

**ABUSE IN CARE ROYAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY
FOSTER CARE 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)
Ali'imua Sandra Alofivae
Dr Anaru Erueti

Counsel: Mr Simon Mount QC, Ms Kerryn Beaton QC, Dr Allan Cooke
and Ms Aroha Fletcher for the Royal Commission
Ms Rachael Schmidt-McCleave, Ms Julia White and
Mr Max Clarke-Parker for the Crown

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

Date: 13 June 2022

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

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10 **CHAIR:** Kia ora Dr Cooke. Thank you. I now invite counsel for the Crown. Morning
 11 Ms Schmidt-McCleave.

12 **OPENING SUBMISSIONS BY THE CROWN**

13 **MS SCHMIDT-McCLEAVE:** Mōrena, kei aku nui, kei aku rahi, tēnā koutou katoa. Ko te mihi
 14 tuatahi ki te mana whenua o tēnei rohe, Ngāti Whātua ki Ōrākei, tēnā koutou. Ki ngā
 15 Kaikōmihana, tēnā koutou. Ki ngā mōrehu e tū kaha ana ki te kōrero, kei te mihi, kei te
 16 mihi, kei te mihi. Ko Ms Schmidt-McCleave tōku ingoa. Ko au te roia mō te Karauna.

17 To the Commissioners thank you. I salute you. To the survivors that stand strong to
 18 speak, I acknowledge you. I am the lawyer for the Crown. Thank you, Commissioners, for
 19 the opportunity to present this opening statement for the Crown. I would like to begin by
 20 recognising the courage and strength of the survivors who will be giving their kōrero to this
 21 hearing in the coming days. It is a profound step to come to this public place and retell your
 22 painful life stories. Your voices throughout this Inquiry and in this hearing are the very
 23 heart of the Commission's work. Without you, it cannot succeed, and the Crown thanks you
 24 for your bravery in coming forward.

25 The Crown also acknowledges your supporters, whānau and others who are
 26 watching or following this hearing. The Crown also wishes to acknowledge the mana of the
 27 technical and medical witnesses who will often be sharing what is a lifetime of work
 28 experience and expertise, including evidence on attachment and the impacts of
 29 disconnection from family and whānau, trauma, Te Ao Māori, Child Welfare and Social
 30 Welfare practises. These are valuable voices to which the Crown will also be listening
 31 closely.

32 The Crown particularly looks forward to the panels of both survivors and specialist
 33 advisors who will offer their suggestions on how the current foster care system needs to
 34 change and who will address contemporary issues.

