did refer to the
5 holocaust and they picked that up. No.

6 Q. Thank you, Ms B, and you are also, as I understand it, your
7 intention is you have a wish to speak for the members of
8 the SAAS group, what does SAAS stand for?

9 A. Yes, the SAAS group. We got together, this is when it
10 really sort of gained momentum, thanks to Jan Lowe, hello
11 Jan. We had this meeting, this is how this all happened,
12 this is why I'm here today, it's mainly down to Jan who
13 worked tirelessly and brought us together.

14 **CHAIR:** Ms B, we have a stenographer who is typing up every
15 word.

16 A. Am I going too fast for you?

17 **CHAIR:** She is a miracle worker, but just needs you to take
18 a breath occasionally.

19 A. Okay. We're getting round to SAAS.

20 **MS MULLORD:**

21 Q. Perhaps if you could tell us what SAAS stands for?

22 A. Well, yes, with the group, we were thinking of a name for
23 the group and, of course, the word that came up Salvation
24 Army Abuse Survivors, no, no, Salvation Army Victims, okay?
25 Abuse victims. I thought, no, we're not, somehow we've
26 survived. And then I realised, when I realised that, the
27 abbreviation SAS, now, I'm sure you would, people of a
28 certain generation, I burst out laughing because that was
29 short for saveloys which was this horrible concoction of
30 meat one hoped in sort of those red skins that made up,
31 they were a form of sausage, okay? So, I burst out
32 laughing and then I said, no, no, no, we can't have that.
33 So, I thought, why not SAAS because that was like the
34 Coronavirus and that fitted in well with The Salvation
35 Army, they were a virus, we thought, and it stood for

1 Salvation Army Abuse Survivors and that's how we got to be
2 SAAS.

3 Q. Thank you, Ms B. Now, it just occurred to me, I don't
4 think we've had you sworn in?

5 A. Yes, we have.

6 **CHAIR:** Yes, we've had the affirmation.

7 **MS MULLORD:** My apologies.

8 Q. Ms B, can you confirm you provided a written statement to
9 this Commission dated 21 October 2020?

10 A. Yes, I have it here.

11 Q. You do have that with you. Do you confirm to the best of
12 your knowledge that statement is true and correct?

13 A. Yes, yes.

14 Q. Thank you. And you were in the care of The Salvation Army
15 from the age of 7 to 13, is that correct?

16 A. (Shakes head). Care?

17 Q. What is not correct about that, Ms B? Can you explain your
18 thoughts about the use of the word "care".

19 A. Yes, there was no care. They were paid to care for us,
20 there was no care, no love, no warmth. The money the
21 government paid did not go, we didn't see it, we didn't
22 have things like toothbrushes or toothpaste. The only
23 dental care we had was a saucer with salt and they cheated
24 on the food.

25 Q. Ms B, we'll get to that.

26 A. Yeah. So, the word, yes, it wasn't care.

27 Q. It wasn't care?

28 A. No, the government effectively was paying The Salvation
29 Army because we were economic units, they were paying per
30 child. My mother was paying \$2 a week and nothing was
31 reflective, there was no care, no love, no comfort, there
32 was nothing.

33 Q. Let's get to how you came to be placed, you were placed at
34 The Grange?

1 A. Yes, that was the sort of show piece. That was, like you
2 have a show home, people go and visit.

3 Q. Where was that?

4 A. That was in Clifton Road in Herne Bay.

5 Q. And you've described it as a beautiful grand old villa?

6 A. Yes, it was gifted to The Salvation Army, I think it was
7 1903 by the Caughey family, of Smith & Caugheys. Their
8 physical building, village and farms were given to The
9 Salvation Army. They in no way had to pay for them. And
10 then on top of that, we had to do all the work, we had to
11 do all the cleaning, polishing floors and things like that.
12 It was effectively child labour.

13 Q. Okay. I'll bring you to talk more about that shortly. How
14 many children were living at The Grange?

15 A. There was between 31 and 33.

16 Q. And were they all girls or were there boys as well?

17 A. All girls.

18 Q. Do you know what the age range was?

19 A. Some of them had come from The Nest which was 0 to 5 and
20 then they farmed them out to the various orphanages, yes,
21 which they had from Whangarei to Dunedin.

22 Q. And you've given evidence that you believe there were about
23 13 orphanages around New Zealand, is that right?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Okay, thank you. So, were the children at the orphanage
26 orphans?

27 A. A lot of them weren't, no. Like, I had my mother and some
28 of them had fathers and obviously the mother had died or
29 something like that or because of circumstances, the men,
30 it wasn't the role then for the men, they had to go out and
31 work, you see. Like, my mother had to go out and work too
32 but, you know, suddenly they're landed with these young
33 children and they can't provide for them. So, a lot of
34 them had one parent. Some of them had no parents. I
35 think, like me, those who had no parents suffered too

1 because more or less they could do what they liked with
2 them.

3 Q. Okay. You had one parent, a mother?

4 A. (Nods).

5 Q. And you've provided as one of your exhibits to your
6 statement a copy of the contract that your mother signed?

7 A. Yes, I didn't realise, that really sort of took me back.

8 Q. If we could just refer to Exhibit 5, please?

9 A. Is it coming up.

10 Q. You've got that in front of you, Ms B?

11 A. Okay.

12 Q. Ms B, could you read out the title of this contract?

13 A. "As manager of the Auckland girls' home controlled by The
14 Salvation Army".

15 Q. And then it's an "agreement as to control and maintenance"?

16 A. "Control and maintenance", "to control and maintenance",
17 those words aren't associated in no shape or form with
18 care.

19 Q. If you go to the next page of that document?

20 A. Okay.

21 Q. The paragraph numbered (1)?

22 A. "The said child shall forthwith be placed under the
23 control", not the care "of the manager and shall so remain
24 (subject as hereinafter provided) under such control until
25 the said child attains the age of 17 years." Okay?
26 "Placed by the manager in the home or in such other
27 children's home controlled", it's all about control,
28 there's nothing about care here and they were being paid to
29 care for me.

30 Q. So, when you mentioned sums being paid to The Salvation
31 Army to care for you, what sums are those that you're
32 referring to?

33 A. They were paid per child and when we were looking through
34 the document there, they seemed to apply every December for
35 funds from the government. I know my mother was paying 2

1 pounds per week and they were getting money per child, so
2 there's 33 children in there. The staff, they worked in
3 the kitchen or they worked in the laundry. We did all the
4 work there, you know, polishing floors and scrubbing floors
5 and stuff like that.

6 Q. In terms of the payments that were received for your keep
7 by The Salvation Army, your evidence is your mother was
8 paying about 2 pounds a week?

9 A. Yeah, to Salvation Army, and they also got, my mother had
10 to sign over the family benefit.

11 Q. How much was that?

12 A. That could have been, I'm not sure 3 pounds, something like
13 that. That was a lot of money in those days. That could
14 buy you a decent winter coat or shoes but it didn't. It
15 was all channelled down to Aro Street to their
16 headquarters.

17 Q. You mother made payments to the headquarters?

18 A. No, when we found out where the money was being channelled
19 to because my mother got ill sometimes and fell behind in
20 the payments and they harried and harassed her. I've got
21 letters from the Brigadier about paying, catching up with
22 the payments. So, it was all going to their headquarters.
23 We've got the information there. I kept every bit of
24 paper.

25 Q. So, in terms of the payments, you have a concern about the
26 amounts that were paid for your care and the care you
27 received; is that correct?

28 A. Well, there's a vast discrepancy between the Army was
29 receiving and what was reflected. It wasn't reflected in
30 our care, in the food, we had this sort of uniform, the
31 clothes. My mother used to buy shoes. There was a
32 dressmaker in the same boarding house as she was, she used
33 to make up my dresses and things like that for me. The
34 Salvation Army didn't provide for my care or maintenance in
35 any shape or form.

1 Q. If I could take you to what was provided. Did The
2 Salvation Army provide you with clothing?

3 A. We had some, these little sort of print dresses with
4 collars but mostly my mother provided my clothes.

5 Q. Did they provide you with underwear or bras?

6 A. Oh certainly not bras, no, no. I got my first bra when I
7 was 12 and yet I was well developed by the age of 10 or 11.

8 Q. Did they provide you with sanitary supplies that young
9 girls might need?

10 A. No, no. We had to - we had rags, if we were lucky, or
11 toilet paper. No, no, there was nothing provided like that
12 in any shape or form.

13 Q. Were you ever taken to visit a doctor or a dentist in that
14 6 and a half years?

15 A. No, no, never. I never saw a doctor. The only time I saw
16 a doctor was when I had a haemorrhage of the nose and we
17 went across the road.

18 Q. Who took you?

19 A. My mother did. Okay? So, we came back, I was feeling
20 unwell, and she was going to, I remember she was giving me
21 a bottle of coke which was a real treat in those days, she
22 said, do you want a drink, sat up the drink and she
23 couldn't stop it. So, in those days, the doctor was just
24 across the road and it was Anand Satyanand's father,
25 Dr Satyanand. I remember there was blood everywhere and
26 bless him, he had yards and yards of gauze and had scissors
27 and was packing and packing and put something over. And
28 then that was the day I managed to go out. We went to the
29 Easter Show. And she rang up to say that I was - he said
30 Dr Satyanand said I was to be kept quiet and not to be
31 proved in case the blood came out of my nose. And she rang
32 and informed Harris, who wasn't too pleased. And then she
33 took me back and then Mum took me back on the Sunday
34 afternoon, still with these things here, and when she left
35 Harris took me into the office and she beat the crap out of

1 me. I had my nose stuffed up, I couldn't breathe, I was
2 choking, and I was terrified that the plug would come out
3 and my nose would start bleeding again and she was saying
4 to me that I was an evil little girl and I'd just done this
5 to get out of going to Church on that Sunday.

6 Now, that was the only visit I had. The dentist, it
7 only occurred when the last year when we were out in
8 Remuera and when I went to the dentist, well I think she
9 had to - we had to go to the dentist. He had a field day,
10 he filled up my teeth with amalgam and stuff like that.
11 Maybe I needed it, I don't know but I came away with most
12 of my teeth with fillings because -

13 Q. I think you've already said that you didn't have a
14 toothbrush?

15 A. No, no, no toothbrush, no, we didn't.

16 Q. Thank you. So, Ms B, you entered The Grange as a 7-year-
17 old girl?

18 A. Yep.

19 Q. And while you were at The Grange, you've given testimony
20 that you were quite badly abused by a person at The Grange?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. Are you able to say who that person was?

23 A. Maisie Harris.

24 Q. What was her role there?

25 A. Her name was, they used these funny little Army titles,
26 Major Harris or Matron.

27 Q. And your evidence is that she was your sole abuser at The
28 Grange?

29 A. Yes.

30 Q. Did any staff intervene?

31 A. God no, they were all, as Houston asked, he said, he tried
32 to lead me, these women were all single women, meaning they
33 were frustrated and they took it out on, you know they were
34 single women and that's why possibly, but I didn't go down
35 that path. I saw that trap. And a lot of them I felt, no,

1 they were terrified of her. When you think, they had a lot
2 to lose. You know, Maisie Harris was a product of The
3 Grange because I met somebody else and she was a product of
4 The Grange too and these people most probably, they were
5 relying on her for food, for a roof over their head, and
6 things like that. They were terrified of her.

7 Q. She was their boss?

8 A. Yes, in every sense of the word, yes, and she left them in
9 no doubt what could happen to them if they supported us or
10 they crossed her in any shape or form.

11 Q. Thank you. You have given evidence in your written
12 statement about the physical abuse that you suffered at The
13 Grange. Do you prefer to read those paragraphs to the
14 Commission today or would you like to go through them and
15 describe what's in them?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Page 13 of the statement in front of you.

18 A. Okay.

19 Q. Starting at the top, if you would like to read them, Ms B,
20 please do.

21 A. At the top?

22 Q. Yes.

23 A. Okay. Major Harris abused me physically, psychologically
24 and verbally throughout the years The Salvation Army was
25 responsible for my so-called care, from the ages of 7 to
26 13. She was present throughout the entire period I was in
27 The Salvation Army "control".

28 To this day seeing someone wearing a greenstone (as she
29 did) triggers a surge of rage in me. So does seeing people
30 in The Salvation Army uniform, which I liken to the Nazi
31 uniform in its appearance. Yes, yes.

32 Q. Can I take you down to paragraph 89, please.

33 A. Harris' abuse was systematic, and occurred several times a
34 week. It wasn't that Harris was having a bad day, no. She

1 used anything at hand to assault me. She broke several
2 brooms across my back.

3 I refused to cry, to cry - so I'd bite through my tongue
4 or lip or my arm, anything so as not to cry because I knew
5 the moment I cried she'd won, so I refused to cry. She
6 could not break my spirit. I believe this made her very,
7 even more vicious. She would beat me, stand over and beat
8 me to the state where she was gasping and exhausted. Sweat
9 was pouring on to me and she was over my back like a devil.
10 So, the effort of hitting me would end her beatings when
11 she was exhausted by physical exhaustion.

12 To this day, nearly 70 years later, I still wake up in
13 the night shouting, sweating and soaked in perspiration.
14 Her abuse has impacted on me throughout my life. Memories
15 of trauma will suddenly come back to me when I least expect
16 them. Particularly during the night, the worm of the
17 subconscious comes through. There has never been an end to
18 my suffering.

19 Throughout the 6 and a half years I was at The Grange, I
20 was beaten frequently by Harris with a broom, pieces of
21 wood, a rope, a razor strop. For those who don't know, the
22 young ones, what a razor strop was, it was a strip of
23 leather she had behind the door and it was used for those
24 cut-throat razors for people to shave. Now, tell me why
25 did a single woman have a razor strop there? Why did she
26 need to have that? How did she get her hands on one?
27 There was no men who shaved at The Grange, so she must have
28 sought that out.

29 She also used her bare hands.

30 Q. And what did she put on the razor strop?

31 A. Oh yes, yes, sometimes I got special treatment. This is
32 the only time I was special. What she'd do, she would go
33 and she'd go to the kitchen and get an onion and she would
34 cut it in half and she would rub it up and down the razor
35 strop to beat me with, just to make it more painful.

- 1 Q. And when Harris was beating you, where did that occur in
2 the premises?
- 3 A. Well, in the Clifton Road place, there was, at the front
4 there was the staff lounge. There was a small very tiny
5 office, there was a roll top desk, there was a fireplace
6 here, the razor strop was on the back of the door and then
7 over there, there was a dormitory and there's a sewing room
8 and on this other side here there was a bedroom. Okay?
9 So, nobody, none of the girls or even the staff should be
10 in that area, so if she was beating me during the day etc.,
11 etc. she would take me away where it wouldn't be overheard
12 or seen or anything at all.
- 13 Q. Right.
- 14 A. She would shut the door.
- 15 Q. Thank you. And you've also mentioned a bit further down at
16 paragraph 96 on the same page, that at times Harris engaged
17 other children in abusing you?
- 18 A. Yes. I remember I have this thing, for instance, where
19 I - I can't remember having a bath or a shower. I don't
20 remember. Perhaps we did smell, the other students used to
21 say we smelt at Bayfield, I don't know, I can't remember.
22 And I think what it was, that I was only 6 months in my
23 stay at The Grange, I don't know why but she punished me by
24 holding me in the bath and she got some of the older girls,
25 two of the older girls to hold my shoulders down, while she
26 got like that and she turned the cold tap. Once again, I
27 was suffocating, I was drowning, I really thought I was
28 going to die. I don't know what it was for. She didn't
29 need a reason.
- 30 Q. And you've referred to, if you could look at paragraph 97
31 and read out what you've referred to that incident as, it's
32 page 15.
- 33 A. Oh yes, looking back, I was waterboarded at the age of 8 in
34 every shape and form. She would have made a great asset to
35 the CIA.

1 Q. Thank you. The next paragraph, Ms B, could you read the
2 next paragraph?

3 A. When I was either 8 or 9 years old, Harris ran boiling
4 water over my hands and held them down in the sink. Okay?
5 Consequently, both my hands were covered in blisters, which
6 became badly infected and took at least about six weeks to
7 heal. I didn't see a doctor. I wasn't taken to a doctor.
8 I was not taken to a doctor and the outing with my mother
9 which would have occurred in those six weeks was cancelled.

10 Q. Could we talk a little bit more about the outings with your
11 mother?

12 A. The outings, on a Saturday, for instance, they'd come in
13 the afternoon or midday and we could go out with a parent
14 or whoever. And Mum and I would go to the pictures or, you
15 know, a treat, and then we'd go out to the Golden Dragon in
16 Greys Avenue and have Chinese or something, but this was
17 special time. It only occurred 12 times, it was the first
18 Saturday of the month.

19 Q. 12 times a year?

20 A. 12 times a year. I made a correlation between when I
21 received the worse beatings or, you know, and I was due for
22 an outing and there could be a possibility of my mother
23 sort of seeing the welts or the bruises on me, Harris would
24 ring up and cancel. So, she concealed that, you know,
25 deliberately concealed the brutality of what she'd done.

26 Q. Were any other staff involved in the visit cancellations or
27 was it just -

28 A. No, no. No, she was also very vicious too and devious.
29 What she used to do, and I didn't know this, she would ring
30 my mother, there was a phone at the Boarding house, and
31 advise her not to come. I didn't know this. So, I'd be
32 round the corner and I'd be watching all that afternoon for
33 my mother to come. I resent that she prevented my mother
34 or access to my mother and it happened again and again.
35 She'd be watching out the staff window and enjoying, I

1 found out later, and actually enjoying watching me waiting
2 for my mother to come, knowing that she had cancelled the
3 visit, whether it was for the outing, the first Saturday,
4 or it was just to sort of come and spend an hour or two
5 with me at the home, the orphanage, sorry.

6 Q. So, you've also spoken about other psychological abuse that
7 you suffered while you were at The Grange, including you've
8 mentioned at paragraph 132 on page 20, you've talked about
9 being locked in a cupboard?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Can you talk a bit about that?

12 A. Yes, I can. Upstairs in the sort of medium dormitory, the
13 big girls were down below, there was a medium dormitory and
14 there could have been about 12 girls there, okay? But
15 there was a section, it was about as big as this, down to
16 here and down to here, it was laundry, it had no windows,
17 and it was for the linen and the sheets and things like
18 that. What she'd do, she'd come up and she'd accuse me of
19 talking and she'd shut me in there. And sometimes at
20 wintertime it was really cold because there was only lino
21 on the floor, so what I'd take the sheets and things like
22 that and I'd make myself a makeshift bed. And after a
23 while, Harris got, she became aware of this, so I got a
24 thrashing, okay, so that was okay. But what was worse,
25 there was a home, there was big girls downstairs, most
26 bedrooms and everybody was upstairs, I'd be dragged down by
27 my plaits 11 stairs, landing, 13 stairs, and what she'd do,
28 the rest of it, it seemed huge, really huge. There would
29 be nobody there and she'd put me, she'd take me and she'd
30 lock me down in the west wing away from everybody where the
31 bathrooms were. So, nobody could hear a cry, you know, and
32 it was in pitch blackness, there was nobody near me, the
33 dormitories and everything were gone but that was because
34 she found me, you know, upstairs in the linen closet. And
35 that for me, that was terrifying.

1 Q. How long were you left in that isolated area?

2 A. Well, I was left until 6.00 a.m. or 7.00 a.m. or when
3 someone let me out.

4 Q. Was there anybody at The Salvation Army Grange that you
5 tried to tell?

6 A. Sorry?

7 Q. Was there anybody at The Salvation Army Grange that you
8 tried to tell about your abuse?

9 A. No because, as I said, the staff were dependent on her for
10 everything and what happened, three times I ran away.

11 Q. Where did you run?

12 A. I ran, it could have been about 3 K, to the top of Franklin
13 Road, Clifton Road, I ran crying all the way to my mother.
14 My mother didn't believe me, and I thought by the third
15 time I'd be third time lucky. So, if my own mother didn't
16 believe me, who else was going to believe me? This is why
17 it's taken me 70 years to get to this point. I've never
18 spoken about it.

19 Q. This is the first time you've spoken in public about this?

20 A. Oh yes, in public, yes. And it has to be out there.

21 Q. All right, thank you. You've also referred to seeing other
22 children at The Grange abused?

23 A. Yes, yes. There was -

24 Q. Maybe without their names, if we could just talk about what
25 you saw?

26 A. Okay. There was one girl, for instance, when I was washing
27 out the rags or whatever I was, I was working in the
28 laundry, you know with bangles and things like that, there
29 was another girl and she was younger than me, she could
30 have been about 3 or 4 years younger than me, and she had a
31 medical clinically diagnosed problem with her bowel. She
32 had incontinence. That's most probably why she was in The
33 Grange because the parent couldn't cope with it. And while
34 I was washing out, Harris would come in and just look
35 around and then she'd see this girl washing her sheets or

1 washing her knickers or whatever they were where she had
2 soiled them, and she'd say, "You do that again and I'll rub
3 your nose in them" and I saw her rub that child's nose in
4 her soiled knickers.

5 Q. Did any other staff see?

6 A. Yes, there was the so-called Lieutenant. She was really
7 tall, dark haired, and I was there washing things like that
8 and I looked wildly at her and she just turned her face
9 away and turned her back and did nothing.

10 Q. So, the evidence that you've given is you were physically
11 abused in places where other people weren't around. Did
12 you see any physical abuse of other children, such as that
13 that you suffered?

14 A. Yes. I'm trying to think of it. You were always out
15 hypervigilant, you were always looking out for yourself
16 and, to this day, I saw, you know, for instance there was
17 another girl who wet the bed and what she'd do is she'd get
18 the other - she'd put her wet knickers or wet things on her
19 or just wrap her in the wet sheet and it could be
20 wintertime, hopefully during a weekday, but if it was a
21 Saturday or a Sunday weekend, that child would have to wear
22 that wet linen or sheet for the whole day.

23 Q. When you say she would, who are you referring to?

24 A. Harris.

25 Q. Right.

26 A. Then she'd get the younger children to do a ring a ring a
27 rosie round her saying "N" or whatever she was "is a dirty
28 girl. N wets the bed, dirty stinky N".

29 Q. And you've also given evidence about the emphatic religious
30 instruction you received?

31 A. Yes.

32 Q. And the messages you got?

33 A. This was another form of abuse. The orphanage, those were
34 the gates, our whole world was circumscribed within that
35 orphanage. Okay? Where we went up the road to Bayfield

1 School and we came home. It never occurred to us, the fact
2 I ran away meant that I was trouble. It never occurred to
3 us, you know, that it needn't be our world and this
4 isolation, you know, from society, we had no social skills
5 and things like that. All we were there is to be, you
6 know, shouted at. It was just within The Salvation Army.
7 We got religion morning, noon and night and it was a
8 twisted version of religion. It was patriarchal and
9 referred just to us as little girls.

10 Q. When you say just to us, do you mean the children at The
11 Grange?

12 A. As females.

13 Q. Right.

14 A. Do you want me to go there?

15 Q. You go where you like, Ms B.

16 A. Okay. Everything, whether it was at the Newton, you know,
17 they'd be giving the sermons and things like that,
18 everything was construed that, and at the home, that we
19 were dirty, evil little girls, we will born in sin, we were
20 responsible for all evils in the world because we were
21 female and Eve had given Adam the apple and I know it
22 sounds little, but for little girls it really impacts on
23 you. And, therefore, this is why they left the Garden of
24 Eden. We got it at Church. We got it there. We got it
25 from Harris.

26 Q. When you refer to Church, do you mean The Salvation Army
27 Citadel Church?

28 A. The one in Newton Road. The Citadel is where Mayoral Drive
29 is, but it's no longer there. That was the big one. There
30 was one in Ponsonby Road towards the end opposite the
31 reservoir. The whole Sunday was taken, you know, just sort
32 of, just with religion and didacticism and inculcation. It
33 was skewed that we were responsible as females for all the
34 evil in the world. For all the evil that men did it was
35 down to us as women. Menstruation, which you can't avoid,

1 was a curse and it was meant as a curse. Then we were told
2 about the travails of child birth, which can be a very
3 painful process, that was God's punishment. It wasn't the
4 beautiful experience of creating something or bringing
5 something into this world, this was God's punishment.

6 Q. These were teachings you received at The Salvation Army
7 Church?

8 A. Oh yes and we'd go to Church in the morning and then it
9 might be a lovely day, sunshine, and then Harris would have
10 another go at us. In the morning, she always had, there
11 was always a passage of scripture, you know, had to learn
12 it, you know, sort of verse, we had to learn it. Because I
13 had a good memory, she never picked me. She'd pick
14 somebody else who perhaps, you know, memory was not so good
15 and they would be punished.

16 Q. So, your evidence is it was a fairly or a strongly
17 religious environment that you were in?

18 A. Well, I would say that what I - the religious instruction I
19 got in the orphanage, I would feel that if I had a
20 preference, I would prefer Islamic fundamentalism to
21 Christian fundamentalism. It was fundamentalist Christian.

22 Q. Can I ask you to refer to Exhibit 8, you have it in front
23 of you.

24 A. Okay.

25 Q. Now, is it correct that in the early 2000s when you became
26 involved with the SAAS group, which you've spoken about,
27 you requested your records from The Salvation Army?

28 A. Oh yes, yes.

29 Q. Is that right?

30 A. Yes.

31 Q. And if I can refer you to this document. You received this
32 at that time?

33 A. Yep.

34 Q. And what is this document, Ms B?

1 A. This is my life, 6 and a half years, this is all it is.
2 Look.

3 **CHAIR:** One page?

4 A. One page. This is all the accountability. This is all the
5 monitoring that the government did of the conditions at
6 their orphanage. This is 6 and a half years of my life.

7 **MS MULLORD:**

8 Q. To your knowledge, were any other records kept about your
9 health, education and development?

10 A. No, this is it.

11 Q. That's it. And it looks like one line is added each year
12 in December?

13 A. If you're lucky. And we notice that they, we notice that
14 30/12, 30/12, 31/12, 30/12, 28/12, I think these are
15 significant, 31/12. I think these are significant dates
16 because that's when she applied or The Salvation Army
17 applied to the government for funding.

18 Q. Ms B, how do you feel when you look at this as six years
19 records of your childhood?

20 A. I feel betrayed that they weren't monitored. If CYFS
21 presented this document in a Court, they'd be hung, you
22 know. The amounts of money they got were great and this is
23 all, this is all. And they're usually negative. I take
24 quite a pride in these, "Disobedient child. Been left to
25 go her own sweet way, so does not take kindly to
26 discipline. During period and home as pertaining to
27 spiritual development, education health", never saw a
28 doctor "conduct and punishments". You wouldn't get away
29 with it with government these days. If CYFS, as I said,
30 CYFS would have been strung up if they presented this, just
31 one sheet of a child's life.

32 Q. Thank you, Ms B. So, Ms B, you've also mentioned in your
33 evidence that you were sexually abused at The Grange by an
34 older child?

1 A. Older girl, yeah. Okay. Now, yes, in the home I couldn't
2 even call my bed my own and I've got this theory about the
3 herd. If you have a predator, if the herd sticks together
4 you've got safety in numbers, but the old and the sick and
5 they picked up very quickly, other girls picked up very
6 quickly that I, that Harris could do what she liked with
7 me, you know. In fact, I think they actively curried
8 favour with Harris by reporting things that I had done. I
9 can see now in hindsight perhaps they were deflecting, you
10 know, the brutality and the savage beatings by me. I do
11 remember what other girls, and to this day my great shame
12 is that all I could feel was relief that it wasn't me being
13 abused. I'm very ashamed of that. That's the only thing
14 I'm ashamed of.

15 Q. Can you tell the Commissioners, did you ever feel safe?

16 A. Never felt safe, 6.00 a.m. in the morning until we went to
17 bed at night I was never safe. The only safe, the only
18 refuge was up the road at school. I was about the only
19 child I think in New Zealand that dreaded the holidays
20 because then I was at her mercy 24/7.

21 Q. Thank you. Ms B, would this be a good time to take
22 5 minutes?

23 A. Yep.

24 **MS MULLORD:** Madam Chair.

25 **CHAIR:** Yes, we will take a 5 minute break.

26

27 **Hearing adjourned from 3.52 p.m. until 4.00 p.m.**

28

29 **CHAIR:** Are you all right there, Ms B?

30 A. Yes, I'm fine.

31 **MS MULLORD:**

32 Q. Ms B, your evidence is that towards the end of your time in
33 The Salvation Army Grange, it moved premises to a new
34 house?

1 A. Yes, in the last year in 1957 they were gifted another
2 property. It was in Remuera Road and it was a smaller, it
3 had huge grounds, lawns and tennis courts and things like
4 that, it went right back there, and it was, there was a
5 dairy and there was Bassett Road, that's where the Bassett
6 Road murders occurred, remember? And things changed.

7 Q. You went to a new school?

8 A. New school, Remuera Intermediate, form 2.

9 Q. You have talked in your evidence about a teacher,
10 Mrs White?

11 A. Yes, things really looked up for me when we moved there. I
12 really don't think I'd be here today if I'd stayed at the
13 Clifton Road address because I went to Bayfield Primary
14 School and there was a stigma of being an orphan and also
15 the other children used to call us grangies, "don't lend
16 your pens to the grangies or you won't see it again", or
17 the homies, we were dirty, smelly, the underclass because
18 we were orphans and there was a stigma there.

19 But when we went to, changed premises at Remuera, we had
20 different teachers, there was no stigmatisation because
21 there was no history. In fact, the whole attitude towards
22 us changed. The good nature of Remuera, more or less we
23 were a novelty. They took us to their hearts in every
24 sense of the word, you know.

25 **CHAIR:** You won't take the stenographer to her heart if you
26 go so fast.

27 A. Hello, we've got to have something worked out between us.

28 **CHAIR:** I am the traffic officer here, I will put my hand
29 up. Is that all right?

30 A. Okay. Yes, when I get in full flow, I can't -

31 **CHAIR:** I've noticed, it's wonderful, we don't want to hold
32 you back, we just want to keep you under control.

33 A. So, we were a novelty, so we weren't stigmatised, like we
34 were in the Clifton, the history of the Grange being there.

35 **MS MULLORD:**

1 Q. Sorry, Ms B, I need to interrupt, you can you tell us about
2 Mrs White?

3 A. Mrs White was an older woman. In fact, Madam Chair reminds
4 me of her, she looked, you know, she was a teacher there
5 and she had glasses and things like that and about the same
6 age, experienced teacher, you know what I mean. Suddenly
7 for some reason, as I said, school was a refuge and for
8 some reason, you know, she brought the best out of me,
9 insofar as I won an ASB contest for writing an essay. I
10 didn't even know I had it in me and she was very proud of
11 that, but I remember once when another girl from the home
12 and I were trying, trialling out for the swimming sports,
13 and I was rubbish but she noticed the bruises and the welts
14 on me and she said to me, "Who did that?" and still there
15 was that thing she won't believe me. So, I just hung my
16 head. She said, "Who did that?" and I just hung my head
17 and didn't say anything. And from that time onwards, she
18 was the first person who thought I was worthy of keeping
19 safe. I was worth something. She would invent, I could
20 see it now, I think instinctively I knew what she was doing
21 but she would keep me behind after school, things like the
22 chairs hadn't been put properly on the desks and line them
23 up, the dusters, clean the board. Arrange for me, yes,
24 also record, played the tenor recorder which I was rubbish
25 at too but, you know, she kept me on and then athletics,
26 you know, afterwards, the shotput and discus, she took
27 every opportunity to keep me safe for that period of time,
28 extend that period of time before dinner. As I said, they
29 were the most dangerous time. I don't know whether Harris'
30 sugar levels fell or anything, I don't know what, but
31 that's when she was her most dangerous.

32 Q. You don't know whether Mrs White ever raised it with
33 anybody, but not long after that Harris told your mother to
34 come and get you, is that right?

1 A. Yes, I think Mrs White as a responsible teacher would have
2 raised the abuse, you know. They might have been talking
3 in the staffroom, saying, "Look here, I have this child in
4 my class and I've seen the welts on her, I've seen the
5 bruises". I know, I was formerly a teacher, so I know how
6 we talk about things like that, and somehow they might have
7 got onto Harris because my mother, at the end of that year
8 my mother was asked to come and get me.

9 Q. And you went back to live with her in the boarding house?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. I think you said in your evidence it was the happiest time
12 of your life?

13 A. It was the happiest time of my life. The room, we just had
14 one room, we ate, we slept, and we, I did my homework and
15 everything like that, and that was my world because I was
16 very agoraphobic by then and I still had the notion in the
17 back of my head that out there, there was danger, it was
18 evil and things. It had been inculcated about going out.
19 I had no social skills, I was agoraphobic. But, you know,
20 that's fine, nobody beat me, nobody shouted at me, nobody
21 punished me, you know, and my mother certainly didn't.

22 Q. Speaking about the agoraphobia and other impacts you've
23 suffered from the abuse you suffered at The Grange, at
24 paragraph 194 on page 31, you've set out the lasting impact
25 of that abuse you suffered as a small child from 6 and a
26 half years. Would you like to read out those paragraphs?

27 A. The abuse I suffered while under the control of The
28 Salvation Army has had a severe and lasting impact on me.

29 I would be standing up and she'd come from nowhere and
30 she'd whack me over the head, so hearing loss. So, that's
31 a physiological thing.

32 Q. You have permanent?

33 A. I have hearing loss in the right ear. I have suffered
34 panic attacks throughout my life, and have been diagnosed
35 with anxiety and depression, and recently PTSD. Okay? But

1 I've only been able to access care for that in the last 2
2 years and that took a suicide attempt and it came through
3 the Hospital Board.

4 Q. We'll talk to that shortly.

5 A. Okay, right. I have had a number of breakdowns and
6 depressive episodes throughout my life. I have attempted
7 suicide a number of times, most recently just over a year
8 ago.

9 Throughout my teenage years, I was suicidal, but I think
10 it was just the love and proximity of my mother that
11 prevented me from doing that. As a teenager I was
12 frequently suicidal. For most of my life I have been
13 trying to function under a huge shadow. I have never
14 trusted people and I feel that's kept me safe but I had
15 worked out in my own head, this thing about trust and a lot
16 of survivors say, "I distrust everybody" but I worked out
17 at a very early age that I wasn't going to be a victim, I
18 wasn't going to distrust everybody. I saw trust as a very,
19 almost precious and sacred thing and you controlled it. It
20 was under your control to give your trust or withhold it
21 and distrust people. But I think during those teenage
22 years and things like that, I kept, my world was this room
23 and school, Auckland Girls Grammar, that's when I started
24 blossoming.

25 Q. Your evidence is you told no-one? You said you were born
26 in Norway?

27 A. If my own mother didn't believe me, who else was going to
28 believe me? I never told my children. My daughter was 21
29 years of age when I told her. When I told her about it,
30 she just nodded her head and said, "Mum, that explains
31 everything". I was absolutely gob smacked and I told my
32 younger daughter, she overheard some conversation about the
33 meeting in Hamilton, the formation of the SAAS group, she
34 overheard that, and she knew something was going on. I

1 didn't tell her because she was having problems in her own
2 life and only later did I tell her.

3 Q. So, the formation of the SAAS group was really the first
4 time you'd talked with anyone about this?

5 A. Yeah, yes, you were talking to people, you know, they were
6 like your brothers and sisters. You didn't have to say
7 things, you all instinctively knew that this had happened
8 to them.

9 Q. And we heard Jan Lowe yesterday giving her evidence and she
10 said that she put ads in newspapers, is that how you found
11 them?

12 A. I was going through a very acrimonious divorce at the time.
13 I was in the waiting room with a so-called therapist.
14 There was a Herald there and I like reading the letters to
15 the editor because there's no party line or politics and
16 things like that. I couldn't believe my eyes. There was
17 this thing in The Herald, letters to the editor, and there
18 was Jan Lowe, it was out there and I couldn't believe my
19 eyes. So, I had to find out who that Jan Lowe was, I
20 thought she was a lawyer or barrister or solicitor. I
21 didn't know that she was just an ordinary human being. So,
22 I got my solicitor to hunt through all the solicitors and
23 barristers in New Zealand for a Jan Lowe. Of course, we
24 didn't turn anything up. And none how I managed, I think
25 the actual lawyer managed to track her down and say this is
26 the woman and then I started talking to Jan and that's how
27 it took off.

28 Q. So, SAAS began to form?

29 A. Yes.

30 Q. And in 2004, the law firm in Christchurch, Grant Cameron &
31 Associates, started representing the SAAS group, is that
32 right?

33 A. Yes, took a class action against them, yes.

1 Q. At paragraph 219 of your evidence, you don't need to read
2 this, but it states that The Salvation Army invited you to
3 attend an interview in late 2005?

4 A. Where is it?

5 Q. 219 on page 34.

6 A. Okay. It wasn't - the SAAS group wanted in bringing this
7 action an acknowledgment of the abuse and compensation, is
8 that the one?

9 Q. No, I apologise, it's 223 over the page, The Salvation Army
10 requested interviews?

11 A. On 30 November 2005 as requested by The Salvation Army I
12 sat down for what I thought was an interview with Murray
13 Houston of The Salvation Army. Murray Houston, they had
14 rented out the top floor of the Bruce Mason, there was one
15 table and Ben Walker, who was the actual lawyer
16 representing the group, Cameron & Associates, he had been
17 allocated to me and I had a lovely lady, Shirley, violence
18 and things like that, victim support. He was looking out
19 the window like this. It was just a table in the room and
20 I immediately thought, you know, this is not going to
21 intimidate me. It got my back up. He came striding
22 across, hand thrust out, and said, "Hi, I'm Murray
23 Houston". Well, I just said to him, "You better put that
24 hand away before I spit on it". He felt he had to justify
25 himself. He said, "I do not belong to The Salvation Army.
26 I am not a sworn officer of The Salvation Army". "I don't
27 care if you're a sworn, forsworn, a forsworn officer", I
28 said "You've taken that 30 pieces of silver, you're
29 representing them".

30 Q. So, the interview itself?

31 A. It was confrontational. I mean, he was - he set it up, he
32 had Ben Walker, he was so young. He had Ben Walker the
33 lawyer for Cameron & Associates, he was there, Shirley was
34 next to him, I was there, and I said to Ben, "Are you
35 representing me" and he said "Yes". I said, "You get round

1 here". He had aligned himself with the lawyer, so I made
2 very, very clear that Ben was representing me.

3 Q. And the interview itself, I understand you asked many times
4 for a transcript, but it didn't ever come?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Is that right?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Do you have it to this day?

9 A. No. Do you have one? Do you have a transcript of the
10 interview?

11 Q. No.

12 A. Well, this is where Murray came in and he put the interview
13 on a USB.

14 Q. That's right. So, you have an audio recording of it?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. Not a transcript. Did the interview give you confidence
17 that The Salvation Army would hear what had happened to
18 you?

19 A. No, no. I have it on very good authority that Houston,
20 first of all Houston and Clifton had raced around the
21 country and we know this because these people in the SAAS
22 group putting out forest fires. They'd give \$2,000 to one
23 woman in Ngāruawāhia, you know, and then they gave someone
24 who had been in The Grange with Maisie Harris, they gave
25 her about \$24,000 to build a shower facility for her
26 terminally ill parent. Also, I went up north with my
27 daughter and stayed with another one who was in the SAAS
28 group and Clifton and Houston walked into her house, she
29 had been in Florence Booth. In her house she loved
30 antiques, she wanted beautiful things in her house, that
31 was her. He walked in and said, "Oh, I hope you're not
32 wanting any compensation". He said, "You're not short of a
33 bob or two", and he paid her \$20,000.

34 Q. Could I just ask you, Ms B, to just clarify, is this what
35 this person has told you directly herself?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And at the interview that we've referred to on the 30th of
3 November 2005, were you promised a letter of apology?

4 A. Yes, we were all promised a letter of apology.

5 Q. And you were offered a financial settlement in February
6 2006?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And you accepted that offer?

9 A. Oh, of course, yes, because if you settle out of Court,
10 particularly with a financial settlement, that's tantamount
11 to a confession of guilt. I mean, we had the Winebox with
12 the Fays, they paid \$2,000 and said we're not responsible
13 and things like that. There was a case in Britain too,
14 where this guy went for damages and they granted him a
15 farthing. So, I saw that, there needn't be any settlement,
16 but I saw that admission that this abuse did happen, they
17 were recognising it and I couldn't be bought off.

18 Q. That was the basis on which you accepted their offer, is
19 that right, that you saw it as an admission?

20 A. Yes, yes. I state that I don't know what other survivors
21 want, if they want financial settlement, I don't think they
22 should have an ex gratia payment of \$5,000 or \$2,000 thrown
23 at them. But I can assure them that the financial
24 settlement in no way gets rid of the pain, the hurt, the
25 sadness. It's no closure.

26 Q. And I think your evidence is that you never touched and
27 will never touch?

28 A. No, I put it in a special, I never touched that. I put it
29 in a special account for my daughters and they know it's in
30 there. I call that blood money. I mean lawyers and people
31 and my friends have said, "Why don't you go over to Europe?
32 Why don't you get your house painted? Why don't you do
33 this and why don't you do that?". No, I will not touch
34 that money. It's not mine to spend. I see that for, I had
35 no parenting. I don't know, there was always a part of me

1 that wasn't there for my children, for my girls, and in
2 some way, they can do that, what they like with it, you
3 know. That's not part of my role but they can do what they
4 like with it. This is me trying to say, look, I'm sorry, I
5 didn't know that I was holding, there was some part of me
6 that you couldn't reach or I'm sorry because we had no
7 parenting skills. I mean, nothing is a perfect parent, but
8 I was an only child. I didn't, you know, as far as I was
9 concerned, adults only abused you. You didn't trust
10 adults. Adults only abused you, they hit you, they lied to
11 you, they betrayed you, you know. This is to say to my
12 girls, I know it's not much, but this Mum acknowledges that
13 she fell down in certain areas, in emotional areas, you
14 know, and for any harm I may have unwittingly caused.

15 Q. Thank you. And then a full two years after that
16 settlement, you got a letter of apology?

17 A. Well, we got a Clayton's letter of apology. Are we going
18 to bring that up on the screen?

19 Q. Yes, if it I could refer you to witness statement Exhibit
20 21. I will just ask that that paragraph is highlighted.

21 A. "I find it deplorable to know that the shameful actions and
22 uncaring attitudes of a very few people overwhelmed the
23 good and just work of so many others".

24 This abuse right throughout the orphanage. It was
25 systemic, it was endemic, and it reached almost epidemic
26 proportions. This, as we found out in the SAAS group
27 because we all talked amongst ourselves, you know.

28 Q. As a member of the group of 45, how did you feel reading
29 that, that it's the actions of a few?

30 A. Well, I wasn't holding my breath but some people, for
31 instance, one of the guys that was horrifically abused at
32 Hodderville, he had his framed and as soon as you walked
33 into his house you saw the letter of apology. That's what
34 it meant to him. I wasn't sort of - to me, it was a
35 Clayton's. He said, he's still trying to tell us - no,

1 there were many psychopaths, there were many sadists, there
2 were many rapists, there were many paedophiles throughout
3 The Salvation Army. They had about 13 homes from Whangārei
4 to Dunedin, sometimes they had two abusers in the same
5 facility. One, a small child couldn't avoid; two, they
6 could cover up for each other. And what's more, after I
7 think Harris stayed on until '62, 1962, that was four years
8 after I left, and then suddenly she pops up in another
9 facility. She had another 45 years. I heard, we could
10 trace people, that she went to The Nest, they send them to
11 The Nest where they could do the least damage. They
12 certainly couldn't rape babies, well I hope they couldn't
13 anyway, but this is how she geographically relocated. They
14 knew about it, they just moved them around within the
15 various orphanages. Is that what you?

16 Q. And is that something that rung true in your discussions
17 with other SAAS survivors?

18 A. Oh yes, yes, yes.

19 Q. I understand that you've learned that Maisie Harris is
20 deceased, when did she pass away?

21 A. 2007. That really upset me.

22 Q. When you had your interview with The Salvation Army in
23 2005, were you made aware that she was still alive?

24 A. No, no, Houston knew. When I was listening to the CD that
25 I had the interview on, I don't know, the way Houston asked
26 it, he said, "And what do you think about, you know, Maisie
27 Harris now?" and I just said, I just bounced something, I
28 said, "She's an evil cow". Listening back, I thought, you
29 know, that is, how ineffectual is that? But I could see
30 that he was trying to get me in full flight. You know one
31 of those pregnant silences? I didn't fill it. I just
32 said, "she's an evil cow". This is the whole thing. This
33 is about the institution of The Salvation Army, not so much
34 about Maisie Harris and the abuser in The Salvation Army

1 because The Salvation Army will throw anybody under the bus
2 as long as it can continue as an institution.

3 Q. All right. So, let's look to the suggestions that you've
4 made for redress and suggestions of change. Am I correct
5 in saying that this is one of the main reasons you want to
6 speak today, is to get these ideas out there?

7 A. Yes, yes. With the class action, the legal term was that
8 they had a fiduciary, what is it, fiduciary care to us and
9 they failed that on all counts. Yes.

10 So, I can't change what's in the past, but I thank the
11 Commission for giving me the opportunity to somehow
12 formulate the future.

13 Q. So, one of your proposals was that The Salvation Army puts
14 sums of money into a trust run independently?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Which survivors can request -

17 A. Yes. What I would like is for The Salvation Army, let me
18 first of all tell you that they are very wealthy. In 2003,
19 the website, Peter, Jan and I went and they had 100
20 missions and their net wealth was \$360 million. Now, they
21 could do their good works etc., etc., no donations from the
22 public, no funds from the government for the next 5 years
23 with that. So, it's an asset, it's in land, it is in
24 actual money because I know that money my mother was paying
25 was going directly to Aro St to their headquarters. The
26 government money presumably was going there. It is an
27 international global organisation. It is a corporation.

28 Q. So, your view is it wouldn't be a stretch to setup a
29 significant trust?

30 A. No, a significant trust. So, for those few, those few who
31 can come forward and if they need dental care, if they need
32 hearing aids, if they need sort of mobility scooters,
33 whatever they may need to live the best life they can. I
34 want that trust set up. And they don't have to - I mean,

1 look at me, 76 years of age, it's taken me this long and
2 it's like fighting, fighting, fighting, all the time.

3 Q. You don't want people to have to fight?

4 A. No, I don't want them to have to go through what I, Jan and
5 the SAAS group went through.

6 Q. How would you see this working? Would people make an
7 approach, say I was in a Salvation Army orphanage for these
8 years?

9 A. Yes, they wouldn't have to sign any papers and things like
10 that. They could look it up that they were in this
11 particular orphanage or whatever and they don't have to
12 fill out all the paperwork, they don't have to fight the
13 bureaucracy, they don't have to struggle most of their life
14 to get to the point where I am.

15 Q. You see this as running on a goodwill basis by The
16 Salvation Army?

17 A. Yes, one truth about The Salvation Army, The Salvation Army
18 should not investigate itself, which they've been doing all
19 this time through Houston and things like that. Okay?
20 This is independent in person and this trust will be run
21 with an escrow or whatever it is by an independent person
22 with no links to The Salvation Army.

23 Q. Right.

24 A. Whatsoever. They're not in control. They just put the
25 money there and how the monies are allocated and for what
26 needs of survivors, then that's how it's going to be
27 managed.

28 Q. Thank you. Another proposal which you put forward is
29 potentially amendment to the ACC legislation?

30 A. Yeah.

31 Q. And what you've proposed is schedule 21, which relates to
32 sensitive claims and getting help for psychological
33 injuries or difficulties, is extended to include childhood
34 assaults?

35 A. Yes, historic abuse claims, yes.

1 Q. Can you explain how you came to that way of thinking?

2 A. Because of my own experience, I was told all the time that
3 because - even Cameron & Associates said because it was an
4 historic abuse claim, they were very uncertain whether they
5 could make it stick, you know, be successful. They made no
6 promises. Okay? Salvation Army settled out of Court.
7 They knew, you know, that they couldn't win against us and
8 they managed to hush it up, you know, hush it up.

9 Now, I think I approached ACC several times, but they
10 don't recognise historic abuse. They seem to - there has
11 to be an element of sexual abuse.

12 Q. Under that particular schedule?

13 A. Yes, yes. And now, that's not right because the abuse, as
14 I said, came in five or six forms. It came in
15 psychological, emotional, verbal, physical, you know, and
16 they were being paid by the government to do it.

17 Now, I want the same thing as for the children, I want
18 the same sort of legislation that they are afforded with
19 ACC. They're don't have to have this sexual element, they
20 can access care.

21 Q. Your evidence at page 41, paragraph 255, says and I will
22 read this paragraph, the sexual abuse at The Grange was
23 only a small part of my trauma. But it was not until after
24 a suicide attempt and subsequent discussions about my abuse
25 history, revealing this aspect of the harm suffered, that
26 ACC would meet the cost of psychological support under
27 schedule 21.

28 So, your wish is that it does not -

29 A. It be extended to historical abuse.

30 Q. Thank you.

31 A. That's what I'd like the Commission to do, urge legislation
32 that it be extended. If it's good enough for the children
33 etc, etc, I think it should be for historic abuse victims
34 or survivors.

1 **CHAIR:** Do you mind if I clarify that? From what you're
2 saying, it wouldn't just be physical abuse, it would be the
3 five types of abuse that you are referring to; is that what
4 you are saying?

5 A. Any abuse. There seems to be only a sexual abuse.

6 **CHAIR:** That's really what I'm getting at.

7 A. No, no, no, this is ACC, if it's not a sexual abuse
8 element, it seems or apparent, I am not saying it is, that
9 you can't access, you're less successful in your claim.

10 **CHAIR:** Yes.

11 A. And I want the legislation to protect those who are coming
12 forward from historic abuse.

13 **CHAIR:** And with all the various forms of abuse that you
14 have referred to?

15 A. Oh yes.

16 **CHAIR:** That is what you're talking about? Thank you for
17 that.

18 A. They don't have to go through the flaming hoops that the
19 SAAS group and Jan and I had to go through just to get to
20 today, essentially.

21 **MS MULLORD:**

22 Q. I think part of your evidence is that you struggled to
23 maintain employment because of the trauma you'd suffered,
24 even though you achieved incredibly highly academically, it
25 was difficult for you to maintain your teaching job and you
26 did not have funds to pay for a private psychiatrist or
27 psychologist much of the time?

28 A. No.

29 Q. In that sense, would that have been helpful to you to be
30 able to access that support earlier?

31 A. It would have been helpful to me, but it hasn't happened.
32 But I want that to be offered to survivors. And any
33 legislation or any way we can facilitate that would be a
34 good idea.

- 1 Q. Thank you. As I understand it, you would also like to see
2 a public apology and that could be broadcast on a very
3 readily available platform?
- 4 A. A public apology, yes. It wasn't quite this, but
5 essentially, the public apology was 10 o'clock on a Sunday
6 night on Gore radio, country and western hour. They buried
7 it. What I want, I want the Head of The Salvation Army now
8 to 6 o'clock news on 1 and on 3 and the 5.30 news, for him
9 to get up and publicly apologise.
- 10 Q. Would you like to see it in The Herald as well?
- 11 A. I would like to see it in all the media. But I want that
12 public apology in the visual form, like television and
13 things like that.
- 14 Q. I understand, thank you. Ms B, we've almost come to the
15 end of my questions for you. If we could turn to the very
16 end of your witness statement.
- 17 A. Page?
- 18 Q. Page 41.
- 19 A. Page 41.
- 20 Q. I wonder if you might like to read those paragraphs
21 starting with 256?
- 22 A. 256, okay. The Salvation Army stole everything from me,
23 everything I had - everything I ever had they took from me.
24 For instance, the impact is that anything I had there's a
25 siege mentality, it's not mine, it would be taken from me,
26 it was a temporary, I never owned anything, you know. And
27 also, yes, they stole everything from me.
- 28 Q. Could you read paragraphs 256?
- 29 A. Except for my mind. They couldn't get inside my mind and
30 this is where the academic, with the school and things
31 like, I had my own little world in my mind and that's where
32 I lived.
- 33 Q. Can you tell the Commission what your academic achievements
34 are?
- 35 A. I've got a Masters in English and German.

1 Q. And you're fluent in how many languages?

2 A. Four or five, yeah. But that's only because that was part
3 of my world. The Salvation Army had no contribution to
4 that whatsoever. Yes. So, I had my own little world. I
5 was abused, betrayed, silenced, but not destroyed. I am
6 still here today. I am the exception, unfortunately,
7 rather than the rule. I want you to note that. I am the
8 exception.

9 Q. The exception, in that you are here today?

10 A. That I am here today, that I haven't suicided through drugs
11 or alcohol or anything like that, GRO-B

12 GRO-B

13 GRO-B

14 Also, it's a really, it's a pain, it's a very physical
15 pain and a lot of them actually turned to alcohol but you
16 can never get rid of that pain, no matter what drugs etc.,
17 etc.

18 Okay? I am the exception rather than the rule. I have
19 not continued the abuse into the next generation. Now,
20 Madam Chair, there was something about intergenerational
21 damage referenced to Māori. There wasn't one Māori girl in
22 that. As I said, we were a show house. Okay?

23 **CHAIR:** Yes.

24 A. Now, I think there could be five or six generations and it
25 doesn't matter whether you're black, brown, white or
26 brindle, the abuse is intergenerational. Unwitting, as I
27 said, I kept that money for my daughters, I wasn't there
28 for them, there was a part of me that was locked away. So,
29 it doesn't matter what your creed or colour is, this abuse
30 has continued throughout the next generations. I want to
31 make a very strong point about this intergenerational -

32 **CHAIR:** Thank you, I've heard that strongly, thank you.

33 **MS MULLORD:**

34 Q. Thank you, Ms B. And you're also saying at paragraph 258,
35 that you want to - you hope that other people who have

1 remained silent and who may be listening to you today or
2 may read your evidence will come forward?

3 A. Will come forward, yes. The SAAS group and, particularly,
4 Jan and I by being here today which is hard, it's bloody
5 hard, we have paved the way for you to come forward. For
6 instance, we had the benefit of a tertiary education but,
7 as I read in the Commission, if you're deaf, if you have
8 sort of, you didn't have a very good education for
9 instance, or you're fearful of appearing, you know, to a
10 Commission, it's quite daunting, you know, I want to assure
11 them there's a package of care out there that people can
12 wraparound, that even if you're illiterate, that you can
13 access help. This is why I'm doing this today.

14 Q. And you've said these people need to know they are entitled
15 to live the best life they can?

16 A. Yes, they are entitled. That is their right. That is
17 their human right.

18 Q. You are encouraging people to come forward?

19 A. I said I urge them to come forward and seek help. The hard
20 work has been done in opening this matter up to the public
21 inquiry. These people need to know they are entitled to
22 lead the best life ever.

23 Q. Thank you. You've said at paragraph 262, if you can feel
24 you've helped shape the future for survivors of abuse by
25 The Salvation Army?

26 A. That mean a great deal of consolation and relief and make
27 all this worthwhile. This is why I'm putting my - every
28 time I do this I am a little girl of 7, I relive the trauma
29 and it's day, day, day, getting the evidence ready. At the
30 start, I thought it was finished with the class action with
31 Houston, but it wasn't. It will go on and it will go on
32 and I will not go quietly into that goodnight. I'll be
33 kicking and screaming and shouting from my grave, yes.

34 Q. Ms B, would you like to close perhaps with your statement
35 at paragraph 264?

1 A. I am not quite closing. I close this statement by noting
2 Stalin is reported to have said "one death is a tragedy,
3 but one million deaths is a statistic". I will not be a
4 statistic. Nor will those other thousand little girls
5 behind me be a statistic and that's why I'm here today.
6 Okay?

7 Q. Was there anything further you'd like to add, Ms B?

8 A. Yes, yes. I'd just like to thank the people who got me
9 here. I would like to thank you my brilliant legal-legal.

10 Q. You are very welcome.

11 A. Those people might have known, I had this archive, I kept
12 every piece of paper in this archival box. I didn't want
13 to bring that evil into the house I'm living with, so it
14 lived underneath the house in a plastic bag. When Claire
15 came in under the - Josh recommended, Hanne etc and I got
16 in contact with Claire, I had this big archival box full,
17 it was everywhere, it was the class action, full of papers,
18 everything had been chucked in there, and I just went and
19 said "here take it". She spent many, many hours, she put a
20 lot of work into it, as well as doing her day job as a
21 barrister and I would like to thank you very, very much.

22 Q. You are welcome, thank you.

23 A. Another person I would like to thank, Jan. It wouldn't
24 have been possible unless your terror mentality formed the
25 SAAS group and I would like to thank you. Okay?

26 Another person, you two, you see I don't have a
27 computer, I'm not computer literate, I will not have it in
28 my house and these people, they sort of printed hard copies
29 and put things on USB. So, Liz and Murray, many, many
30 thanks, I owe the fact that I am here today because of you
31 two.

32 Lastly, but not least, I'd like to thank the Commission
33 for offering me this opportunity to bring this out into the
34 public, into the light of day. This is all about
35 shattering the silence, abuse can only happened under the

1 cloak or a code of silence. So, it is about shattering the
2 silence and I feel this has been worthwhile coming today.

3 Okay?

4 **CHAIR:** Thank you.

5 A. I'd like to thank you.

6 **MS MULLORD:** Thank you very much. Madam Chair?

7 **CHAIR:** Ms B, on behalf of the Commissioners, we also want
8 to thank you. I want to thank you for your tenacity and
9 your testimony and particularly for your suggestions which
10 we will consider very carefully. It's so helpful to us to
11 have a survivor's clear-eyed view of what will work and
12 what won't, and I think we regard survivors as almost
13 experts in this area because you've lived the life.

14 A. Unfortunately.

15 **CHAIR:** Unfortunately, you have, but I am hoping that as a
16 positive you will accept that we will take those
17 suggestions very seriously. We also want to thank you for
18 being the voice of all those girls behind you. Now I'm
19 getting slightly emotional, but that's fine.

20 A. Please don't, I don't want you to be upset.

21 **CHAIR:** I am easily upset, but it's in a good way. And I
22 want to acknowledge the SAAS people who have passed on.

23 A. Jan and I are the only ones left.

24 **CHAIR:** I want to acknowledge that they were part of the
25 battle, part of that, I think you called it a wheel of
26 fire. You fought the fight altogether and we must remember
27 them as we thank you.

28 And you said that you find it very difficult to trust
29 and I think your coming today, with all the help you've
30 had, demonstrates that you might just have a little bit of
31 trust in the Commission to take your story and use it.

32 A. Oh yes, and to anybody in this room.

33 **CHAIR:** Thank you for that and we really want to thank you
34 for doing that because I think we all understand whatever

1 it takes for somebody in your position to bestow that
2 trust, we want to acknowledge that and thank you for that.

3 A. Thank you, Madam Chair.

4 **CHAIR:** On that thank you, slightly emotional note.

5 A. I am the one that's supposed to get emotional, not you.

6 **CHAIR:** That's all right. It's Friday afternoon after all.

7 A. I am sorry I upset you, that wasn't my idea.

8 **CHAIR:** No, no, you're not upsetting me at all - I'm just
9 quite moved. Thank you for your evidence and to Murray and
10 Liz, thank you for being there.

11 A. Claire.

12 **CHAIR:** It's all right we will get to them later, I'm more
13 interested in you and of course, Ms Mullord, you have done
14 a great job. So, you can now leave. (Witness leaves the
15 hearing room).

16 **MS JANES:** And that concludes the evidence for this
17 particular hearing.

18 **CHAIR:** Wonderful. Just a quick and hopefully unemotional
19 thank you to everybody. I am going to get emotional, it's
20 ridiculous. And I shouldn't single anybody out, but I do
21 want to thank our stenographer and our signers who they've
22 worked extremely long and they have adapted to our strange
23 schedule. We've taken gaps at odd times, we've spread the
24 sessions beyond the humane, and I think it's important that
25 we acknowledge that because they are our way into the world
26 and without them the public doesn't get to hear what we're
27 saying, so thank you to those people but of course to
28 everybody else, counsel alike.

29 And the last thing is for our kaumātua, tēnā koe. Oh
30 Tēnā koe ki ngā tokorua.

31

32 (Closing mihi and waiata)

33

34

Hearing adjourned at 4.53 p.m.