

**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

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

INDEX

ROSS CLARK – video	192
DR OLIVE JEAN WEBB	
Questioning by Ms Basire	195
Questioning by Commissioners	218
ALISON ADAMS - video	
Questioning by Ms Basire	226
Questioning by Commissioners	241
PETER KEOGHAN - video	
Questioning by Mr Thomas	243
CAROLINE ALICE ARRELL	
Questioning by Mr Thomas	267
Questioning by Commissioners	290

Hearing opens with karakia tīmatanga and Ka Waiata by Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei

[9.35 am]

CHAIR: Nau mai piki mai ki tēnei hui, i tēnei rā. Tēnei te mihi, tēnei te mihi, tēnei te mihi ki a koutou katoa. Good morning Ms Thomas.

MS THOMAS: Tēnā koutou katoa. This morning, Madam Chair, we are starting with the first witness, Mr Ross Clark, who you can see on the screen and is able to hear us. If any of the Commissioners would like to say good morning he can hear that.

CHAIR: Good morning, Ross. Very nice to see you.

A. Lovely to see you too.

Q. Thank you so much for coming today, we're really looking forward to watching you on the video, so we can't wait to hear what you're going to tell us.

A. Right.

Q. Okay, so you just sit there and we can all watch what you're going to say, thank you.

MS THOMAS: Thank you, if we could play the pre-record video for Mr Clark.

ROSS CLARK

[Video played]

A. My name is Ross Clark and I'm 84, but when I went to Kimberley I went at the age of 19. That was young, yes. See my eyesight wasn't so bad down there. Since I've come up here it's got worse.

FEMALE SPEAKER: Yeah, and how did you end up going to Kimberley?

A. Yeah, well, my mother, it was her wishes to go down there, she said to make friends with other people. So two things were done to me, and I don't like that sort of thing.

Q. Two things at Kimberley that were done to you?

A. And they really upset me and that's really why I think, well I'm better off in a place like this, not in an institution. Never go back there again, that's for sure.

(Abuse at the bathing sheds at Kimberley.)

And then the day, that day that I was at the male staff quarters, they said "Ross, you can go home now, knock off from work." But now that's where it started. I went from the male staff quarters, I was going home that day, and somebody approached me from behind. I was actually -- there was a guy and he took me. There were two of them and they pushed me and I didn't walk out the steps. They said, "and we'll do it ourselves", and they pushed me into the swimming baths, into the, oh what do you call it? The bathing sheds. And one -- oh how awful.

1 And they said, "Were you sore?" Was I what. And I said -- and I got back to the
2 villa, the staff said, "Are you all right?" I said, "No, I'm not, I'm very sore. What one of the
3 guys did to me." "Where, at the bathing sheds at Kimberley?" "Yes." He took me in there.
4 I told him to leave my clothes alone and he wouldn't listen. They pulled my pants down
5 and shoved the bathing shed hose up my bottom. It hurt. Gosh. Yes, so there was no staff
6 around at that time. I know his name too. He was a patient in villa two. And his name was
7 GRO-B – he did that.

8 (What happened after the sexual assault at the bathing sheds?)

9 But I got back to the villa, a man in the villa said, "Well Ross, if you're not feeling
10 so good you can get undressed and go to bed, I think, if you don't feel well. People doing
11 these things, we don't like that here. Did you tell him that you don't like it?" "I told him."
12 He was a patient from villa two, as I was then. "I don't know, it's not your fault." There
13 was no staff around. They're not there to see what's going on.

14 **Q.** Yeah. And so what happened when you told the staff what happened to you?

15 **A.** Well, he went mad, the staff went mad. They didn't go mad at me but they went mad at the
16 guy that did that. And of course, they sent me to Palmerston North Hospital, because way
17 back they found a piece of metal off the hose that he put in my bottom, right in my bottom.
18 They said, "You were lucky it didn't go right inside you. It would have really -- you would
19 have been dead."

20 So they found a piece of metal, they said that the metal should not have been inside
21 there. I can't understand why he would do a silly thing on me and he couldn't understand
22 either. So they gave me an operation at Palmerston North Hospital and they found that
23 there was metal inside me. Gosh.

24 (How did you feel after the operation?)

25 No, I wasn't very good after the operation, I had to rest for a long time, until I got
26 rid of what was inside me. And that are the only two incidents that I had down there. No
27 others.

28 **Q.** Yeah.

29 **THOMAS:** Ross, this is Thomas.

30 **A.** Yeah.

31 **Q.** Ross.

32 **A.** Yeah.

33 **Q.** About the porridge, you've eaten porridge for breakfast, do you remember that?

1 A. Oh yeah, that part.

2 (Porridge with dead flies in it, porridge with soap powder in it.)

3 There was a man on the staff, well, he wasn't on the staff, he was in the kitchen, h e
4 was a kitchen-hand man, and he said Ross -- yes, I remember eating the porridge, but he
5 said some guy that was sitting on the table with me said he was going to lift up the plate
6 and throw it at me. "All the porridge would have gone all over you, Ross." And one of the
7 staff was there and he saw that and he said, "How dare you do that to Ross. Look, you've
8 really upset him."

9 (What were the staff like at Kimberley?)

10 Yeah, the staff did talk to me, but they said, "They shouldn't be like that, these
11 people that come into an institution. You people should be left alone." I don't know.

12 **FEMALE SPEAKER:** How long do you think you stayed at Kimberley for, Ross?

13 A. I stayed there for about 16 years, about 23 years ago.

14 (Leaving Kimberley.)

15 I was pleased in a way, but there's one thing I left behind, you know, I left a
16 raincoat, I left my black shoes and I had two boxes of View-Master reels and you know
17 I never got them back. And yet my brother from Nelson has been inquiring about them.
18 "I wonder where they'd be, Ross, they're probably in IDEA Services in Palmerston North."
19 Oh, wherever they took them.

20 **Q.** So you never got your things back when you left?

21 A. I never got them back. I thought they would have - well-, they probably don't know where
22 I live, do they – [GRO-B]. A lady brought me up from my villa, Ngaire Thompson, and
23 that was to go to Whanganui for a holiday for a month. Well, when the four weeks was up,
24 Tom Armstrong, he was an administrator and he said to her, "I don't know what Ross wants
25 to do, whether he wants to go back", but I said, "No, I would like to stay, I don't want to go
26 back." She said, "Is there any reason why?" And I said, "I don't like the place." So I don't
27 know whether the staff liked it too well in villa two, I couldn't care less. It's my decision,
28 nothing to do with them.

29 **Q.** So then where did you start living after that?

30 A. Well, I went to, I was living at [GRO-B] for seven years and they had six people, but
31 they've all passed on, they're all gone, all the clients that were in there. Three guys and two
32 girls passed on. And here am I still going on. And that's why I said five are gone and just
33 left Ross just here.

1 And then I went to -- there were four residential home units and I went -- first of all
2 there was Treadwell Park Hostel, I was in the hostel before going to the residential home
3 unit. And Treadwell Park was an IHC hostel, and I couldn't tell you how many were there,
4 but oh some naughty people.

5 ("I did not make a complaint to the Police about what happened to me at Kimberley.
6 I did not make a claim to ACC or ask for compensation from the Government. I think an
7 apology from the Government is important".)

8 **CHAIR:** Thank you, Ross, we're very interested to watch that. I'm going to hand you over now to
9 our Commissioner Paul Gibson who's going to speak to you.

10 **COMMISSIONER GIBSON:** Thanks, Ross, you're a real survivor to be here today after all
11 those years in Kimberley, so many places. We really appreciate that you've shared your
12 story with us and it's going to make a difference for people in the future, I think. So thank
13 you for the gift you've given to us, it's been great to listen to you, thanks.

14 **CHAIR:** And thank you also to the supporters who have been there with Ross helping him, I
15 believe Allison Campbell is there and a PASAT [Personal Advocacy and Safeguarding
16 Adults Trust] navigator. So thank you to those who have supported in giving his evidence,
17 much appreciated, thank you.

18 So I think that evidence now ended, we're going to take a very short break while we
19 prepare for the next witness, is that right?

20 **MS THOMAS:** That's correct.

21 **CHAIR:** Goodbye, Ross.

22 A. Goodbye.

23 **CHAIR:** We're just going to take a few moments just while the evidence for the next
24 witness -- the setting for the next witness is prepared and we'll come back shortly, thank
25 you.

26 **Adjournment from 9.52 am to 9.58 am**