

**ABUSE IN CARE ROYAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY
LAKE ALICE CHILD AND ADOLESCENT UNIT INQUIRY HEARING**

Under The Inquiries Act 2013

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

Royal Commission: Judge Coral Shaw (Chair)
Ali'imua Sandra Alofivae
Mr Paul Gibson

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Mr Eric Forster for Victor Soeterik
Mr Lester Cordwell for Mr Brian Stabb and Ms Gloria Barr
Mr Scott Brickell for Denis Hesseltine
Ms Anita Miller for the Medical Council

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Abuse in Care Royal Commission of Inquiry
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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

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Hearing opens with waiata and karakia tīmatanga by Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei

[9.38 am]

CHAIR: Ata mārie koutou, tēnā tātou katoa. Tēnā koe Mr Molloy.

MR MOLLOY: Morning ma'am. We have three witnesses this morning. Ms Joychild will be leading the first, she'll be reading from the evidence of Kevin Banks.

CHAIR: Thank you Mr Molloy. Tēnā koe Ms Joychild.

MS JOYCHILD: Tēnā koutou e ngā Kōmihana. The evidence I'm reading today is of Kevin Banks who is a survivor of Lake Alice and who is living in Australia and did not feel able to read his evidence.

CHAIR: May I ask is he going to be watching this evidence today?

MS JOYCHILD: Yes, he is, he may watch it afterwards or live.

CHAIR: If he's watching either now or later we'd just like to send him our warmest greetings and thank him for providing the evidence and wish him well while he's listening to it.

MS JOYCHILD: Thank you, he'll appreciate that. Just as a note for you at the beginning, it might be helpful to tell Commissioners, Kevin was 14 years old when he was first admitted. He was one of the longer ones there, he was there for one year 11 months, and he went in in March 1973. So he was one of the early ones into the unit as well.

CHAIR: Before the adolescent unit was started?

MS JOYCHILD: Yes, I think so. So because he's not here I'll just read through it.

CHAIR: Can I just ask you be very mindful of our signers please.

KEVIN BANKS

MS JOYCHILD: So, "I was born 62 years ago. Now I live in Australia with my wife. We have two sons, and have been together for 30 years. I also have two older daughters from previous relationships. I receive a Disability Support pension and have not been in the workforce since 1993.

I spent just over 24 months in Lake Alice under Dr Selwyn Leeks when I was between the ages -- and I apologise I've just said one year, 11, probably it's to do with counting months and weeks, the exact dates are there -- when I was between the ages of 14 and 16 years old. I had three admissions: 21 March 73 to 24 April 73; 9 July 73 to 27 August 73; and 20 February 74 to 10 December 75.

In between my second and third admission I spent two months at Epuni Boys' Home. That was hell. But Lake Alice was much worse. I never had a mental illness before or during my time at Lake Alice. The only mental conditions I now have are a result of my time in Lake Alice and Epuni. I suffer from memory loss, depression, anxiety and

1 Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. These conditions, plus chronic fear of failure and not
2 being good enough, have haunted me ever since I left Lake Alice. They created continuing
3 problems for me in holding a job until I could no longer be in the workforce. They have
4 ruined my quality of life.

5 I've always tried to get justice for those of us who had the misfortune to be in Lake
6 Alice while Dr Selwyn Leeks was in charge. Basically, our lives and potential were
7 destroyed in that place. I was broken by what Dr Leeks and other staff did to me and as I
8 have grown older, the impacts have got worse, not better. It is a deep grievance of mine
9 that Dr Leeks was never brought to justice in a criminal trial."

10 Kevin was one of the earliest ones to complain about Lake Alice and so he's made a
11 number of statements and I've set them all out on page 2. So there's a great deal of
12 consistency between what he's been saying since 1977 because of those statements.

13 **CHAIR:** Just for clarity, you don't have to read those, and to assure Kevin that the Commission
14 have a copy of his statement and have read it all.

15 **MS JOYCHILD:** Thank you. He was born on GRO-B 79 and "my birth father left while my
16 brother and I were very young. She re-partnered and her new husband, my stepfather,
17 adopted me when I was three and a half and then my mother had another child, a son.

18 My basic problem in childhood was that my stepfather and I didn't get on. He
19 seemed to be always picking on me and gave me many hidings and thrashings with an
20 Army belt. My brother had a more passive nature and didn't get into trouble like I did. I
21 had always got on well with my mother and felt loved and cared for by her, particularly
22 because I played drums in her jazz band. I was very close to my granddad and spent a lot
23 of time with him. As an older child, I spent most of my time practising snare drum
24 rudiments and playing with a Palmerston North band as their drummer. This was my huge
25 passion.

26 Then as a school boy I worked at 5.30 am cleaning windows before school. After
27 school I had a paper run delivering newspapers in the local area. In short, my life was full
28 during my youth. When I was about 12, my mother developed breast cancer which caused
29 a great deal of stress and problems within the family unit.

30 As I grew older, the tensions in the house increased. I would stand up to my
31 stepfather. I acknowledge I got caught in the wrong crowd but not to the extent it led to
32 any arrest or Police attention. It got to the point where it was either I leave home or my
33 stepfather would. I recall an incident when a physical fight broke out between us.

34 After that fight, a social worker was brought in. For a year or so I saw her on a

1 weekly basis but after another fighting incident with my stepfather I was told that I would
2 be going to stay at the Mariner Boys' Home in Palmerston North. That never eventuated as
3 the home was full. What happened was that one day I arrived home from school to see my
4 mother packing a suitcase with my clothes and telling me I was going away for a while. I
5 had thought it was to stay with a relative and was quite happy: however, instead of taking
6 me to an aunty, mum took me to Lake Alice. This was the first of three stays. I was there
7 for five weeks the first time, six and a half the second and one year 10 months for the third.
8 It was my social worker from the Department of Social Welfare who arranged with
9 Dr Leeks for me to be admitted to Lake Alice on each occasion."

10 So, here, we have a situation where although he wasn't a State ward, Social Welfare
11 placed him there. "On the third occasion I was taken there by the Police -- and he's already
12 said he never had any mental illness -- I told my social worker whenever she saw me that I
13 was being abused and shocked. She never did anything about it."

14 And for the Commissioners, his medical certificates say that he has antisocial
15 behaviour tendencies and later in one, Dr Leeks talked about an adolescent, schizophrenia
16 process. "Between the second and third stay in Lake Alice I was sent to Epuni Boys' Home
17 for two months. I was sexually abuse by a staff member. He was a predator. I was
18 physically and psychologically abused by the GRO-B teacher. He was so violent he
19 knocked me out on several occasions." Details of the abuse are in one of his exhibits in a
20 statement of claim.

21 So, on Kevin's first day of admission when he got out of the car, he says "I was
22 grabbed by two male nurses. My mother walked as far as the office but was cut off there. I
23 was walked into villas and a short time later I was taken upstairs by three staff nurses;
24 Johnnie Blackmore and either Steve Hunt or Terry Conlan. Dr Leeks was there and he
25 explained what the 'shock box' was and how it worked. He then gave me my first ECT.
26 There was no anaesthetic and the male nurses held me down while it was being given. On
27 my second and third admissions I also had no meeting or assessment. I was just taken
28 straight into the villa."

29 So he was put into the adolescent ward here, villa 11, and then he went into, in his
30 final stays, into villa 15, 13 and finally 8 where he remained until he left. From villa 8,
31 Kevin was sent to maximum security for two weeks and then back to villa 8.

32 Kevin has described his ECT experiences in several earlier statements. He
33 estimated for the Minter Ellison affidavit, and that was one sought by the Victorian Medical
34 Board who were going to prosecute Dr Leeks in 2006, in that, he said he thought he would

1 have, over his three stays, have been electrocuted about 60 to 70 times to his head, both
2 modified and unmodified; about once or twice a week to his legs and arms on a good week,
3 half a dozen times on a bad week; half a dozen times all up to his genitals and a couple of
4 times for asthma.

5 Yes, we'll put up exhibit number 008. This just shows the dates up to the present
6 time, it says, where he received ECTs.

7 **CHAIR:** Would you just tell us what the document is, please?

8 **MS JOYCHILD:** These are the nursing notes.

9 **CHAIR:** So this is not notes made subsequently, are they contemporaneous notes, do you know?

10 **MS JOYCHILD:** They are contemporaneous notes. In fact, ma'am, they were made in a report,
11 I'm just remembering, on one of his re-admissions when they had to report on him.

12 So to that, and Kevin says that that was -- he was given way more ECT than that.
13 But there is some records and we think that they're the modified ones. So at paragraph 16
14 he says "I can't put into -- I also can't put the pain of unmodified ECT into words. Nothing
15 compares with the intensity of the pain. Dr Leeks would start on low and then turn the dial
16 to high. On low, it was like little sledgehammers hitting my head and they got bigger
17 sledgehammers as the dial turned up. On high, the pain was like razor blades cutting
18 through my head. The head was worse for pain than the arms and legs, though getting it on
19 them was still enough to absolutely stun you. ECT on the genitals was horrific, like hot
20 needles going into your testicles. I still have sensations of the same pain in the areas I got
21 ECT."

22 He says "Apart from about six times, I always had ECT without anaesthetic. Most
23 was in my first year there. The unmodified day was usually a Friday and staff called it
24 Black Friday. Unmodified ECT was for punishment. You got it if your name was in
25 Dr Leeks' 'blue diary' and it was the staff that would put you down for this during the week.
26 You could get it for very small transgressions such as talking back to staff, smoking
27 cigarette butts, running down the road. I got it mostly for smoking, being cheeky to staff
28 and being rough and tough with other boys.

29 I would wet my bed with fear on Thursday nights because I was so petrified of
30 ECT. On the Friday morning the boys would all be gathered in the day room waiting in
31 fear to see if they were going to be called up for ECT. Staff would randomly single out
32 three boys to get ECT ready for when Dr Leeks would arrive. One would have to take a
33 small table upstairs for the shock box to sit on. One would carry the shock box and one
34 would be sent to the kitchen to fill the steel bowl with water and bring that, plus the rubber

1 gag that went into the mouth, upstairs. Then the boys would be sent back to the day room
2 and wait to see if they would be called up for ECT. The whole room, even the big tough
3 boys, were in terror and many would be crying in fear. Sometimes Dr Leeks himself would
4 come into the day room and say 'Who's for the zap' or 'Who's for the ride on the thunder
5 bolt' or 'Who's for the national grid?' And we heard yesterday Tyrone referring to the
6 national grid. It was a term of Dr Leeks.

7 When Dr Leeks performed his ECT sessions, the doors were left open upstairs and
8 downstairs. In the day room the boys could hear the screaming and cries of pain from those
9 who were getting it. Villa 11 was a boys' only unit. I recall some of the boys urinating in
10 fear when they were pointed out as ones that were going to have an ECT next. We could
11 also see the ones who had ECT coming out of the room. Just seeing them was terrifying.
12 Some had water drizzling down their temples, some had blood coming out of their mouths
13 and all of them were dazed. Sometimes they had to be carried downstairs and sometimes
14 they were unconscious. There were children aged 5 and 6 who received ECT with and
15 without the anaesthetic. I recall seeing ECT administered when I was on a cleaning duty to
16 a boy who was aged 9. I saw the marks on his temples after he had it, and heard his
17 screams.

18 Sexual assault. Once I woke up from ECT to find another boy bathing me and
19 fondling my genitals. We were often taken to the bathroom straight after because we had
20 soiled ourselves. ECT took away control of our bowels and bladder and we often vomited.
21 I would regularly wake up in one of the cell rooms after ECT, or if I was conscious,
22 I would be led downstairs back to the day room with the other boys.

23 ECT for asthma. I was given unmodified ECT on my left shoulder by Dr Leeks at
24 least twice. I'd had an asthma attack the day before. Before it started he said 'We'll see if
25 this stops your asthma.' After that, I never went to the office for my inhaler during an
26 asthma attack as I was terrified what would happen the next day." So, clearly, a staff
27 member had told Dr Leeks that he'd had an asthma attack.

28 "ECT for attempting suicide. I tried to kill myself once GRO-B
29 I thought I'd rather be dead than keeping living at Lake Alice. A couple of days later I got
30 unmodified ECT for punishment. I knew it was for the suicide attempt because two nurses
31 taunted me about it.

32 Extra long ECT. Sometimes I received ECT for up to approximately 2 to 3 minutes.
33 Dr Leeks would turn the dial on the shock machine up and down during this time. This
34 varied the intensity of the shock through the electrodes. Sometimes a nurse would sit right

1 on my body to prevent my body convulsing too much.

2 ECT when tied together with another boy. Once me and another boy were caught
3 smoking by a nurse. He smelled our breath. He strapped our arms crosswise to each other
4 by a trouser belt and placed the electrodes on each of our arms and Dr Leeks gave us a
5 shock. He played the dial for about 30 seconds.

6 Staff giving ECT when Dr Leeks was not present. Sometimes the staff gave us
7 unmodified ECT without Dr Leeks. They seemed to enjoy doing this and I recall one doing
8 it to me, going from one knee to the other with the electrodes, also on the legs and arms.
9 This was in the medical room next to the kitchen.

10 ECT to the genitals. I got this if I was caught playing with myself. Dr Leeks
11 always gave these treatments. He would start by putting the electrode on my thigh and then
12 slide it up my leg to my testicles. Yet I never interfered with other boys since I have never
13 been homosexual.

14 Modified ECT. This was better than unmodified ECT because I was anaesthetised
15 and completely unconscious. It was performed in the females' villa. You knew you would
16 get it because the kitchen staff would not give you breakfast that morning. You would then
17 be taken over to villa 6 and put into a cubicle and made to lie on the bed. The staff would
18 take your shoes and socks off and roll up your sleeve and give you an injection. However,
19 on several occasions the staff didn't give me an injection, so the electrodes were put straight
20 on to my head without anaesthetic. Villa 6 had cubicles which accommodated one patient
21 each. I recall walking into the wing of the unit where ECT was being administered once.
22 I witnessed people of all ages receiving or about to receive ECT.

23 Giving ECT to other boys. Dr Leeks got me and other boys to give ECT to two
24 different boys on different occasions. Both had sexually assaulted me and the other boys.
25 The first time was to a particular boy. I recall Dr Leeks calling about 10 of us into the day
26 room one day to find out if we had been sexually touched by this boy. I had been sexually
27 abused by him and another patient and I informed Dr Leeks about it. Without any other
28 explanation, some of us were tasked with getting the ECT machine and the bowl and salt
29 water and gags. We then were sent back to the day room of villa 11, all petrified that we
30 were going to get ECT.

31 Soon after, Dr Leeks came into the room and told us to follow him. We went to a
32 cell, a solitary cell at the far right of villa 8. It was almost completely dark and I remember
33 seeing that particular boy sitting in the corner on a plastic mattress wearing only his
34 underwear. Dr Leeks asked us to plug in the extension cord and said we were all going to

1 use the ECT machine on that particular boy. He told us we were to move the knob to the
2 right as far as possible.

3 I was second or third in line and there were a number of boys behind me. I didn't
4 really want to do it, but I remember that I did turn the dial as far as I could as I was afraid
5 that if I didn't do it properly, Dr Leeks would give me ECT. I recall the horror on the boy's
6 face who was receiving it. He looked like he was screaming but not a sound was coming
7 out of his mouth. After we had all given him ECT, Dr Leeks put the electrodes onto his
8 testicles and pushed the silver instant button which gives a really sudden shock. When he
9 did this, the particular boy went unconscious.

10 On another occasion, Dr Leeks lined us up to do the same to another boy who had
11 also been sexually touching some of the boys. He finished that session by placing the
12 electrode on his temples and using the knock-out button. Giving ECT to those two other
13 boys made me feel very sad. On the one side I liked it because they had abused me, but on
14 the other side I felt really bad for doing it."

15 Now moving on to drugs. "Paraldehyde injections. Sometimes I was given a
16 choice of ECT or Paraldehyde for punishment. Both were used to control us and keep us in
17 fear. The worst punishment was unmodified ECT but Paraldehyde injections were also a
18 feared punishment. You could get a Paraldehyde injection for anything at all such as
19 talking back to staff, hitting another boy, not making your bed properly or not getting up on
20 time. They were extremely painful. I believe I would have got a Paraldehyde injection
21 more than 50 times over my three admissions to Lake Alice. That's a bare minimum,
22 I guess.

23 When the injection first went in it was a very cold feeling but then the feeling turned
24 to very hot, burning acid. The injection would normally be put into the buttocks and the
25 pain would go down the whole leg. It would be very painful, very hard to walk. The leg
26 would feel dead and I would have no strength in it. It was painful to sit down for about
27 three days. When I had it in my arm it would hang limp for the day. Once I was given it
28 on the shoulder and on several occasions in the big muscle above my knees. This was
29 particularly painful to have it and the staff were aware of this. Paraldehyde had a foul smell
30 and would leave a sickening taste in my mouth for three days after.

31 I was on other medication nearly all the time I was at Lake Alice. I got Mellerrill,
32 Largactil, Pantacol, Stelazine, Priadel, Modecate, to name a few. I remember dribbling and
33 stumbling, the drugs completely changed me.

34 Sexual abuse. I was a blonde blue-eyed boy and this wasn't an advantage. I got a

1 lot of unwanted sexual attention. There was a staff member called John Blackmore.
2 Sometimes when he was meant to be giving me a Paraldehyde injection, he sexually abused
3 me instead. I believe he also abused other boys this way. While Paraldehyde was usually
4 done with the door open, so other patients could hear, he would close and lock it when it
5 was me, and this was justified with the excuse that I might run away.

6 You had to take your pants down to get a Paraldehyde injection in the buttocks. He
7 would take his own pants down and then he would either sodomise me or masturbate me
8 and himself at the same time. He did this often.

9 The school teacher at the time would walk around and sometimes press his groin
10 into my back and I would feel he had an erection. He would leave the classroom with a
11 particular boy and then take him out to the toilets. At times I was the one he asked to leave
12 the room with. He would make me pull down my pants and he would pull down his. I had
13 to go on to hands and knees on the floor and then he would masturbate himself from behind
14 me. He never raped me, but he did touch and push against me. He would threaten me with
15 the thunder bolt from Dr Leeks if I told. I understand he has now been convicted of sexual
16 abuse.

17 We were also sexual prey for older boys and there were two boys who were older
18 and bigger and competed with us -- each other to get to us and they were the two boys that
19 he gave electric shocks to. Lots of us boys were targeted. One of those particular boys
20 abused me regularly in the showers.

21 Other aspects of life at Lake Alice. Schooling. I went to school while I was in villa
22 11 for half a day several days a week. I think this was when they finally got a school set up
23 there. It looked nothing like a real school. I recall learning a lot of songs and sometimes
24 doing reading. I did not have any correspondence education. I did, however, play drums
25 with a couple of the patients who were also musical. Each year there was a staff reunion
26 and on one occasion my mother's band performed for the staff and I played percussion for
27 that.

28 My mother visited me a couple of times and my social worker also visited. I always
29 complained to them about what was happening to me. My mother never believed it and my
30 stepfather called me a liar. The social worker never took action.

31 Staff. I was constantly told by staff that I was bad and they were going to drum it
32 out of me. I was also told that I would be there for life. Some nurses were sadistic and
33 they participated in the torture of us. Some beat up patients, including me, and some
34 sexually abused patients, including me. There was one nurse called Dennis Hesseltine, he

1 was the only person I felt safe with. He was a very nice person, funny, young and had a
2 beard. He was the type of person I would have liked my father to be like. Even he,
3 however, was part of the torture as he never spoke up about it or tried to stop it.

4 Villa 8. In villa 8 I was with adults with serious mental problems. We called it the
5 nut house. I was 15. It was a very frightening and scary place. There were always patients
6 prowling around wanting to have their way with you. I had to learn quickly how to keep
7 other patients off me, but without injuring them, as if I did I got a Paraldehyde injection for
8 punishment. I often stayed awake at night, lying scared in my bed with the blankets tightly
9 tucked in to protect myself.

10 ECT in villa 8 was always unmodified. I witnessed it on occasions. It was used on
11 people like those two boys who engaged in sexual abuse. I never got it, but I would hear it
12 being given to the others who were screaming in pain and fear. I got Paraldehyde
13 injections in villa 8.

14 On one occasion when I was in villa 8 I was locked in maximum security for two
15 weeks. This was located at the rear of the hospital for the criminally insane. The reason I
16 was sent there was that I had refused staff member Howard Lawrence's order that I clear
17 the toilets with a toothbrush. I was allowed out into a tiny exercise yard for 30 minutes
18 every 24 hours. I was given a few books but otherwise there was nothing apart from a
19 mattress, blanket and bucket. Lawrence was a particularly evil guy who used to push his
20 knuckles into our temples and ask 'Do you bum boy?'

21 Work in villa 8. I was part of a gang doing labouring from 9 to 4. We earned \$1 a
22 week. I had no education when I was in villa 8. I had to bathe elderly patients who were
23 too old to wash themselves. I had to wash people's clothes and the dishcloths, etc.

24 One day a nurse -- and he gives the name -- gave another boy and I the task of
25 carrying a person on a stretcher. We had to be very quiet and carry him very carefully to a
26 particular destination. On the way the sheet blew up and I saw a tag on his big toe and
27 realised he was dead. Later I looked at his face. He was an older patient who had died. I
28 was very disturbed as I had never been around a dead body before. When I got back, that
29 nurse was laughing and thought it was a great joke we hadn't known the person had died. It
30 impressed upon me human life was of very little value at Lake Alice."

31 Ma'am, I realise I've done 30 minutes, so time is tight because I've been talking
32 slowly. I think I'll just pick and choose from here on.

33 **CHAIR:** Yes, full in the knowledge, as I said before, that we have it and have read it and of
34 course we'll read it again carefully after. So you just choose the matters. We're getting on

1 to impacts, aren't we?

2 **MS JOYCHILD:** Yes, just quickly going through life after Lake Alice. It's important, he was
3 just -- at 48, he says he was drove down by a nurse, never told that he was getting out of
4 Lake Alice, he thought they were actually transporting him to Porirua Hospital, but when
5 he drove past the exit he realised he wasn't. Then the nurse told him he was going to the
6 Woburn YMCA and that he was going to do a labouring job in a factory at Petone. And he
7 was 16 years then, he'd be 17 the following month.

8 So when Kevin left Lake Alice, suddenly all his drugs stopped, every single one.
9 And in his exhibits you'll see he's cleared, he's got no mental problems at all. Rather than
10 feeling dopey, he was full of nervous energy and after a highly regimented regime, being
11 woken to a siren, having all your movements organised, suddenly this was this kid living
12 alone in the YMCA and having to get to work on time every day. He had real problems
13 getting out of bed and he thinks that was as a result of a reaction to withdrawal from the
14 drugs and problems managing buses. Everyone knew he'd been in Lake Alice and made
15 fun of him. Eventually, he was dismissed for lateness. But he had various other jobs after
16 that and he developed a pattern that dogged him. He could manage the work well, often got
17 promoted as he presented well. And I'm pointing out a comment from the Director of
18 Mental Health when he first complained in 1977. The Director called him in for an
19 interview about his complaint, and the Director wrote, "Kevin is well dressed, well spoken
20 young man, he had employed as a salesman, playing regularly in a military band, living in a
21 house which he has rented himself with three friends, apparently well on his way to
22 establishing himself." And Kevin was. He played in military bands and Police bands in
23 Wellington but eventually it all caught up with him.

24 So he talks about being interviewed for petty theft and he left New Zealand, he was
25 so terrified of being taken back to Lake Alice. He moved to England -- Australia and then
26 to England, he met his first wife, brought her back to New Zealand, she opened a letter and
27 read the statement from CCHR, his first affidavit that he wrote, and then of course she
28 didn't trust him, she didn't trust him sexually, and she thought that she'd married someone
29 with mental health problems. So that relationship broke up. It was very bitter and difficult
30 because of his history that was played against him in the Family Court. But he did get
31 access to his child.

32 At paragraph 61 he talks about Victor Boyd coming to his house and him making a
33 complaint. He went to the Police and made a statement to the Police at that time. He notes
34 that he signed it without reading it. Some of the things in it are not quite accurate, but

1 mostly it is. He didn't know he could have the right to read it, he was just told sign.

2 Then he had the interview with the Director-General of Health. I thought that was
3 Dr Mirams, anyway, it's on the record. He said he would attend -- no, I think this is the
4 Mitchell Inquiry. He said he would go to it but only if he didn't have to see Dr Leeks.
5 "Yes, yes, that's fine." So while he's there, Dr Leeks is brought into the room with two men
6 in suits on either side. And Dr Leeks actually spoke to him and this is what he said in 1977.
7 "Not everything I did at Lake Alice was 100% right or correct." He said he gave the Māori
8 boys more ECT as he had to control the boys he took on from Kohitere Boys' Home. And
9 Kevin was not allowed to tell his story, he was asked just a few very pointed questions.
10 After that, they had not let him just talk, but were only focusing on a few points and
11 Dr Leeks coming in without his notice, he lost all faith in the Inquiry.

12 And Dr Leeks, then when a Medical Association asked Dr Leeks to respond to the
13 complaint, Dr Leeks wrote a very malicious letter about Kevin and it's set out there where
14 he tried to paint Kevin in the worst possible light and made up that he had a mental illness.
15 Kevin admits he was not an angel and got into bad company, but he never had disoriented
16 thinking. And that's confirmed by medical treatment since then.

17 Importantly, six years later he -- this is part of that Stockholm Syndrome -- he got
18 very depressed with his marriage breaking up. He actually rang everyone, all around the
19 world trying to find Selwyn Leeks, he became obsessed with him. Found that he was
20 working in the same city as he was living in, in Melbourne. He went and visited Selwyn
21 Leeks and he also wanted treatment for his depression. And then at paragraph 70 he --
22 Selwyn Leeks commented "Your name's familiar", and Kevin says "Do you remember
23 me?" Selwyn Leeks said "I remember that you were going through a hard time and that
24 your stepfather was a fairly unsavoury fellow." Kevin said "Why did you torture us?" At
25 71 Dr Leeks said "I had an open hand to do what I could do." Kevin asked "Why did you
26 make me give ECT to the other boys?" And Dr Leeks said that was quite legal in some
27 parts of the States. Later Dr Leeks said "I'll never do what I've done or most of what I've
28 done again" and Kevin felt he was remorseful. He spoke quietly and looked at the ground.
29 Part of Kevin wanted to hit him but he seemed so quiet and gentle it made Kevin feel like
30 submitting to him.

31 Yet, it was all going through Kevin's head that the other side of him had inflicted
32 horrendous pain on me and others while seeming so cool. Kevin felt Dr Leeks has a
33 mesmerising hold over him and he actually went to him for about six sessions before he
34 realised he was "just a puny little man and my terror of him had gone."

1 Kevin also worked with the media, Grant Cameron's class action, and with the
2 Victorian Medical Board. At paragraph 71 he talks about the impacts on his life. They
3 include memory loss, chronic pain and migraines.

4 **CHAIR:** 77, I think.

5 **MS JOYCHILD:** 77. Incessant fears terrors, nightmares, he has anal bleeding and he suffers --
6 it's so excruciating, it reduces him to tears and he cannot sit upright properly. That brings
7 back the memories and horror and emotions from sexual abuse at Lake Alice. He has huge
8 problems with trust and feelings of betrayal, and all those he's worked with to prepare his
9 case, he has ended up feeling betrayed by or let down and he explains those circumstances
10 there.

11 Then Kevin says what he wants from the Royal Commission. This is at paragraph
12 88. "I want the Royal Commission to delve fully and properly into what happened at Lake
13 Alice, to hear our voices and to make findings about what happened to us there. We need
14 to be validated for the hell we went through and the hell we live with since. I want it to
15 explain why we have waited this long. I want the Police to charge Dr Leeks, even if he is
16 over 90. He showed no sympathy for us in our vulnerability and he's had the benefit of a
17 good free life ever since he left Lake Alice. I want the Government to pay proper
18 compensation to me for the loss of my potential to earn an income, be happy and have a
19 good life. I want repayment of Grant Cameron's legal fees and I want there to be a legal
20 representative for every child and young person in care to make sure their side of the story
21 is told and always recorded in official notes."

22 One of the matters that has distressed Kevin the most is the really degrading,
23 horrible comments made about him in the notes, like he's sly and manipulative, and he
24 never -- and records of incidents that are wrong, but he never had the chance to have his
25 story about what happened put on those notes. "I want ongoing support to my family as
26 well as me with the trauma we have all lived with as a result of me being tortured in Lake
27 Alice."

28 And there's a lot of extra material in Kevin's exhibits, ma'am. That's his story.

29 **CHAIR:** Which we're grateful to you for recounting. I'm sorry that you felt constrained by the
30 time, but it's come through. Just a point of clarification and for the record, because this is
31 an important part of the common story of the survivors. He did receive compensation after
32 going through what's called the Grant Cameron action, but he paid a considerable
33 proportion of that back in legal fees.

34 **MS JOYCHILD:** Yes.

1 **CHAIR:** Or he lost a considerable portion, that's what he's seeking for. I wanted to make sure that
2 that was the case.

3 **MS JOYCHILD:** Yes. But like the others, because there was no accountability, Leeks was still
4 running around and no one told them why it had happened. He never could put it to rest.

5 **CHAIR:** Thank you very much. I'm just going to ask Sandra Alofivae to formally thank Kevin
6 for his evidence.

7 **COMMISSIONER ALOFIVAE:** Kevin, I'm hoping that you've been able to watch the
8 proceedings this morning and if you haven't, that you will be able at some time later on to
9 be able to access it. I want to thank your counsel, Ms Joychild, for reading it in such a way
10 and for highlighting the points that clearly are very, very important, salient, that you want
11 us to absolutely take note of. Kevin, I just want to reassure you, we have read your
12 material and everything else that you've submitted to the Commission. I want to thank you
13 for your honesty and your bravery like the other survivors that have gone on before you this
14 week.

15 There is such power in your words and the common themes and the parallels in the
16 descriptions are now embedded or seared, actually, in our own minds and our brains.
17 Kevin, we believe you and we accept everything that you've said. I'm grateful that you've
18 been able to find some peace and have been able to move on in some respect. But we're
19 also very, very grateful, Kevin, that you've been able to outline very clearly for us what
20 you'd like to see this Royal Commission achieve on behalf of all of the Lake Alice
21 survivors. It's certainly our intent to be able to make findings and recommendations that
22 will go a long way, hopefully, to be able to answer and put this Lake Alice part of our
23 history and our nation to rest.

24 So can I just thank you, Kevin, once again for the great and the generous aroha that
25 you have for our nation of Aotearoa, to be able to speak into this space so powerfully and to
26 speak up for those who can't come forward because they're no longer with us and for those
27 who aren't able to come forward because they don't have the strength. So thank you for
28 being their courage, and for being their friend.

29 **CHAIR:** Do you wish us to adjourn before we start the next matter or are we able to carry on?

30 **MS R THOMAS:** In your hands, ma'am. We are able to play the next pre-recorded straight away.

31 **CHAIR:** Then I think if that's all right and that's going to give, I think, our recorders a break
32 which I'm sure they'll be grateful for. Let's do that, then. Thank you.

33 (Video played)

34 **WALTON JAMES MATHIESON-NGATAI**