

**ABUSE IN CARE ROYAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY  
MĀORI 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:** Ms Julia Steenson  
Dr Anaru Erueti  
Mr Paul Gibson  
Judge Coral Shaw  
Ali'imuumua Sandra Alofivae

**Counsel:** Ms Julia Spelman, Mr Kingi Snelgar, Mr Wiremu Rikihana,  
Mr Luke Claasen, Ms Maia Wikaira, Ms Alisha Castle,  
Ms Tracey Norton, Ms Season-Mary Downs,  
Ms Alana Thomas, Mr Winston McCarthy,  
Mr Simon Mount QC,  
Ms Kerryn Beaton QC for the Royal Commission  
Ms Melanie Baker, Ms Julia White and  
Mr Max Clarke-Parker for the Crown  
Mr James Meagher for the Catholic Church  
Ms Fiona Guy Kidd for the Anglican Church  
Ms Sonya Cooper, Ms Amanda Hill as other counsel  
attending

**Venue:** Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei Tumutumuwhenua Marae  
59b Kitemoana Road  
Ōrākei  
AUCKLAND

**Date:** 18 March 2022

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**TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS**

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**INDEX**

<b>EXPERT PANEL – MODERATED BY TRACEY McINTOSH DENISE MESSITER, HERA CLARKE, PAORA MOYLE, TUPUA URLICH AND GARY WILLIAMS</b>	720
<b>CLOSING STATEMENT BY THE CROWN</b>	756
<b>CLOSING STATEMENT BY THE ROYAL COMMISSION</b>	758

1 **COMMISSIONER STEENSON:** Kia ora anō. We will now hear closing statements starting  
2 with Ms Baker from the Crown.

3 **CLOSING STATEMENT BY THE CROWN**

4 **MS BAKER:** Ko te mihi tuatahi, ki te Atua i runga rawa. Nāna ngā korenga te pō, nāna hoki te ao  
5 i whakatinana. Kei te mana whenua, Ngāti Whātua ki Ōrākei, he mihi nui tēnei ki a koutou  
6 mō ō manaakitanga ki a tātou katoa. Ko koutou e noho mai, hei taituarā mō ngā purapura  
7 ora, otirā mō tātou katoa i tae mai a tinana ki ngā uiuinga, i whakarongo rānei mai i te  
8 pāohotanga mata ora hoki. I eke te kōrero; Tōmuri te pō roa, tērā a Pokopoko-whiti-te-rā.  
9 Nā koutou te ingoa, purapura ora i takoha ki te hunga i manawanui ki te whakapuaki i ō  
10 rātou mamae. Rangatira tēnei ingoa mō rātou, ā, he oranga nui kei roto i taua ingoa. Kei te  
11 mihi, kei te mihi.

12 [English: firstly, I acknowledge God above who created the nothingness, the darkness and  
13 the world of light. To the indigenous authority Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei salutations to you all  
14 for looking after us all. You also supported us all the survivors and everyone who attended  
15 in person and everyone who is listening online. The proverb was embodied, following  
16 great darkness the sun brings forth light and healing. It was you who named that and also  
17 the word for survivors as an outlet for them to release their hurt and anguish, which is a  
18 great positive within that name. Thank you.]

19 E kui mā, e koro mā. Tēnei te mihi aroha ki a koutou. Koutou e tautoko ana i tēnei kaupapa  
20 nui. Tēnei kaupapa pouiri. Tēnei kaupapa taumaha mō ngā purapura ora me ō rātou whānau  
21 e mamae tonu ana. He mea whakaheke ki tēnei reanga e whai kaha ki te whakapuaki i ō  
22 rātou mamae i roto i ngā rangi kua taha atu nei.

23 [English: To the elders, thank you all who supported this great issue with great  
24 sadness for the survivors and their families who continue to feel the hurt, and which is  
25 inherited to this generation for them to express their pain within the days that have gone  
26 by.]

27 Kei ngā purapura ora. E kore e ārikarika ngā mihi ki tō koutou kaha me tō koutou  
28 māia, ki te tū ki te kōrero i ō koutou mamae ki te Kōmihana. Ka mihi anō hoki ki ngā  
29 rāngai mōrehu me ō koutou whānau, kaitautoko hoki i noho hei pou whakawhirinaki mō  
30 koutou.

31 [English: To you the survivors, I cannot express enough your strength and resilience  
32 to stand and to express your hurt to the Commission. I would also like to acknowledge the  
33 survivors, their families, their supporters who sat as pillars for you all.]

1           Kei te Kaikōmihana, tēnā koutou mō tēnei āheinga, ki te whakarongo ki ngā kōrero  
2 tika, ngā kōrero pono a ngā purapura ora. Mā ēnei kōrero, ka ako mātou, e huri ai te tai. E  
3 rau rangatira mā, tēnā koutou katoa.

4           [English: To the Commissioners, greetings and thank you all in listening to the  
5 testaments of the survivors. By these statements and testimonies we will learn and  
6 hopefully change the tide, therefore to my esteemed guests thank you all.]

7           On behalf of the Crown I would like to thank the Commissioners for the opportunity  
8 to present this brief closing statement. We would also like to thank the Commissioners for  
9 allowing the Crown as a core participant to be present at this hearing via the livestream so  
10 that we can listen and learn and use what we have learned from survivors to make  
11 meaningful change.

12           Firstly, I would like to start where we began in our opening statement by  
13 acknowledging the bravery, strength and the courage of the survivors who have come  
14 forward to share their experiences. I would also like to acknowledge your whānau and  
15 friends who have offered you aroha and support for many years. We have heard and been  
16 moved and deeply saddened by what you have said.

17           There are many disturbing themes in your accounts. We heard of horrific sexual,  
18 physical, psychological and emotional abuse in settings that include State operated  
19 residences, education settings and private homes. We have also heard of some of the more  
20 insidious forms of racism and neglect, leaving some people feeling worthless and  
21 unimportant and experiencing mental health issues and addiction.

22           We have heard of the stigma of being known as a child in the care of the State, and  
23 of Māori children being treated as second class and in some cases forced into unpaid  
24 labour. We have heard of disconnection from tikanga, reo and whakapapa and of the  
25 devastating effect of multiple placements. We have heard how difficult it is to achieve at  
26 school when suffering from ongoing trauma and the feeling that education is out of reach.

27           We have heard how the abuse and lack of love has meant it has been difficult to  
28 form and maintain relationships. We have heard there have been intergenerational effects  
29 within whānau and how separation of siblings has caused harm. We have heard it has  
30 affected the ability of the people who have been in care to trust and to speak their truth,  
31 tika, pono, and there was a feeling that no one was listening and if anyone did listen, that  
32 what was said was not believed.

1 We have heard how some people who were abused in care gravitated towards  
2 gangs, how some offended and were incarcerated and how the stigma and criminal records  
3 restricted subsequent job opportunities.

4 We have also heard of the inspirational and courageous way survivors have coped  
5 in the face of adversity and racism and insight on what changes are needed. The voices of  
6 whānau Māori we have heard over these two weeks will help to drive changes to prevent  
7 further abuse and to inform what redress looks like for those who have suffered.

8 Heoi anō, ko āku mihi whakamutunga ki ngā purapura ora, e ora tonu ana, ahakoa  
9 he mea whakaheke i te hunga kua mene atu ki te pō. Nā te ngākau iti tēnei mihi ki a koutou  
10 mō to koutou māia me te kaha ki te whakapuaki i ō koutou kōrero.

11 Hei whakakapi i tēnei kōrero ka tiki ake ahau i te whakataukī e whai ake nei, “he  
12 aha te mea nui o te ao, he tangata, he tangata, he tangata”. Nō reira, tēnā koutou, tēnā  
13 koutou, tēnā tātou katoa

14 [English: And so, my final acknowledgement to the survivors that remain, although  
15 a loss for those now passed. With humility I thank you for expressing your testimonies. In  
16 closing, I would like to grab hold of the proverb, "what is the most important thing in this  
17 world, it is people". Therefore, thank you, thank you one and all.]

18 (Waiata: Hūtia Te Rito: Hūtia te rito, Hūtia te rito o te harakeke, kei hea te kōmako,  
19 e kō? Kī mai ki ahau. He aha te mea nui? He aha te mea nui o te ao? Māku e kī atu. He  
20 tāngata, he tāngata! he tāngata e!)

21 [English: if you pluck out the middle shoot of the flax plant, where will the bellbird  
22 sing? You ask me, what is the most important thing, it is people. What is the most  
23 important thing in this world? I say to you it is people, it is people.]

24 **COMMISSIONER STEENSON:** Tēnā koe Ms Baker. We will now hear from counsel from the  
25 Commission, Ms Spelman