

**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

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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

INDEX

MR EY – video	296
SIDNEY NEILSON AND CHERENE NEILSON-HORNBLow	
Questioning by Ms Spelman	312
Questioning by Commissioners	331
CATHERINE MARGARET HICKEY	
Questioning by Ms Cuthill	336
Questioning by Commissioners	352
ALISON PASCOE	
Questioning by Ms Clark	358
Questioning by Commissioners	383

17 **Adjournment from 3.24 pm to 3.40 pm**

18 **COMMISSIONER GIBSON:** Ms Clark.

19 **MS CLARK:** Good afternoon, Commissioners and Madam Chair, my name is Ms Clark and just
20 before I introduce our next survivor witness we're going to play a short video about
21 Kingseat Hospital.

22 **CHAIR:** I think our sound's gone.

23 **[Technical difficulties]**

24 **Adjournment from 3.44 pm to 3.54 pm**

25 **COMMISSIONER GIBSON:** Ms Clark.

26 **MS CLARK:** Just before I introduce our next witness Alison Pascoe, we're going to watch a
27 video, a scene setting video about Kingseat Hospital and Carrington Hospital.

28 **[Video played]**

29 **ALISON PASCOE**

30 **MS CLARK:** Thank you, our next witness is survivor Alison Pascoe, and Alison's pre-recorded
31 evidence is a video which is just over an hour long. Alison is appearing today via video
32 link from her home and she is supported by Gemma Claire, who is a support person from
33 PASAT (Personal Advocacy and Safeguarding Adults Trust), and she's also supported
34 today by Rose Melis, who is from the Royal Commission.

1 Alison Pascoe was born in 1942 and when she was three years old she got
2 chickenpox which led to swelling on her brain. She was sent to Lillian Smith's Sunshine
3 Health Farm a number of times and then at eight years old, as a child, she was committed
4 by her family to Kingseat Hospital.

5 At about 12 years old she was transferred to Carrington Hospital and Alison spent
6 more than four decades in the psychiatric institutions.

7 It is important to her to note to the Royal Commission that Alison has never had a
8 mental illness.

9 So Alison, if you can see me and hear me okay now, we're now going to watch your
10 video.

11 A. Yes. Can you tell them that I've never had an intellectual disability either.

12 Q. That's right, so Alison has never had a mental illness, nor has she had an intellectual
13 disability.

14 A. I'm a medical case because of what happened to me, my body has been absolutely, very
15 badly damaged with drugs, ECT and ill-treatment by nursing staff and other patients.

16 Q. Thank you, Alison. Are you okay if we watch your video now and then we'll talk to you
17 again?

18 A. That's fine by me.

19 **COMMISSIONER GIBSON:** It's great to have you here talking to us today, Alison. We
20 welcome you here and we look forward to your video. Thank you.

21 **[Video played]**

22 Q. "So we're here today on 19 May 2022 pre-recording Alison Pascoe's evidence for the Royal
23 Commission for the hearing in July.

24 Do you solemnly, sincerely and truly declare and affirm that the evidence you give
25 to the Royal Commission today will be the truth?

26 A. And nothing but the truth but help me God, yes.

27 Q. Thank you. Can you tell us what happened when you were eight years old?

28 A. My father took me to Kingseat through a pack of lies.

29 Q. And how long did you spend at Kingseat?

30 A. Five years and I hated every minute of it, it was horrible.

31 Q. Where did you go after Kingseat?

32 A. I went to Auckland Mental Hospital, that was on 10 May, fifth month 1955.

33 Q. Have you ever actually had a mental illness?

34 A. No, certainly not.

- 1 **Q.** Do you know why you were committed to Kingseat when you were a child?
- 2 **A.** Because of the behaviour problems that I developed after the severe form of chickenpox.
- 3 **Q.** Can you tell us about the violence from your father?
- 4 **A.** My father used to kick me up the rear end, he used to bash me until I was senseless, knock
5 me out, he used the buckle end of the strap to hit me over the face, cut my face open, hit me
6 over the ears and I'd be, --hit me so severely I couldn't hear right for a week, and get a piece
7 of wood and hit me over the head and cut my head open.
- 8 I'd be black and blue, I'd be so badly injured I couldn't even walk, because he went
9 into such a state he didn't know what he was doing, he was like a lunatic. Sort of insanity
10 took over.
- 11 "(Narrator) After having chickenpox which led to swelling on her brain Alison was
12 sent to Lillian Smith's Sunshine Health Farm. She later went back to Lillian's for short
13 stays when she was a teenager, when she needed a break from Carrington Hospital."
- 14 **Q.** What was Lillian Smith's Sunshine Health Farm?
- 15 **A.** It was a holiday place for undernourished children.
- 16 **Q.** How old were you when you went there?
- 17 **A.** About four, I suppose.
- 18 **Q.** How many kids were in there?
- 19 **A.** About 300, might have been more.
- 20 **Q.** Can you tell us about some of the work that you did at Lillian's?
- 21 **A.** Had to work outside in the stifling hot sun with a hoe with a long wooden handle, and the
22 ground would be absolutely rock hard.
- 23 **Q.** What were you wearing when you used to work at Lillian's?
- 24 **A.** Nothing.
- 25 **Q.** And why was that?
- 26 **A.** She didn't believe in clothes, she believed in sunshine and fresh air.
- 27 **Q.** Can you tell us about the time that you had a bath outside?
- 28 **A.** She had hot water in it and she poured disinfectant into it, Jeyes Fluid, and she put two little
29 boys in it and made me get in with them and she ducked our heads under the water for a
30 few minutes, I thought I was going to drown so I pulled the plug out like that and let the
31 water drain out, saved their lives as well as my own. I felt proud of what I'd done.
- 32 **Q.** How old were you?
- 33 **A.** I was about six I suppose.

1 "(Narrator) On one occasion Lillian Smith's stepdaughter pushed her into a ditch
2 and assaulted her. Mr McRobbie, a neighbour from a nearby farm, intervened."

3 **Q.** Can you also tell us about the time with Lillian's stepdaughter?

4 **A.** I had a row with her or something and she dragged me off the property across a loose
5 gravel road to this ditch, it was about 6 feet deep, and it was full of filthy water draining off
6 from the cow paddock, you know, manure and urine and that, it was disgusting, and it smelt
7 terrible, and she took bread off me with butter on it and molasses and threw it into the dirty
8 water. Mr McRobbie saw her, and he said -- GR0-B - "What the hell do you think you're
9 doing?" He said, "You let go of her or else I'll call the Police." She let go like a shot-

10 She kicked me in the back, must have been about 12 times, nonstop. When I got
11 back to the farm I could hardly walk. She said to -me, - I was told to apologise -for - to- her
12 for giving me the hiding, to thank her for it.

13 **Q.** Who said that to you?

14 **A.** I think it was Lillian Smith, and I said, "No, I won't." I said, "I don't like abuse, I condemn
15 it." I said, "No, I won't and you can't make me." And that's what helped give me serious
16 back problems because of what that bitch did to me kicking me in the back. That's
17 dangerous, you know?

18 **Q.** Did you get medical help after that?

19 **A.** No. She didn't believe in doctors. She wouldn't go to them.

20 "(Narrator) When Alison was eight years old her parents picked her up from Lillian
21 Smith's Sunshine Health Farm and took her home. They told her she was going to boarding
22 school."

23 My father came and picked me up on the Thursday, took me home to Mt Albert and
24 I saw mum packing these clothes in the dining room and I had a look at them and I said,
25 "Those are my clothes, where am I going?" She said, "You're going to Aunty Pat's for a
26 week's holiday." Then Dad said on the day, "You're going to a girl's boarding school for
27 your education." They just said that to trick me to get me into Kingseat. It was just a dirty
28 trick.

29 **Q.** What happened when you arrived at Kingseat?

30 **A.** I tried to run away, and Dad held me between his legs, both his legs, in the medical
31 superintendent's office while they were signing the documents of committal. I saw a lot of
32 signatures on them.

33 **Q.** Once he had signed those committal papers, where did they take you?

- 1 A. F27.
- 2 Q. And what was F27?
- 3 A. Women's ward, women's ward, it was a locked ward, it was horrible. They wouldn't let me
4 go to school like the other children went.
- 5 Q. Was there any education at Kingseat?
- 6 A. [Shakes head].
- 7 Q. How old were the other patients around you?
- 8 A. Adults, married women with children, some of them are grandmothers, they were young,
9 some of them were young, not all of them. There was a mixture, but there was no teenagers
10 there. Just a boring place, there was nothing to do. I used to get upset and they'd drag me
11 by the hair of the head down the corridor and throw me into a locked room.
- 12 Q. Did you --
- 13 A. And leave me there for the day.
- 14 Q. Did your parents visit you much while you were there?
- 15 A. Once a fortnight.
- 16 Q. How did you feel --
- 17 A. First of all they were coming once a week and the medical superintendent Dr Crawshaw
18 told them to come once a fortnight, because coming once a week was too much,-- it wasn't
19 too much, I just loved to see them -and every time they came- I pestered the life out of them
20 to get me out of that place and take me home. Dad said, "They won't let you come home
21 until you're better." I said, "There's nothing mentally wrong with me, Dad." He said,
22 "They'll tell us when you're ready." I said, "They'll never tell you." And that's the way they
23 worked in those places.
- 24 I think that's terrible. I was placed under the Lunatic Act. I'm no lunatic.
- 25 Q. What kind of medication were you on at Kingseat?
- 26 A. Paraldehyde, Largactil, (inaudible).
- 27 Q. When they gave you those drugs what effect did it have?
- 28 A. Knocked me right out.
- 29 Q. Do you know why they were medicating you?
- 30 A. No.
- 31 "(Narrator) As a child at Kingseat Hospital, Alison was often put into seclusion
32 rooms."
- 33 Q. How old were you when you were first put into seclusion?
- 34 A. Eight.

- 1 **Q.** Can you tell us what the seclusion rooms were like?
- 2 **A.** They just had wooden floors, just stared at four walls, cream-coloured walls and white-
- 3 coloured walls, and there was a shutter locked over the window. Staff had the key to open
- 4 it.
- 5 **Q.** How long would you be put in seclusion?
- 6 **A.** A day. Sometimes longer.
- 7 **Q.** How often were you in there?
- 8 **A.** Quite often because I played up. Some of the staff were picking on me, just because I
- 9 threw it back they locked me up. GR0-B --tried to suffocate me twice, once in
- 10 bedclothes sitting on my face to suffocate me, the second time she tried to suffocate me on
- 11 a horsehair mattress, another time she dragged me to the bath with no clothes on and had a
- 12 bath full of water and she dumped me in it, she got two staff nurses to help her dump me in
- 13 it and pushed me down under and nearly drowned me.
- 14 She was doing this a bit too often and one Sunday my parents came and Dad caught
- 15 her in the act and just let her have it, her and the staff nurses, two of them. And Dad said
- 16 just to my mother, "Would you go up to the main building to see if Dr Crawshaw and
- 17 Matron Alison is on", the head matron, and the superintendent. She walked up there and
- 18 sure enough they were on duty, which is good, Mum told them what her and Dad had
- 19 witnessed. They came down like a shot in the hospital car, black car - GR0-B - ---and the
- 20 two staff nurses got chucked out that very Sunday afternoon.
- 21 I was glad to see the back of them, they were nasty. They really wanted to kill me.
- 22 I used to bang on the door, kick it, urinate on the floor, poo on the floor, rub it all over the
- 23 walls.
- 24 **Q.** How did you feel when you were in there?
- 25 **A.** I hated it. I used to get really upset and demand to be taken out, "Let me out, let me out, let
- 26 me out, please let me out of here." GR0-B -- used to come in with my meals and she
- 27 used to throw them in my face, throw them in my face, same with breakfast, dinner, and
- 28 tea, and walk out.
- 29 "(Narrator) One of the reasons Alison was put into seclusion was for looking after
- 30 stray kittens at Kingseat."
- 31 **Q.** What were you doing with the kittens?
- 32 **A.** Looking after them, feeding them.

- 1 **Q.** Where had they come from?
- 2 **A.** One of the patients dumped them at villa 14, three of them, and I took them upstairs in a
3 box to my bedroom and put them in a warm area to look after them.
- 4 **Q.** Did the staff like that?
- 5 **A.** No.
- 6 **Q.** What did the staff do?
- 7 **A.** GR0-B -- take me to villa 21 for three weeks, they would. Which I thought was
8 ridiculously stupid.
- 9 **Q.** So how long were you in seclusion for that time?
- 10 **A.** Quite a while, not all that long.
- 11 **Q.** When you were in a seclusion room at Kingseat, what kind of clothing were you wearing?
- 12 **A.** Stitched dresses, naked, nothing on.
- 13 "(Narrator) Alison was often physically abused at Kingseat by staff members."
- 14 **A.** GR0-B -- used to get me by the hair of the head and pull it out and she'd bash my
15 head into the wall. She'd kick me, she'd get the nurses to strip me naked and hold me
16 upside down, hit me with shoes in the seclusion room, the shoes, take them off their own
17 feet and hit me.
- 18 **Q.** How often were you physically assaulted at Kingseat?
- 19 **A.** On a regular basis.
- 20 **Q.** Who used to physically assault you?
- 21 **A.** GR0-B -- those two staff nurses - GR0-B - -- it was their surname -- GR0-B.
- 22 **Q.** What were they known as?
- 23 **A.** They were horrible. They used to put me in a headlock and - GR0-B - -- tried to choke
24 me to death one day with her hands, and she tried to make me eat my own faeces, she tried
25 to make me drink my own urine. That's not normal when you're working in a job like that,
26 is it? She was cuckoo up here, the patients hated her, the other patients wanted to clean her
27 up with a damn good hiding because they told me, one of them did. Do you blame them?
28 It was a criminal offence, the staff committed a lot of criminal offences against patients,
29 and even murder in those places.
- 30 I saw patients murdered with overdoses of drugs, ill-treatment. And serious
31 physical illnesses that they weren't believed when they told the staff, like the doctors or the
32 nurses, they just shrugged it off, shrugged it off their shoulders, that was just an

1 imagination on the patients' side, and it wasn't, I saw these occurrences, daily and it really
2 upset me.

3 I could never forgive them, I could never forgive what they did. I want to see them
4 brought to justice and severely punished for it.

5 **Q.** What about the time with the dirty toilet brush?

6 **A.** I've never forgotten that. She said, "I'll teach you to swear at me" and she scrubbed my
7 mouth out with this toilet brush as hard as she could and it had human faeces on it, that
8 came from a toilet, and disinfectant Jeyes Fluid and then she got the cake of soap and
9 rubbed it all in my mouth, and I got a septic mouth and I couldn't eat for over a month. It
10 was terrible. So painful.

11 And I've even had staff push my head down the toilet, an unflushed toilet with
12 human faeces in it and pushed my head and face into the toilet and then flush the toilet in
13 my face.

14 **Q.** Was there anyone who you could talk to about what was happening?

15 **A.** No, no.

16 **Q.** Was there anyone you trusted?

17 **A.** No. Wouldn't have been believed anyway. So I just didn't bother. I tried to tell Mum and
18 Dad and they just wouldn't believe me. They said, "This is a hospital, that doesn't go on."

19 "(Narrator) Staff didn't like that Alison was looking after pet cats at Kingseat.
20 Alison fought them when they came one day to take her cats and drown them."

21 **Q.** Did - GR0-B - -- talk to you about you having cats?

22 **A.** She didn't like it.

23 **Q.** What did she say to you?

24 **A.** "I'm going to get rid of them." I said, "Not on my watch you're not, you bitch," I says.
25 I says, "You'll get the hiding of your life if you touch my cats, you bloody rotten spiteful
26 cow."

27 **Q.** What happened to those cats?

28 **A.** Well, they came by surprise one day, these male staff, and they had potato sacks and they
29 had some pillow slips and they put the mother cat in it with the kittens, she had about eight,
30 I think, all like herself smokey grey, and the cat just got her paw and went like that with the
31 pillow slip to escape and the male nurse grabbed her and the other one grabbed the kittens
32 and I booted the two male staff up the backside with my foot and I pushed them, I pushed

1 them over and smacked them in the face. I could smack them and I said, "I'll bite you to go
2 with it."

3 **Q.** What did they do to the cats?

4 **A.** They were out to drown them.

5 **Q.** Can you explain what happened when they drowned them?

6 **A.** I said to the mother cat, "You just clear off down to the bush" and the kittens went, they
7 just tore off for their lives, I had two sets of smoky grey cats, the second,-- the third cat I
8 had was the same colour, she didn't escape, they got her.

9 **Q.** What did they do to her?

10 **A.** Threw her into a potato sack, and she was crying, fighting for her life, and her six kittens to
11 go with it, and they tied the sack up and took them down to the creek and drowned them.
12 The cats didn't deserve it.

13 **Q.** How did you feel?

14 **A.** I was very angry, I wanted to kill them, I wanted to kill them, the staff for doing it.

15 "(Narrator) Alison witnessed discrimination including racism at Kingseat. She
16 confronted the staff about it when she was about nine or 10 years old."

17 They didn't like people with disabilities, they didn't like Islanders or Māoris, or
18 other races, they were very racist. I went for them over that. I know what I did.

19 **Q.** What did you do?

20 **A.** I went and got some poo out of the toilet and some toilet paper around rubbed it in their
21 faces, the nursing staff's faces, and I said, "Just take that," I said, "I think you're just shits
22 yourselves throwing racism at these patients here." I said, "They can't help the colour of
23 their skin. They can't help being brown," I said, "They can't help being who they are, what
24 right have you got to treat them the way you are?" And I just let them have it with this poo
25 out of the toilet.

26 **Q.** What kinds of things had they been saying?

27 **A.** Eh?

28 **Q.** What kinds of things had they been saying?

29 **A.** Oh, calling them black so and so, coconuts, that sort of thing. They thought it was funny,
30 I didn't. I up and smacked one of the nurses across the face as hard as I could bloody well
31 smack her. I think I gave her a blood nose.

32 "(Narrator) When she was 11 or 12 years old a male patient sexually assaulted
33 Alison."

1 I went down to the bush to pick some flowers for my room, for a vase I had, and
2 this guy with khaki overalls, and he had a red pullover on, a winey colour, I haven't
3 forgotten what he did, it was horrible. It was really horrible.

4 **Q.** What did he do?

5 **A.** He pulled down my underwear and undid his trousers and took his penis out and sexually
6 assaulted me. I hate talking about it, it was really horrible. It was frightening, I was scared
7 out of my life. He had a pocket knife, he was a huge guy, bigger than me. It took me five
8 hours to be able to tell somebody.

9 **Q.** Who did you tell?

10 **A.** GR0-B-- and then I told Matron Alison and she was very supportive over it.

11 **Q.** What did Matron Alison say to you?

12 **A.** She made arrangements for the guy to be brought up to 21 with his fellow patients from his
13 villa and I pointed him out to them and he owned up to doing it.

14 **Q.** Were the Police there?

15 **A.** No.

16 **Q.** Did anyone call the Police?

17 **A.** No.

18 **Q.** Did you want the Police to come?

19 **A.** Yes. But in those days patients had no rights.

20 **Q.** When that happened did anybody contact your parents?

21 **A.** I had to tell them when they came to visit me.

22 **Q.** How much longer afterwards was that?

23 **A.** About a week. They said, "We can't believe it." I said, "If you don't believe me, you ask
24 Matron Alison, she'll tell you." I got transferred to Auckland Mental Hospital a month or
25 two later.

26 "(Narrator) After the male patient sexually assaulted her, Alison was transferred to
27 Carrington Hospital (Auckland Mental Hospital) at the age of 12 years old."

28 **Q.** Can you tell us about the day that you arrived at Carrington?

29 **A.** Sister Coffey, she's Matron Coffey, she used to be Sister Coffey and in charge of F145, F27
30 at Kingseat, and she said, "Do you remember me, Alison?" I said, "Yes, you're Sister
31 Coffey." And she said, "What a wonderful memory you've got." She said, "I'm working
32 here as matron." I said, "It's good to see you again", and she was very pleased.

1 My mother really liked Matron Coffey, she really liked her. I liked her too, she was
2 nice. They weren't all bad in that place.

3 **Q.** Was Auckland Mental Hospital any better than Kingseat?

4 **A.** No.

5 **Q.** Did you ever think that you were going to get out?

6 **A.** I used to think I'd never get out.

7 **Q.** At Carrington did you have jobs to do on the ward?

8 **A.** Yes, I used to like it too.

9 **Q.** What kinds of things did you do?

10 **A.** Tidying up the linen room, putting the linen away, making beds, using the vacuum cleaner,
11 dusting, that sort of thing. I was allowed to go to a shop but I had to get permission, I had
12 to tell the staff where I was going. First of all I had to sign a notebook.

13 **Q.** Can you tell us about going to the IHC school when you were about 15?

14 **A.** It was a nice school, the teachers were great.

15 **Q.** What kind of things did you learn at that school?

16 **A.** I learned to tell the time, I learned to read, write. I learned to socialise, I made some great
17 friends there. There was about 70 of us that went to the school, just looked like an old-
18 fashioned family home on the outside, it was a lovely place.

19 **Q.** How did you feel about going to school?

20 **A.** I used to love it, because I'd get away from Carrington, and away from arguments and that
21 and people the fighting, which I didn't like.

22 **Q.** When you were at Carrington, how much contact did you have with your parents?

23 **A.** They used to write me letters.

24 **Q.** Did you write them letters?

25 **A.** Yeah, they said they weren't getting them, some of them.

26 **Q.** Why do you think that was?

27 **A.** I don't know. Mum used to tell me off. I said, "Don't take it out on me, I said they're
28 probably" -- I said, "They read them here," and I said, "if they don't like what you put,
29 they'll screw them up and throw them in the rubbish bin," which they did. If you wrote a
30 letter you weren't allowed to seal the flap on the envelope, you had to tuck it inside and put
31 it in the red post box in the ward and the matron would come around every morning at half
32 past seven to collect the mail from this box in the ward, and anything they didn't like what
33 you put, they'd throw it in the rubbish bin, you never saw it.

34 **Q.** When you were at Carrington, what kind of injections were you getting?

- 1 A. Fluphenazine, I was on them for 14 years.
- 2 Q. What other types of injections?
- 3 A. Largactil.
- 4 Q. What did these drugs do to you?
- 5 A. Made me very, very sick, nearly died.
- 6 Q. Did they explain why they were administering these injections?
- 7 A. No.
- 8 Q. How often were they injecting you?
- 9 A. As often as they thought fit.
- 10 Q. Could you go out into the sun when you were on this medication?
- 11 A. Not Largactil you couldn't.
- 12 Q. What other types of side effects did those drugs have?
- 13 A. Terrible. You'd be very, very restless, you'd stare up to the ceiling.
- 14 Q. How did they used to inject you?
- 15 A. In the buttocks, and in the arms, with blunt needles, I had sore arms for months afterwards.
- 16 Q. Did they explain why they were injecting you?
- 17 A. No. They were very fond of dishing these drugs out for punishment, because I felt too ill to
- 18 go down to the dining room for tea one night after injections. On that particular night
- 19 I took this massive epileptic seizure and nearly died. What do you think of that? And I'd
- 20 just been taken out of seclusion with a very badly injured left hip after being thrown in the
- 21 door frame by -- GR0-B --, it was just a sheer temper all because I told her I wanted to
- 22 come off Largactil because it was just making me sick, and she went into this awful rage
- 23 and she yelled her head off as loud as she could yell at me and she rushed, --and she broke
- 24 the bones in my left foot, broke them in my ankle, see.
- 25 "(Narrator) One of the staff members who used to abuse Alison said she could have
- 26 killed her with a lethal injection."
- 27 She threatened me up in the day room in front of other patients, she said, "Alison
- 28 Pascoe, I can quite easily arrange for your death," she said, "all I need to do is go down to
- 29 the office, get on the phone and ring up for reinforcements and we'll give you a lethal
- 30 injection to end your life." I said, "Don't even think about it," I said, "That's a wicked evil
- 31 thing to do and you can't get away with murdering another person."
- 32 Q. Do you remember the first time that you received shock treatment?
- 33 A. [Nods].

- 1 **Q.** Can you tell us about that?
- 2 **A.** It's horrible.
- 3 **Q.** What happened?
- 4 **A.** GR0-B-- came out and said, "We're going to give you have some shock treatment." It
5 was drug--related depression, and I didn't have any say over refusing it because I was
6 committed, and they're trying to make out I'm a schizophrenic, I'm not. It was horrible, it
7 caused pain all over my whole body, couldn't remember anybody, didn't know where I was,
8 it was awful, it did me more harm than any good. My father went for them over that.
- 9 **Q.** How often did you receive ECT at Carrington?
- 10 **A.** Several weeks, I think. They stopped giving it to me in the finish. I said, "I don't want any
11 more, I don't want any more, it's horrible." When I woke up I found myself sitting in a
12 chair being presented with sandwiches, toasted cheese sandwiches and a nice cup of tea.
13 I said, "I haven't had shock treatment." They said, "Yes, you have." I lifted up my sleeve
14 and there was a plaster over the injection site. I had,-- they said, "You've had it." I said,
15 "Have I?" They said, "Yes."
- 16 **Q.** What did it feel like in the weeks after you'd had shock treatment?
- 17 **A.** It was horrible, I had dreadful chronic pain all over my whole body, I couldn't remember
18 anything for a week, didn't know where I was, didn't know who I was. It was terrible.
- 19 **Q.** Did any of the staff at Carrington talk about a potential lobotomy being performed on you?
- 20 **A.** They mentioned it to my father to sign some papers, and he said, "I'm not signing those
21 papers, you can go to bloody hell."
- 22 **Q.** Do you know why they wanted to give you have a lobotomy?
- 23 **A.** No, I don't. They used to give it to other patients and some of them were made from bad to
24 worse, some of them were made complete vegetables. They did more harm than good, they
25 didn't need it, they were eventually made to stop performing lobotomies on patients. That
26 was back in the late 60s, I think, or early 70s.
- 27 **Q.** Now, I know that you wanted to talk today about what happened with the knitting needle
28 when you were hallucinating?
- 29 **A.** Yes.
- 30 **Q.** So how old were you when the incident happened with the knitting needle?
- 31 **A.** 57.
- 32 **Q.** What happened?

1 A. After a hysterectomy I went and got a knitting needle out of someone else's drawer and I
2 went and tore at it (inaudible), they found out that I had caused a severe rupture, severe
3 perforation, the problem was behind the bowel, (inaudible) the large bowel, swelling on the
4 left side of the abdomen, vaginal bleeding, a very serious infection, blood in the urine, they
5 found out I had an ovarian cyst, they wouldn't do anything about it. They refused to send
6 me back to National Women's and the specialist came out and examined me and found
7 severe damage and said I was to be readmitted back to National Women's for him to
8 operate on me. They squashed his arrangements, and he was very angry about it and I've
9 been suffering from that day, --from that day to this, 40-something, 42 years on, nothing's
10 ever been done about it. And I got a breast condition with lumps- and I was just left to
11 suffer in absolute agony, excruciating pain. I think it's terrible.

12 Q. Mmm.

13 A. And the bosses at Carrington said they weren't going to send me back to National Women's,
14 they said they weren't going to send me back, they said it wasn't worth it, I knew what I was
15 doing, they weren't going to bother.

16 Q. So how did it come about that you did that with the knitting needle?

17 A. I was hallucinating on drugs, I was hallucinating on fluphenazine, antidepressant and
18 antipsychotic drugs, I heard one of them say, "Oh well, she knows what she did to her
19 operation, she wants to kill herself, it's her problem not ours."

20 Q. What kind of medical treatment did you need when that happened?

21 A. Mmm?

22 Q. What kind of medical treatment did you need when that happened with the knitting needle?

23 A. I needed to be re-operated on to fix up the damage.

24 Q. Did you ever have those operations?

25 A. No, no, I did not.

26 Q. So when you were at Carrington you would sometimes go home to visit your parents; is
27 that right?

28 A. They'd come and get me.

29 Q. How often was that?

30 A. Quite often.

31 Q. Can you tell us about the time that you had broken ribs?

32 A. That was Christmas 1955, my father smashed me in the rib cage and broke my ribs as well,
33 and he picked up one of mum's shoes, shook it in my face and he said, "I'll smash your

- 1 bloody face in for you." I said, "Oh no you won't, I don't deserve it." He shook the shoe in
2 my face, he has it by the toe and he said "I'll smash your so-and-so he face in for you."
- 3 **Q.** About how old were you?
- 4 **A.** 13.
- 5 **Q.** Was your mum there as well?
- 6 **A.** She told him to cut it out, after he'd punched me. She went for him over that, and he just
7 realised what he'd done, he couldn't apologise enough. Mum said, "It's too late to be sorry,
8 you've hurt her, she's bringing up blood." I said to them after five days, "I want to go back
9 to the hospital, I don't want to stay here for 10 days, you're too violent, I want to go back."
- 10 **Q.** Did you go back to Carrington?
- 11 **A.** Yes, I did.
- 12 **Q.** Did you talk to anyone about --
- 13 **A.** I told the staff.
- 14 **Q.** What did they say to you?
- 15 **A.** See the doctor, and the doctor had a look at me and sent me straight for an x-ray, found out
16 I had three broken ribs.
- 17 **Q.** Did you tell the doctor how it had happened?
- 18 **A.** Yes, I did.
- 19 **Q.** What did the doctor say?
- 20 **A.** "We're putting a stop to them taking you home because they're doing this sort of thing to
21 you." The doctor said, "There's evidence of physical abuse at your home." So they told the
22 social worker and they went out and warned them about it.
- 23 **Q.** Did anyone call the Police?
- 24 **A.** No.
- 25 **Q.** Did you have broken ribs?
- 26 **A.** Yes.
- 27 **Q.** Did you want the Police to get involved?
- 28 **A.** Yes, I did. They should have been prosecuted, they should have been arrested, and charged
29 and taken to court over it.
- 30 **Q.** And why do you think they weren't?
- 31 **A.** I don't know, because in those days, as I've mentioned before, patients had no rights.
- 32 **Q.** I'm going to ask you about being in seclusion at Carrington.
- 33 **A.** It's horrible.
- 34 **Q.** How often were you put in seclusion?

- 1 A. Quite a lot.
- 2 Q. And what does "quite a lot" mean?
- 3 A. Frequently. All because I didn't want to take medication because I'd stick up for myself
4 being blamed for things I didn't do.
- 5 Q. How many seclusion rooms were there at Carrington?
- 6 A. A lot.
- 7 Q. How many times do you think you were put --
- 8 A. Hundreds of times. They used to lock me up for talking about getting my physical health
9 fixed up, they'd lock me up for that. They'd leave instructions at the seclusion room that I
10 was to be stripped, that the shutter was to be locked over the window and the door was to
11 be locked and I was to be put in there with nothing.
- 12 Q. How would you go to the bathroom?
- 13 A. I had to do it on the floor.
- 14 Q. How did the staff react to that?
- 15 A. They'd come in and smack me over the face. And kick me about, physically take to me.
- 16 Q. Can you tell us what Park House was?
- 17 A. It was a horrible place, they had bars on all the windows upstairs and down, like a real
18 prison.
- 19 Q. What did they use Park House for?
- 20 A. If patients went across the road to use the telephone or post letters, they'd have staff posted
21 up there at lunchtime like they had the Gestapo during the Second World War watching the
22 Jews, it was that sort of set up. You'd be put to Park House for that. Because these were
23 nurse spies and they used to take all the information back - GR0-B - --and she'd be the
24 one that would dish out the punishment for the patient to the ward --charge nurse on the
25 ward.
- 26 Q. When you were in seclusion at Carrington how long would you be in there for?
- 27 A. Up to three days to a week, for writing letters to Parliament, to the MPs, to report the abuse
28 and neglect.
- 29 Q. What would you do when you were in a seclusion room?
- 30 A. Played up. Ripped up the stitched blankets, the mattress and banged on the door, called
31 them for everything, and they made sure I wasn't going to get any meals, they'd just bring a
32 jug of cold water in and they'd just come in every half an hour to give me injections to keep

1 me knocked out. They did that for a week. They brought in some meals, one day and they
2 weren't even fit for human (inaudible) so I just got the lot and threw them on the wall.

3 I wanted to get rid of myself, so I didn't have to put up with any more stuff in there
4 because I knew it was so unjust and cruel and I didn't deserve it and I shouldn't have been
5 treated like that.

6 **Q.** When you were in seclusion, could you have a shower?

7 **A.** No.

8 **Q.** Could you brush your teeth?

9 **A.** No.

10 **Q.** What kind of medication were you on when you were in seclusion?

11 **A.** Largactil, Serenace, Paraldehyde.

12 **Q.** Who would give you have that medication?

13 **A.** Staff would force it on to you, with injections, hyperdermic syringes, and they used to make
14 sure that they got the blunt needle and got the needle and blunt it by sharpening it into
15 the, --bending it like a fish-hook into the door frame of the room and, -- like that.

16 **Q.** What did it feel like to be injected with a blunt needle?

17 **A.** It was terrible, they'd get me on the bone.

18 **Q.** Would they say anything to you when they were doing that?

19 **A.** No. I think they verbally abused me and smacked me over the face.

20 **Q.** Did they tell you why they were injecting you?

21 **A.** To keep me quiet, to shut me up. You know what they used to say? "The pain's all in your
22 head." I said, "It's not."

23 "(Narrator) When Alison was about 13 years old she was blamed for the death of an
24 older patient at Carrington. Staff put her in a straitjacket and she was put into seclusion."

25 This little old lady, she used to go through these phases of tipping buckets of water
26 on the floor, tipping the bucket up, tipping it over, letting all the water run all over the
27 dining room floor and this old lady happened to be walking past and she slipped. I didn't
28 do it. I told them I didn't do it. They said, "Well, we don't believe you." And I said to
29 them, "I don't care what you believe, I didn't do it." They locked me up in ward 8, first of
30 all. They put me in a straitjacket, the next day they gave me a bath and marched me
31 upstairs to Park House.

32 **Q.** How long did they lock you up for?

33 **A.** I was in that locked ward for about four months I think, for something I did not do.

34 **Q.** How did you go to the bathroom?

1 A. It was on the floor. I used to get out of the straitjackets, I used to get out of them.

2 Q. How did you get out of them?

3 A. The hinge on the shutter was about that wide, and sticking out, and I just, my arms were
4 like that and I went up and I just pulled the thing down on my arm, down like that, pushed
5 my arm slowly up the top of the neck of the straitjacket and undid the top leather bootlace
6 and I pulled the jacket up and got the second one undone and I managed to get the thing
7 right over my head and I took it off, I screwed it up and I urinated all over it.

8 One Saturday I was calling staff for everything, and there was patients' relatives in
9 the ward visiting and they complained. And one of the staff came along and said, "You can
10 come out now, Alison Pascoe, you can get down to the bottom courtyard where the rest of
11 the lunatics are." I said, "Don't you call us lunatics, we're the not lunatics, we're people like
12 you are."

13 "(Narrator) In 1964 Alison was put into seclusion in the incontinence dormitory."

14 Q. Could you use the bathroom while you were in there?

15 A. No, they had a couple of commodes in there, but no toilet paper.

16 Q. So were there piles of faeces at night time in the incontinence dormitory?

17 A. In the commodes there were, but in the downstairs dormitory in F3 they were all piled up
18 outside the toilet door, and urine.

19 Q. So tell us why was this all piled up outside the toilet door?

20 A. Because they couldn't get in there, the door was locked and the staff wouldn't open it.

21 Q. Why weren't the staff opening it?

22 A. Because patients would go in there and block up the toilets, get the toilet rolls and shove
23 them down the toilets and block up the toilets and flood the place out.

24 Q. How did the staff react to the big piles of faeces outside?

25 A. They thought it was disgusting but I thought to myself, "You won't provide proper toilet
26 facilities so what do you expect the patients to do? It's not their fault," I said to them. And
27 they didn't like my views.

28 Q. Was there any physical violence in that dormitory?

29 A. Of course there was, of course there was. I used to see staff hitting patients over the head
30 with a service key and cutting their heads open because they had urinated everywhere and
31 pooped their beds. One nurse took her shoes off and smacked a patient all over, so I up and
32 physically attacked her, her and her colleague, and they came off second best. I threw them
33 on the floor.

34 Q. How often were you physically assaulted over the decades you were there?

- 1 A. Often.
- 2 Q. Who would assault you?
- 3 A. Nursing staff. I was thrown into door frames by nursing staff, they used to wind other
4 patients up to take to me and I was left with life-threatening injuries and nearly died, nearly
5 died with an overdose of drugs given to me for punishment.
- 6 I ended up with broken bones and head cut -- I very nearly died on them, taking
7 epileptic seizures where the doctors had to come up and wanted to know what was going
8 on, they had to resuscitate me, or else I would have died.
- 9 "(Narrator) One of the staff members at Carrington took photos of patients'
10 genitals."
- 11 It was just one person that was doing it, the ward charge of 9.
- 12 Q. And what was that person doing?
- 13 A. Taking photographs of men's private parts and thought it was a joke and showing it around
14 everybody in the lounge. I was there when she was doing it and one of the other nurses
15 reported GR0-B -- to-- the medical superintendent and she was warned with the sack if
16 she didn't rip up the photographs immediately and get rid of them.
- 17 Q. Who had taken the photographs?
- 18 A. GR0-B.
- 19 Q. Who was she showing them to?
- 20 A. The patients in the lounge.
- 21 Q. Did you see them?
- 22 A. Yes. I thought it was disgusting.
- 23 Q. Was she saying anything when she was showing the photos around?
- 24 A. She might have, I don't know. She was reported, a couple of the other staff reported her to
25 Doctor - GR0-B - -- went up to ward 9 one day and entered the office and
26 told - GR0-B - -- to get off, there was eyelashes raised, gave her a terrible telling off,
27 because she had that sort of mind, to be dirty minded. She used to say filthy things to me
28 about my body. That's not right.
- 29 Q. What would she say to you about your body?
- 30 A. She said sexual things. I don't like to discuss it really, it was filthy.
- 31 Q. Yeah, that's okay.

1 A. It was filthy. I used to tell her off and told her to stop being so disgusting, that it wasn't
2 true. She used to say it to me in a room full of patients at the nine o'clock morning
3 meeting. I don't think she was right in the mind, some of the other patients said she wasn't
4 right in the mind. I don't think she was. She was obsessed with it.

5 "(Narrator) In 1987 one of the nurses at Carrington told Alison to sit an official
6 visitor's knee."

7 Q. And what happened that day?

8 A. She said, "If you're a good girl, Alison, you'll be sitting on - GR0-B - -- knee." And
9 I went into the lounge, into the staff room and he was sitting there, he told me to sit on his
10 lap, he forced me onto his lap, and he grabbed hold of me, and he said, "I want to play
11 around with you." I said, "No, you don't, I'm not letting you do that to me," I says, "You
12 get your hands off me", and I rushed out. I was, - I was frightened, I was bloody
13 scared- and I slammed the staff room door in his face. I didn't say anything to the staff
14 nurse.

15 Q. Did anyone else see that happen?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Did you feel that there was anyone who you could tell --

18 A. No.

19 Q. -- who would help you?

20 A. I wouldn't have been believed, I would have been accused of being a troublemaker and liar.

21 Q. Was this person supposed to be an advocate visiting Carrington?

22 A. It was the official visitor appointed by the Auckland Hospital Board.

23 Q. What was he supposed to be doing that day?

24 A. He was there to protect patients' rights and welfare of patient care.

25 Q. Did he return to Carrington after he did that to you?

26 A. Mmm?

27 Q. Did he return to Carrington at any point after that?

28 A. Yes, he could come and go when he wanted to.

29 Q. Did you see him again?

30 A. Yes.

31 Q. How did you feel about that?

1 A. I didn't like it, I just sort of backed away. I didn't want anything to do with him, because
2 I needed -- after the first episode -- you can't trust people like that. He was always very
3 smartly dressed. Very smartly dressed.

4 "(Narrator) In the late 1980s Alison was again sexually assaulted by another
5 patient."

6 He took me down to the veggie shed, took my underwear down, pushed me
7 backwards and started playing around with me with Vaseline lotion. He said, "I'm a doctor
8 and I've come to examine you," and I said, "You get your dirty filthy hands off me, you're
9 not trying that, anything on me, thank you." I got away from him, I pushed him away and
10 took off back to the ward. I told - GR0-B - --and - GR0-B - -- who I trusted.

11 Q. Did they do anything?

12 A. Not that I know of, I don't know.

13 Q. What did you want to happen?

14 A. I wanted to see the Police brought in.

15 Q. Did you used to write letters to people?

16 A. Yeah, I used to write to Parliament.

17 Q. Who else did you write to?

18 A. I wrote to the Mayor of Auckland, I wrote to the Minister of Health, Director-General of
19 Mental Health, Director of Mental Health, I used to write to MPs. I was getting
20 correspondence back, I got letters from the Ombudsman, I used to write to them and they
21 used to send a representative from their office to see me.

22 Q. Did you ever get punished for writing those letters?

23 A. [Nods].

24 Q. Who punished you?

25 A. The staff in the ward.

26 Q. What did they do?

27 A. Locked me up. But the Police never bothered to come around, they came around once in a
28 blue moon. Only time they ever came around was when the staff went on strike for a
29 month, so we'd have the Army looking after us. The Linton military camp.

30 Q. What was it like having the Army there?

31 A. Lovely, they treated us like human beings, but there were a few psychiatric staff that
32 remained on-site and they were the good ones.

1 "(Narrator) In 1988 Alison met a patient advocate who helped her get released from
2 committal."

3 **Q.** Who is Rod Davies?

4 **A.** He's my advocate friend and has been since late 1980s. He was a patient advocate at
5 Carrington.

6 **Q.** And how did you get to know him?

7 **A.** I saw him one day and had a talk with him, he told me who he was and took me up to his
8 office, we had a talk there, he went in the ward, sneaked around and found out for himself
9 what I was saying was all true. He knew it was all true anyway.

10 **Q.** When you were at Carrington did you have access to your own medical records?

11 **A.** No.

12 **Q.** Why was that?

13 **A.** I don't know, they wouldn't let you see them.

14 **Q.** Could Rod get access to your medical records?

15 **A.** He might have, --oh yes, he did in the end, it was on that documentary with Mike Wellesley
16 Smith.

17 **Q.** Did Rod talk to the doctors on your behalf?

18 **A.** Yes.

19 **Q.** What did he talk to the doctors about?

20 **A.** He told them I didn't need to be medicated, I wasn't mentally ill.

21 **Q.** What did the doctors think about that?

22 **A.** Didn't take much notice I don't think. He had to consult the District Inspector, which was
23 Paul Treadwell, and he managed to get me off medication and off compulsory treatment
24 and off committal. Because they found out I shouldn't have been under it, I was being
25 falsely detained under false medical,-- just abuse of power really by the doctors.

26 **Q.** What year were you released from committal?

27 **A.** Altogether it was, I was released from committal altogether in, - it- was on and off until
28 after 1995. I'm free of it now for good.

29 "(Narrator) While she was at Carrington, Alison also had short stays at boarding
30 houses and rest homes. She was also sent to boarding houses and rest homes once she was
31 released from committal."

32 **Q.** Was there violence in those places as well?

33 **A.** Yes.

34 **Q.** What types of violence?

- 1 A. Physical. Physical.
- 2 Q. Was there sexual assault as well?
- 3 A. Some of them, yes.
- 4 Q. Did anyone ever call the Police?
- 5 A. No.
- 6 Q. Did anyone at Carrington tell you why they were sending you to these places?
- 7 A. No, no.
- 8 Q. Do you know why they were sending you there?
- 9 A. No, I don't.
- 10 Q. The people who were running the boarding houses and the rest homes that you were sent to,
11 do you think they were equipped to deal with someone who was coming from your
12 background, having lived --
- 13 A. No, I don't actually, I think they were very ignorant, I think they were very backward, they
14 weren't used to somebody like me who was different to everybody else. They weren't
15 equipped. They didn't believe in human rights, they didn't believe in patients' rights.
- 16 Q. Can you tell us about what happened when you were taken off committal?
- 17 A. Well, I was not protected, I wasn't protected when I was under it. I was just left to rot.
- 18 Q. So after committal, did you live at rest homes generally?
- 19 A. **[Nods]**.
- 20 Q. What was that like?
- 21 A. Horrible. I couldn't get what I wanted, I was refused, denied.
- 22 Q. Did you have any say in where you lived when committal ended?
- 23 A. **[Shakes head]**. I was still being abused like a committed patient, by the owners of these
24 bloody rest homes and boarding houses, it was mostly rest homes.
- 25 "(Narrator) After being released from committal, Alison was told that her funding
26 would be cut. Several people advocated for her, and the Government resumed her
27 funding."
- 28 Q. Did you know, -- do you know why the Government wanted to withdraw funding?
- 29 A. No.
- 30 Q. And did they withdraw funding in the end?
- 31 A. Dr Valerie McGinn, she specialises in neuropsychology, she's from the University of
32 Auckland from the Department of neuropsychology, she wrote a letter and - because the
33 Government said, people in the Ministry of Health said, she can afford to pay for her own
34 care, she's a Pascoe, she's loaded, that sort of rubbish, and Julie put them right and they had

1 a change of heart because Valerie McGinn said that if they didn't cough up with the
2 funding- she was going to report them to Helen Clark the Prime Minister. As soon as they
3 were threatened they coughed up, just like that.

4 **Q.** So where you are now, you have your own home?

5 **A.** I pay board, I don't own it, I pay \$250 a week to be here. That's not bad. It's pretty good
6 going, isn't it? The house is the property of Spectrum Care, it's not my property, I just rent
7 it.

8 **Q.** How do you feel about having your own home?

9 **A.** It's much better than being with a lot of other people and being told what to do and being
10 told what you can't do and that. That is what goes on in residential homes. Do as I say,
11 sort of thing, you can't do as you like. That's not right, you don't treat people like that. You
12 know what I mean, filling people up with pills, it's not a normal life, it's institutional abuse,
13 it should be stopped. Needs to be stopped.

14 **Q.** Can you tell us about making a claim with Sonja Cooper?

15 **A.** I read about it in the newspapers, I got in touch with Keith Reid and he fixed everything up.

16 The next thing the lawyers came around to see me at - GR0-B - -- that was May or June
17 2005, it took seven years to resolve the case.

18 **Q.** What do you think about the fact that it took seven years?

19 **A.** It's a long time. I don't know why it took that long, she was having a lot of problems I think
20 with the Government officials, Crown Law and that, Ministry of Health.

21 **Q.** Did you eventually get compensation?

22 **A.** Yes, I did.

23 **Q.** And what was the compensation for?

24 **A.** For what had happened. For the abuse and neglect I had suffered.

25 **Q.** How much was that compensation?

26 **A.** About 20,000. Better than nothing. I was told I got more than anybody else because my
27 case was one of the worst they'd ever dealt with.

28 "(Narrator) Alison is now 80 years old and has many physical conditions as a result
29 of the abuse and neglect she experienced in psychiatric wards."

30 I have arthritis of the spine.

31 **Q.** What caused that?

32 **A.** Through being kicked around and that.

33 **Q.** What other conditions do you have now?

- 1 A. Sjogren's Syndrome.
- 2 Q. What's Sjogren's Syndrome?
- 3 A. It's an autoimmune disease.
- 4 Q. Do you have physical injuries still from the violence?
- 5 A. Yes, I'll never get over that until I get properly medically treated, surgically treated.
- 6 Q. What kind of physical injuries do you still have?
- 7 A. Inflammation of the bowel, knitting needle damage which they refused to fix up years ago,
8 suffered like that for over 40 years, tardive dyskinesia, caused through the drugs. Tardive
9 dyskinesia is uncontrollable Parkinson-like movements caused through drugs. I've got
10 fibromyalgia, Sjogren's Syndrome, osteoporosis, fibromyalgia, chronic fatigue, exhaustion,
11 emphysema, bronchitis, I've got asbestos exposure on the lungs, pleurisy, I've been exposed
12 to patients with TB in Carrington. Nothing's ever been done about it.
- 13 "(Narrator) Alison has several recommendations for the future."
- 14 I just want to say I've never been a criminal, I've never broken the law, I didn't
15 deserve what I had done to me, and I just want my name cleared I was ever in those places,
16 and I want all this mental health labelling on files destroyed. I want the files deleted,
17 meaning I want them put through a shredder and got rid of to stop discrimination
18 from, -- I want to see seclusion rooms abolished, seclusion room policy abolished, drugs
19 used as punishment abolished and new laws brought in to make it a criminal offence to treat
20 patients like that, that is seclusion and chemical straitjacket drug therapy as punishment.
- 21 Q. And --
- 22 A. And I want to see the staff that carried these sort of atrocities out severely punished and
23 fired from their jobs, I mean fired from their jobs first and severely punished through the
24 courts and the Police, and even sentenced to a lengthy prison sentence. I do.
- 25 Q. What do the public need to know about?
- 26 A. They need to know exactly what happened, they need to be told the truth.
- 27 Q. And how do you think that education should happen? Do you think it should happen in
28 schools, for example?
- 29 A. Yes, I think it should happen in public hospitals when they lecture nurses in their training.
30 You know what I mean?
- 31 Q. What are the important things for people to understand?
- 32 A. Mental illness is nothing to be ashamed of, it should be treated as a physical illness, like a
33 physical illness, people don't deserve or need to be punished with drugs or locked up in
34 locked wards or seclusion rooms or given ECT, I'm against that sort of practices. I want to

1 see patients get their full rights and to be treated like normal people. And I think we need a
2 Commissioner to oversee it from someone like the Royal Commission as well as the Police
3 Commission, people you can trust, people that are reliable and will do something about it as
4 they promise.

5 **Q.** Are there people who you would like to see in charge of that?

6 **A.** Yes.

7 **Q.** Who are they?

8 **A.** Judge Coral Shaw, Anand Satyanand, he's a former High Court Judge, ombudsman and
9 barrister and solicitor. I know Anand Satyanand personally. I'd like to see Judge Carolyn
10 Henwood appointed too. Her and Coral Shaw. And I'd like to see Andrew the
11 Commissioner appointed too.

12 **Q.** Would you like to choose the people who work in your house?

13 **A.** I think it's very important.

14 **Q.** Now, what I wanted to ask next was what do you think should happen to the people who
15 abused you who are still alive?

16 **A.** I think they should be made to account in a court of law, I think they should be prosecuted
17 and brought before the courts and severely punished with a lengthy prison sentence.

18 **Q.** You also wanted to talk about discrimination today.

19 **A.** That's right.

20 **Q.** And your thoughts on discrimination.

21 **A.** I think discrimination is very destructive and dangerous. It should not be used against
22 people with disabilities, it's medical discrimination to be denied medical attention for any
23 physical conditions, be denied freedom of speech, denied their rights, all that needs to stop.
24 I wanted you to put people with disabilities should not be ignored over physical conditions,
25 it's dangerous not to believe what they say and label them as it's all in the mind when it is
26 not. I just want a protection agency put into place to protect us and phone numbers
27 established of who we can ring up if we're being abused or neglected by the medical
28 profession -- that goes in public hospitals, GP private practices, medical specialist private
29 practices, these sorts of homes, that sort of thing, you know?

30 **Q.** You can say --

31 **A.** I feel very angry and very frustrated it's still going on, like it has been for decades."

32 **MS CLARK:** Alison, can you see me standing up again in the hearing room?

33 **A.** Yes.

1 **Q.** Is it okay now that we've watched your video if I pass you over to the Commissioners to
2 say something to you?

3 **A.** Yes.

4 **COMMISSIONER GIBSON:** Thanks, Alison.

5 Commissioner Shaw, do you have any questions?

6 **A.** What I've had to say about abuse, I want it stopped as soon as possible and the right people,
7 as I've mentioned, the names to be appointed who we can trust and rely on who are very
8 good people and have their hearts in the right place and who are very sympathetic towards
9 us, who know what happened is all true and I want to see changes for the better which it
10 will happen, I'm very optimistic about this.

11 **CHAIR:** Thank you, Alison, this is Coral Shaw here. I just want to say that the evidence you've
12 given today really will help us do our work and hopefully will make it much safer for
13 people in the future, and it's because of your bravery in coming forward, so thank you. I'm
14 just going to pass you over now to Paul Gibson who you might recognise.

15 **COMMISSIONER GIBSON:** Yes, Alison, it's great to hear from you. I think Commissioner
16 Shaw might have another job ahead of her by the sounds of it.

17 Commissioner Steenson, do you have any questions?

18 **COMMISSIONER STEENSON:** Hello, Alison, it's Commissioner Steenson, Julia here. Thank
19 you so much for your evidence today. I don't have any questions, I just wanted to thank
20 you, you've given us some really great recommendations to go away with.

21 **A.** And everything I've said is all correct and the truth and it's been a great pleasure working
22 alongside you wonderful, wonderful people.

23 **Q.** Thank you so much. I'll pass you back now to Commissioner Gibson.

24 **COMMISSIONER GIBSON:** Thank you, Alison, it's been great to work alongside you right
25 from the start of our Inquiry, I think you made a video in which many people have seen and
26 you've impacted on many people over the period of this Inquiry and over the period of your
27 life as well.

28 A question I have, seclusion should be completely abolished, you experienced much
29 seclusion for punishment, for other reasons. What do you think, what would you like to tell
30 staff working in these places now about what they could do different rather than seclusion?
31 What should change about seclusion?

32 **A.** I don't believe in locking people up, it doesn't solve the problem, it's just to ignore them and
33 the problems that go with them. I believe in taking them aside and speaking to them
34 civilly, with respect, and ask them what the problem is and solve it that way, ask them

- 1 what's upsetting them, who's responsible and all that, and I believe in saying to them "I'll
2 see what I can do to help, I may be able to do something about this."
- 3 **Q.** Did many people ever ask -- talk to you about what was happening, take you inside, have a
4 casual conversation, ask what was going on, what the problem was?
- 5 **A.** No, they couldn't be bothered, they just locked me up and told me where to get off and say
6 to me, "if you keep on performing like that you will stay in here all the longer" or "if you're
7 not careful" they'd say, "you'll be in here forever", that sort of thing.
- 8 **Q.** You've made videos and I think a lot of -- you've talked about education in schools, in
9 public hospitals. Should doctors, nurses, staff working in facilities such as those that
10 you've been in be listening and hearing and learning from your experience?
- 11 **A.** Beg your pardon?
- 12 **Q.** You've made videos, --would you like doctors and nurses and others working in the health
13 system to be hearing your experience and learning from it?
- 14 **A.** Definitely, because it must never, ever happen again, and every day is different and we're
15 learning new things all the time to better ourselves, through education and that.
- 16 **Q.** Yeah, thanks Alison, it's up to me to thank you and I think through education, through
17 teaching others you're helping others better themselves. Many have learned a lot from you
18 over the years. It's been such a long history of so much abuse, I want to acknowledge that,
19 over so many years, that this went on for and took so long to, - for- you to be out in the
20 community.
- 21 I hope some better form of redress comes to you than what has in the past, and the
22 Inquiry really appreciates the time we've had with you, the cooperation we've had with you
23 and the learnings we've got from you over the years.
- 24 So thank you so much, Alison.
- 25 **A.** And another thing I wanted to point out, I want the Police to see my documentary too and
26 I want to see education provided to them on what I went through as an example of how
27 dangerous abuse and neglect is, it's an education session and sort of make better police
28 officers in the way they deal with people with disabilities in a crisis of any kind.
- 29 **Q.** I think you use the word discrimination, it happens in health settings, in Police settings, to
30 people with mental health conditions and disabilities and to people who are perceived to
31 have mental health conditions and disabilities; would that be fair?
- 32 **A.** Beg your pardon?
- 33 **Q.** People are discriminated against with disabilities, with mental health conditions and people
34 who others think have disabilities and mental health conditions?

1 A. Yes, I would agree with that, I've seen too much of it in public hospitals and A&E wards
2 that I've been in and ordinary general wards at public hospitals and what I saw shocked me.
3 So the reason why I say this is because I want it stopped. There's no place for
4 discrimination and cruelty dished out to innocent people like that particular group of
5 people.

6 Q. Through the courage of you coming forward and sharing your story and teaching for us, I
7 think we do have a shot, we do have a hope of making those practices stop, of
8 discrimination stopping. So can I say a final thanks, Alison, really appreciate what you've
9 shared with us. Thank you.

10 A. It's been a great pleasure working alongside all you wonderful people, you're doing great
11 work and I know a lot of good is going to come out of this and I know a miracle's going to
12 happen very shortly because I'm very optimistic, and I'm this sort of person that believes in
13 being positive about good things happening and telling the truth about everything.

14 Q. The pleasure and the privilege to hear your truth is all ours, so thank you, Alison. And
15 thank you, everybody.

16 A. Thank you, thank you.

17 **COMMISSIONER GIBSON:** Ms Clark.

18 **MS CLARK:** Thank you, Alison, so we'll ask Rose to cut the livestream now and I'll talk to you
19 shortly.

20 **COMMISSIONER GIBSON:** Thank you, everybody, for the day. Kaikaraka.

21 **Waiata He Hōnore and karakia mutunga by Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei**

22 **Hearing adjourned at 5.14 pm to Friday, 15 July 2022 at 10 am**