

**ABUSE IN CARE ROYAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY
STATE INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSE 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)
Dr Anaru Erueti
Ali'imua Sandra Alofivae
Paul Gibson
Julia Steenson

Counsel: Mr Simon Mount QC, Ms Kerryn Beaton QC, Dr Allan Cooke, Ms Katherine Anderson, Ms Anne Toohey, Ms Tania Sharkey, Mr Michael Thomas, Ms Ruth Thomas, Ms Kathy Basire, Mr Winston McCarthy, Ms Julia Spelman, Ms Alice McCarthy and Ms Natalie Coates for the Royal Commission

Ms Rachael Schmidt-McCleave, Mr Max Clarke-Parker, Ms Julia White for the Crown

Ms Victoria Heine QC for the Office of the Children's Commissioner

Ms Sally McKechnie for Te Rōpū Tautoko, the Catholic Bishops and congregational leaders

Mr David Stone for the New Zealand State Abuse Survivors Charitable Trust

Venue: Level 2
Abuse in Care Royal Commission of Inquiry
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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

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16 **MS SHARKEY:** Tēnā koutou tātou, malo e lelei Madam Chair, Commissioners and all those
17 present today, in particular survivors both in person and online. My name is Tania Sharkey
18 and I am one of the Counsel Assisting the Royal Commission. By way of visual
19 introduction, I am female of Tongan Palagi descent and today I am wearing red glasses, a
20 green Pasifika dress and a black jacket.

21 We have representative witnesses here today from the Ministry For Pacific Peoples,
22 malo lava le soifua. I will let Mr Clarke-Parker introduce them and we will have evidence-
23 in-chief to begin with.

24 **CHAIR:** Thank you. Tēnā koe, Mr Clarke-Parker.

25 **MR CLARKE-PARKER:** Tēnā koe, tēnā koutou katoa. Ko Max Clarke-Parker ahau. For those
26 who cannot see me, I am Pākehā. I have brown hair, beard and today a pink tie. Today we
27 have two witnesses here from the Ministry and, just for completeness, I note that previous
28 witnesses on the bench behind me are not giving evidence today.

29 **CHAIR:** Thank you.

30 **MR CLARKE-PARKER:** So before I have the witnesses begin their evidence, I'll just hand over
31 to you, Madam Chair.

32 **CHAIR:** Thank you. Good morning to both of you. Thank you for attending and we really
33 appreciate your attendance today. Can I just ask you to take the affirmation.

34 **MINISTRY FOR PACIFIC PEOPLES**

1 **LAULU MAC LEAUANAE AND AIONO MATTHEW AILEONE (Affirmed)**

2 **QUESTIONING BY MR CLARKE-PARKER:** Thank you. Before we begin going through
3 your brief of evidence, may I have you both please introduce yourselves, beginning with
4 you, Laula.

5 **MR LEAUANAE:** Tuia i runga, tuia i raro, tuia i roto, tuia i waho, tuia te herenga tangata e pae
6 nei, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā tātou katoa. E faafekai ua muamua mea i Makaukusa.
7 Ua mae'a ga siikia le viiga ma le faafekai i le Akua. Faafekai i le Kapaau i le lagi ua kakou
8 pu'e i magu ae le o pu'e o mala, ua kakou kaeao o faafekai ae le o kaeao o faakulou. Ia e
9 aveā ia lo'u leo faakauvaa e momoli le agaga faafekai ma le faamalo, ma faafeiloai aku i le
10 paia ma le mamalu ua aofaga pokopoko, ae kaikage le vasega o komesiga ua aofia aua legei
11 faamoemoe. Ae faapikoa la'u faakalofa i lau afioga Aliimuamua Sandra Alofivae, ia e
12 faakalofa aku foi i le paia ma le mamalu ua aofia. Kia orana katou katoa, malo ni, fakalofa
13 lahi atu kino tolosi, malo lelei, ni sa bula vinaka, halo lo keta, ...malo le soifua maua ma le
14 lagi e mamā. (I'd like to acknowledge first the thanksgiving we had before God. We have
15 glorified and acknowledged God. Praise God we are gathering in good spirits and not
16 otherwise, it's a day of thanksgiving and not appeasement. It is my privilege to express
17 gratitude and to greet you all, in particular the Commission team present today. I want to
18 make special mention of Aliimuamua Sandra Alofivae, and distinguished guests. (Pacific
19 Greetings) ... Greetings in good health and wellbeing).

20 My name is Laula Mac Leauanae and I am the Chief Executive and Secretary for
21 the Ministry of Pacific Peoples. Today I'm wearing dark black glasses and a suit and I'm
22 following the theme of Anaru, I've got a pink tie on and I'm adorning an ulafala, a
23 traditional necklace, fa'afetai.

24 **COMMISSIONER ERUETI:** Kia ora.

25 **COMMISSIONER ALOFIVAE:** Malie.

26 **MR AILEONE:** Tuia ki te rangi, tuia ki te whenua, tuia ki te ngākau o ngā tangata. Ko te mea
27 nui, ko te aroha, tihei mauri ora. Kia tae mai te aroha, ngā manaakitanga o te atua. Te marae
28 i waho, te whenua te tūranga o te iwi, te whare e tū nei, tēnā koutou. Ko Aiono Matthew
29 Aileone tōku ingoa, he Tumu Whakaere Tuarua ahau mō Te Manatū mō Ngā Iwi o Te
30 Moananui-a-Kiwa. E muamua ono sii le viiga ma le faafetai i le Atua ona ua tatou feiloai i
31 lenei aso. Ou te faatalofa atu i le paia ma le mamalu ua mafai na faatasi mai i lenei aso. Ou
32 te faatalofa atu i le ta'ita'i faapea foi le Komisi Suesue. Ou te faatalofa atu foi i le afioga
33 Aliimuamua ... Alofivai. Avea lo'u tagata vaivai ou te faamalulu atu ai i latou na aafia i ni
34 sauaga na tutupu. Faamalo le onosai, faamalo le faapalepale, faamalo foi le lototele. (First

1 and foremost I give thanks to God that we are able to gather today. Welcome to
2 distinguished guests present today. I also extend a welcome to the Chair and the
3 Ombudsman. I welcome your honor Aliimuamua..Alofivai. It is with a humble heart that I
4 offer my apologies to the victims of abuse. Thank you for your patience, thank you for your
5 endurance, thank you for being courageous).

6 My name is Aiono Matthew Aileone, I'm the Deputy Secretary at the Ministry For
7 Pacific Peoples responsible for policy, research and evaluation, housing and languages. I
8 am Samoan. I also have part Chinese in me, too. My village in Samoa is called Fasitoo-uta
9 but I'm born and bred in New Zealand in the best town of Christchurch. I'm wearing a dark
10 grey suit. I've got a blue tie. I've got straight black hair, brown eyes and brown skin and
11 I'm also wearing a Samoan necklace. Thank you.

12 **CHAIR:** Thank you.

13 **MR CLARKE-PARKER:** Thank you, both. Lauulu, you have prepared a brief of evidence for
14 this Commission and that has been filed and will largely be taken as read, but may I have
15 you just read some short sections of that brief, beginning from paragraph 1.1.

16 **MR LEAUANAE:** Thank you. My name is Laula Mac Leauanae. I'm the Secretary for Pacific
17 Peoples and Chief Executive for the Ministry. I took up this role in July 2017. I will be
18 giving evidence to the Commission on the topics it has identified of interest for the
19 Ministry, together with Aiono Matthew Aileone to my side.

20 Before I begin my evidence, I acknowledge the survivors who have given evidence
21 in this Inquiry and aiga. I acknowledge your bravery in sharing these very painful accounts
22 of abuse during your times in State care. In particular, I acknowledge the many Pacific
23 Peoples affected, such as those who shared their stories in the Tulou - Our Pacific Voices:
24 Tatala e Pulonga hearing. Listening to these stories and the trauma endured by our people
25 was similar to the pain and suffering our people endured with the Dawn Raids apology, a
26 process led by the Ministry. And whilst I am a public servant, I'm also a son of Samoa, a
27 son of the Pacific, born and raised in Aotearoa New Zealand, so it's extremely distressing to
28 hear, see and feel the suffering our people have endured.

29 The Ministry, like the rest of the Crown, looks forward to the guidance the
30 Commission will provide in addressing the wrongs of the past and preventing them
31 occurring in the future.

32 **MR CLARKE-PARKER:** Thank you. Now can I have you continue reading from paragraph 2.3,
33 which provides some background on the Ministry.

1 **MR LEAUANAE:** In 1984, the Pacific Island Affairs Unit was established as part of the
2 Department of Internal Affairs. In February 1990, the Cabinet Policy Committee agreed to
3 establish an independent Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs, MPIA. MPIA was established
4 in 1 July 1990 and its role was to promote the development of Pacific Island peoples in
5 New Zealand in a way which recognises and reflects Pacific Island cultural values and
6 aspirations so that Pacific Island people can participate and contribute fully to
7 New Zealand's social, cultural and economic life and help foster and enhance the cultural
8 values deemed important to the identity of the various Pacific Island people and the identity
9 of New Zealand as a whole.

10 In particular, MPIA was responsible for providing policy advice to government on
11 issues related to Pacific Island matters, liaising with and flow of information between
12 Pacific Island communities in New Zealand and government agencies, servicing the office
13 of the Minister of Pacific Island Affairs and Pacific Island Affairs Advisory Council, and
14 administering grants. In 2015, MPIA changed its name from the Ministry of Pacific Island
15 Affairs to the Ministry For Pacific Peoples. The name change emphasised to the
16 community and wider New Zealand that the Ministry is here to work for Pacific Peoples.

17 **MR CLARKE-PARKER:** Thank you. In the next section, from paragraphs 2.6 to 2.10, you talk
18 about the Ministry's current role and responsibilities, so may I have you read that section as
19 well, please?

20 **MR LEAUANAE:** The Ministry does not have any direct, formal role with the care system. The
21 extent of the Ministry's involvement in the care system depends on its relationships with
22 other agencies that do have a role within the care system and work done for or with those
23 agencies.

24 As the Crown's principal adviser on matters pertaining to Pacific communities, the
25 Ministry may offer advice to these agencies on Pacific related-, Pacific-relevant matters.
26 However, the agencies retain responsibility for their work and determine the extent to
27 which our advice is incorporated in their work.

28 In some circumstances, the Ministry may advise on policy proposals from other
29 agencies that may have negative distributional impacts on Pacific communities and may
30 also directly engage with other agencies in relation those policies.

31 The Ministry also influences work through cross-agency working groups on a wide
32 range of policy areas. We have regular bilateral partnerships with teams in other agencies.

33 The Ministry is responsible for developing and coordinating implementation of the
34 All-of-Government Pacific Wellbeing Strategy. In April 2022, the All-of-Government

1 Pacific Wellbeing Strategy was endorsed by Cabinet. The strategy was developed and is
2 being implemented with key agency partners who are members of the Lalanga Fou
3 crossagency CEs and DCE groups. The Strategy was endorsed by Cabinet in April 2022
4 and has four key focus areas that guide and capture the Ministry's developing role as
5 the Crown's principal adviser for Pacific communities: Lalanga Potu: Pacific Values and
6 Principles; Fale Fono: Partnership and Governance; Vaka Moana: Performance and
7 Improvement; Te Kupenga: Capability.

8 **MR CLARKE-PARKER:** Thank you very much. We're, of course, very mindful of time this
9 morning, so the rest of the evidence will be taken as read and so now I hand you over to my
10 learned friend, Ms Sharkey, for questioning.

11 **CHAIR:** Thank you, Mr Clarke-Parker. Ms Sharkey.

12 **QUESTIONING BY MS SHARKEY:** La'aulu and 'Aiono, Fakafeta'i 'a e 'Eiki 'a e 'ahó ni.
13 Mālō ho'o mo lava mai. 'Ofa ke kau 'a e 'Eiki he 'etau fepōtalanoa'akí. (La'aulu and
14 'Aiono, Praise be to the Lord this day. Thank you both for coming. Hope the Lord will be
15 with us in our discussion). So guide our discussions today, malo 'aupito, thank you for
16 being here. It's great to hear our Pacific languages being heard in this space and reflecting
17 on this morning, it's pleasing that we're here today. So I just want to start, -you've covered
18 a lot in your opening. If we could have a look at your brief of evidence? You might have
19 that in front of you, but Lafo-ai and Jenna to my side here will bring up your brief of
20 evidence and we're looking at paragraphs 2.4 down to 2.8. Can you see that there on the
21 screen? MPIA was responsible for what we see there at 2.4(a) to (d). Would you say that
22 MPP are largely responsible for the same?

23 **MR LEAUANAE:** Yes.

24 **MS SHARKEY:** Then we have a change of the name and, as you outlined before, the Ministry is
25 here to work for Pacific Peoples. And the multitude of areas where Pacific Peoples face
26 inequities is understood, we've heard a lot during this hearing, and I just wanted to ask, is it
27 with limited fiscal means, or your mandate and the current function that you haven't been
28 commissioned or directly specifically looking at the care system for Pacific Peoples.

29 **MR LEAUANAE:** The Ministry doesn't have the mandate to deliver care services to our
30 community. That is the short answer. The long answer is our focus is on systems
31 stewardship, our focus is on prevention and strategic action, and so, in terms of the system
32 approach, all these strategies was birthed out of our work with our community. So you may
33 be aware that in 2018, we did an engagement work with all of Pacific throughout the
34 country.

1 **CHAIR:** Excuse me. Lulu, would you mind bringing your microphone closer to you? You're
2 very softly spoken, and we respect that, but it's important that our people hear what you're
3 saying clearly.

4 **MR LEAUANAE:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I was saying we have a focus around systems
5 stewardship, influencing the Government system, the public agencies to deliver better care
6 and services to our people. We engage with our communities and ongoing in 2018 and
7 through that engagement of over 2,500 people, we're able to frame up the Pacific Aotearoa
8 Lalanga Fou report. So this is the prevention and the strategy side I think we'll get more
9 into, but in terms of the focus on care, that's an overarching approach that we take as a
10 Ministry.

11 **MS SHARKEY:** Okay. So for Pacific Peoples in care, that work has previously been, would you
12 say, left to service delivery agencies?

13 **MR LEAUANAE:** Those agencies that are mandated to deliver and our role as best as we can
14 when invited by those care agencies or those that are responsible to provide guidance and
15 support where and when required.

16 **MS SHARKEY:** Okay. Just looking at that role, MPP is not a service delivery agency, more
17 policy focused? How does it work?

18 **MR LEAUANAE:** It's a bit of both. We were largely focused on policy and giving advice to the
19 Crown. We also now provide -- we provide service delivery initiatives. The Pacific
20 Aotearoa Lalanga Fou report provided a vision: prosperous, thriving, resilient, confident
21 Pacific Aotearoa. Pacific Aotearoa because 60% of our whānau are now born and raised in
22 New Zealand.

23 Then out of that was the four strategic goals. So those four strategic goals provided
24 the types of focus that we needed to provide. So this is where the service delivery comes
25 through in our Tupu Aotearoa programme or initiative which focuses on getting our
26 children or our young into jobs that are in need and those types of initiatives. So it's
27 broader than just the policy shop. We do both policy and service delivery, but focused on
28 particular areas, housing, languages unit, employment, businesses.

29 **MS SHARKEY:** That's a lot to be looking after and I guess my question, in our communities,
30 needs are so many. You get pulled from pillar to post often with not much resource and not
31 much funds. I just wanted to know is one of MPP's most valuable roles to ensure that
32 departments and agencies that are getting the megabucks for us, to ensure that they are
33 delivering the goods for our Pacific communities? Would that be one of the most valuable
34 roles for MPP?

1 **MR LEAUANAE:** Very critical role of the Ministry and, hence, the establishment of the
2 All-of-Government Pacific Wellbeing Strategy. And whilst we are a small agency and
3 when I started in July 2017, we were roughly a \$10 million agency with around 40 staff,
4 but through the vision that was created and the work with the system, have been able to
5 secure enough resourcing to deliver and service the needs and our initiatives were based on
6 what our communities had told us, and continue to tell us, because we've just been on the
7 road again, to go back and report back on the things that we've delivered for Pacific
8 Aotearoa, so we were in Porirua, around 200 of our community turned up at Pasina hall,
9 Tokelau. We were in Whanganui earlier on Tuesday and around 150 of our community
10 were there, and then we were in Palmerston North the night before, hearing from our
11 community, reporting back to them on the four strategic goals and the initiatives per those
12 goals and then they were feeding back all the work that we're doing.

13 So there's that work that we're doing, hearing from our community and then feeding
14 that through the infrastructure of the All-of-Government Pacific Wellbeing Strategy.

15 **MS SHARKEY:** It sounds really busy.

16 **MR LEAUANAE:** It's very busy but, you know, as a son of Samoa, son of the Pacific, you know,
17 we sit here and see Ali'imuamua, I see you, Tania. We are the vision of our parents and I
18 can never compare the busyness of what we're going through, what they endured when they
19 arrived here on these amazing shores in the 60s and the 70s. So, yes, it's busy, but we have
20 to be busy for the work that's required for our community.

21 **MS SHARKEY:** Okay. Just looking at paragraph 2.8 that you'll see there on the screen:

22 "In some circumstances, the Ministry may advise on policy proposals ... that may
23 have negative distributional impacts..."

24 I just wanted to ask about that. Can you give me one or two examples of where that
25 has happened?

26 **MR LEAUANAE:** Probably the most recent is our Dawn Raids apology and the harm that came
27 through that, and I mean Aiono was heavily involved with the drafting of the Cabinet paper
28 and the work that we had to do to make that a reality. The negative distribution impacts we
29 already have seen through the testimony -- the work of the Polynesian Panthers made it
30 very clear the impact that immigration policies had. So we were -- you know, contributed
31 to that important piece of acknowledging the harm, that impact, and it was negative for the
32 various agencies that were heavily involved through that, the Police, Immigration in
33 particular.

1 And so to usher that programme and that initiative through was really important for
2 our people. It was amazing when the apology actually happened. In fact, it was the
3 post-Cabinet press conference, where our Minister, Aupito William Sio, with the Prime
4 Minister, acknowledged that there would be an apology coming in and then on 1 August we
5 were able to deliver that apology.

6 But through that process, we got to see and hear all the trauma that our people went
7 through and endured and the reason we needed to have the apology and the reason why we
8 needed these -- the redress. We will work with Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei this Saturday,
9 tomorrow, which is where we will confirm our relationship between Pacific and Ngāti
10 Whātua because that's where we gave the apology.

11 But also it will be commemorating every year the apology of the Government. So
12 this is one of those issues,- I hope I'm hearing the question right,- -- that was negatively
13 impacted and that was the role that we played as an agency.

14 **MS SHARKEY:** And I'll touch on that apology a little bit later on, because that was our first ever
15 Pacific public redress that we've seen. But just on 2.7, so Crown's principal adviser but the
16 agencies retain the responsibility for their own work and determine the extent to which your
17 advice is incorporated.

18 Earlier on in the week, Oranga Tamariki told us that only about 1%, 1% of its
19 funding is allocated to Pacific providers for Pacific children in care. Through our
20 community fono, which you will be aware of, we've heard from our community about the
21 difficulty in applying and getting funding for Pacific children and young people.

22 So my question there is, when we hear those sorts of difficulties, those challenges,
23 1%, what is it that needs to change? MPP holding these government agencies to account
24 and ensuring money goes to where it needs to go, is that a shift in your function? Is that
25 enabling you to be a stronger, I guess, monitor of that service delivery, those funding
26 allocations?

27 **MR LEAUANAE:** The All-of-Government Pacific Wellbeing Strategy is our approach to keep
28 agencies accountable and Oranga Tamariki is one of those agencies. We have a Ministers'
29 group which our Minister chairs, and all of those ministries that are engaged in the process,
30 their ministers attend. I chair the Chief Executive's group and we meet on a bimonthly
31 basis. It's by this mechanism and we're developing now the outcomes framework and
32 through these outcomes framework and indicators, we can measure how our agencies are
33 delivering for our Pacific communities.

1 In terms of the 1% for Pacific at Oranga Tamariki, that is something that we will
2 need to talk to them about and address. We have a budget process that we will start and
3 that will definitely be something that we will look into.

4 My dear colleague, Aiolupotea Sina Aiolupotea Aiono, she was a deputy secretary
5 at the Ministry For Pacific Peoples and is now there as the Chief Adviser for Pacific, and
6 we work closely together with the Pacific panel chaired by Fa'amatua'inu Tino Pereira to
7 look at these areas of focus for our Pacific, so that is definitely something that we will look
8 into.

9 **MS SHARKEY:** Because whilst that strategy has been implemented and you start these meetings
10 and they really become well working, there are still Pacific children in care, survivors here
11 today who want solutions, so you will be talking to Oranga Tamariki about those issues?

12 **MR LEAUANAE:** Yes, we meet regularly with Aiolupotea, who's a key leader and in the senior
13 leadership there at Oranga Tamariki. I know we want to move a lot quicker in all of our
14 areas of focus -- better housing; 21% Pacific home ownership, that needs to improve;
15 employment, we, on average, earn the lowest, you know, not good enough, so there's
16 multiple areas of focus but definitely in the care system service and now that you've raised
17 that and brought it to our attention, it's something that we'll talk to with Chappie and with
18 Aiolupotea.

19 **MS SHARKEY:** Just some questions now about system leadership. In our Pacific public hearing,
20 we heard from Luamanuvao Dame Winnie Laban. You might have watched her
21 evidence, -- you're nodding "yes". In that hearing, if I paraphrase her correctly, she said: if
22 you are not at the table, you're on the menu. And it's fantastic to see you in this space.

23 Can I ask how many Pacific tier 1 Public Service leaders there are in the
24 Government departments?

25 **MR LEAUANAE:** At the moment, just one, myself, but the vision is 20%. That's the vision:
26 thriving, resilient, confident, prosperous Pacific Aotearoa. Small intergenerational
27 transformational steps need to be had and made. The growth and the strength of the
28 relationship that the Ministry has with the system is something that we've not enjoyed for
29 a long time and the Ministry today, the All-of-Government Pacific Wellbeing Strategy
30 being endorsed by Cabinet, ministers, CEs, deputy chief executives of these 11 agencies,
31 it's something we've never seen before and so whilst, yes, the steps are slow.

32 And then in terms of the resourcing, the Ministry itself, and this is all public,
33 available -- through the budget process have secured significant resources over the course
34 of the last four years. So it shows that there is influence to move and do things for our

1 community because we have the voices of our community and the Ministry, through its
2 initiatives, have been able to show that we can deliver. Things like Tupu Aotearoa
3 where -- yeah, I'll stop there.

4 **MS SHARKEY:** Because what I would saw, Laulu, is that one Pacific Chief Executive from the
5 space that we are working in is it's under-represented. Would that be fair to say?

6 **MR LEAUANAE:** We have Margie Apa, who leads the largest business in New Zealand, private
7 sector, public sector, so I'll probably argue there's two of us, she's in the Public Service, but,
8 yes, I hear your point, Tania.

9 **MS SHARKEY:** Overall, in terms of tier 1, 2, 3, are Pacific people still under-represented?

10 **MR LEAUANAE:** Not as bad as one out of 34, but there are a growing group of Pacific in deputy
11 secretary roles and also within tier 3 roles, but as you say, we're still under-represented
12 when you compare it to the population of 8%, 8.1%, according to the 2018 census.

13 **MS SHARKEY:** Just briefly, you touched on the redress apology for the Dawn Raids and you
14 might not have seen this, we just received the brief of evidence for Mr Hughes, for Peter
15 Hughes, and at paragraph 2.3, and I'll read it because you probably haven't seen it:

16 "...work on the Crown response is being progressed by an interagency group set up
17 to respond to the Royal Commission. It includes the Ministries of Health, Education,
18 Justice, and Social Development, Oranga Tamariki, Crown Law, Te Puni Kōkiri, the New
19 Zealand Police, the Department of Corrections, the Public Service Commission and
20 Archives New Zealand."

21 And I'm, as a -- Pacific Peoples are a priority group in this Inquiry. Is it an error
22 that MPP aren't noted there?

23 **MR LEAUANAE:** I'll need to speak to Peter to find out exactly what happened there, but I would
24 assume that we should be part of that group.

25 **MS SHARKEY:** Yes, as one of the priority groups, right. And just on-- the redress report was
26 released from the Royal Commission and I just wondered, have MPP been consulted on
27 any of that in terms of the co-design, values-based, the cultural lens, you have experience
28 with the Dawn Raids, you know about cultural redress, public, have you been consulted on
29 that?

30 **MR LEAUANAE:** I'll ask if the policy team --

31 **MR AILEONE:** No, we have been engaged on that. In fact, I think the lead over there was
32 formerly an MPP employee. So exactly drawing on that example of what worked well with
33 the dawn raids, how can they frame up a Pacific response using some of our lessons learnt.

34 **MS SHARKEY:** Right, okay. And then in Mr Hughes' brief again, at 12.2 he talks about:

1 "Four interdepartmental executive boards have been established making groups of
2 Chief Executives accountable for cross agency priorities, including the Executive Board for
3 the Elimination of Family Violence and Sexual Violence..."

4 And I had a look and there are a number of agencies. And, Lulu, what we see from
5 our survivors is that is a very big issue, family violence, sexual violence, and I notice that
6 MPP aren't one of those groups. Can I just ask about that?

7 **MR LEAUANAE:** We are a member of the chief executives group and the DCEs group on the
8 joint venture board.

9 **MS SHARKEY:** Okay, just not the Executive Board for the Elimination of Family Violence and
10 Sexual Violence? It's in part 3 of the Act, interdepartmental executive boards.

11 **MR LEAUANAE:** We are an associate member so there might be --

12 **MS SHARKEY:** What does that mean?

13 **MR LEAUANAE:** I think we are part of and have the same decision-making rights as other board
14 members. We are at the table.

15 **MS SHARKEY:** You are at the table, not on the menu.

16 **MR LEAUANAE:** Not on the menu.

17 **MS SHARKEY:** All right. Lulu, just bringing our survivor voice into this session, you might
18 have heard that during the State hearing, a number of agencies made acknowledgments in
19 respect of Pacific Peoples and acknowledgments to survivors and I just want to highlight
20 some of them for you.

21 The Ministry of Health, Dr Sarfati says that some experienced cultural neglect
22 during the relevant period. The impacts of this abuse are ongoing for survivors and
23 families. Pacific Peoples were not kept safe from harm when they should have been and
24 that the Health and Disability settings didn't have adequate policies, processes and
25 practices; record-keeping, issues such as ethnicity not being recorded; loss of some records
26 meant that the number of Pacific Peoples in the Health and Disability settings may never be
27 known during that relevant period; that Pacific Peoples were negatively impacted by either
28 being over-represented or through settings not meeting their needs; institutional racism has
29 contributed to the abuse of Pacific Peoples in Health and Disability care settings; whaikaha
30 Geraldine Woods said between 1950 and 1999, Health and Disability care settings failed to
31 consistently ensure that Pacific disabled people had adequate access to their culture,
32 identity, language and communities and this contributed to isolation and cultural
33 disconnection. Further, that the impacts are ongoing and have impacted individuals, as well
34 as wider aiga.

1 Ministry of Education, Iona Holsted acknowledges that the education system
2 continues to underserve Pacific learners. The education system is much slower at
3 advocating for better Pacific language opportunities. Workforce capability and capacity is
4 a major challenge for the education system and recruiting and retaining Pacific staff.

5 And, finally, Oranga Tamariki acknowledged that structural racism existed against
6 Pacific Peoples in care. As a result of poor data collection, we'll never know the true
7 number of Pacific Peoples in care and the Care and Protection system negatively impacted
8 Pacific in care, and the Care and Protection system failed to ensure that all Pacific tamariki
9 in care had adequate access to their culture, identity and language.

10 Given all of those acknowledgments, as the leader for the Ministry working for
11 Pacific Peoples, my question is, Pacific Peoples in the care system, should that be a system
12 focus area for the Ministry For Pacific Peoples specifically?

13 **MR LEAUANAE:** Thank you. It's devastating, you know, to hear the acknowledgments by my
14 learned colleagues and the impact on our people. We, as a Pacific community -- and that's
15 why I phrased, whilst I'm a public servant, I'm a son of Samoa, son of the Pacific, Aotearoa
16 New Zealand-born and raised. I'm not divorced by the pain that our people have endured
17 and gone through. And even as public servants working within the system, we, too, face
18 these issues. Sometimes people listen and sometimes people don't and, hence, the reason
19 why we've established the All-of-Government Pacific Wellbeing Strategy.

20 I hear the lack of cultural intelligence and cultural values within our system and,
21 hence, that's the reason why embedded in the All-of-Government Pacific Wellbeing
22 Strategy is the importance of our values, the importance of our Pacific cultural values and
23 these were the values that were signed off by Cabinet and agreed to by our chief executives,
24 values like aroha, love; values like fakalilifu, respect; pirianga, collectivism; tapuikinga,
25 spirituality; magafaoa, family; olafetufuake, reciprocity; and soalaupule, consensus.

26 These are the threads of the values that we will attempt, with all that we have, to
27 ensure that it's throughout the whole system. This is through the All-of-Government
28 Pacific Wellbeing Strategy and all of those agencies that you've mentioned are all in this
29 governance group, all part of the minister's group, all part of the chief executives group, all
30 part of the working group. It will be a slow burn and a long journey but that's the process
31 that we're undertaking to ensure that our values are embedded throughout the system.

32 We're in a phase where we're looking at the outcomes and indicators framework and
33 we have a particular - out of 18,-- one that's focused on State care for our children.

1 **MS SHARKEY:** Sorry, Lulu, can you say that again? I was listening, but I just want to catch
2 that again.

3 **MR LEAUANAE:** Which part?

4 **MS SHARKEY:** The State care, where you mentioned the role that State care might play.

5 **MR LEAUANAE:** So within our outcomes framework, there are 18 that we have been able to
6 frame and a lot of the 18 was birthed out of our consultation with our community, because
7 they've said, "These are the things that we want the system to focus on", and one of the 18
8 is a focus on the outcomes for children in State care. I might invite my colleague, who
9 might be able to expand further on that actual outcome and that's how we're focusing.

10 **MS SHARKEY:** Right, so moving forward, there is a concentrated focus on Pacific Peoples in
11 care, because it's not just Oranga Tamariki, there are a number of other settings as well. Is
12 that what we're hearing today?

13 **MR LEAUANAE:** It was always part of the approach -- the All-of-Government Pacific
14 Wellbeing Strategy was developed back in 2019 and continued to evolve. In the earlier
15 Cabinet papers, it talked about the need for an outcomes framework and we're at an
16 approach now where we actually can measure based on the 18 and one of them is on the
17 care for our children in State care.

18 **MS SHARKEY:** Because to ensure that this never happens again, there would need to be some
19 deliberate intrusive policy or focus on Pacific Peoples in care.

20 **MR LEAUANAE:** Hence, the focus on one of the outcomes being focused on that. I'll invite my
21 colleague to speak more to the actual outcome that we are measuring.

22 **MR AILEONE:** Thanks Lulu, and, Ms Sharkey. I will be brief. No, Lulu is absolutely correct.
23 There is a whole range of outcomes that our community have asked us to take forward. It's
24 a holistic framework and they cover areas like preventative health, mental health and
25 well-being, children in care, but at the essence is this need to take a very cultural Pacific
26 design, Pacific family-centred approach.

27 We have a pretty demanding minister, 'aupito William Sio, and he's got a saying
28 that he uses with us as well: if it doesn't get measured, it doesn't get done. Sometimes the
29 system-speak that we talk of, we appreciate it's a little bit esoteric but actually we have to
30 measure it. If we do not measure it, if we do not have a set of indicators that tells us that
31 we're moving in the right direction, that it's cutting through with our community then we're
32 really just spinning our wheels. I don't really have much to add to what you said, Lulu.

33 **CHAIR:** If don't mind, just slow down a bit for us?

1 **MR AILEONE:** Sorry, I was getting overly excited. The systems stuff, it's a little bit blasé to
2 people but that's where I truly believe, if we can record, develop indicators and measures
3 with our community, it's a small step, but it's a significant step, because I'm not too sure if
4 the system has been geared that way in the past. So you mentioned all those agencies that
5 admitted they fell short, so this is our part in putting a bit of structure around measuring all
6 the outcomes and the investment that's coming to the Pacific, not just through MPP but
7 across the whole system. Thank you.

8 **MR LEAUANAE:** Just on the data side, we are focused on the importance of capturing data. Our
9 relationship with Stats New Zealand, we've signed an MOU with them and also with the
10 Pacific Data Sovereignty network to ensure that the data that's being collected by Stats
11 New Zealand is captured appropriately and properly.

12 We have key leaders from our research community leading that work, the likes of
13 Jacinta Falealili, Dr Seini Taufua --

14 **MS SHARKEY:** Is that Moana Connect?

15 **MR LEAUANAE:** Moana Connect. They're part of the Pacific Data Sovereignty. Then I have a
16 statutory responsibility under the Public Service Act which states that I have to provide a
17 long-term insights briefing and our focus on our briefing this time is focused on Pacific
18 data sovereignty, data equity, because we recognise that without data, as Aiono has talked
19 about, and others have referred to in the various presentations, that without the data,
20 without that information, proper and appropriate decisions are not made for our people. So
21 that will be a critical focus area for the Ministry moving forward.

22 **MS SHARKEY:** I'm just going to ask Lahoai to bring up a Pacific hearing transcript from
23 Folasaitu Dr Julia Ioane and you might have seen her statement in the bundle. We're just
24 looking at lines 1 to 11 of page 725 of that transcript. There's just a paragraph that I wanted
25 to bring to your attention, - I think it's about to appear. So she talks about there
26 being-- the part you don't see is on the page before but she says:

27 "Even within our own government departments there are silos, so how do we
28 responded to this? I think we go back to our holistic way of doing things. In all of
29 community, by all of government approach, having one vision, one plan, one direction for
30 Pasifika that is upheld by all government agencies and it's led by the Ministry For Pacific
31 Peoples, because the Ministry for Pacific Peoples is what is needed to support the voice of
32 community at the Government level."

33 And you would agree with what she says there, is that your All-of-Government
34 Pacific Wellbeing Strategy?

1 **MR LEAUANAE:** That's correct.

2 **MS SHARKEY:** And that is where you have the eye across, is that fair to say?

3 **MR LEAUANAE:** That's correct. If we look at the All-of-Government Pacific Wellbeing
4 Strategy, that is the ultimate purpose, is to ensure that the social determinants for Pacific
5 well-being are catered for and looked after because we want to be, at the beginning of the
6 pipeline, preventative before our children are in State care. Things like housing,
7 employment, we get those factors correct, preventative.

8 So the All-of-Government Pacific Wellbeing Strategy was also birthed out of what
9 I mentioned earlier, Pacific Aotearoa Lalanga Fou report. There's our one vision for all of
10 Government and endorsed by Cabinet and endorsed by my colleagues and the agencies
11 through the fora that I've just aforementioned.

12 So that's the vision. The four strategic goals, everyone's buying into that, in terms
13 of that is the measure by which we're measuring all of our government departments and
14 keeping them accountable, and they are aware the 18 outcomes give life. If they deliver on
15 those 18 outcomes, it will deliver on the Lalanga Fou goals. It will ultimately deliver a
16 vision of a thriving, resilient, confident and prosperous Pacific Aotearoa.

17 **MS SHARKEY:** And that sounds wonderful. Those inequities have been around for a long, long
18 time, it's going to take a long, long time to change, but what we're looking at for the abuse
19 in care system, MPP having that role and that oversight, which would require you to have
20 the mandate, I guess, to monitor the service delivery of other agencies.

21 **MR LEAUANAE:** That is the outcomes indicator, as Aiono mentioned before. We've met at
22 least 600 of our community over the course of the last three days. Prior to that, we've
23 engaged with our community all through Covid, so at least 10,000. Through our social
24 media, impacted at over 2 million. There's a strong engagement with our community
25 leaders and the work that we do. So we have this constant feedback. We met with Hellen
26 Puhipuhi, who leads the Fijian community in Whanganui, and the feedback and the work
27 that we're hearing from our community is, "Keep going, we want more, we need more, but
28 well done". Long journey, like you say. Intergenerational requirements before there's real,
29 these big shifts. Housing, 21%, it's not going to change next year and be 50%. That will
30 take -- so what we're doing now is building the pillars, the foundations to ensure the
31 long-term gain for our Pacific communities, aligned with these Lalanga Fou goals. The
32 whole system, all these agencies that you've mentioned are all privy and part of this
33 approach.

1 We read this slice of Julia's and watched her present it and couldn't help but
2 think -- I wish we had drafted this for her because this aligns with the purpose and the
3 thinking that we had when we set up Pacific Aotearoa, Lalanga Fou and the
4 All-of-Government Pacific Wellbeing Strategy.

5 **MS SHARKEY:** That's right, so a lot more of a cohesive us all talking to each other. That last
6 part of her paragraph, she says:

7 "You see our Pasifika communities cannot be assessed by those of us that do well.
8 We have to assess our success by those who need our help the most and that is our children
9 and young people in care, our children and young people in the justice system, our children
10 and young people with disabilities..."

11 And she goes on. That's where we need to measure our success, not in the
12 achievements of someone like myself or you, we need to be looking at those children and
13 our young people.

14 **MR LEAUANAE:** It's so true. When I look at the outcomes for our NEET programme, Tupu
15 Aotearoa, we have youth that are disenfranchised from school, don't want to go, but our
16 providers deliver an approach to their well-being which is different from mainstream
17 providers -- it's a customised, Pacific-centric, Pacific values-led approach to our children.

18 I recall seeing the mentoring talk of one of their youth based in Otago who was in
19 a neighbourhood that was really struggling and he came on to the course. He has three
20 brothers. Then on the course, he got into electrical, like a trade, got into employment, had
21 his own van. His brothers see that and they do the same, jump on the same course. The
22 neighbourhood see these children with the three vans, because they're all three now
23 electricians, what happens in their property, growth, prosperity, and it influences others on
24 that street.

25 So whilst we don't have direct initiatives for our children that are in State care, we
26 have this overarching mandate through the All-of-Government Pacific Wellbeing Strategy,
27 but we also have initiatives that target our children that are not doing so well and you are
28 seeing the prosperity.

29 So over the course of this financial year, 3,000 of our children, our Pacific Peoples,
30 have been placed into employment or into training. They sound like -- that's big for our
31 people and when I hear their stories, as I've been hearing over the course of the last couple
32 of weeks, and will continue to hear, because we have another 12 to do across the country,
33 and now I can share about this experience with our community and hear from them, too, the
34 voices that they might bring to this talanoa also.

1 **MS SHARKEY:** That, Lauulu, I guess is the importance of MPP's role, because the Covid
2 response showed us how you were able to bring communities together, increase our Pacific
3 Peoples' engagement and involvement there. The response to Pacific Peoples in care, I
4 would say, requires an even greater intense response, but the connections you have in our
5 community are far and wide and they could well be used when we're trying to bring
6 together this system for Pacific Peoples in care. You'd agree with that?

7 **MR LEAUANAE:** I agree.

8 **MS SHARKEY:** I'm aware that Commissioners might have some questions and we've got about
9 10 minutes to go, so I just want to touch on the All-of-Government Pacific Wellbeing
10 Strategy, because, as you said, it was endorsed by Cabinet. What does that mean, endorsed
11 by Cabinet? Is it good to go?

12 **MR LEAUANAE:** We are implementing, and the endorsement of Cabinet is important, because
13 my colleagues have no excuse but to attend, to be involved, to participate.

14 **MS SHARKEY:** Okay. That means the well-being strategy is in place.

15 **MR LEAUANAE:** That's correct.

16 **MS SHARKEY:** And this is -- Aiono, did you want to say something?

17 **MR AILEONE:** Fa'amalie atu Lauulu. (My apologies, Lauulu.) The framework is in place and
18 there's a little bit that sits under it, in terms of fleshing out, I mentioned before the
19 indicators and measures, so that's a co-design with the community and Lauulu mentioned,
20 yeah, we're going up and down the country to talk to our community and it's testing with
21 them, validating some of the framework. Being endorsed by Cabinet, for a small ministry,
22 was huge for the policy shop that I led, because we don't get a lot of stuff in front of
23 Cabinet but this has been in front of Cabinet three times and a lot of willing around the
24 table in the system to take it forward.

25 So the strategy is being implemented, will be officially launched in September. But
26 we haven't waited for the promulgation of the strategy proper. We're going for it now to
27 implement and a lot of the programmes that we have in place now give life to the strategy.
28 So I'm not saying my CE is wrong but there's a little bit more to the story, the boring policy
29 people like me can talk about it.

30 **MS SHARKEY:** I saw "endorsed" and I was, like, hmm, is there a little bit more to it than that?
31 As you were saying, it's difficult to get things before Cabinet. The portfolio sitting outside
32 Cabinet, it would be good if it was inside, where, you know, let's aim for the stars, Pacific
33 Peoples is important; it would make a difference to have it inside that tent?

1 **MR LEAUANAE:** That's a political decision that's got nothing to do with me as an official, but I
2 would say Minister 'aupito has been -- we've secured, over the course of the last four years,
3 \$345 million, over the course of the last four years. I remember speaking to a colleague
4 and he said, "I don't know what you've done. I wasn't able to rub two \$1 coins out of the
5 system". So this is birthed from Lalanga Fou Pacific Aotearoa, the well-being approach. If
6 you want to know well-being, this is what Pacific well-being looks like, and then the
7 implementation of the All-of-Government Pacific Wellbeing Strategy in its various phases
8 means that the influence is such that - I can't,- -- that will be conjecture to say whether the
9 Minister and our Ministry inside or outside of Cabinet would be more influential because
10 we've done a lot with what we have.

11 **MS SHARKEY:** Just on that strategy, looking at the outcomes framework -- you've got that in
12 front of you -- and that's -- you have the system focus areas and in the system shifts you
13 talk about confronting and addressing systemic racism and discrimination. Can you explain
14 what you mean by that?

15 **MR AILEONE:** In short, it's really about addressing, I think, some of the issues you referred to
16 before, Ms Sharkey, around why is it that we have one or two CEs at the table. It is -- it
17 wasn't long ago where we couldn't talk about these words in the system, they were a little
18 bit allergic when you talk about racism. Addressing those, achieving a big shift across the
19 system comes through in a lot of our planning -- plans that fall under the strategy, the
20 institutional and structural issues that prevent a lot of our people in the workforce
21 progressing.

22 So it is changing hearts and minds in the system to understand that it's not merit that
23 always keeps our people behind, there are other factors, biases that, unfortunately, play into
24 it. A lot of it is around education, promoting the issue, developing tools, so the,-- in terms
25 of the public sector at least, there's more awareness about those Pacific values that Lauulu
26 spoke to about before.

27 There's more awareness, when you are meeting with Pacific people, you need to be
28 mindful of their protocols. There's more awareness around data that when you design,
29 collect, analyse, interpret, present data, you need to be working with the Pacific in
30 partnership, if not devolving some of that stuff out to them.

31 So I think it's a little bit historic and contemporary, but we couldn't put forward
32 a strategy through the system that didn't have some of those system shifts in mind.

1 **MS SHARKEY:** Right. One cohort we've seen in the Pacific investigation, Pacific Inquiry, a
2 growing number of Māori and Pacific children in Aotearoa. Is there a kind of focus or look
3 at that particular cohort, complex needs and your relationship with Te Puni Kōkiri --

4 **CHAIR:** You mean people of ancestry which is both Māori and Pacific?

5 **MS SHARKEY:** Māori and Pacific descent.

6 **MR LEAUANAE:** Yes, we work closely with Māori, if you look at our relationship with Te Puni
7 Kōkiri and Te Arawhiti, the Crown agents; our relationships with iwi in our work with our
8 communities. In the last budget 22, we worked closely with Ngāti Toa on a housing
9 strategy, over 150 million over 10 years to build 300 homes in Porirua. And so we see the
10 relationship with Māori critical because of this. There is a growing Māori Pacific
11 population coming through, and iwi, in our tuakana/teina relationship, it's broader, it's not a
12 marriage, it's brother and sister, sister/brother, brother/brother relationship that we have.

13 I think the recent trip with the Prime Minister's delegation back to Samoa
14 highlighted the strengthening relationship between Pacific and Māori, because we
15 requested that iwi leaders were also part of our Treaty of Friendship 60-year celebrations in
16 Samoa. And we took three iwi leaders to represent also New Zealand, but also shows the
17 significance of the partnership approach that we want to have with iwi.

18 And so the Ministry is building a strategy where we're building these relationships
19 with our Crown agents, our Crown agencies, but also with iwi direct to give us a better
20 understanding of how to best work and deal with this growing Māori Pacific cohort.

21 **MS SHARKEY:** Thank you, Lulu. So just a couple of questions left, for Commissioners. I've
22 been told 10.30 is the break.

23 **CHAIR:** That's correct.

24 **MS SHARKEY:** Under the Pacific well-being strategy, how do the formal cross agency
25 arrangements work? What do they look like, what do they enable?

26 **MR AILEONE:** In terms of the cross-agency arrangements, originally, we had invited the main
27 line agencies that have policies that do involve a lot of Pacific. So the cross-agency work
28 revolves around, basically, one of the key areas, around governance. The system Lulu
29 mentioned, we have a ministerial working group made up of the different ministers with
30 portfolio responsibilities. Similarly, we have -- those ministerial portfolios flow down into
31 the CEs grouping and then it flows into a DCEs cross-agency grouping, where we are
32 meeting quite regularly to take forward the Pacific outcomes framework which is a focus
33 but also other strategies, plans that they're developing which have a disproportionate effect
34 on Pacific and then we have senior officials as a working group.

1 So cross agency wise, we bring the agencies together like that. Sorry, I got the sign
2 to speak slowly. Sorry about that. So it comes together at the moment by virtue of the
3 mandate we have from our community and the mandate we have from Cabinet to have
4 those agencies around the table.

5 **MS SHARKEY:** Mandate from Cabinet to have all those big agencies around the table with MPP.

6 **MR AILEONE:** Correct.

7 **MS SHARKEY:** That's where you will ensure your advice has been adhered to or listened or...

8 **MR AILEONE:** We actually have them involved in the development of the outcomes framework.

9 It's critical because they'll be responsible for ensuring that those outcomes are being
10 achieved and that's in a co-design fashion with them.

11 **MS SHARKEY:** All right. Aiono, Laulu, malo 'aupito, I don't have any further questions. I'll
12 leave it for the Commissioners now.

13 **MR LEAUANAE:** Fa'afetai lava Tania Sharkey.

14 **CHAIR:** Yes, thank you. Our questions are going to be directed through Ali'imua.

15 **COMMISSIONER ALOFIVAE:** Faafetai lava, faafetai lava mo le faasoa i leni taeao. (Thank
16 you, thank you for sharing this morning). Can I just pick up on the last point that
17 Ms Sharkey just left off on. Could you just clarify for us again, so it's been approved to
18 work on this outcomes framework but we still haven't got to the end product, you're still
19 developing it; is that correct? Did I hear that right?

20 **MR AILEONE:** Thank you for the question, Ali'imua. So the strategy as such is finalised,
21 accepted by Cabinet and the unsexy bit that we're trying to work out now is how we
22 measure and that's the outcomes framework and it has 18 outcomes and underneath those
23 outcomes sits these indicators and that's the indicators we need to define, develop,
24 establish. The shortcoming we have is whether the data is being collected and so we
25 suspect there will be a gaps analysis where we're probably not measuring to understand
26 whether that indicator is there. But the other components of the strategy, in terms of
27 workforce capability, has stood up. The governance arrangements are stood up and the
28 principles and values that Laulu mentioned before have been endorsed.

29 **COMMISSIONER ALOFIVAE:** Congratulations. It's an amazing piece of work and quite
30 ground-breaking. It's pioneering. It's the first time this has been done, we're hearing that
31 loud and clearly. But do you have an end date by which you should have actually been able
32 to have worked through those measures so you can actually start measuring?

33 **MR LEAUANAE:** We are trying to have these indicators established as quickly as possible so we
34 can start the measuring. We are not going to wait for all of the measures to be, -we're- not

1 going to wait on all 18 to be perfect to then start measuring. There are some indicators, I'm
2 sure, out of outcomes that are ready for us to measure.

3 The pertinent one for this is the abuse in State care approach and focus. I'm not sure
4 how far we are in relation to that outcome and indicator, but we're doing everything in our
5 ability to work with Oranga Tamariki and the other agencies that are critical to this
6 indicator outcome to be finalised. And, ideally, it would be finalised by the end of
7 December so that we're ready for at least the last two quarters, so we're trying our very best.
8 I know we're launching, - sorry, I'm talking too fast here,- - I- know we're launching the
9 strategy in September and then --

10 **COMMISSIONER ALOFIVAE:** So the strategy's been approved but it's still very much a work
11 in progress, I think is a good way, it's a fair way to describe it, but working as fast as you
12 can, wanting to put pegs in the ground but you can't quite commit to those things. There's
13 nothing wrong with that. We want to just get clarity on that, fa'afetai lava.

14 Because in our space already, so the care of children and State care, which includes
15 a range of settings -- health, disability, children in residences -- there are already some
16 processes. So you might have heard in our first week we heard from the ICM, from the
17 children's monitor, the Independent Children's Monitor. We've heard from Oranga
18 Tamariki and the National Care Standards that are there. We also heard yesterday from our
19 Children's Commissioner and a small team from her office, and later on this morning, we're
20 going to also hear from the Ombudsman.

21 So I think we're agreeing with you, there are already some processes in place where
22 the voice of Pasifika is desperately needed in the accountability space. So I'm really just
23 wanting to put to you, and, you know, we do this, Māori have a treaty that they can rely on.
24 Pasifika have to be really strategic, we rely on Treaty friendships with the Government, we
25 rely on Realm Nation arrangements and often we very strongly support of Māori, because
26 we think if Māori can get through, then we can get through. And I'm using the royal "we"
27 in terms of Pasifika. I think you're understanding the sentiment that I'm expressing here.

28 I want to come back to the example that you used about going out into our
29 communities. No question that the Ministry of Pacific Peoples is valued, highly valued by
30 our Pasifika communities. That's shown by the strength and the extensive networks that
31 you have and the question that Ms Sharkey put to you was the value of being able to use
32 those same networks to inform the care space, because that's a powerful voice that is often
33 missing.

1 Then we understand the tension that you hold as an agency, as a population
2 Ministry. So you go out to our people. They tell you all these things. They tell you off,
3 they pat you on the head, but they love you. And then you come back to your colleagues in
4 the system and the tension is how do you influence? So there some things that we always
5 do by way of fa'aaloalo, but there are other things when Pasifika just actually needs to stand
6 up in the accountability space. That's the question, I think, that we're wanting to just
7 talanoa with around mandates.

8 So the well-being strategy is all good and well, that's going to be part of the new
9 world, but it's for all of Pasifika well-being. We've got a quite a particular focus, because
10 we've heard that Pasifika are over-represented, Māori more so, disability are represented
11 but Pasifika are represented, can't sit well with us as Pasifika people.

12 And is there a role to play if a mandate was available to in actual fact strengthen
13 that accountability component? Because in the here and now, what's the agency voice into
14 the ICM, into the National Care Standards, into the Office of Children's Commissioner, into
15 the Ombudsman's processes? Just some thoughts, fa'amolemole lava.

16 **MR LEAUANAE:** Fa'afetai lava mo le tuu fesili Aliimuamua. (Thank you for the question
17 Aliimuamua). This has been the fine line, fine balance hearing the voices of our people
18 devastated by what they go through and then we look at the level of resourcing made
19 available to us and we have this word "prioritise", because if we spread ourselves too thin
20 then we're no use to anyone. And I recall the Ministry of yesteryear, you know, small
21 agency, really difficult, I reflect on the May 2017 PIF report, which showed that we just
22 weren't connected, and then the shift that we've gone through today.

23 So this is a longwinded way of saying if we were even given the mandate, I'm not
24 sure if we would have the resources to do that properly. Then if you give us the resources,
25 when you look at Oranga Tamariki, the last time I read their annual report, I think they
26 were 1.8 billion and we're 80 -million - grown from 12 -million - and- the impact with our
27 communities is there.

28 And so if we were to reflect on what do we do with the limited resources, if there
29 were things like in the Public Service Act, I'm the Chief Executive, maybe I become a
30 system lead and then a system lead creates criteria by which the government departments
31 have to adhere to in terms of Pacific. To enforce the already existing AllofGovernment
32 Pacific Wellbeing Strategy, is there a Cabinet Committee that's created, utilising the
33 ministers that are already involved in the AllofGovernment Pacific Wellbeing Strategy?
34 Through Treasury and the budget process, does the AllofGovernment Pacific Wellbeing

1 Strategy have a greater role in determining budgets for Pacific Peoples? Those are
2 probably the areas of strengthening in terms of our priority with the limited resources that
3 we have.

4 Now, we could argue what if you got the resourcing that you required to deliver on
5 this? We would probably defer back to reinforcing the All of Government Pacific Wellbeing
6 Strategy to take a very systemic approach, because the skill set required to monitor and
7 evaluate, we don't have the workforce, all these kinds of factors.

8 So a longwinded answer to provide a contextual framework to -answer - to try and
9 provide an answer to your very good question.-

10 **COMMISSIONER ALOFIVAE:** Fa'afetai lava. Final question, because I'm mindful of time and
11 also of your role. The agencies that I've just referred to; the ICM, the OCC, the
12 Ombudsman -- and we'll leave aside Oranga Tamariki because we've got Aiolupotea Sina
13 in there, so you talk a lot -- have they consulted MPP on the new world that they're going to
14 be living in? That's the Independent Children's Monitor, the Children's Commission and
15 the Ombudsman, have they consulted you, your agency?

16 **MR AILEONE:** Yeah, we had a pretty open relationship with Judge Becroft when he was the
17 Children's Commissioner, very knowledgeable about our work, and that's quite an open
18 channel. I'm part of -- there is an inter-agency group where ICM is there with the other
19 children's agencies. Sorry, Ali'imuamua, what was that last group?

20 **COMMISSIONER ALOFIVAE:** I'm really asking you specifically around have they consulted
21 you around the oversight and monitoring that they are now responsible for and will be held
22 accountable for, for Pacific children?

23 **MR AILEONE:** I will double-check with my teams. I'm not sure. I have to take that on notice.

24 **COMMISSIONER ALOFIVAE:** Okay. Fa'afetai lava. Faamalulu atu. Leai se afaina, faafetai
25 lava. Ia avea lo'u leo e fai ma sui o le taitaifono faatasi ma le pa'ia lasilasi o la matou
26 Komesina e momoli atu le faafetai. Faafetai le loto malosi. Fa'afetai le finau. Faafetai le
27 galulue faamaoni mo tatou tagata i Aotearoa Niu Sila nei. E le lava upu ae momoli atu le
28 fiafia i lou oo mai ua maualuga le aso. Faafetai le faasoa, faafetai le lagolago malosi mai foi
29 i la matou galuega ia matou manuia, ia manuia oulua ma lou aiga, faatasi ma le
30 matagaluega. (Thank you. I apologise. It's fine, thank you. I extend our gratitude on behalf
31 of the Chair and members of the Commissioner. Thank you for being strong. Thank you for
32 your persistence. Thank you for working diligently for our people living in Aotearoa New
33 Zealand. Words cannot fully express our gratitude in your being here. Thank you for
34 sharing, thank you for advocating our work).

1 **MR LEAUANAE:** E le mafai ona matou o ese mai i ae le i fa'aleoa se agaga gae'etia i lau
2 galuega Aliimuamua. Ua maua le loto ma le agaga alofa ma le agaga foi ga o le vivii oga o
3 le vaai aku o lea e ke faasoa i legei galuega makagofie, kāua. Ia faamaguia mai le Akua la
4 kakou Komesiga, vasega Komesiga aemaise i lokou kofa mamao i lau afioga Aliimuamua,
5 faafetai, soifua ma ia manuia. Manuia. (We cannot depart from here without expressing
6 our gratitude to the work you have done Aliimuamua. We have found love and sing praises
7 with what's been shared on this important work. May the Lord bless the Commissioners,
8 the team especially Aliimuamua, thank you).

9 **CHAIR:** General thanks from all of the Commissioners for your efforts, your works and for the
10 work of the teams who sit behind you in providing the evidence to the Royal Commission,
11 we're very grateful. Thank you so much. It's time for our morning adjournment. We'll
12 take 15 minutes. Thank you.

13 **Adjournment from the 10.31 am to 10.49 am**