

**ABUSE IN CARE ROYAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY  
DISABILITY, DEAF AND MENTAL HEALTH INSTITUTION 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)  
Paul Gibson  
Julia Steenson

**Counsel:** Mr Simon Mount QC, Ms Kerryn Beaton QC, Ms Ruth Thomas, Ms Lucy Leadbetter, Mr Michael Thomas and Ms Kathy Basire for the Royal Commission  
Mr Gregor Allan, Ms Sandra Moore and Mr Vaughan Dodd for the Crown

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

**Date:** 13 July 2022

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**TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS**

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- 23                                   **Lunch adjournment from 1.09 pm to 2.15 pm**
- 24   **CHAIR:** Welcome back everybody to this afternoon's evidence. Mr Thomas, we're having a  
25                   video first and I think can I see Peter on the screen?
- 26   **MR THOMAS:** That's right, Madam Chair. I thought we'd perhaps have the video and then  
27                   introduce Peter following that if that's okay?
- 28   **CHAIR:** That's fine, all right, let's have the video then.
- 29                                   **PETER KEOGHAN**
- 30                                   **[Video played]**
- 31   **MR THOMAS:** Thank you Madam Chair. Peter Keoghan is the next witness who's here on  
32                   AVL [Audio Visual Link]. Do you want to introduce yourselves perhaps?
- 33   **CHAIR:** Yes. Hello Peter.
- 34   A.     Hello.

1 **Q.** Hello, my name's Coral Shaw and I'm on the Commission and I'm here with -- you can see  
2 Paul over here, can you see Paul?

3 **A.** Yeah.

4 **Q.** Paul Gibson, and over here is Julia Steenson.

5 **COMMISSIONER STEENSON:** Hello.

6 **CHAIR:** And we're here to listen to what you have to tell us, and we're really looking forward to  
7 hearing from you. So they're going to play the video that was made and then we'll hear it.

8 **MR THOMAS:** I'll just give a brief introduction if that's appropriate, Madam Chair?

9 **CHAIR:** Of course.

10 **MR THOMAS:** I'll just mention who's there with Peter. So Peter Keoghan's here via AVL from  
11 Whangārei. Peter's supported by his PASAT [Personal Advocacy and Safeguarding Adults  
12 Trust] navigator, Emma Neilson and also a staff member, Cheryl, who supports Peter at his  
13 rest home where he currently lives in Whangārei.

14 **CHAIR:** Thank you.

15 **MR THOMAS:** Peter's evidence relates to his time at Tokanui Hospital, the former psychopaedic  
16 hospital. He was there from 1961 to 1984 from around age five years old into his 20s. And  
17 Peter's pre-recorded evidence will describe the abuse and neglect that he witnessed there.  
18 Thank you Madam Chair.

19 **CHAIR:** Thank you.

20 **[Video played]**

21 "Peter Keoghan is of Pākehā descent and is a wheelchair user and cannot use his  
22 hands. He was a resident of Tokanui Hospital from an early age until his 20s, 1960s-1980s.  
23 Peter is wearing a check blue-collared shirt and sunglasses; he's sitting in a slightly reclined  
24 position."

25 **QUESTIONING BY MR THOMAS:** So we're at [GRO-B] in [GRO-B] in Whangārei and my  
26 name's Michael Thomas from the Royal Commission and Ella Maiden's also present. And  
27 we've got Peter Keoghan and we've also got Emma Neilson here present. And Peter, we're  
28 here today to take some pre-recorded evidence from you.

29 **A.** Yeah.

30 **Q.** And before we start that, I'm just going to ask you to basically take the oath, so I'll read this  
31 out and then you can confirm that you're happy with it. So do you solemnly, sincerely and  
32 truly declare and affirm the evidence you will give to the Royal Commission will be the  
33 truth?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. Thank you. Okay. So we'll just start straight into the questions Peter, if you're happy with  
3 that?
- 4 A. I'm happy with that.
- 5 Q. Great. So do you want to just tell us what your full name is and your age?
- 6 A. Peter John Keoghan.
- 7 Q. And how old are you?
- 8 A. 60.
- 9 Q. And can you describe for us what your disability is?
- 10 A. I can't remember.
- 11 Q. That's okay. You use a wheelchair?
- 12 A. Yeah.
- 13 Q. And you can't use your hands?
- 14 A. I can't use my hands at all. I can't walk either.
- 15 Q. Yeah. And you've got limited sort of vision with your eyesight?
- 16 A. Blind.
- 17 Q. Blind, yeah. Thank you.
- 18 A. That's all right.
- 19 Q. Peter, just before I ask you some questions about your time at Tokanui Hospital --
- 20 A. Yeah.
- 21 Q. -- can I ask you, can you tell us about where you lived before that?
- 22 A. I lived in Te Aroha.
- 23 Q. Who did you live with?
- 24 A. My mum and dad.
- 25 Q. How did you come to be at Tokanui Hospital?
- 26 A. My mum put me there.
- 27 Q. Yeah. Do you know why you were taken there?
- 28 A. No, I don't know anything about it.
- 29 Q. Yeah. Do you know how old you were at the time approximately?
- 30 A. I don't know.
- 31 Q. Were you a young boy?
- 32 A. Yes, I am.
- 33 Q. So I'm going to ask you about your time at Tokanui Hospital now, ask you some questions  
34 about that.

- 1 A. Yeah.
- 2 Q. So you can't remember exactly how old you were, but do you think you were a young boy,  
3 does around five or six years old sound about right?
- 4 A. Yeah.
- 5 Q. And you wouldn't recall what year that would have been roughly?
- 6 A. I don't know.
- 7 Q. That's okay. We've got it in your written statement, it was around 1962 or '63. Do you  
8 know how long you were at Tokanui approximately?
- 9 A. Four years.
- 10 Q. Okay. I think we've got you, according to our records, you were there a bit longer, maybe  
11 20 years?
- 12 A. Yeah. 20 years I was in there.
- 13 Q. Yeah? Does that sound right to you?
- 14 A. That's right.
- 15 Q. Yeah. What was it, can you describe to us what it was like there for you?
- 16 A. Like a bloody prison.
- 17 Q. Yeah.
- 18 A. That's all it is. Like a bloody prison.
- 19 Q. Yeah. How were you treated there?
- 20 A. Not very well.
- 21 Q. I was going to ask you Peter next, the next topic I was going to ask you about was I  
22 understand from your statement that you were placed in seclusion for some of your time at  
23 Tokanui?
- 24 A. Yeah.
- 25 Q. Can you tell us a bit about that?
- 26 A. I was locked up in the bloody -- in the side room all the time.
- 27 Q. Yeah. What was that room like?
- 28 A. Bloody terrible.
- 29 Q. Yeah?
- 30 A. Bloody cold like anything.
- 31 Q. Yeah. So it was cold, what else, can you recall anything else about the room?
- 32 A. It stink.
- 33 Q. It stunk?
- 34 A. Yeah.

- 1 Q. Yeah, why was that?
- 2 A. All the bloody water from the rain coming in, coming in there.
- 3 Q. Yeah, okay. What about, were you locked in there?
- 4 A. Yes, I was.
- 5 Q. Were you in clothes or what were you wearing when you were put in there?
- 6 A. I was in my -- I'm in my clothes.
- 7 Q. Yeah?
- 8 A. They let me out, they let me out though.
- 9 Q. Yeah, was there a bathroom in the room, do you recall?
- 10 A. No, there's not.
- 11 Q. Okay. Do you know like how long you would have been in there at any time, for any  
12 length of time?
- 13 A. I've been there all bloody -- all bloody day.
- 14 Q. So, sorry, I was asking you about that seclusion room, Peter, and sorry, I missed your  
15 answer, do you know like how long you were in that room for?
- 16 A. Long time.
- 17 Q. Yeah?
- 18 A. Very, very long time.
- 19 Q. Yeah. And did you have any activities in there or anything?
- 20 A. No, there's not.
- 21 Q. Yeah, so what did you do, just sat there or what?
- 22 A. Just sit down and lie on my bed and go to bloody sleep.
- 23 Q. Yeah, okay.
- 24 A. Looking at the bloody ceiling.
- 25 Q. Did the staff like tell you why you were in there?
- 26 A. No, they didn't tell me nothing.
- 27 Q. Could you get out of there?
- 28 A. I got out of there all right.
- 29 Q. How did you do that, or what happened there?
- 30 A. They left the door open.
- 31 Q. Yeah?
- 32 A. I went to the toilet.
- 33 Q. Mmm?
- 34 A. I look around and see any staff -- any staff around.

- 1 Q. Yeah?
- 2 A. I escape.
- 3 Q. Yeah, nice.
- 4 A. I escape out of there.
- 5 Q. And where did you go?
- 6 A. Back to work on the truck.
- 7 Q. Oh yeah. Nice.
- 8 A. On the laundry truck, rubbish truck.
- 9 Q. Yeah?
- 10 A. And the mail run.
- 11 Q. What was that, Peter, the last thing?
- 12 A. Doing the mail run with the paper.
- 13 Q. The mail run?
- 14 A. Mail run, yeah.
- 15 Q. Yeah?
- 16 A. And heavy drug boxes.
- 17 Q. Did you get taken back into the room or not?
- 18 A. No.
- 19 Q. No. When you were in that room before you got out, how did it feel to be in there?
- 20 A. Terrible.
- 21 Q. Yeah?
- 22 A. Terrible, terrible, terrible.
- 23 Q. So I'll ask you now just a bit more about other aspects of your time at Tokanui, if that's all
- 24 right?
- 25 A. That's all right.
- 26 Q. Yeah, about those sort of -- what schooling you did and work and other activities. So am
- 27 I right that you went to school there?
- 28 A. Yeah.
- 29 Q. Yeah. And do you know until what age approximately?
- 30 A. I don't know.
- 31 Q. Yeah. We've got it in your statement that until you were about 16 years old?
- 32 A. Yeah.
- 33 Q. Does that sound right?
- 34 A. That's right.



- 1 Q. Did you enjoy school at Tokanui?
- 2 A. Oh yeah.
- 3 Q. Yeah? What did you do?
- 4 A. Making guns, making guns, rifles.
- 5 Q. Making guns and what was the other thing you mentioned?
- 6 A. And rifle.
- 7 Q. Rifles, yeah?
- 8 A. Woodwork.
- 9 Q. Woodwork, yeah. Were the guns and rifles woodwork?
- 10 A. That was woodwork, yeah.
- 11 Q. Was there anything else you recall doing at the school?
- 12 A. No.
- 13 Q. Did you do other activities at Tokanui, like pub quiz and bingo?
- 14 A. Have gymnastics there.
- 15 Q. Gymnastics?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. Yeah, tell us about that.
- 18 A. I do the somersaults.
- 19 Q. Yeah? Was that part of your schooling or just an activity that you did there?
- 20 A. It's a programme, full exercise programme.
- 21 Q. Yeah, oh great. And did you also do activities like pub quiz and bingo?
- 22 A. Yeah, bingo's there too.
- 23 Q. Yeah?
- 24 A. At night time.
- 25 Q. Yeah. Did you enjoy that?
- 26 A. Oh yeah.
- 27 Q. Did you -- yeah?
- 28 A. They help us with the counter on a card.
- 29 Q. Sorry, what was -- I didn't catch?
- 30 A. They put the counters on the card.
- 31 Q. Yeah, yeah.
- 32 A. I can't do it myself.
- 33 Q. Yeah.
- 34 A. They put -- I call out "bingo".

- 1 Q. Yeah.
- 2 A. It was two packets of smokes.
- 3 Q. You won two packets of smokes? Nice.
- 4 A. I smoked the bloody lot.
- 5 Q. I understand you did some physical work while you were there and you mentioned that, can  
6 you tell us what that involved?
- 7 A. I don't know.
- 8 Q. Did you do anything to do with like concreting?
- 9 A. Yeah, at school, yeah.
- 10 Q. Yeah, at the school?
- 11 A. At the footpath, concrete the footpath.
- 12 Q. You did concreting of the footpath?
- 13 A. Yeah.
- 14 Q. Yeah. What --
- 15 A. It was on the concrete mixer.
- 16 Q. With only concrete --
- 17 A. By hand.
- 18 Q. Yeah. Was it hard work?
- 19 A. The road was bloody hard work.
- 20 Q. Yeah?
- 21 A. But for the bloody cement, for the concrete.
- 22 Q. Yeah?
- 23 A. I didn't spill anything out of it. I just take my time to take it over to them.
- 24 Q. Did you enjoy that work?
- 25 A. Yes, I did. That's something else I do at Tokanui too, tar-sealing.
- 26 Q. Yeah?
- 27 A. On the road.
- 28 Q. Yes?
- 29 A. I did that too.
- 30 Q. On the roads within Tokanui?
- 31 A. In the tar-sealing truck.
- 32 Q. Yeah, you worked on that?
- 33 A. Yeah.
- 34 Q. Yeah?

- 1 A. Work on everything.
- 2 Q. Yeah.
- 3 A. The road works.
- 4 Q. Yeah. And you also mentioned earlier that you helped with the mail run?
- 5 A. Yeah.
- 6 Q. Can you tell us about that?
- 7 A. I deliver all the mail to all the wards.
- 8 Q. Yeah.
- 9 A. And the paper.
- 10 Q. Yeah.
- 11 A. The Herald.
- 12 Q. So was that like a daily job that you did?
- 13 A. Yeah.
- 14 Q. I think in your statement you talk about that you were lifting some heavy packages?
- 15 A. Heavy drug boxes.
- 16 Q. Drugs boxes?
- 17 A. Yeah, two of them.
- 18 Q. Yeah?
- 19 A. I put my bloody back out.
- 20 Q. Yeah.
- 21 A. So bloody heavy.
- 22 Q. Yeah.
- 23 A. With a lot of drugs in it.
- 24 Q. Yeah. Were you delivering them to the wards or something?
- 25 A. Yes, I did.
- 26 Q. Yeah.
- 27 A. And the stationery.
- 28 Q. What was that?
- 29 A. And the stationery.
- 30 Q. Oh yeah, stationery?
- 31 A. At the -- the stationery at the -- where you get all the medication, the detergent and that.
- 32 Q. Yes?
- 33 A. I did the stationery there too, do the mail with the stationery on the van.

- 1 **Q.** Was there anything else you wanted to say about the work that you did at Tokanui or I can  
2 move on to the next topic?
- 3 **A.** I did a lot of work in Tokanui.
- 4 **Q.** Yeah.
- 5 **A.** Rubbish truck.
- 6 **Q.** Yeah.
- 7 **A.** Put the rubbish on the truck.
- 8 **Q.** Yeah.
- 9 **A.** Laundry truck.
- 10 **Q.** Yes.
- 11 **A.** And the milk truck.
- 12 **Q.** Milk truck?
- 13 **A.** Mmm.
- 14 **Q.** Yeah.
- 15 **A.** There was the bottles – cracking milk around the wards.
- 16 **Q.** Did you have a choice whether to do the work, did you decide yourself or ...
- 17 **A.** I said I wanted to work on the truck, I did on the truck.
- 18 **Q.** Yeah, yeah.
- 19 **A.** I wanted to – --I said to one of the truck drivers –
- 20 **Q.** Yeah.
- 21 **A.** I want a job.
- 22 **Q.** Yeah.
- 23 **A.** How many fullas put the rubbish on the road there, and the milk truck.
- 24 **Q.** Yeah. Peter, is it all right if I move on to the next topic now?
- 25 **A.** Course you can.
- 26 **Q.** Great. I was going to ask you about the next topic which is what we call neglect at  
27 Tokanui?
- 28 **A.** Yeah.
- 29 **Q.** So I've got a few questions about that.
- 30 **A.** Yeah.
- 31 **Q.** Yeah. Yeah, did you sometimes go outside of Tokanui for home visits, do you remember?
- 32 **A.** No.
- 33 **Q.** No? Did your parents come and visit you at all?

- 1 A. They come to see the staff at -- they want to talk to the staff to take me home, the staff said,  
2 "No", not allowed to take me home.
- 3 Q. Yeah?
- 4 A. "He's happy here with us." Like bloody hell I was.
- 5 Q. Yeah?
- 6 A. I had all my relations come to see me.
- 7 Q. Who was that Peter?
- 8 A. My relations.
- 9 Q. Your relations?
- 10 A. Yeah.
- 11 Q. Yeah, they come and visited you?
- 12 A. Yeah, down the sports ground.
- 13 Q. Oh yeah.
- 14 A. With the marching girls.
- 15 Q. You had a sister, did she visit you?
- 16 A. I went and watched the marching.
- 17 Q. Marching?
- 18 A. Yeah.
- 19 Q. Yeah, outside of Tokanui?
- 20 A. In the sports ground.
- 21 Q. Squash grounds?
- 22 A. Yeah.
- 23 Q. Oh yeah. Did you go out of Tokanui to do that?
- 24 A. Yeah.
- 25 Q. What was the food like?
- 26 A. Bloody pig tucker.
- 27 Q. Yeah?
- 28 A. Yeah, flounder.
- 29 Q. Is it fair to say you didn't like the food there?
- 30 A. Nah, it's crap.
- 31 Q. Were you allowed to have sandwiches?
- 32 A. No, we're not allowed, had nothing.
- 33 Q. Did you want those?
- 34 A. Yes, I do.

- 1 Q. Why couldn't you?
- 2 A. Doctor bloody won't let me have any of the bloody sandwiches.
- 3 Q. Yeah.
- 4 A. She's a dietician.
- 5 Q. What was the privacy like there, Peter?
- 6 A. Not very -- not very private for me.
- 7 Q. Yeah, what about at sort of shower time, can you tell us about that?
- 8 A. Too many bloody showers around here.
- 9 Q. Yeah?
- 10 A. I had a bloody fire hose on me all the time.
- 11 Q. Yeah?
- 12 A. In the shower.
- 13 Q. Yeah. Was it cold?
- 14 A. Bloody cold, bloody fire hose.
- 15 Q. Yeah.
- 16 A. Really bloody cold shower, bloody cold fire hose.
- 17 Q. Yeah.
- 18 A. Inside.
- 19 Q. Yeah. How often did that happen?
- 20 A. All the bloody time.
- 21 Q. Yeah. Every time you needed -- you were having a shower?
- 22 A. Yeah. They won't leave me a bloody lone down there.
- 23 Q. Won't leave you alone?
- 24 A. No. They never treat me properly down there.
- 25 Q. Did you ever get sick one time from being outside in the rain?
- 26 A. And lying there. I want to go for a walk with someone.
- 27 Q. Yeah?
- 28 A. But the staff, it was too bloody wet outside.
- 29 Q. Yeah. And did you still go for the walk?
- 30 A. No, I didn't.
- 31 Q. Yeah. Did you go out -- were you out in the rain though?
- 32 A. Yeah.
- 33 Q. What happened?
- 34 A. I got bloody pneumonia.

- 1 Q. Pneumonia from that?
- 2 A. Yeah. Got put in ward 7.
- 3 Q. Yeah?
- 4 A. For two, three weeks. I come right then.
- 5 Q. So was that -- you got sick from standing out in the rain?
- 6 A. Yeah.
- 7 Q. Did staff leave you out there or what happened?
- 8 A. I stand out there when I was looking for somebody.
- 9 Q. Yeah?
- 10 A. Yeah, looking for the -- see someone outside.
- 11 Q. Yeah. I understand you were a smoker when you were there, do you know when you
- 12 started that?
- 13 A. I started smoking when I was, when I was in Tauranga, Tokanui.
- 14 Q. Okay. Were you a boy or...
- 15 A. I was a boy, yeah.
- 16 Q. Yeah, and did you smoke at Tokanui?
- 17 A. Yes, I was.
- 18 Q. Yeah. Were you the only one or was it common?
- 19 A. I only one smoking.
- 20 Q. Okay. Did you receive any therapy for your disabilities when you were at Tokanui?
- 21 A. No.
- 22 Q. Nothing like that?
- 23 A. Nothing like that.
- 24 Q. Peter, I was going to ask you now about some of the physical abuse that you suffered at
- 25 Tokanui?
- 26 A. Yeah.
- 27 Q. Were you ever verbally abused by staff at Tokanui?
- 28 A. Yeah.
- 29 Q. Can you tell us about that?
- 30 A. They kick me in the bloody stomach they choked me around the bloody neck. Bloody
- 31 mongrels.
- 32 Q. Yeah. Did they say anything to you, any --
- 33 A. No, they didn't say nothing.
- 34 Q. Yeah, what happened when they grabbed you around the neck, what was --

- 1 A. I can't breathe.
- 2 Q. Yeah. And who did that?
- 3 A. The one in ward 4.
- 4 Q. When you were on ward 4, yeah. By a staff member?
- 5 A. Yeah, don't know what his bloody name is.
- 6 Q. Was there another incident when you were walking to a farm?
- 7 A. Yeah.
- 8 Q. Can you tell us about that?
- 9 A. You know that tree falling down?
- 10 Q. Mmm?
- 11 A. I walk on that, they kicked me in the knee -- kicked me in the stomach with a knee cap.
- 12 Q. Who was that person?
- 13 A. Staff nurse.
- 14 Q. Yeah.
- 15 A. He's a bloody mongrel.
- 16 Q. Yeah.
- 17 A. I never liked the bugger either.
- 18 Q. So he kicked you?
- 19 A. In the stomach with a knee cap.
- 20 Q. And what happened?
- 21 A. He threw me to the bloody ground.
- 22 Q. Yeah?
- 23 A. In the blackberry bush. I stayed down there too.
- 24 Q. Yeah. Were you injured from that?
- 25 A. No.
- 26 Q. Yeah? Were there any times, other times you were, like, physically assaulted by staff?
- 27 A. Yes, I was.
- 28 Q. Can you tell us anymore about that?
- 29 A. He bloody assaulted me all the bloody time, he did.
- 30 Q. That same staff nurse?
- 31 A. Yeah, the both of them.
- 32 Q. Yeah. Was it mainly two staff members?
- 33 A. Yeah.
- 34 Q. Yeah. Were you ever threatened by the staff members?



- 1 A. No, I threatened them. I'll give you a good bloody smack in the bloody mouth he gone  
2 lose a tooth.
- 3 Q. You fought back sometimes?
- 4 A. Yeah.
- 5 Q. Yeah. Did any of the staff ever strike you, like punch you?
- 6 A. No, only – [GRO-B] – punched me in the eye.
- 7 Q. Who was that person, was he a staff member?
- 8 A. He's a staff member.
- 9 Q. Why did he punch you in the eye?
- 10 A. I don't know.
- 11 Q. Yeah.
- 12 A. He just felt like it.
- 13 Q. Yeah. Were you on the ward or...
- 14 A. Yeah, I was on the ward there.
- 15 Q. Yeah. So just out of the blue he punched you?
- 16 A. Yeah. I didn't say anything to them, to him.
- 17 Q. Yeah.
- 18 A. "Hey [GRO-B] what are you doing, come over and I'll punch you in the bloody eye."
- 19 Q. Yeah?
- 20 A. "You want a smack in the mouth?"
- 21 Q. Yeah.
- 22 A. "You try it."
- 23 Q. Yeah?
- 24 A. "I try it on you too. Smack you in the bloody eye, you dead black in the eye."
- 25 Q. Yeah.
- 26 A. That's what he said to me. I said, "Like hell you'll hit me in the eye."
- 27 Q. Did he say anything when you asked him why he punched you?
- 28 A. No, he didn't say nothing.
- 29 Q. Yeah. Did any other staff see it?
- 30 A. No, only him.
- 31 Q. Okay.
- 32 A. Only that mongrel did.
- 33 Q. Yeah. Did you ever get punched or assaulted by any other patients?

- 1 A. I had a lot of bloody hidings from them, the whole bloody lot of them.
- 2 Q. Yeah?
- 3 A. Gave me a bloody hiding. They want to call me Black Power behind my back.
- 4 Q. Yeah?
- 5 A. Yeah, the bloody buggers.
- 6 Q. They said you were Black Power?
- 7 A. Yeah, I had a jacket on.
- 8 Q. Oh yeah?
- 9 A. A black leather jacket.
- 10 Q. Yeah?
- 11 A. Leather jacket.
- 12 Q. Yeah.
- 13 A. With a patch on the back.
- 14 Q. Yeah?
- 15 A. It's not my jacket, it was [GRO-B] jacket.
- 16 Q. Yeah?
- 17 A. He let me borrow it.
- 18 Q. I see.
- 19 A. I gave it back to him.
- 20 Q. Yes.
- 21 A. I said to that fellow, walk across the -- walking across the -- walking across --
- 22 Q. Yes.
- 23 A. -- to the hall, "Hey Black Power", "say that to my face and I'll smack you one." Bloody
- 24 mongrel.
- 25 Q. What would happen if you complained about any of this?
- 26 A. I'd give them a bloody hiding, I will be. I'll fix the buggers.
- 27 Q. Yeah.
- 28 A. Don't you worry about that.
- 29 Q. Would the staff do anything if you told them that you were being assaulted?
- 30 A. Yes, I did.
- 31 Q. Yeah.
- 32 A. He didn't take any bloody notice, he never take any notice of me.
- 33 Q. Yeah. And so nothing happened?

- 1 A. No.
- 2 Q. What about, did you tell anyone else, like the Police?
- 3 A. I told two Police, I told two cops in the paddy wagon.
- 4 Q. Yeah?
- 5 A. In the Police wagon, "I've been assaulted, I've been kicked in the guts, been choked around  
6 the neck, and do something about that."
- 7 Q. And what, did they say anything to you?
- 8 A. No.
- 9 Q. Nothing, yeah. They didn't do anything that you're aware of?
- 10 A. No.
- 11 Q. I was going to ask you now, Peter, about sexual abuse that you suffered while you were  
12 there?
- 13 A. Yeah.
- 14 Q. Yeah. Can you tell us about that?
- 15 A. GRO-B he tried to have a fuck and have sex with me.
- 16 Q. Yeah.
- 17 A. In the bloody bathroom.
- 18 Q. Yeah. He was another patient, is that right?
- 19 A. Yeah.
- 20 Q. Yeah. And if you can talk about it, yeah, what happened, or what happened when he tried  
21 to do that?
- 22 A. I said, "Get off me you dirty bugger."
- 23 Q. Yeah.
- 24 A. He won't listen, he keep on doing it.
- 25 Q. Yeah. And did it, yeah, did it stop or like what happened?
- 26 A. He stopped.
- 27 Q. Yeah.
- 28 A. I went and looked around, and smack him in the bloody mouth.
- 29 Q. Yeah?
- 30 A. "Take that you dirty bastard."
- 31 Q. Yeah.
- 32 A. "You do that to me again, I'll kill you next time."
- 33 Q. And did he try and do it again?

- 1 A. Nah.
- 2 Q. Yeah, so it was just that one time?
- 3 A. Yes, just that one time, yeah.
- 4 Q. Did he threaten you?
- 5 A. Who? No, he didn't threaten me at all.
- 6 Q. Okay.
- 7 A. He never touched me at all.
- 8 Q. Yeah. Did you feel you could tell anyone about what happened with that?
- 9 A. I told the Police about him.
- 10 Q. Yeah?
- 11 A. The Police said to him -- "[GRO-B], come with me, I'll put you in the paddy wagon."
- 12 Q. Yeah?
- 13 A. "I'll put you in jail."
- 14 Q. Yeah. Do you know if that happened or not?
- 15 A. Nah.
- 16 Q. It didn't happen?
- 17 A. Nah.
- 18 Q. Is there anything else you wanted to say about that, Peter, or we can move to the next topic?
- 19 A. Move to the next one.
- 20 Q. Yeah. So the next thing I was going to ask about was the medication or the drugs?
- 21 A. Yeah, the bloody -- make me bloody sleepy.
- 22 Q. Yeah?
- 23 A. Yeah.
- 24 Q. How often were you given medication there?
- 25 A. All the bloody time.
- 26 Q. Every day?
- 27 A. Yeah.
- 28 Q. And yeah, what -- do you remember any of the names of the medication?
- 29 A. It was Largactil.
- 30 Q. Yeah?
- 31 A. A syrup.
- 32 Q. Yes?
- 33 A. An injection.
- 34 Q. Injection? You mentioned that it made you tired or sleepy, is that right?

- 1 A. Yeah.
- 2 Q. Were there any other effects of the medication?
- 3 A. Nah.
- 4 Q. How long did that tiredness last?
- 5 A. I don't know.
- 6 Q. Do you know why you were getting the medication?
- 7 A. It's the bloody doctor's idea.
- 8 Q. Yeah. Could you say no to it or not?
- 9 A. I said, "No, I don't want the fucking -- I don't want that bloody crap."
- 10 Q. Yeah?
- 11 A. He never bloody listened to me.
- 12 Q. But you still got it?
- 13 A. Yeah.
- 14 Q. Did they explain why you were getting it?
- 15 A. No, they never explained anything.
- 16 Q. Did you ever receive shock treatment at Tokanui?
- 17 A. They never get me on this machine, they never give me any shock treatment.
- 18 Q. Yeah.
- 19 A. The other fullas did.
- 20 Q. Yeah.
- 21 A. A lot of the patients had shock treatment, not me.
- 22 Q. Yeah.
- 23 A. I got away from it.
- 24 Q. Okay.
- 25 A. They never find me anyway.
- 26 Q. Yeah?
- 27 A. Ha ha ha.
- 28 Q. Yeah. Was there anything else you wanted to mention about the drugs, Peter, or shall we  
29 go on to the next?
- 30 A. Go on to the next one.
- 31 Q. Okay. You've told us in your statement about a drowning incident that you witnessed at  
32 Tokanui?
- 33 A. Yeah, one of the girls got drowned in the pool.
- 34 Q. Yeah.

- 1 A. I got her out there, I was out -- I was in there with my togs on.
- 2 Q. Yes?
- 3 A. I got her out, gave her mouth-to-mouth.
- 4 Q. Yes?
- 5 A. She never came back to life.
- 6 Q. Was she a young girl?
- 7 A. Yeah, she was young.
- 8 Q. Was that at the swimming pool at Tokanui?
- 9 A. Yes, nobody was watching her.
- 10 Q. No-one was watching her?
- 11 A. No.
- 12 Q. What about, were there staff members around?
- 13 A. The staff members up on the top of the bank.
- 14 Q. Yeah?
- 15 A. Talking to someone.
- 16 Q. Yeah.
- 17 A. He didn't take any bloody notice.
- 18 Q. Yeah. Did the staff see that she was in trouble or were they too busy?
- 19 A. They're too bloody busy.
- 20 Q. Yeah.
- 21 A. I said, "You lazy pack of bastards don't do nothing around here. You don't want to help  
22 her -- help her when she's drowned."
- 23 Q. Yeah.
- 24 A. I got her out myself.
- 25 Q. Were you swimming at the time as well?
- 26 A. Yes, I was.
- 27 Q. How did you feel when she passed away?
- 28 A. I was really upset.
- 29 Q. Yeah.
- 30 A. I wasn't crying though.
- 31 Q. Yeah.
- 32 A. I was really angry.
- 33 Q. Yeah.
- 34 A. That girl's gone, she's gone, that's all it is. They can't do anything about it.

- 1 Q. Yeah.
- 2 A. I just stayed there with her until the oxygen bottle comes, the gas bottle.
- 3 Q. Yeah.
- 4 A. Keep her alive.
- 5 Q. Yeah.
- 6 A. She never make it.
- 7 Q. Yeah.
- 8 A. I wait there until the undertaker comes.
- 9 Q. Yes.
- 10 A. For the body.
- 11 Q. Yeah.
- 12 A. I say goodbye to her.
- 13 Q. Did the Police ever come?
- 14 A. No, they're too busy with the prisoners. Was one prisoner in the van. I had a Police shirt  
15 on too, I was, and a gun on the side.
- 16 Q. Okay.
- 17 A. They want me -- the two cops said to me in the Police van, in the Police van, " You want a  
18 job?" I said, "Yeah." "Hop in the back with the prisoners, look after them, keep them from  
19 escape."
- 20 Q. Yeah?
- 21 A. I'm on my own too with him, with the prisoner.
- 22 Q. Yeah?
- 23 A. "You escape or I'll bloody kill you. I will."
- 24 Q. Was that -- with the Police, Peter, was that separate to the drowning incident, or...
- 25 A. No, [inaudible], no, not drowning.
- 26 Q. No, it's a different thing?
- 27 A. Yeah.
- 28 Q. Yeah. What happened with the young girl that drowned, what happened to her, was she  
29 buried?
- 30 A. Yeah, she's buried in the cemetery.
- 31 Q. Yeah, at Tokanui?
- 32 A. Yeah.
- 33 Q. Yeah. Did they have a funeral?
- 34 A. No.

- 1 Q. Did you see her get buried or you just know that she was?
- 2 A. I was there when she got buried.
- 3 Q. Yeah.
- 4 A. I said goodbye to her.
- 5 Q. Yeah.
- 6 A. Rest in peace.
- 7 Q. Yeah. Is there anything else about that that you wanted to say?
- 8 A. That's all.
- 9 Q. Yeah. Peter, I was going to just ask you about how did you get out of Tokanui in the end?
- 10 A. I talked to the superintendent and the social worker.
- 11 Q. Yeah?
- 12 A. Got me out of there.
- 13 Q. Yeah. Were you about -- were you around age 24, does that sound about right when you  
14 got out?
- 15 A. Yeah.
- 16 Q. And where did you go from there?
- 17 A. To Tauranga. I got out of there as well. That place no good for me down there.
- 18 Q. How did you feel when you got out of Tokanui?
- 19 A. Happy like anything. You're not going to come near me again.
- 20 Q. Yeah.
- 21 A. Get away you bloody mongrels. I didn't say goodbye to them either. They can go to hell.  
22 And I say to them.
- 23 Q. So you were definitely happy to get out of there?
- 24 A. Yeah.
- 25 Q. Did you go to a hostel in Tauranga?
- 26 A. Yes, I was.
- 27 Q. Run by IDEA Services?
- 28 A. Yes, I was.
- 29 Q. What was that like?
- 30 A. The hostel?
- 31 Q. Yeah.
- 32 A. Good.
- 33 Q. Yeah. And there were others living there at the same time as you?
- 34 A. Yeah.



- 1 Q. Yeah. And you liked it there?
- 2 A. Yeah.
- 3 Q. Yeah.
- 4 A. Get on with the manager.
- 5 Q. I just want to ask you briefly, Peter, what sort of like long-term impact has Tokanui had on  
6 you, on your life?
- 7 A. I don't know.
- 8 Q. Yeah. Do you think it's had a positive impact or a negative impact?
- 9 A. Negative.
- 10 Q. If you look back on your time there, do you think -- what do you think about it?
- 11 A. Bloody pack of bloody rubbish.
- 12 Q. Yeah.
- 13 A. Burn the bloody thing down, set it on fire. Burn the whole bloody lot.
- 14 Q. And what about now, how do you feel about it now that you're out of there?
- 15 A. I feel happy now.
- 16 Q. Yeah?
- 17 A. I got out of there.
- 18 Q. And what about -- have you ever received anything, we call it redress or compensation  
19 from the Government or anybody for your time there?
- 20 A. No.
- 21 Q. Is there anything you'd like to see happen about Tokanui?
- 22 A. Bloody burn the bloody thing and get rid of it.
- 23 Q. You're now living in this rest home here in [GRO-B] in Whangārei, how do you - what's- it  
24 like here for you?
- 25 A. Here?
- 26 Q. Yeah.
- 27 A. Good.
- 28 Q. Yeah?
- 29 A. I like it here.
- 30 Q. Yeah?
- 31 A. All my friends, all my neighbours here.
- 32 Q. Yeah. That's good. And what about the staff here, do you like the staff?
- 33 A. I like all the staff here.

- 1 Q. Oh good. How does it compare to your time at Tokanui?
- 2 A. Terrible down there.
- 3 Q. Yeah. And you feel that you're well cared for here?
- 4 A. Yeah.
- 5 Q. Yeah. That's about -- that brings me I think to the end of my questions, Peter. Is there
- 6 anything you wanted to say?
- 7 A. No.
- 8 Q. Anything else?
- 9 A. No.
- 10 Q. Yeah. Thank you so much for your time and for giving your evidence on the recording
- 11 today.
- 12 A. That's all right, you're welcome".
- 13 **MR THOMAS:** Peter, it's Michael here, can you hear me?
- 14 A. Yeah.
- 15 Q. I just wanted to -- what did you think of that?
- 16 A. Yeah.
- 17 Q. I just wanted to thank you for giving your evidence and I think you did a great job.
- 18 A. Thank you very much.
- 19 Q. No, thank you. I'll leave it over to the Commissioners to thank you as well, but I hope to
- 20 see you again in the future.
- 21 A. Okay then.
- 22 Q. Thanks Peter.
- 23 A. Thank you too.
- 24 **COMMISSIONER STEENSON:** Hello Peter, I'm Julia, one of the Commissioners. It's nice to
- 25 meet you.
- 26 A. How are you?
- 27 Q. I'm good thank you. It's been so important for us to hear you speak about your life today,
- 28 Peter, thank you so much. You've helped us understand what it was --
- 29 A. Thank you very much too.
- 30 Q. Yeah, you've helped us understand what it was like for you being at Tokanui for 20 years
- 31 from the age of five?
- 32 A. Yeah, the fuck'n murderers down there.
- 33 Q. Mmm, how it was like a prison and all the things that happened there.
- 34 A. Prisoner, the fuck'n murderers down there.

- 1 **Q.** I want to say that I absolutely admire you for your strength, Peter.
- 2 **A.** Yeah.
- 3 **Q.** Admire you.
- 4 **A.** I'm glad I got out of there.
- 5 **Q.** And I wish you all the best.
- 6 **A.** Bloody [Inaudible].
- 7 **Q.** I wish you all the best, I'm glad that you're in a place you're happy now and on behalf of the  
8 Commission --
- 9 **A.** Yeah.
- 10 **Q.** -- thank you so much.
- 11 **A.** Yeah, that's all right, thank you.
- 12 **Q.** Thank you, take care, bye-bye.
- 13 **A.** Thank you so much.
- 14 **CHAIR:** Goodbye Peter. We'll take a break now. How long would you like?
- 15 **MR THOMAS:** Thanks Madam Chair. If we could come back at, shall we take 15 minutes?
- 16 **CHAIR:** Come back at quarter past 3?
- 17 **MR THOMAS:** Thank you.
- 18 **CHAIR:** All right, thank you.
- 19 **Adjournment from 3.02 pm to 3.20 pm**