

**ABUSE IN CARE ROYAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY
STATE REDRESS INQUIRY HEARING**

Under The Inquiries Act 2013

In the matter of The Royal Commission of Inquiry into Historical Abuse in
State Care and in the Care of Faith-based Institutions

Royal Commission: Judge Coral Shaw (Chair)
Dr Andrew Erueti
Ms Sandra Alofivae

Counsel: Mr Simon Mount, Ms Hanne Janes and Ms Danielle Kelly
for the Royal Commission

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

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1 **Hearing opens with waiata and karakia tīmatanga by Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei**

2 (10.03 am)

3 **REGISTRAR:** This sitting of the Royal Commission is now in session.

4 **CHAIR:** Nau mai hoki mai ki ngā huihuinga matua o te Kōmihana Rōera. Good morning and
5 welcome back to the second week of the hearing of the Royal Commission. Good morning
6 Ms Janes.

7 **MS JANES:** Tēnā koutou Commissioners and all other attendees. Our first witness this morning
8 will be Mr Kerry Johnson which is an anonymised name. His evidence will be led by Ms
9 Sonja Cooper and counsel assisting is Kerryn Beaton. I will turn over to Ms Cooper.

10 **CHAIR:** Ms Cooper, Ms Beaton, good morning.

11 **MS COOPER:** Ata mārie e te Tiamana, tēnā koutou e ngā Kōmihana, tēnā tātou katoa,
12 ko Sonja Cooper ahau. Good morning Madam Chair. Greetings to all the Commissioners
13 and greetings to everyone here. We're going to commence with the evidence of Kerry
14 Johnson.

15 **KERRY JOHNSON**

16 **CHAIR:** I'll just let Mr Johnson know that we can see you well. Can you see us?

17 A. Yes, I can.

18 **Q.** Good, welcome, welcome to the hearing. Thank you for attending.

19 A. It's all good.

20 **Q.** I'm going to leave Ms Cooper to ask you the questions now.

21 **QUESTIONING BY MS MS COOPER:**

22 **Q.** Kerry, as we discussed earlier --

23 **CHAIR:** I'm sorry, we haven't done the affirmation.

24 **MS COOPER:** That's right, he needs to be affirmed.

25 **CHAIR:** Sorry, Mr Johnson. Can I just ask you if you will take the affirmation please. Do you
26 solemnly, sincerely and truly declare and affirm that the evidence you will give before this
27 Commission will be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?

28 A. I do.

29 **Q.** Thank you. Now it's Ms Cooper's turn.

30 **QUESTIONING BY MS COOPER:**

31 **Q.** So, Kerry, as we discussed earlier, if at any point you need to take a break, you just put up
32 your hand or say, "I would like to take a break" and we will have a pause. But we'll start by
33 you confirming that you were born in 1972, weren't you?

34 A. Yeah.

1 **Q.** And at a young age you were said to have an intellectual disability and that still means that
2 you have difficulties with reading, doesn't it?

3 **A.** Yes, it does.

4 **Q.** The first thing that we're going to talk about today, Kerry, we're going to work through
5 where you were in care and what your experiences were there before we talk about the
6 settlement processes. So, the first place we're going to talk about is Marylands School,
7 which was in Christchurch. And you went there when you were just seven years old in
8 January 1980. Is that correct?

9 **A.** Yeah, it was.

10 **Q.** Can you tell us a bit about your memories of Marylands, again just as much as you feel
11 comfortable talking about. First of all, do you remember who that was run by?

12 **A.** Yes, it's run by staff members and the pastors.

13 **Q.** So, this was a Catholic school, wasn't it?

14 **A.** Yeah.

15 **Q.** And the brothers were St John of God brothers. Do you remember that?

16 **A.** Yeah.

17 **Q.** And you were there until February 1981. Can you tell us a bit about what happened while
18 you were there?

19 **A.** I was abused. I was raped. They used to come into the dormitory, grab me out of bed, take
20 me back to his room, back to his house, you know, and he made me do things to him like
21 suck him off and he used to bend me over and do shit behind me, and then he used to grab
22 another kid or grab both of us at the same time and make us do it to each other and then
23 he'll make us do it to him and then he'll do it to us again.

24 It's hard to say, you know, talk about this, but I just want the world to know that,
25 you know, I was, you know, I was just taken away from my mother, stuck into an
26 environment where they raped me and made me do things to him, you know? He used to
27 come in our mouth and yous are -- it's just sitting here talking about it, yeah no, it is hurting
28 me now, you know, it's making me, you know -- yeah, I'm just sad, yeah no, I'm just sad.
29 I'm sad really at the moment, you know?

30 You don't -- living in that environment was the hardest thing I ever done. I had to
31 survive, and you were stuck into a place where you're taken away from your family and
32 they put you in an environment where they hurt me as a kid. Yous don't know that, you
33 know, I was expelled at five. I'm going to tell you where it began, I never told Sonja
34 Cooper, I never told anyone. My nightmare began at five years old at primary school in

1 Ashburton. That was done by the principal. They kicked me out of primary school after
2 three days because I was beating up the six and seven years old to take all my fuck'n
3 frustration out on. Then that's when they took me off my mum at seven.

4 Now I sit here and you want me to talk about what happened to me but, you know,
5 how would you like if your life was taken away from you? How would you like someone
6 fucking you in the arse or, you know, abusing you. It's taken me so many years to come up
7 and talk about it, but I've put my brick wall down, now it's time for the world to hear what
8 happened to me.

9 **Q.** Kerry, we'll put up a document now so that we can see the complaint that you made to the
10 St John of God brothers. So that document is a complaint that you made about your time
11 there. We just repeat you were seven when you went there. So, you'll see there, Kerry, it
12 referred to two different brothers who sexually abused you. Is that your recollection that
13 there were two brothers who sexually abused you?

14 **A.** Yeah.

15 **Q.** And so, you said that the first one abused you twice?

16 **A.** Yeah.

17 **Q.** And that involved touching your penis and then you had to perform oral sex on him. Do
18 you remember saying that?

19 **A.** Yeah.

20 **Q.** And then you talk about what you've talked about before the rape. And then you said there
21 was another one. I'm looking at 1.4, another one who had glasses and he was like a
22 chaplain and you talk about three times that he sexually abused you and they're all the acts
23 you've already described.

24 **A.** Yeah.

25 **Q.** Then you talk about the staff member who made boys do it to one another. You remember
26 saying that too?

27 **A.** Yeah.

28 **Q.** You also talked about the physical abuse that you had there. Do you want to talk a bit
29 about the physical abuse, Kerry?

30 **A.** They used to beat us up, give us hidings if we didn't do as we're told. If you didn't do what
31 they told us to do they'd beat us up.

32 **Q.** This was the brothers was it, Kerry?

33 **A.** Yeah.

34 **Q.** And you talked about psychological stuff as well. Can you talk a bit about that?

1 A. I'm just,-- I'm just angry.

2 Q. Yeah. Do you want to move then on to Campbell Park?

3 A. You know, sitting here my whole hands are sweating up, twitching, I'm feeling hurt.

4 Q. You let me know if you need a break.

5 A. I've got a split personality. I've got ADHD.

6 Q. Are you all right, Kerry, do you want to carry on?

7 A. Yeah, just -- yeah no just carry on, I can, yeah, get it over and done with.

8 Q. All right, okay, so let's move to Campbell Park. So, in March 1981 you went to Campbell
9 Park School and you were there for six years?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. So up until 1987. And most of that time you didn't have any status with Social Welfare but
12 at the last year in 1987 you were a State ward. Again, as much as you feel able to, Kerry,
13 I want you to talk about your experiences over those six years at Campbell Park. So, let's
14 start with what happened to you in terms of physical assaults?

15 A. Yeah, all right then. Campbell Park was the worst place I've been to. They didn't just rape
16 you and do things to you, they beat the daylights out of you. It wasn't just the males, it was
17 the females as well. Like I said to Sonja Cooper, it wasn't the females didn't hurt me like
18 the males did, but they told me that they'd -- still you're in their care, but the females didn't
19 hurt me, it was the males that the hurt the most.

20 Q. So, Kerry, in your affidavit you said that you were kicked, hit, beaten with planks of wood?

21 A. Oh yeah, you were beaten the daylights out of you if you didn't do as you were told, or
22 didn't, you know, they'd just beat you, or sometimes they'll strip you down naked, make
23 you stand out in the cold for hours. Sometimes they'll put us in a cave, there's a sort of
24 cave, like a refrigerator, it's like outside down the hill, this little cave, you'll be naked in
25 there for hours. When you come out you're like cold as. They didn't care, they just made
26 you go back to bed.

27 Q. What would happen if you ran away, Kerry?

28 A. They'll give me the hiding. I took off a few times from Campbell Park. I got lost because,
29 you know, it's out in the country and they found me and took me back and they gave me the
30 strap and the cane. Sometimes they'll do things to me like rape me. Talking about
31 Campbell Park is the hardest one because that was my nightmare. I was raped, I was
32 fucked, I was made to do things, my best mates were made to do things to me. I thought St
33 John of God was the bad one, but Campbell Park was the worst.

34 When you're nine years old wake up in the morning and go to breakfast and you

1 see [GRO-C] I still have nightmares over this becaus

2 And then you all sit there and then you ask me to talk about this kind of stuff, it's
3 like, you know, how would you like a male making you and your mate do it to each other?
4 And if you didn't do it to each other, they made you stand in the cold or they'll beat the
5 daylight out of you. So, I told my mate to do it, you know, I said just "Do it brother, just
6 get it over and done with so we don't get the hiding, just do it to me, don't worry about it",
7 you know? It happened to me until I was like 13.

8 **Q.** And you say, don't you Kerry, that the staff used to get groups of boys to beat you as well?

9 **A.** Yeah, I was the young one, there was a few of us used to get beaten up by other boys. But
10 then I got harder and harder, I become harder, I became an angry man. I became angry to
11 the world, I blamed the world for what happened to me.

12 **Q.** Just talking about the other things at Campbell Park, you talked about bullying and threats
13 and hearing boys screaming.

14 **A.** You know what it's like when you hear someone screaming? It's like when you hear them
15 screaming you know what's going on. You know what's happening to that boy, he's just
16 getting raped. That's what I felt when I first got it done to me, I screamed. Then when you
17 hear that scream it's like he'll come back to his dormitory, into his little cubicle, and us boys
18 used to go and sit in there with him because he's crying. We hold him, hug him, we just say
19 to him "We know what you're going through mate, you're just -- you're fresh meat, that's
20 why they're doing it. But after a while you get used to it".

21 **Q.** We talk about what your records from Campbell Park say and they talk about you being hit
22 by other boys and they talk about sexual behaviour between the boys. The records also say
23 that you had a lot of problems, including wetting the bed?

24 **A.** Yeah, I used to soil myself. I was afraid to go to the toilet. I was afraid to go to the toilet at
25 night. I used to piss the bed, I used to shit my pants and they used to call me "Pooh-poohs"
26 that was what the kids used to call me.

27 **Q.** And the records also say that you tried to kill yourself at Campbell Park as well, didn't you?

28 **A.** Yeah, I was cutting my arms, that's why I've got tattoos on my arms, I used to go to the
29 woodwork room and grab a steel and take it back to the house and cut my arm up.

30 **Q.** Is there anything else you'd like to say at this stage about Campbell Park, Kerry, because
31 we'll move on to Templeton Hospital?

32 **A.** Campbell Park, I'm still waiting 16 years for this crap.

33 **Q.** Yeah, we'll get there. So, the next place you had a short admission to was Templeton
34 Hospital?

- 1 A. Yeah, a couple of hours.
- 2 Q. Yeah. So, tell us about those couple of hours?
- 3 A. The first day I got there they beat me up for them hours. I couldn't handle it no more so
4 I took off. My brothers and that were chasing me, yeah. They put me in a padded room the
5 first day I got there for them hours.
- 6 Q. You talk about you being the only young person there and that you were --
- 7 A. Yeah, I was only the kid, I was stuck in with adults.
- 8 Q. You say you were being sexually propositioned by some of those adults?
- 9 A. Yeah. But I wasn't going to do it, they wouldn't have done it because I would, I would have
10 stabbed. That would have been my first thing, you know, self--defence. I've had enough.
- 11 Q. Then you have the first time going to Stanmore Road in January 1987. We know that you
12 were in and out of Stanmore Road. Tell me what you remember about Stanmore Road?
- 13 A. I was always in fights, yeah. When I first got there, I attacked the first boy I saw. I beat
14 him up, then they stuck me in the secure unit. I spent most of my life, most of my time in
15 the secure unit, because I was a violent boy, I was attacking every person, even the staff. I
16 was attacking them.
- 17 Q. Can you remember why?
- 18 A. Because I didn't want no-one to touch me anymore and I didn't know if they were going to
19 do the same thing to me what Campbell Park and Son of God doesn't to me, so that's why
20 I attacked first, then, yeah.
- 21 Q. And you say in your affidavit that at Stanmore Road you were able to get drugs and alcohol
22 and cigarettes?
- 23 A. Haha, yeah.
- 24 Q. How did you do that?
- 25 A. The staff used to give us cigarettes, they used to give us six cigarettes a day just to calm us
26 down. I used to go down and I used to take off from the boys. It was so easy just walk out
27 the door, walk down the street and you're on the run. I used to get my drugs off anyone,
28 you know, anyone on the street. But the smokes we got them supplied to us by the staff.
- 29 Q. We'll shift you then to Sunnyside Hospital because in between going in and out of
30 Stanmore Road you went to Sunnyside Psychiatric Hospital. So tell us about your
31 experience in that psychiatric hospital?
- 32 A. Padded room, beat me up, tie me to the bed, inject me with some shit, knocked me out.
33 That's all I got was hidings.
- 34 Q. When you say "hidings", who by, Kerry?

- 1 A. The staff, the people that are taking care -- it was like I shouldn't have been in there, it was
2 like for people that were sick like, you know, they're not all there, they were real sick
3 patients. I didn't even know why I was in there, they just said I was out the gate, out of
4 control.
- 5 Q. And you talked about being given injections?
- 6 A. Yeah, it was like knocked me out.
- 7 Q. Whereabouts on the body were you given the injections?
- 8 A. In the arm.
- 9 Q. Is that while you're tied up?
- 10 A. Yeah, so they can just inject me, like that eh.
- 11 Q. Anything else you want to say about Sunnyside?
- 12 A. Yeah no, yeah no, I'm just trying to, you know, my hands are like tensing up at the moment.
- 13 Q. Yeah.
- 14 A. It's like hard as, you know? But it's all good.
- 15 Q. Remember you can tell me to stop, if you want to stop at any time you just let me know,
16 okay?
- 17 A. No, it's all good.
- 18 Q. All good? All right, we'll keep going. So, the last placement that we're going to talk about
19 is Kingslea. That's another Social Welfare residence. Tell me what you remember about
20 Kingslea?
- 21 A. I was always in the secure unit. We had riots there, we used to take on the staff. We had
22 the cops there because we had a lockdown, we had the place locked down, all the boys
23 blocked the doors up. Yeah, it was just normal to me, it was like I had to fight all the time.
24 That was me, I had to, that was just me, because, you know, I didn't know what to do, I just
25 knew how to survive. My surviving was attack people. And the staff there were like yeah
26 no, they didn't touch me, but you got hidings from them. You know, but it was just because
27 of my -- you know, I attacked, that's the only way they could control me, because I was a
28 violent boy. So, I was always stuck in the secure unit.
- 29 Q. And you say that that was another place that the staff gave you cigarettes.
- 30 A. Oh yeah, six a day. I liked them because it calmed me down and mellowed me out.
- 31 Q. And you say that's another place where you also had access to drugs and alcohol. So how
32 did you get them?
- 33 A. It's quite easy, you just left the house, go down the road and, you know, you just go to the
34 people that sell drugs and, you know, if you knew a couple of people, you know? Like I've

1 had family, I got family there that used to-- they always sold, so I always went to them.

2 **Q.** And after Kingslea, you went out and you got moved around quite a bit?

3 **A.** Yeah, foster homes.

4 **Q.** And you say, don't you, that you also had some physical assaults in those places as well,
5 didn't you?

6 **A.** Yeah.

7 **Q.** So, we've talked now about the hard stuff. What I want you to think about now, Kerry, and
8 you've talked about it quite a lot already, is how this has affected you through your life. So,
9 can you talk about now what the impact of all of this has been for you?

10 **A.** It's had a hard life for me. They took my childhood away from me, so all I've been doing is
11 I've been in and out of jail from then. That's all I've known, that's all my life has been is
12 I lived a gang life, I used to run with gangs because I thought that was my family, I trusted
13 them more than anything else. So, I've lived in a gang life and I became a criminal because
14 that's all I'd known. I didn't know what wrong and right was, I just did what I had to do for
15 survival. I can't talk to my family at the moment because I'm arguing with them. Why is
16 that, because they tell me to harden up because of all of the shit I've gone through. They
17 tell me to harden up. You know how hard is that to hear from your own family to harden
18 up? It's hard. So, all I've known is jail. I'm 48 and I'm still going to jail.

19 **Q.** How does it impact on your ability to have long-term relationships?

20 **A.** Don't last.

21 **Q.** Why is that?

22 **A.** Because it's hard for me because they tried to, you know, it's like they think they love me,
23 but I don't know what love is, I just -- I just don't trust women that much. But I get on well
24 with them, but I can't have relationships with them.

25 **Q.** How do you sleep, Kerry?

26 **A.** My sleeping is bad, I still have nightmares. I have nightmares of these people raping me, I
27 have nightmares when I see GRO-C. I see that every day. I'm on medication at
28 the moment, you know?

29 **Q.** How do you go about -- do you trust people?

30 **A.** I don't like people touching me. If you touch me on the shoulder I'm going to knock you
31 out.

32 **Q.** We've talked about reading and writing. Do you want to talk a bit more about that?

33 **A.** I can't read or write properly because I never trusted any teachers, never trusted anyone,
34 especially teachers. Because teachers were doing it to me in Campbell Park. So, I never

1 trust a teacher. So, I've learned how to read and write on my own, but I only know little
2 bits, you know? It's quite -- people said to me how could you do that? I said well I just
3 tried to learn on my own, I just didn't trust people to help me. But I'm starting to, I'm
4 starting to trust people to help me, you know? It's come a long way, it's taken me a while,
5 but I'm starting to trust.

6 **Q.** And we talked before about suicide attempts. Is that still an issue for you, Kerry?

7 **A.** I still think of doing it all the time. I'm still thinking about it now. I've just had enough,
8 I just want to end my life, that's how I see it. But then what keeps me going is my
9 granddaughter, my grandkids, my friends. When I look at their photos of myself, it stops
10 me doing it because then how I see it they're telling -- my kids are telling me that if you kill
11 yourself you're letting these people win, so I'm not going to let them win.

12 **Q.** One of the things that you have talked about helping you is counselling, and you talk about
13 starting counselling in 2013, 2014. Tell us a bit about how that has helped you, Kerry?

14 **A.** When I started doing counselling it's -- yeah, no he's a good counsellor, his name was
15 Matiu. He didn't pressure me into, straight away, he just made me, you know, when
16 I needed to talk, and then he has helped me a lot, it's let my brick wall down. I used to have
17 this brick wall up that was my shield. That's the only thing that could save me was the
18 brick wall of my shield. But now it's like I can talk about it now because, you know I even
19 joke about it, it's just me now, you know, I can joke about it now because, you know, and
20 I talk to the boys in here and they tell me yeah no speak up, speak up about this. Because
21 I've got mates in here that are going through the same thing as me. So it's not just me,
22 there's other people. So Matiu would have told me to speak up, so that's what I'm doing.

23 **Q.** Can you always access counselling in prison Kerry?

24 **A.** Not in OCF (Otago Corrections Facility). In OCF they won't pay for my counsellor, Matiu,
25 while I'm in OCF. They don't want me to do another counselling here, they don't want me
26 to start all over again when I've really known that one person. So, it is hard. If ACC won't
27 pay for it, it's hard.

28 **Q.** So counselling's not always available in every prison in New Zealand?

29 **A.** No, because the counsellor's in Christchurch and I'm here.

30 **Q.** One of the things you've been diagnosed with, Kerry, is Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.
31 Do you understand what that means?

32 **A.** It's like I'm stressed all the time, I think of bad stuff, you know, like stuff to myself, that's
33 why they put me on medication to stop all that.

34 **Q.** How do you function when you get out of jail? What's life like for you when you get out of

1 jail?

2 A. Hard. It is hard for me because when I do get out it's my family that stress me out the most.
3 They just want money off me, that's all they want. So, I do something stupid just to get
4 away from it, so I come back to jail to get away from all that.

5 Q. Is there anything else that you want to say at this point before we start moving on to how
6 you've worked through settling your claims, or do you want to take a break, Kerry?

7 A. No, I'm going to -- I'm hard, I'm a hard man, so I'll just go hard.

8 Q. Good on you, all right. Okay.

9 A. I'm not going to have a break.

10 Q. Good on you. All right, so we're now coming to when you came to us. So, as you say in
11 your affidavit, you heard about the work that my firm was doing in 2004 and you contacted
12 us in November 2004, so nearly 16 years ago now.

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. And you remember that the first thing we did was request your Social Welfare records and
15 we --

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. -- requested them in February 2005 and, as you say in your affidavit, they arrived in
18 November 2005?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. So, you were interviewed by a lawyer from our firm in February 2005 and, as you say in
21 your affidavit, that was the first time you had really talked about a lot of your experiences.
22 How did you find that, Kerry?

23 A. Hard.

24 Q. Why was that?

25 A. Because, you know, when I first heard -- when I first saw that lawyer I didn't know what
26 the hell was going on. She told me "You're one of those kids that were abused in the care"
27 and I was going "How did you know?" And it was through my mates. So yeah, it was
28 hard, but it had to be done.

29 Q. And at that time did you feel comfortable talking about everything that had happened to
30 you?

31 A. No. No, not really, no. Because then I had to open it all up. I had this shield still up, you
32 know, I didn't want no-one -- I didn't let much out.

33 Q. By that stage, of course, you hadn't had any counselling, had you, that wasn't for another
34 seven or so years?

1 A. Yeah, I never had counselling.

2 Q. And then we move to 2006 and, as you say in your affidavit, we prepared a statement of
3 evidence for you and it took you until November the next year to finish it. And as you
4 explain, that's because your reading wasn't very good?

5 A. No, it was not good.

6 Q. So, it's hard for you to read that document then?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. And it was in October 2007 that we agreed to help you with a claim against St John of God,
9 you remember that?

10 A. Yes, I do.

11 Q. And so, we wrote to the New Zealand lawyers in February 2008. Do you remember that?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. And then there's lots of toing and froing with the correspondence, isn't there?

14 A. Yeah, there was.

15 Q. Then we move on, so your claim was filed against the Ministry of Social Development in
16 2008, so that's filed in the High Court, and that included, didn't it, details about your time in
17 Campbell Park and the psychiatric hospitals?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. And then in March 2008 St John of God lawyers came back to us saying that your claim
20 would be dealt with in terms of Marylands under the Australian settlement process, and do
21 you remember that the next step was for you to be interviewed by John Jamieson who was
22 a former police officer?

23 A. Yes, I do.

24 Q. So, before that we had sent off a statement of your -- of account of what happened there,
25 didn't we?

26 A. Yeah.

27 Q. So they knew what had happened. And then we come to April 2008 as we talk in your
28 affidavit. We have legal aid writing to Cooper Legal saying it was wanting to withdraw
29 funding for your Social Welfare claim. Do you remember that?

30 A. Yes, I do.

31 Q. How did that make you feel, Kerry?

32 A. I felt like shit. I felt angry. It was like what a waste of time.

33 Q. And then we'll move on ahead, there were some other things going on, collecting in records
34 and taking other steps to move forward. And then we get a letter in September 2008 from

1 Legal Aid saying that it had asked Cooper Legal for more information but in the meantime
2 your funding was going to continue. How did you feel about that?

3 A. I felt happy. Something's going to happen, so I was happy, yeah.

4 **Q.** And the very next day you met with John Jamieson?

5 A. Yeah.

6 **Q.** And you had Amanda Hill from our office with you. Tell me how you found that meeting?

7 A. Stressful.

8 **Q.** What was particularly --

9 A. I was angry.

10 **Q.** Yeah.

11 A. I was angry, didn't last long, I stormed out and broke the door.

12 **Q.** I'm going to pull up a document now, Kerry, which is document 18, fourth page. We're just
13 waiting for that to come up. So, I just want to highlight two perhaps from that document
14 which is paragraph 1.12 and that says that at this point you left the room in an angry
15 outburst. On the way out you slammed the door with such force you damaged the door.
16 You returned after walking around the block. So, you remember that you calmed yourself
17 down and came back?

18 A. Yes, I did.

19 **Q.** And then we show paragraph 1.14, so that says that you came back to the room, but you
20 were distressed and angry and you weren't able to cope with any discussion about the
21 allegations of abuse. So, the whole meeting lasts only 20 minutes.

22 A. Yeah.

23 **Q.** Do you remember what particularly made you angry and distressed in that meeting?

24 A. The talk about the -- talking about the pastors.

25 **Q.** So, talking about what had happened to you?

26 A. Yeah.

27 **Q.** And then you'll remember that in December 2008 John Jamieson provided a report which
28 came to us and he said, didn't he, that you hadn't given much information and the brothers
29 had denied the allegations, so he couldn't say that the allegations were true. And again, I'm
30 going to pull up the document that says that. So, it's the same document we were on, but
31 this time at paragraph 2.1. So, he referred there, didn't he, Kerry, to the evidence you had
32 given in support of the allegations.

33 A. Yeah.

34 **Q.** Which was your statement, which you confirmed was true, and also your mum saying that

1 one of the reasons she took you out of Marylands after one year was because you were very
2 angry?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And then he referred to the evidence that didn't support your allegations, and he said that
5 you had been unable to identify any of the brothers or the staff members who you said
6 abused you and he said --

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. -- that your descriptions at that stage did not match any person who could be identified
9 from that period. But then he notes, doesn't he, that you were only eight years old during
10 the year you were at Marylands, so some allowance should be made for descriptions that
11 come from childhood memories?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. Then he goes on to say, doesn't he, that in a strict legal sense your allegations couldn't be
14 justified. However, he said there was residual concern, you were insisting the abuse
15 occurred, your mother had given evidence about you being angry, your own evidence about
16 your inability to relate to men, including violence to any man who touched you, all
17 indicated that your time at Marylands had had an adverse effect on you.

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. So you remember us taking you through that?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. So you'll remember that after that report came through there was a long negotiation?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. And eventually you entered into a confidential settlement in October 2009. Now we
24 know --

25 A. Yeah.

26 Q. -- that St John of God have said that you can refer to this settlement for the purposes of this
27 hearing. So, if we call up document 34 at the third page and we're just referring there to
28 paragraph F. You'll see there, Kerry, it says that you'd already had a settlement, because
29 this is a later settlement which we'll come to, and you had received \$28,500 which included
30 your costs. And you remember that you had to pay about 3,600 of that money to Legal
31 Aid?

32 A. Yeah.

33 Q. So, you got just below \$25,000 in the hand. Remember that?

34 A. Yeah.

1 Q. Do you remember what you did with that money, Kerry?

2 A. I bought me a car.

3 Q. Good. And then we carry on then with your other claims. So, you'll remember that we talk
4 about 2009 and 10 where Cooper Legal's having quite a few problems with Legal Aid.

5 Remember that?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. And then in September 2010 we were told that funding on your claim was going to be taken
8 away and that we were told we had to stop being your lawyers in the court proceedings.

9 How did that make you feel?

10 A. It made me angry.

11 **CHAIR:** Just to clarify, that's the Legal Aid funding?

12 **MS COOPER:** That's the Legal Aid funding, yes.

13 **CHAIR:** Thank you.

14 **QUESTIONING BY MS COOPER CONTINUED:**

15 Q. And you remember, don't you, that Cooper Legal on your behalf challenged that and did
16 not --

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. -- withdraw as your lawyers?

19 A. No.

20 Q. And then in May 2011 funding on your Social Welfare claim was taken away, wasn't it?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. But later that year we were able to get some funding back for you because by then we had
23 reached agreement with the Ministry of Social Development about a way of sorting out
24 these claims out of court, hadn't we?

25 A. Yeah.

26 Q. Now I'm going to move forward in time, Kerry, to 2012. So, as you explain in your
27 affidavit, there were times you had no contact with us. Can you tell us a bit about why it
28 was hard for you to stay in contact with us all the time?

29 A. No phone.

30 Q. Just the phone?

31 A. I just had no way of contacting you. Because I don't like using phones, especially new
32 cellphones, I don't know how to use them, so --

33 Q. Right, and then when we did get in contact with you, you were still very clear, weren't you,
34 that you wanted us to carry on working for you?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. So, moving on again, by February 2013, as you explained, we were working on doing a
3 settlement offer for you to be sent to the Ministry of Social Development, and as explained,
4 you were back in prison by then and you were doing counselling?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. So, you say that you were able to talk about some of those things that you hadn't been able
7 to tell us before. So, can you explain how counselling helped there?

8 A. It made me see the other light, it made me see that not all people are like that. It was just
9 the people that I was in care with that did it to me, not other people, like I was blaming
10 other people, I was blaming the whole world. I blamed everyone, so, yeah, that helped me
11 a lot to see the other side of it.

12 Q. And you talked about that wall you had put up, was that --

13 A. Yeah, it was my seal.

14 Q. Was that wall also starting to come down a bit more?

15 A. Yeah, it started coming down.

16 Q. So as you explain in that paragraph, the details of your experiences were provided not only
17 to Crown Law in relation to the Ministry of Social Development, but also to the Ministry of
18 Education because they were looking at Campbell Park claims. And then do you remember
19 what happened after that material, your claim document had gone and it had gone to both
20 the Ministry of Social Development and the Ministry of Education, what happened then?

21 A. Campbell Park?

22 Q. Well, with your Social Welfare claim and your Ministry of Education claim, what
23 happened up until 2016?

24 A. I'm still waiting.

25 Q. So, we'll deal with both. Yes, you are still waiting in relation to Campbell Park. So, we
26 then --

27 A. They --- is that another pay-out, eh?

28 Q. Yeah, so remember that the next thing that happened is the Fast Track Process and that's --

29 A. Yes.

30 Q. -- from the Ministry of Social Development?

31 A. Yeah, they came forward with payment.

32 Q. Yeah, so --

33 A. And you told me not to take it.

34 Q. So, we told you, hadn't we, that you should be expecting an offer of about 30,000?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. And that would have covered what had happened to you at -- in Social Welfare care and
3 Campbell Park?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. And you'll remember then that you got your offer under the Fast Track process. Do you
6 remember what that was -- how much that was for?

7 A. I think it was like 6 grand, 5 grand.

8 Q. All right, we'll call up the document, so it's document 29 and we'll call out paragraphs 5,
9 we'll start with paragraph 5.

10 **CHAIR:** This is the offer is it?

11 **MS COOPER:** This is the offer, yes.

12 **QUESTIONING BY MS COOPER CONTINUED:**

13 Q. So, you'll see there, Kerry, that's the offer, it's \$5,000.

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. And then you'll see that your Legal Aid debt was going to be paid, you see that's over the
16 next page, and then --

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. -- also, at C you'll see that you were going to get an apology letter. See that?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. And then I just want to note paragraph 6, because that's important. That says, doesn't it,
21 that the settlement offer was not about what had happened to you at Campbell Park?

22 A. That's right.

23 Q. So, you've already said that we told you not to take the offer?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. What did you decide?

26 A. I decided to take it because I've had enough.

27 Q. And so, you took the \$5,000?

28 A. Yeah, because I had enough, I've just had enough of everything. I just got sick of it keep
29 coming up all the time, so I've had enough so I just wanted it over and done with.

30 Q. And you got an apology letter which I'll call out document 31. So, you remember the
31 apology letter you got?

32 A. Yeah.

33 Q. We'll just call that out and I'll just read bits of it. So, it says "We know how important it
34 is," -so that's the second paragraph, - - "for- people to have their complaints and concerns

1 heard and acknowledged, and more significantly to have them resolved. I trust that this
2 letter will be an important step towards that resolution for you. Through your lawyer you
3 have told us about the experiences you had while you were in State care and how that
4 impacted on your life. That must have been very difficult for you and I want to
5 acknowledge that".

6 Then skipping to the next paragraph. "As Chief Executive of the Ministry of
7 Social Development, I offer my sincere apology for us letting you down in this way. In
8 addition to this letter you have received a payment to acknowledge your experiences while
9 in care. I trust that you will consider this apology and the payment as an appropriate
10 acknowledgment of your experience and I wish you all the very best for the future".

11 How did you feel about that apology letter, Kerry?

12 A. It was all right.

13 Q. It was all right?

14 A. They did it, it was all right they apologised, but at the end of the day it still didn't bring my
15 childhood. I'm always going to have that my childhood was taken away from me.

16 Q. And then --

17 A. I accept your apologies, I accept the apologies, but at the end of the day my childhood was
18 taken.

19 Q. So then with that claim coming to an end we had to open a new file for you to carry on with
20 the Campbell Park claim?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. And you'll remember that we wrote to Crown Law in June 2017 complaining about the lack
23 of progress on the Ministry of Education claims, including yours, reminding the Ministry
24 that it had received the details of your claim in 2013. So again, I'm going to refer to a
25 document, Kerry, this is document 33, and page 1 paragraph 3 first of all. If we can
26 highlight that, so it says:

27 "There are a large number of claims relating to Campbell Park which have been
28 sitting with MOE for a considerable amount of time. MOE was provided with a copy of
29 these clients' claims on 28 March 2013". And that was four years ago when we wrote the
30 letter. Then if we turn to page 2, paragraph 6:

31 "It concerns us that in the significant amount of time that has passed we have seen
32 no progress with these claims. We are unaware what, if any, investigation has been done
33 into Campbell Park and where MOE is in terms of being ready to make offers on these
34 claims".

1 Then we'll go to paragraph 7, which refers to your claim and another person's
2 claim that your claim and another person's claim relate only to MOE and they do not have
3 active MSD claims. There is no reason why these claims cannot be progressed as soon as
4 possible".

5 As you've said, Kerry, you are still waiting, aren't you?

6 A. Yeah, I am.

7 Q. We'll talk more about how you feel about that at the end. In the meantime, however, with
8 your counsellor's kind of help, I suppose, and guidance, we went back to the St John of
9 God, didn't we, to ask for a top-up payment for you, and you'll know that that's because
10 other people had received higher payments. And it's true, isn't it, and you talk about that in
11 your affidavit, that you got an additional \$25,000, didn't you, from St John of God?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. And again, if we call up document 34 page 3, and that's paragraph H. You'll see there that
14 it says that it had agreed to pay you this additional sum of \$25,000 and this time it paid
15 your legal costs separately, didn't it?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. And do you remember what happened with that additional sum, Kerry?

18 A. Yeah, I took it.

19 Q. Yeah. Did you --

20 A. Ended up -- I only got \$2,000 out of it.

21 Q. Where did the rest go?

22 A. My family.

23 Q. And then we carry on just talking about your Ministry of Education claim. So that had to
24 be filed in court, didn't it?

25 A. Yeah.

26 Q. You remember that? So we put that into court on 27 November 2018 and then -- are you
27 all right, Kerry?

28 A. Yeah, I'm all right.

29 Q. You're all right? Just tell me if you need a break, all right? We're nearly there, okay?

30 A. Yeah.

31 Q. So, you remember that we had to collect in a lot of documents about you and that we were
32 also getting documents from the Ministry of Education about Campbell Park. Remember
33 that?

34 A. Yeah.

1 Q. And that's still going, isn't it?

2 A. Still going.

3 Q. We also took a claim against the Ministry of Health in respect of what happened to you in
4 those two psychiatric hospitals?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. And what do you remember about that process?

7 A. They paid me out.

8 Q. So, you say in your affidavit that that was really quick?

9 A. Yeah, it was quick as.

10 Q. Do you remember how many you got?

11 A. 6,000.

12 Q. And so, if we bring up another document, Kerry, that's the offer letter to you. So that's
13 document 40, the first page. You'll see there that's the Ministry of Health under the
14 "accordingly", so that bit there, so "Accordingly the Ministry offers the following, a letter
15 of apology", so you had a letter of apology, any Legal Aid liabilities, and a lump sum
16 payment of \$6,000 which "can be applied to meet any costs of wellness-related services to
17 assist to improve your health or personal situation, or for other purposes which you
18 consider appropriate". So, you saw that?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. And you got an apology letter from the Ministry of Health as well, didn't you?

21 A. Yes, I did.

22 Q. So that's the next document we're going to pull up, that's document 41, and if you look at
23 the second paragraph there, "I have carefully assessed the historical information available
24 and also the information supplied by you. I am now able to acknowledge the seriousness of
25 the matters you have raised. Accordingly, the Ministry expresses its genuine apology for
26 the unreasonable treatment that you had to endure at that time in those facilities".

27 And then it goes on to say in the last paragraph, "I hope that this letter of apology
28 and the compensation will enable you to bring some closure to those regrettable
29 experiences. I also hope that with this resolution process behind you, you are now able to
30 move forward with a sense of peace".

31 Is that how you felt at the end of that process?

32 A. Yeah, because they paid. It was a relief it's over and done with.

33 Q. So, we're now just getting to the end, Kerry, of my part with you. So, you talk about your
34 experiences in care and the journey that you've taken so far, because it hasn't finished, has

1 been a nightmare. And you say you feel like your life is stuffed and that you are stuck in a
2 horror movie that will never end. I just want you to talk about in your own words, again
3 these are your own words, but is there anything more that you want to say?

4 A. Look, I've just had a hard life. 16 years Campbell Park one's been going for. Everyone else
5 has paid up. I just want Campbell Park one over and done with so I can get on with my
6 life. At the moment I can't get on with my life, I've still got this over my head. I've still got
7 to think about what happened to me when I was in Campbell Park. It's like they're taking a
8 joke out of me, like laughing at me, that's how I see it. It hurts me. I just want to get on
9 with my life. Just pay me up and so I can get on with my life, stay out of jail, that's my
10 goal this time. I can't work but I'm going to go try and go back to work.

11 Q. Yeah. You talked about wanting to do farming of some kind?

12 A. I love the country life, the farm keeps me out of trouble. It's when I come back to the city
13 I'm in trouble.

14 Q. How did you feel about actually coming forward and talking to the Commission as you
15 have done today?

16 A. I've got to leave here, go back to my cell, yeah, I'll be stressed, but it's all good, it's out, it's
17 out in the open now.

18 Q. And you said that one of the reasons for you doing this is because you want the
19 Government to finally own up to what happened to kids like you while you were in care. Is
20 that one of the goals of you being here?

21 A. Yeah, I wanted to recognise what happened to us in the care, you put us in that
22 environment, you took us away from our family, you thought it was helping us taking me
23 away from my parents, but it didn't, it didn't help me, it made me like a fucken -- it made
24 me nightmare. I reckon I would have done better just being with me my mum, you know,
25 even if I was a troubled child, my mum had me, she was like my rock. She broke down in
26 tears because she blames herself for what happened.

27 And I've had enough. Sitting here talking about it now is like, yeah no, I'm still
28 waiting for Campbell Park and it's hurting me now because I want that over and done with.
29 My aim is I'm going to ring up and see if I can go and set my friends free.

30 GRO-C

31

32 Q. So that would be part of your therapy as well?

33 A. Yeah, just to set them free. Because at the moment they're still with me, you know, people
34 think it's -- I'm fucked in the head, but no, it's just who I am.

1 **Q.** One of the things that I know that the Commissioners are really interested in, Kerry, is as a
2 Māori, was there any part of any of these processes that you've been involved with that has
3 recognised your Maori identity?

4 **A.** No. No. There's heaps of Māoris in Campbell Park but they didn't see us like that, all these
5 homes I've been to they didn't see us as Māoris they just saw us as meat. There's too many
6 Māoris who have been in care and been abused. Like I didn't learn none of my whakapapa,
7 I still don't know my whakapapa. I wish I did, because I could understand my Māori side.
8 I didn't get that opportunity, but when I get out this time my aim is to go and see my father.
9 I haven't seen my dad for like years, I'm 48. I want to see my dad, I want to see him before
10 he goes, I want him to teach me my whakapapa.

11 **Q.** Just in terms of the settlement processes, Kerry, has any of that had anything that has
12 recognised you being Māori, has it tried to link you with wider whanau, or has there been
13 anything culturally specific offered to you so far?

14 **A.** What do you mean by that, Sonja?

15 **Q.** Yeah, well, we'll get --

16 **A.** What do you mean by that? To me I was just, you know, all I was, I was a kid that was
17 abused, I didn't see myself as a Māori. I just saw myself as a white man in a brown skin.

18 **Q.** Yeah.

19 **A.** That's how I saw it, because we weren't allowed to speak Māori, you know? We only
20 learned English, but I didn't even learn that either, I had to learn that on my own. I didn't
21 even learn how to read or write, I had to learn that on my own, I still don't know how to
22 read and write properly. You know, I just want everything over and done with, I just want
23 everything out of my head, because at the moment sitting here it's all in my head again,
24 yeah.

25 **Q.** Yeah, I know. Is there a last message that you would like to give to the Commissioners
26 today or to the people sitting here today representing the Crown?

27 **A.** To my friends and my family, the friends that have family out there that have been in the
28 homes with me, I hope yous all, -- I hope yous are all strong, especially my friends that are
29 in funny farm at the moment, I hope you stay strong. And rest in peace to my other friends
30 that have died in these places.

31 **Q.** Is there anything you'd like to say about how you think things could have been done better,
32 Kerry?

33 **A.** Yeah, stop taking the kids away from the parents and putting them in places like that
34 because it still happens today. It still happens today when you take our -- like you take our

1 kids away from us, it's still happening today, and you are still doing the same shit all the
2 time. You're taking the kids away from the parents, brown or white, you're still taking them
3 away from the parents, put them in environments where the kids are getting abused still and
4 you are laughing at this. It's like you're taking a big joke out of this when these kids are
5 going to go through the same shit that I went through. That's all I've got to say.

6 **Q.** Yeah?

7 **A.** You've got to stop taking these kids away from the parents and putting them in an
8 environment where they're going to get abused and raped and stuff like that.

9 **Q.** Just coming back to the fact that here you are, you started this journey with Cooper Legal
10 16 years ago?

11 **A.** Yeah.

12 **Q.** Is there a message you want to say about that?

13 **A.** Thank you Sonja Cooper.

14 **Q.** No, I wasn't asking for that.

15 **A.** Thank you for helping me out with this because without you I wouldn't have done this. It's
16 made me come a long way, and I'm still hoping we can finish Campbell Park as soon as
17 possible, Sonja. Being with you has made me see the other side, it's about time the world
18 knows about this bullshit that's happened to us kids.

19 **Q.** Ka pai Kerry. Kerry, that's all the questions I --

20 **MS KNIPPING:** Sonja.

21 **MS COOPER:** Yes.

22 **MS KNIPPING:** Kerry, what would you say to MOE, to the Ministry of Education?

23 **A.** Pay me. Pay me so you stop arguing over who's to blame. Who's to blame is, you know,
24 it's not me to blame, I didn't ask for this, I didn't ask for any of this, I just want these people
25 to stop blaming each other and just pay me. Like everyone else has paid me, they've
26 accepted for what happened to me when I was a kid, but you still haven't. Please just so I
27 can get on with my life. Just pay me so that I can get on with my life and try to have a
28 better relationship this time.

29 **Q.** Thank you, Kerry. Kerry, there may be other people who want to ask you questions. Are
30 you okay to carry on, or would you like to take a break?

31 **A.** Yeah, I'll just take a break thank you. I'm stressing out at the moment.

32 **Q.** All right, good point.

33 **CHAIR:** You take a break and do whatever you need just to hold yourself together for a wee
34 while. We'll come back in about 10 minutes time, is that okay?

1 **QUESTIONING BY MS COOPER CONTINUED:**

2 **Q.** Is that all right, Kerry, 10 minutes?

3 **A.** Thank you.

4 **Adjournment from 11.13 am to 11.25 am**

5 **CHAIR:** Do we have Kerry back?

6 **A.** Yeah.

7 **Q.** There you are Kerry, good. Just a few more questions, if you don't mind, and Ms Beaton,
8 who I think you know, is going to ask you questions. Is that all right?

9 **A.** That's okay.

10 **Q.** Thank you. Yes Ms Beaton.

11 **QUESTIONING BY MS BEATON:**

12 **Q.** Thank you Madam Chair. Kerry, can you see me and hear me?

13 **A.** No, I can't see you but I can hear you.

14 **Q.** Can I fix that quickly or do I need to move?

15 **CHAIR:** We'll just get our technical people to have a look at that and make sure you can see the
16 people.

17 **MS BEATON:** Can you see me now Kerry?

18 **A.** No.

19 **CHAIR:** Is there somebody in your room fixing it or is there somebody from our end that needs to
20 fix it, that's what I'd like to know?

21 **MS KNIPPING:** I think it's on your end, we can see Sonja still.

22 **MS BEATON:** Kerry, I'm just going to move to where Sonja is okay?

23 **CHAIR:** Just wait a moment.

24 **A.** Okay.

25 **Q.** They're going to swap seats. Here we go. You can't see them but they're all moving around
26 now. Here comes Kerryn.

27 **QUESTIONING BY MS BEATON:**

28 **Q.** Can you see me now Kerry?

29 **A.** Yeah, I can see you know.

30 **Q.** Hi, how are you, kia ora.

31 **A.** Kia ora.

32 **Q.** I just have a couple of extra questions, Kerry. Tell me if you need a break, okay, but I don't
33 think we're going to take very long, just a couple of minutes; is that okay?

34 **A.** That's okay.

- 1 **Q.** All right. In your evidence, Kerry, you said that you went to Marylands when you were
2 seven.
- 3 **A.** Yeah.
- 4 **Q.** Were you Catholic or was your mum Catholic?
- 5 **A.** My mum was Catholic.
- 6 **Q.** Do you know is that why you went to Marylands?
- 7 **A.** No, I just got stuck there, I didn't even know I was stuck there, but that's where they put me.
- 8 **Q.** Okay. When you say "they", who do you mean?
- 9 **A.** Welfare.
- 10 **Q.** So does that mean that Welfare had taken you away from your mum?
- 11 **A.** Yeah, they took me away from mum.
- 12 **Q.** Right. Why did they do that, do you know?
- 13 **A.** Because I was an out of control kid.
- 14 **Q.** Okay. You've told us about the bad things that happened to you at Marylands. In terms of
15 possible good things, did they give you any kind of teaching to help you with your
16 behaviour?
- 17 **A.** No.
- 18 **Q.** Do you remember learning anything in terms of education at Marylands?
- 19 **A.** No, I didn't learn anything.
- 20 **Q.** What about the other places that you were in care? At Campbell Park you told us about
21 standing --
- 22 **A.** Yeah no, yeah, well we had teachers there, but the teachers were abusing you too.
- 23 **Q.** Yes?
- 24 **A.** My worst one was GRO-B, but he, you know, and -- yeah.
- 25 **Q.** You said in your statement, and it's at paragraph 11 Kerry, that you went into Kingslea
26 again, or sorry, in July of 1988 and you told us about the things that happened there. Then
27 you said that you were sentenced to corrective training?
- 28 **A.** CT.
- 29 **Q.** Yeah, what was that for, do you remember?
- 30 **A.** That was from the Youth Court.
- 31 **Q.** Yeah, and what had you done?
- 32 **A.** It was car -- burglaries and I think it was burglaries and car thefts.
- 33 **Q.** Were you at Kingslea when those things happened, the burglary and the car thefts?
- 34 **A.** Yeah, I was doing all that while I was in Stanmore and Kingslea.

- 1 **Q.** You said in your statement, Kerry, that when you got CT, corrective training, that Social
2 Welfare closed its file on you.
- 3 **A.** Yeah.
- 4 **Q.** What did you mean by that?
- 5 **A.** It means they just shut me up, that was me, I was in a like -- it was like a jail to me.
- 6 **Q.** Yes. Where did you do your CT?
- 7 **A.** North Island.
- 8 **Q.** And once you --
- 9 **A.** I'll tell you now that was a nightmare then. Because I was from the South Island, the
10 screws, the screws -- I call them screws, you call them officers -- used to beat me up in the
11 pound. That's what I remember, because I was from the South Island.
- 12 **Q.** How old do you think you were then?
- 13 **A.** I probably would have been about 15, 16.
- 14 **Q.** How long did you do corrective training for, is it three months?
- 15 **A.** Yeah, I did it twice.
- 16 **Q.** Did you, in the same place?
- 17 **A.** Yeah.
- 18 **Q.** When you got out from the second corrective training sentence, is that when you'd finished
19 being a State ward?
- 20 **A.** Yeah, I ended up in a man's jail.
- 21 **Q.** I see. For something else that you had done?
- 22 **A.** Yeah, I think it was for aggravated robbery.
- 23 **Q.** I'll ask you some questions now, Kerry, about the process of redress and getting payments
24 that you've told us about. This is quite a big question, but does the money help? How do
25 you feel about that?
- 26 **A.** It does help a little bit, but it's not going to bring back my childhood or any of my mates
27 back from the dead, is it.
- 28 **Q.** Can you think of other things that the church for Marylands or the State for the other places
29 where you suffered abuse, can you think of other things that they could have done to help
30 you as an adult?
- 31 **A.** As an adult?
- 32 **Q.** Yeah, now, how could they help you other than paying you sums of money, is there
33 anything else that would help you?
- 34 **A.** No, I just want to be paid so then I can get on with my life. I just want to get on with my

1 life now. I don't, like, you know, I just -- I've had enough of this stuff that's in my head,
2 I've had enough. It's like, it's like when you asked like all these other ones that have paid
3 me money, yeah, yeah no that was great, it was great. It's like they're saying that they're in
4 the wrong, you know what I mean? They're paying, they're paying what they did wrong for
5 me.

6 All I'm saying to Campbell Park is pay me for what you've done wrong to me,
7 what you put me through and then I can get on with my life. Then I don't have to worry
8 about Campbell Park anymore, I can say thank you to Sonja Cooper and all that, thank you
9 for helping me, now I can get on with my life.

10 **Q.** I just have a couple more questions. One of them is about the counselling that you've had
11 on ACC. You said in your statement that that started in 2013?

12 **A.** Yeah.

13 **Q.** You were in prison?

14 **A.** Yeah.

15 **Q.** And how hard was it to get counselling from ACC?

16 **A.** It was easier at Pap because it was there.

17 **Q.** You mean Paparua?

18 **A.** Because I went to medical, I went to the ARU, because I tried to commit suicide in Pap, so
19 they put me in ARU. It was like a round room we call it so they could keep an eye on you.
20 Had a camera in the cell so you don't do something stupid.

21 **Q.** Right?

22 **A.** That's when I said I need to do, - I need help. All you are doing to me is slamming behind
23 bars and think that's good enough for me. But it's not it's just not helping me. So- they put
24 me through counselling.

25 **Q.** So, is that the prison staff that helped you access the ACC counselling?

26 **A.** Yes, it was.

27 **Q.** And you talked about your counsellor, Matiu, before, is he Māori?

28 **A.** Yeah, he is.

29 **Q.** Does that help you that he's Māori?

30 **A.** When I first met him, when I first met him I'll be honest with you, I didn't trust him,
31 because he was a male. When I first met him, if you want me to be honest I didn't trust him
32 because he was a male, and it was the males that damaged me more than the women. I can
33 talk to women, but when it comes to males it's hard.

34 **Q.** You obviously, though, if you've got a good relationship with him, you managed to work

- 1 through that initial concern?
- 2 A. Yes, it was, it was so great, you know, it was like all my frustration all just left me, you
3 know? It was like all gone because he helped me. And I thanked him for that because he
4 was the first male I ever talked to about it and it was through him, because he didn't rush
5 me to talk about what happened for me, he just said "When you're ready to talk, we'll sit
6 here, and we'll have a cup of coffee".
- 7 Q. And how long have you been having counselling with Matiu?
- 8 A. You're looking at four years.
- 9 Q. But that stopped when you moved to the Otago prison is that right?
- 10 A. When I moved to OCF, yeah.
- 11 Q. Have you been in and out of prison pretty much since you left corrective training, Kerry?
- 12 A. Yeah, I've been in and out of jail all my life.
- 13 Q. What's the longest you think you've been out?
- 14 A. Oh, the longest was probably nearly a year.
- 15 Q. What's the longest term that you've had, a prison term?
- 16 A. Four seven.
- 17 Q. Four years seven months?
- 18 A. Yeah.
- 19 Q. What kind of rehabilitation has Corrections given you in prison?
- 20 A. I can't handle them.
- 21 Q. Right?
- 22 A. Because you're in a group and I can't handle groups. I can't handle too many people around
23 me, especially you've got some males in there that will laugh at you when you talk about
24 your problems.
- 25 Q. And other than the counselling that you've had, has there been any kind of one-on---one
26 courses that the prison has helped you with?
- 27 A. No, this time they are going to help me this time. I saw, - I was speaking to an ACC
28 counsellor the other day for psych report and she's recommended me to do one--on---ones
29 while I'm in here.
- 30 Q. One-on---one counselling you mean?
- 31 A. One-on--one, yeah, -one-on-one like talking about things, -one-on-one.
- 32 Q. I see.
- 33 A. Before I get out.
- 34 Q. As well as --

1 A. They will help me.

2 Q. Okay, as well as ACC counselling or the same thing?

3 A. No, just anyone, just do one-on-one -with me, anyone that can do one-on-one.

4 Q. I understand, thank you.

5 A. But I recommend a woman not a male, that's what I said to her.

6 Q. What was the response to that?

7 A. She goes I, -- she understood.

8 Q. Okay, all right. Kerry, that's all of the questions that I've got for you today, thank you very
9 much. Is there anything else you want to say to me before I ask Judge Shaw if she has any
10 questions?

11 A. So, what's all this for me? What's going to help me with this?

12 Q. Do you mean giving evidence?

13 A. Yeah, what's that got to, you know, what's that for, is that for the whole world, for all the
14 kids that have been damaged?

15 Q. Giving evidence you mean? Yes. Do you understand that your evidence today, that the
16 Commissioners are going to -- they've listened to you and they're going to analyse the
17 things that you've said along with all the evidence they hear from other victims and
18 survivors of abuse and make some findings and some recommendations for the future. Do
19 you understand that?

20 A. Yes, I do now.

21 Q. Okay. Thank you very much, Kerry.

22 A. That's okay.

23 **CHAIR:** Kerry, I just want to add to that, that yes, you have given us the gift of your account and
24 you have added to a growing volume of information that we're getting from survivors like
25 you and from all other people. And the whole point of this is for us to make
26 recommendations that changes the way children like you were, changes the way they are
27 cared for. So, you are contributing to the overall work of the Commission and we are very
28 grateful. I'm just going to ask Dr Erueti if he'd like to speak to you now.

29 **COMMISSIONER ERUETI:** Tena koe Kerry. My name is Anaru Erueti and I'm one of the
30 Commissioners and I just want to mihimihi you and thank you for your time here. Ko te
31 tino hua o ēnei mea katoa ko te whakapouri ko te whakataumaha. Engari, kua tae mai koe
32 ki waengānui i ā mātau ki te kōrero ki ā matau. Tēnei te mihi nui ki ā koe.

33 I want to thank you for coming and appreciate how difficult it is to recount your
34 experiences. It is essential that the Commission learn more about what happened to

1 tamariki Maori, tamariki generally who were in care in homes like Campbell Park and
2 Kingslea and others, including St John of God, the school there. It's essential that we learn
3 about how difficult it has been for people like yourself to bring claims against the Ministry
4 of Education, Ministry of Health and MSD.

5 So that will all inform our mahi going forward, as Judge Coral said, in making
6 recommendations to the Government. So on behalf of us all, thank you for your time and
7 we recognise too that you came forward here to do this for your mokopuna, but also for
8 other children that are here today and in the future, so they don't experience what you did in
9 care, I want to recognise you for that. Thank you for that.

10 A. Kia ora.

11 **CHAIR:** Thank you very much, you can now go and take whatever you need by way of support
12 and relaxation to recover from this grueling experience, but thank you again.

13 A. Thank you.

14 **Q.** And good bye. We'll just take an adjournment.

15 **Lunch adjournment from 11.42 am to 2.18 pm**