

**ABUSE IN CARE ROYAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY
CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL CARE 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
Ali'imua Sandra Alofivae

Counsel: Ms Anne Toohey, Mr Simon Mount QC, Ms Kerry Beaton,
Mr Kingi Snelgar, Mr Simon Waalkens and Ms Julia Spelman
for the Royal Commission
Ms Rachael Schmidt-McCleave and Ms Julia White for the
Crown
Ms Katie Lane for a survivor
Mr Stone and Ms Watene for survivors

Venue: Level 2
Abuse in Care Royal Commission of Inquiry
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AUCKLAND

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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

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1 **5 MAY 2021**

2 **[10.00 am]**

3 **MAUREEN TARU**

4 **CHAIR:** Tēnā tātou katoa. Ata mārie ki a koutou. Nau mai haere mai ki tēnei huihui mai. Good
5 morning Ms Toohey and good morning to you, what would you like me to call you, would
6 you like to be called Maureen?

7 A. Yes.

8 **Q.** Or Ms Taru?

9 A. No.

10 **Q.** I'll just give the affirmation, all right? Maureen before we start, can I just ask you if you
11 could give your affirmation, I'll read it to you and ask you to agree, is that all right?

12 A. That's fine.

13 **Q.** Maureen, do you solemnly, sincerely and truly declare and affirm that the evidence that you
14 give to the Commission today will be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?

15 A. Absolutely.

16 **Q.** Thank you Maureen. Welcome to your son, it's TJ is it?

17 **TJ:** Yes.

18 **CHAIR:** Thank you for coming and supporting your mother.

19 **QUESTIONING BY MS TOOHEY:** Good morning Maureen.

20 A. Good morning.

21 **Q.** Your name is Maureen Taru, as the Chair has just said?

22 A. Yeah.

23 **Q.** You were born in 1950 in Levin, is that right?

24 A. Yeah.

25 **Q.** So you're now 70?

26 A. Yeah.

27 **Q.** I want to ask you first about your family life growing up in Levin. And I think first of all
28 there were a lot of children living in the house with you and your parents, is that right, 13 of
29 you living all together?

30 A. Yeah.

31 **Q.** In a two-bedroom house?

32 A. Yeah.

33 **Q.** I think your mother, you've said in your statement, was a very difficult person for you to
34 have as your mother growing up?

- 1 A. Absolutely, yeah.
- 2 Q. Do you want to tell us a little bit about how she was towards you?
- 3 A. She was evil, she was evil.
- 4 Q. Was she physically abusive to you?
- 5 A. Absolutely, yeah. She was emotionally abusive.
- 6 Q. To the extent I think you still would only refer to her by her name rather than as Mum?
- 7 A. Yeah. Yes.
- 8 Q. And your father, what was he like?
- 9 A. He was a Victorian gentleman, but he was gutless, he had no backbone whatsoever, he just
10 did as he was told.
- 11 Q. He worked at Kimberley Hospital?
- 12 A. Yes, he did, yeah.
- 13 Q. Your mother had an older child, a son from a previous marriage?
- 14 A. She did.
- 15 Q. And you refer to him as "him" or "he" in your own mind and through the statement, is that
16 right?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. You've talked in your statement about him, or he, being sexually, physically and
19 emotionally abusive towards you?
- 20 A. He was, yeah.
- 21 Q. And I think also your sisters, is that right?
- 22 A. The whole six girls, yeah.
- 23 Q. How much older was he than you, can you remember?
- 24 A. No, not really, not to be exact. But he was older. There's five between, five children
25 between him and me.
- 26 Q. And the household itself, you've talked about being hungry at home?
- 27 A. Yes, it was dirty, it was filthy, there was never, ever any food, only what my father brought
28 home from Kimberley and they were leftovers from the, you know, from the wards that he
29 worked in.
- 30 Q. And in terms of how him or he, the oldest brother from the other relationship, you've said in
31 your statement that he was worse to you than your sisters, is that right?
- 32 A. He was much worse to me because I wouldn't bow down to him. He used to punch me in
33 the hallway, just punch me in the face just in case I needed it, you know? My sisters, they
34 were frightened of him. I wasn't frightened of him.

- 1 **Q.** Did you feel that you could go to your, either your mother or your father about the physical
2 and sexual abuse that you were experiencing?
- 3 **A.** I tried. I was called a liar, it was not happening.
- 4 **Q.** Was there anyone outside the home who you could go to talk to about these things?
- 5 **A.** I did talk to the lady across the road, her name was GRO-B, I used to play with
6 the children, her children, and after I'd been to talk to her I wasn't allowed to play with the
7 children anymore. There was another lady down the road, Mrs – GRO-B
8 sorry, another lady down the road, I used to sleep in her garden shed
9 when I ran away. She knew I was going to be there, because she used to leave a tin of
10 biscuits and sandwiches and things there and there was a camp bed in there.
- 11 **Q.** And I think you also told a teacher at school?
- 12 **A.** Yes, I did, yeah.
- 13 **Q.** And you've said in your statement that you think your father knew what was going on?
- 14 **A.** He knew, he definitely knew.
- 15 **Q.** I want to ask you now about how things ended with you being in the family home, which is
16 the shooting incident.
- 17 **A.** Yeah.
- 18 **Q.** So I think that you believe you were about 10, but you're not quite sure of the age that you
19 were?
- 20 **A.** No, I -- I'm not sure but I think I was about 10 or 11. I wasn't younger, and I can't
21 remember being older.
- 22 **Q.** And what prompted this incident was something that happened, you saw?
- 23 **A.** I saw my younger sister coming out of the bedroom, she was crying and then he came out.
24 And I think I snapped, I don't know what I did, but I knew there was a gun in the wardrobe.
- 25 **Q.** Did you think that he'd been sexually abusing her?
- 26 **A.** He had been, he had been.
- 27 **Q.** And so what did you do with the gun?
- 28 **A.** I got the bullet off the top shelf in the wardrobe, I put it in the gun and I went outside and as
29 I went outside she said to me, "Where are you going?" And I told her, and she just told me
30 I was mad, but I still went out and he came up the drive and I tried to shoot him, but I didn't
31 allow for the kickback so of course it blew me on my bum. And then –
- 32 **Q.** And I think, was it your mother who you'd had that conversation with before you went
33 outside with the gun?
- 34 **A.** Yes, yeah.

- 1 **Q.** What was she doing while this was happening?
- 2 **A.** Sitting at the table smoking and drinking coffee. I only ever remember her sitting at the
3 table drinking coffee and smoking.
- 4 **Q.** And did the Police come after that?
- 5 **A.** I actually don't remember the Police being there. My siblings do, but there were three men
6 in suits and they were in a plain car. They asked me if I had tried to shoot him and I said
7 yes.
- 8 **Q.** Did they ask you why?
- 9 **A.** Yes.
- 10 **Q.** Did you tell them?
- 11 **A.** I did and they didn't believe me, except for one, one, I'm pretty sure one man did.
- 12 **Q.** So did you tell them about the sexual abuse that you were experiencing?
- 13 **A.** Yes.
- 14 **Q.** When that conversation took place, were you down at the Police station with them, do you
15 remember?
- 16 **A.** Yes, I was, I was at the Police station, but I'm pretty sure I – when I was on the drive and I
17 was talking to the guy that believed me, well, I think he believed me, I got into the car in
18 the back and he was really nice.
- 19 **Q.** Was there anyone with you in the car apart from the men?
- 20 **A.** Only the Police, well, I think they were private detectives now, I didn't know who they
21 were at the time. Nobody, nobody from my family came with me, no.
- 22 **Q.** That night did you go to a house where a family looked after you that evening?
- 23 **A.** Yes.
- 24 **Q.** And were they nice to you?
- 25 **A.** They didn't really talk to me very much, they did give me a hot drink and a bit of chocolate
26 cake which I was really happy to get.
- 27 **Q.** And the next day did you have to go to the courthouse?
- 28 **A.** Yes, yes.
- 29 **Q.** Did you know what was happening?
- 30 **A.** No.
- 31 **Q.** And was he, your half brother, there?
- 32 **A.** Yes.
- 33 **Q.** What happened?
- 34 **A.** It was in a room and it was like these people and I was just over the side and him and her

- 1 were there and --
- 2 **Q.** "Her" being your mother?
- 3 **A.** And one of the men were talking to me and asked me what happened, and I told him that I
4 had tried to shoot him, and I can remember so clearly, he was smirking, and I had to say
5 sorry to him. Why am I saying sorry?
- 6 **Q.** Did you?
- 7 **A.** I did, I did say sorry, I just looked him in the face and said, "I'm sorry, I'm sorry I fuck'n
8 missed." To this day I'm sorry I missed.
- 9 **Q.** Did anyone there ask you why this had happened in that process?
- 10 **A.** The woman said I was a liar.
- 11 **Q.** Do you know who she was?
- 12 **A.** Mabel sorry, my mother. And nobody on that panel believed me either.
- 13 **Q.** Was there anyone there for you like a lawyer?
- 14 **A.** No.
- 15 **Q.** A social worker or anyone like that?
- 16 **A.** No.
- 17 **Q.** And what happened from the courthouse, where did you go after that?
- 18 **A.** I went in a car down to, GRO-C which is a home for bad girls, bad GRO-C
19 girls, but we weren't GRO-C.
- 20 **Q.** Was that its reputation in Levin at the time, had you heard about this home before you went
21 there?
- 22 **A.** No, I hadn't even heard about it.
- 23 **Q.** Do you remember in your file when you looked at it recently that there's some record that
24 shows that you went to GRO-C after a shoplifting incident in July
25 1964? I think you were surprised by that?
- 26 **A.** I didn't shoplift, how could I have shoplifted with five friends, I didn't have five friends.
- 27 **Q.** You've said in your statement to the Commissioners that that day in the courthouse where
28 you were called a liar, how did that shape the next few years that you experienced?
- 29 **A.** I was a liar, I was a liar. You know, I was a liar at GRO-C, I was a liar
30 at -- wherever I went I was a liar. I had to apologise. I'm not apologising for
31 something bad I'm telling the truth about.
- 32 **Q.** Was this a constant theme --
- 33 **A.** Absolutely.
- 34 **Q.** -- that you had lied about what had happened --

- 1 A. Yeah.
- 2 Q. -- with "him"?
- 3 A. Yeah.
- 4 Q. [GRO-C], you've told us in the statement, was run by [GRO-C] ?
- 5 A. Yeah.
- 6 Q. And you've told us that it was not a good place at all?
- 7 A. No, it was a frightening place, it was a scary place.
- 8 Q. Do you remember what happened when you first got there? I think --
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. -- there was a particular [GRO-C] whose name is -- redacted -- who
- 11 we'll just --
- 12 A. I don't know if she was a man or a woman, she was so big, she was terrifying. She never
- 13 sort of walked like the other [GRO-C] did, she strode and her
- 14 [GRO-C] used to fly around, not fly, but swing from side to side. She was -- she was
- 15 really frightening. I still have nightmares today about that woman.
- 16 Q. What happened when you first got there with her, do you remember?
- 17 A. I went to a big concrete building, she told me straight away I was a liar, then we went over
- 18 to this other building and she grabbed me by the back of the neck and she pushed me in a
- 19 room, she locked the door and said until I start telling the truth I had to stay there.
- 20 Q. Was that room known as the infirmary?
- 21 A. Yes. And you could look out like that and there was a corridor that ran along but it had
- 22 windows and you could see her coming.
- 23 Q. Was there more than one room in the infirmary?
- 24 A. No, just one. The one I was in was here and then there was a hallway and there was some
- 25 down here as well.
- 26 Q. Were you --
- 27 A. I had nobody with me, just by myself and the Bible, I didn't even know what the Bible was
- 28 and I had to read it and there were words in it that they were that big and I didn't even know
- 29 what they were.
- 30 Q. Had you been to secondary school at this point or how old do you think you were?
- 31 A. No, I hadn't been to secondary school, I didn't get any secondary school. I think I had one
- 32 week of secondary school.
- 33 Q. We'll come to that in a minute. So, were you locked in one room?
- 34 A. Yes.

- 1 **Q.** And was there anything to do during the day?
- 2 **A.** No, just read that Bible.
- 3 **Q.** What about, were there any times when you could leave the room?
- 4 **A.** **[Shakes head].**
- 5 **Q.** GRO-C
- 6 **A.** GRO-C and then I was back in that room until I could
- 7 apologise and say I was a liar.
- 8 **Q.** And when you were in that room, what happened with food, how did that come?
- 9 **A.** If they remembered to give it to me there was another GRO-C that
- 10 came down and she brought me some food on grease-proof paper and she just unlocked the
- 11 door and put it in on the floor, locked the door and went away. That big horrible one, she
- 12 never did. I don't think she even remembered I was there half the time.
- 13 **Q.** I think you ran away from that home three times?
- 14 **A.** I did, yes, I did, with other girls.
- 15 **Q.** What happened each time?
- 16 **A.** They used to catch us and push us back in the van and they didn't care who was watching
- 17 them.
- 18 **Q.** Did you have any schooling when you were there?
- 19 **A.** No.
- 20 **Q.** Did anyone come and visit you?
- 21 **A.** No.
- 22 **Q.** Did you have any contact from your family?
- 23 **A.** **[Shakes head].** No.
- 24 **Q.** I just want to bring up a document from your file which is witness 0315002. So this is a
- 25 long document, Maureen, that talks about -- it's a report that's written later from Kingslea,
- 26 but it's got some information in it about what happened to you. So I'm just going to take
- 27 you to that now, first of all to paragraph 10, we'll just call that out. That's page 2.
- 28 So this is recording that you were admitted to GRO-C and was there
- 29 for nine months and that you absconded three times which we've just talked about. And
- 30 then after that your parents were asked to take you home and it's recording that you went to
- 31 Horowhenua College, but your behaviour was such that you were suspended from school.
- 32 Do you remember going home after being at GRO-C ?
- 33 **A.** No.
- 34 **Q.** Do you remember going to Horowhenua College?

- 1 A. No.
- 2 Q. I think you said to us before that you went somewhere to school for a really short time, is
3 that right?
- 4 A. That's – I read that on my file, I don't remember doing it, but I do remember reading that I
5 was there for one week, so perhaps it was this Horowhenua College.
- 6 Q. The last bit of that paragraph says that an exemption was granted which means that
7 somebody got an exemption from the requirement that you attend school until you're 15.
8 Did anyone discuss that with you?
- 9 A. No. I don't quite understand what you're saying.
- 10 Q. Well, what it means is that someone, presumably from Social Welfare, applied for you to
11 be exempted from school, which means that you were exempted from the legal requirement
12 to keep going to school until you were 15.
- 13 A. Okay.
- 14 Q. Do you have any memory of going to secondary school?
- 15 A. No.
- 16 Q. If we just bring up the next paragraph, paragraph 11, so this is talking about what happened
17 after your exemption from school and it's talking about you having a job at the South
18 Pacific restaurant in Levin. I think you don't think that you ever worked there, is that right?
- 19 A. No, I never worked there, he worked there, I never worked there.
- 20 Q. "He" being the brother?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. Okay. All right. We'll come back to that document shortly, but I just want to move on
23 about what happened after that. I think that there's a record on your file which I know you
24 won't be familiar with, but it indicates that on 10 May 1965 you were again running away
25 and the Police found you and you ended up in Margaret Street Girls' Home. Do you
26 remember being there at Margaret Street Girls' Home?
- 27 A. I can remember being at Margaret Street, it wasn't a horrible place. I don't remember much
28 about it, but I do remember being there.
- 29 Q. Can you remember what ethnicity most of the girls were there, were they Pākehā, Māori?
- 30 A. They were Māori or Islander girls.
- 31 Q. You mentioned before about being called a liar. Did that happen there?
- 32 A. Yeah, I was told I was lying there too. Not as much, it wasn't as vicious, what they -- the
33 way they said it.
- 34 Q. And I think you've said there was no abuse that you remember happening there?

1 A. No.

2 **Q.** Did you have any schooling?

3 A. No. I don't think anybody had any schooling there.

4 **Q.** What did you do during the day?

5 A. Nothing really, just -- no, nothing.

6 **Q.** Do you remember whether you had any visitors from your family --

7 A. No.

8 **Q.** -- or anybody else?

9 A. No.

10 **Q.** I want to bring up that same document this time paragraph 16. So again, this is a record of
11 what happened to you. So this is recording that on 10 December 1965, so you would have
12 been I think 15 then, that you were seen by Dr Pugmire at Lake Alice Hospital after you
13 complained about the noise at work. Do you remember seeing Dr Pugmire?

14 A. No. I didn't know any of this. I hadn't heard or seen any of this until my file was shown to
15 me.

16 **Q.** We're just going to go to paragraph 18. This is recording that you saw him, you went back
17 to the Receiving Home and then you were seen again by Dr Pugmire who changed the
18 tablets suggesting you go back to work, then there are records of absconding from the
19 Receiving Home and emotional upsets. And arrangements were made for you to go to
20 Kingslea. Do you remember anything about that?

21 A. No. I just remember going on the boat down to Kingslea, but I didn't even know where I
22 was going.

23 **CHAIR:** Just to be clear, is the Receiving Home Margaret Street?

24 **MS TOOHEY:** Yes.

25 **CHAIR:** As far as we know?

26 **MS TOOHEY:** Yes, as far as we know.

27 **CHAIR:** Okay, thank you.

28 **QUESTIONING BY MS TOOHEY CONTINUED:** I just want to go now to another document,
29 witness 0315005. This is a document that is -- you won't be able to read that on the screen
30 right now, but we'll come to a part in a minute. This is a document that's proposing your
31 admission to Kingslea in the South Island, Kingslea Home. Sorry, I've got the wrong
32 document, it's witness 0315003. Did you know anything about the fact that there was a
33 proposal that you go to Kingslea in the South Island?

34 A. **[Shakes head].**

- 1 **Q.** Did anyone discuss that with you?
- 2 **A.** No.
- 3 **Q.** Do you remember anything about feeling upset or having any kind of emotional
4 disturbances?
- 5 **A.** No.
- 6 **Q.** Sorry, we'll go back to that other document, 0315005. So just if we look at paragraph 1,
7 this is on 20 January 1966 and it's recording something that happened a few days before
8 about 8.30pm you had emotional disturbance, rolling of eyes, violent shaking, attempted
9 vomiting. Do you remember any of that?
- 10 **A.** No.
- 11 **Q.** And then if we look at paragraph 2, this is someone from the home rang Dr Pugmire at
12 Lake Alice quite late at night and it's saying that you asked for Ms Sutherland, presumably
13 someone from the home, to sleep in the adjoining bed to give you security. You don't
14 remember any of this?
- 15 **A.** No.
- 16 **Q.** And then the final part is the third paragraph, which is recording that you went to see
17 Dr Pugmire at the child health clinic and he prescribed a change of pills and a preparation
18 for injections of paraldehyde should you have another attack?
- 19 **A.** No.
- 20 **Q.** Subsequently in life you became a nurse, didn't you?
- 21 **A.** Yes, I did.
- 22 **Q.** What was your reaction to reading that in your file quite recently about paraldehyde?
- 23 **A.** I just couldn't believe it, because that's a nasty drug. As soon as I saw that name I said to
24 the lady that was with me, "I know that drug, it's a nasty drug. Why would they want to
25 give me that?"
- 26 **Q.** Was paraldehyde, the use of paraldehyde ever discussed in the homes that you were in?
- 27 **A.** No, no. I didn't know anything about what's up here at all, until somebody came and said,
28 "This is what's in your file."
- 29 **Q.** Did you know that you were on medication?
- 30 **A.** I knew I was taking a blue tablet and a yellow tablet. I was never told what they were for.
31 But that's when I went to -- when they took me out of Kingslea and put me in that clinic,
32 you know that other place.
- 33 **Q.** Mmm.
- 34 **A.** That's when I remember those tablets, otherwise I don't think I was on tablets.

- 1 **Q.** Okay. All right. So your records show that just six days after this, 26 January, that you
2 were admitted to Kingslea in 1966 down in Christchurch. Do you remember going with
3 your social worker I think to buy some new clothes?
- 4 **A.** Yes, I do, yes, yes.
- 5 **Q.** Did she tell you where else you were going that day?
- 6 **A.** No.
- 7 **Q.** So what happened after you got your new clothes?
- 8 **A.** We went back to Margaret Street, I put those new clothes on and a new pair of shoes,
9 I remember they were mustard and then we just went down to Wellington to the wharf,
10 because we were going on a boat trip. I wasn't told where we were going, we were going
11 on a boat trip. I was quite excited about that, going on a boat trip. I didn't know where I
12 was going.
- 13 **Q.** Didn't know you were going to Christchurch in a boat?
- 14 **A.** No.
- 15 **Q.** And I think when you got there I think in the afternoon, do you remember what happened
16 when you arrived?
- 17 **A.** Yeah.
- 18 **Q.** Tell us about that.
- 19 **CHAIR:** Are you okay Maureen? Maureen would you like –
- 20 **A.** No, I'm all right.
- 21 **Q.** Are you? Okay.
- 22 **A.** I met this lady and then I went over to this other house, it was called Keller House and I
23 was taken to what they called "The Clinic" and then I went into a cell and I stayed there for
24 months and months at a time. Just one cell, there was nothing else in there. Sorry, there
25 was a bed but it was bolted to the floor, that was all that was in that room and me. And I
26 was in there for months and months.
- 27 **Q.** Was the clinic, did that have a number of rooms like that?
- 28 **A.** It had five cells in it, a blanket room and you worked your way up from the number one cell
29 and then you went to the blanket room and then you actually could sit on blankets, then you
30 went into from there, as girls came in you moved along and then you went into a room that
31 actually had a bed in it, there were two beds and you could actually see the door wasn't
32 locked, you could see the staff walking around, you could see the other girls going to the
33 toilet or the bathroom.
- 34 **Q.** Was that the best room?

- 1 A. That was the best room, I never got there but I saw it. I never came out of that cell, they
2 kept me in that number one all the time.
- 3 Q. So you said there were two beds. Do you mean some of the cells didn't have beds in them?
- 4 A. You don't have a bed, it's just – it was a bed with like poles for legs that were bolted to the
5 ground and a big hard spring bit, but in the mornings you've got to roll your mattress up and
6 your blankets and take them to the blanket room. So when you went back you just went
7 back into a cell that had like a bed with a spring, that was all, nothing else.
- 8 Q. Was there a window?
- 9 A. There was a window that looked out on to a courtyard but it had a big brick fence around it
10 and there was a window here, it wasn't glass, though, it was a window here and a window
11 here, and I know it wasn't glass because someone had tried to actually bend it up. If it had
12 been glass it would have broken and it was just bent up. There was no curtain or no
13 nothing on it.
- 14 Q. And during the day once you'd taken your mattress and your blankets to the blanket room,
15 what happened during the day?
- 16 A. You picked your clothes up from outside your door and you could have had anybody's
17 clothes, anybody's big bloomers, you just put them on, you put your pyjamas outside the
18 door and that was it, they gave you breakfast and oh goodness, it was semi-cold tea, it was
19 before sliced bread, so they'd have a big chunk of bread and the butter they just chunked it
20 on and marmalade, but I think it was made at night because the marmalade was soaked
21 through the bread. I couldn't eat it.
- 22 Q. Where did you have your breakfast?
- 23 A. In the cell.
- 24 Q. Was there anyone else with you?
- 25 A. No.
- 26 Q. What happened to those new clothes, the mustard clothes that you bought?
- 27 A. I don't know, I never got them back.
- 28 Q. When did you part with those, when you got to Kingslea?
- 29 A. Yeah, when I got to Kingslea, we went to Keller House and I got into a yellow floral skirt
30 and a plain yellow top and some socks and that was it. I had my underwear, of course, but
31 that was it, that's what you got.
- 32 Q. Did you have to get changed when you arrived?
- 33 A. Yes, yeah.
- 34 Q. And then during the day after breakfast, was there anything to read or anything to do?

- 1 A. Nothing.
- 2 Q. What did you do?
- 3 A. Developed a friend.
- 4 Q. Okay. Do you mean an imaginary friend?
- 5 A. Yes, which I think probably kept me sane. I used to –
- 6 Q. Made you insane did you say?
- 7 A. No, it kept me –
- 8 Q. Kept you sane?
- 9 A. Yeah, I think they heard me talking to whoever. I don't know if it was a boy or girl, I don't
10 know, didn't have a name. But I used to – when I didn't want to eat I'd say you can eat that,
11 I don't want it.
- 12 Q. Did anyone speak to you during the day?
- 13 A. No, there was – in your cell if you went into the corner you could actually talk to the girl
14 next door and that's the only friend I ever had was that girl, but of course she moved on, she
15 was a Māori girl.
- 16 Q. Could you see her?
- 17 A. No, you just talked into the corner of your cell and then you could hear, you know, the
18 person in the cell next door talking to you. But you got into trouble for that anyway.
- 19 Q. And what about toileting, was there a toilet in the cell?
- 20 A. No.
- 21 Q. So what happened there?
- 22 A. If I couldn't hold on I just peed in the corner.
- 23 Q. How would you ask to go to the toilet?
- 24 A. You bang on your door and if they came they'd usually say "Yes, I won't be a minute, I'll
25 come back", and they never came back.
- 26 Q. Was there any chance to have a shower or a bath?
- 27 A. You did once a week on a Sunday.
- 28 Q. How did that work?
- 29 A. If I was the first one in there you got 5 minutes to have a bath, wash your hair, do whatever
30 you had to do, and run – clean the bath and run it for the next person. But you didn't get
31 much water, you only got probably a foot at the most. It never covered the top of your legs
32 when you sat in it.
- 33 Q. And your imaginary friend, you said that you used to talk to her?
- 34 A. Yeah.

- 1 **Q.** Tell us a bit more about that, how that went for you as a coping mechanism?
- 2 **A.** We used to exercise together, we counted bricks together, looking back now I think I must
3 have been completely insane because she – as I say, I don't know whether it was a she or a
4 he, but they were there, you know, they were real to me.
- 5 **Q.** What happened when someone new came into the clinic, can you remember about – I think
6 you've mentioned something about the lights and some music in your statement?
- 7 **A.** Yeah, if somebody new came in it was usually because they had run away or they'd hit
8 some – been a fight or something, then the lights came on in your cell and then all this
9 music came on, but it was never on the station, it was all staticky and it was so loud
10 because the person that was coming into the clinic had to learn that this is what happens
11 when someone didn't go by the rules. But everybody suffered. And the noise was
12 horrendous. To this day I can't stand noise.
- 13 **Q.** What would you have to do when someone new came in?
- 14 **A.** I just – sometimes you had to get up, roll your mattress up, fold your blankets up, take them
15 up to the blanket room, go back, because there was never two girls out at the same time it
16 was always one at a time and then number 5 would do it, then you'd start again.
- 17 **Q.** What about going outside, did you get to go outside at all?
- 18 **A.** I suppose I could count I went outside three times for about half an hour, all you could do
19 was sit on the stool. You could see the other girls but you weren't allowed to talk to them
20 or – you weren't even allowed to wave at them.
- 21 **Q.** Do you mean three times in total?
- 22 **A.** I was in clinic, yeah, the whole time.
- 23 **Q.** You've talked in your statement about growing your thumbnails long. Can you tell us
24 about that?
- 25 **A.** They're weapons. I still have them today. If you've got long thumb nails you point them
26 and they can be used as a weapon in a fight. Not a clinic like in the house, I still have long
27 thumbnails today. Not that I use them, but I think I would if I had to.
- 28 **Q.** Did you ever go out into that main centre, the house that you called it?
- 29 **A.** I can vaguely remember going to a house but being put in another cell.
- 30 **Q.** Your records show that you were at Kingslea from 26 January to 5 September 1966. So out
31 of all of that time, how much of it, broadly speaking, do you think you were in the clinic?
- 32 **A.** Most of the time.
- 33 **Q.** During this time at Kingslea, did you have some awareness about your sexuality?
- 34 **A.** I realised then I was gay, yeah.

- 1 **Q.** Was there any possibility in your mind that you could come out or talk to people about
2 that?
- 3 **A.** No, you wouldn't talk to anybody about it, no. It was only in the last 15 years that I've
4 actually come out.
- 5 **Q.** All right. What about the lying theme that you talked about, did that –
- 6 **A.** That just followed me everywhere, it followed me everywhere. She used to say to me,
7 "Your honesty will be your downfall in life", I think it has been.
- 8 **Q.** Who said that to you?
- 9 **A.** She did.
- 10 **Q.** You mean your mother?
- 11 **A.** [Nods].
- 12 **Q.** Did staff at Kingslea specifically say to you that you were lying?
- 13 **A.** Yeah. I could go home if I told the truth.
- 14 **Q.** Is that what they said?
- 15 **A.** [Nods]. I wasn't going to – if I went home I would be telling lies anyway, so – if I told the
16 truth I would have been lying. Do you know what I mean?
- 17 **CHAIR:** Just explain that a bit more, did they say –
- 18 **A.** If I had said to them "Okay, I'm telling lies", I would have been lying, because I'm not
19 telling the truth.
- 20 **Q.** I see, I understand.
- 21 **QUESTIONING BY MS TOOHEY CONTINUED:** Did you understand that when they said to
22 you had to tell the truth, that it was about your allegation that your brother had been
23 sexually abusing you?
- 24 **A.** Yes, I understood that.
- 25 **Q.** What about schooling at Kingslea, was there any –
- 26 **A.** I didn't have any schooling. I think there was a school there, though.
- 27 **Q.** Okay. I just want to show you a document witness number 315008. Just call out the
28 middle paragraph there. This is a progress report for the period ended June 1966. You'd
29 been in the home then for several months, maybe five months. And it's recording that you
30 were in Mr Yeoman's classroom this term but it says, Mr Yeoman reports, "Maureen has
31 spent most of this term in either clinic or isolation so that it is difficult to form a patterned
32 impression of her classroom behaviour. Doctor reports that when seen in isolation Maureen
33 is usually cheerful, cooperative and anxious to please and works well. However, she seems
34 as yet unable to withstand group pressures and her behaviour deteriorates in a larger setting.

1 Under the doctor's care Maureen has worked steadily and well and he considers her
2 progress to be fully in keeping with her limited capacity." Do you remember ever being in
3 a classroom?

4 A. No. No.

5 **Q.** Looking back on this period where you were in the clinic, which I understand from you to
6 be in isolation, how do you think your mental health was going?

7 A. Well, I don't think that anybody that's in isolation for such a long time cannot have
8 problems. You know, having an imaginary friend isn't a normal thing, is it?

9 **Q.** I just want to show you now some letters that are on your file, okay, so this is witness
10 0315007. And I know this is a bit hard to read on the screen as it is, but it says at the top
11 "Copy only" and it's dated 2 August 1966 and it's a letter that seems to be from you to
12 Dr Pugmire at Lake Alice. And it records in there, if we just go to the final paragraph
13 there, sorry, final paragraph of page 1.

14 It says there, "Well, so much for that. My second problem is that I'm doing a lot
15 of crazy things. I talk to my self pretending mum is with me, pretend Mrs Ford is telling
16 me I'm leaving the clinic and I'm telling her only if I go straight to lock-up." And it goes on
17 about "I punch, bite and slap myself, pull my hair, all sorts of crazy things." It ends with
18 "I'm not on those pills now" and ends with "I sincerely hope to hear from you soon",
19 referring to Dr Pugmire.

20 First of all, do you think that you wrote this letter?

21 A. No, I didn't write that letter. I've never seen or met Mr Pugmire. Why would I write him a
22 letter?

23 **Q.** I want to show you another letter that's sort of similar to that, which is witness 0315012.
24 And you see this letter starts, Maureen, with, it says "Copy" again up the top. And it says
25 "Let me introduce myself as Maureen Moore from Levin. I have been in the centre about
26 five months, out of the five months I have been in clinic 4." Then it's the second paragraph
27 I particularly want to show to you there, which says, "I am an obstinate, invaluable, cheeky,
28 insane child 15. I have been gruesome to my mother, father, brothers and sisters and fellow
29 friends." Do you know what obstinate means?

30 A. No.

31 **Q.** Do you think that you wrote this letter?

32 A. I didn't write that letter. I wouldn't write those words today, I wouldn't use them.

33 **Q.** The next paragraph, paragraph 3 talks about "once tried to murder my closest sister by
34 nearly strangling her." Again, do you think that you wrote this?

1 A. I didn't write that. I have read that, someone come to my house and showed me that. I rang
2 that sister and she was really, really upset and said the only thing I have ever done to her
3 was tried to protect her. I would never try and strangle her. I didn't write these letters.
4 I wouldn't use those words today. I've never been a coward and I've never really –
5 I wouldn't say I was miserable, I was unheard and I was lonely, but I wasn't miserable and
6 I've never been a coward, I'm not even a coward today.

7 **Q.** So I now want to bring up a letter from Mr Pugmire back to Kingslea. This is witness
8 0315009. So this is dated 15 August 1966. And it is from, as I said, Dr Pugmire. So this is
9 after at least one of those letters that we just looked at. Now it says there, "When
10 I originally saw this girl the diagnosis was not clear, but I feared she might be developing
11 an acute schizophrenic illness. She is obviously much worse now and I would recommend
12 her immediate admission to the psychiatric hospital for treatment on a long-term basis."

13 I just want to bring up the middle of that paragraph, if I can call that out. "She
14 should be on a heavy dosage of anti-schizophrenic drugs, more than it would be safe to
15 prescribe on an outpatient basis. She should be admitted as an informal minor." Do you
16 remember ever seeing a doctor around this time, a psychiatrist?

17 A. Never. And this man, he was in the North Island, I was in the South Island, how could he
18 possibly be prescribing drugs to me, if he's in the North Island and I'm in the South Island?

19 **Q.** Maureen, as an adult, have you ever had any, after coming out of care later, which we'll
20 come to in a moment, have you ever had any psychiatric issues?

21 A. No. I'm sure I haven't.

22 **Q.** You've never needed any treatment after coming out of State care?

23 A. No.

24 **Q.** So just moving on now to what happened after this letter sent. So that was on 15 August,
25 and your records show that just shortly after that on 5 September 1966 you ended up being
26 admitted to the Ferguson Clinic at Sunnyside Hospital. Do you remember going there,
27 Maureen?

28 A. I don't remember actually going there, I remember being there.

29 **Q.** Did anyone talk to you about why you were going there?

30 A. No.

31 **Q.** What's your take on why they sent you there?

32 A. Out of sight out of mind.

33 **Q.** Do you remember how long you were there for?

34 A. No.

- 1 **Q.** I think your records show that you were there, you started working at Burwood Hospital
2 later in October 1967, so that would be a year that you were at Sunnyside Hospital. Does
3 that sound about right?
- 4 **A.** As I say, I remember being there, but for how long I'm not sure.
- 5 **Q.** Do you remember, how did you feel first of all when you got there?
- 6 **A.** Well, I wasn't sure what it was all about. It was – I was shown around and there was a
7 dorm, had beds and lockers and I was able to walk around, you know, I was allowed to go
8 outside, I wasn't restrained in any way. And I remember thinking, you know, hell this is
9 pretty bloody cool really, but I remembered the tablets.
- 10 **Q.** Do you want to tell us about that?
- 11 **A.** Morning, noon and night, TDS, I got a blue and a yellow tablet, it made me quite drowsy.
- 12 **Q.** Do you remember much of your time there?
- 13 **A.** **[Shakes head].**
- 14 **Q.** Why do you think that is?
- 15 **A.** Probably too many drugs.
- 16 **Q.** You said that you could walk around, but did you feel like you could leave the hospital?
- 17 **A.** You weren't allowed to leave it, you could just walk around. Like in the building itself,
18 yeah. You couldn't leave.
- 19 **Q.** And what about the other people who were there, were they your age, were they older?
- 20 **A.** Some were older. There was one girl that was a little bit younger than me. But some of the
21 reasons that some of the people were there were pretty horrendous.
- 22 **Q.** What sorts of things do you remember?
- 23 **A.** I can remember that a lady had actually killed her baby.
- 24 **Q.** Did you think about running away?
- 25 **A.** No, I don't think so.
- 26 **Q.** Did you get seen by a doctor when you got there?
- 27 **A.** No. I can't remember seeing doctors.
- 28 **Q.** I think in your statement you mentioned that you saw, you were assessed by a doctor who
29 talked to you about lies, do you recall that?
- 30 **A.** Yeah, I do.
- 31 **Q.** Do you want to tell us about that?
- 32 **A.** That wasn't straight away, though.
- 33 **Q.** I see. So what happened with that?
- 34 **A.** He told me I was a liar.

- 1 **Q.** Did he tell you why he was saying that, what was he referring to?
- 2 **A.** He was referring to him.
- 3 **Q.** You mean "him" as in the brother?
- 4 **A.** Yeah. I'm sorry, I just can't refer to him as anything else but a him.
- 5 **Q.** No, no, that's fine. What did you say to him when that – say to the doctor?
- 6 **A.** I told him, yeah, I told him and he said that "You're lying."
- 7 **Q.** What effect did that have on you when he said that to you?
- 8 **A.** It didn't matter where I went I was going to be a liar. I'd been in a number of institutions
9 and I was always there because I was a liar. I wasn't, I was telling the truth.
- 10 **Q.** Do you remember, did you have to go to some sort of group therapy?
- 11 **A.** Yeah, they had this – you had to sit there and everybody talked about their problems. You
12 know, like that lady that hurt her baby. I realise now that she had post-natal depression and
13 it was pretty scary. You know, she could have hurt her baby, she could have hurt me.
- 14 **Q.** Was there any schooling for you while you were there?
- 15 **A.** No.
- 16 **Q.** What did you do all day?
- 17 **A.** Slept most of the time. I did go shopping with the nurse that ran the place. I went shopping
18 and it was awful, when she went out just to do her shopping, her personal shopping, she'd
19 take me with her.
- 20 **Q.** How were the staff in general, the nurses, were they fair towards you?
- 21 **A.** Some were, some weren't, it was just a matter of they either like you or they don't. It wasn't
22 so bad. I didn't like it.
- 23 **Q.** When you were having these group sessions or generally at Sunnyside, did you manage to
24 talk to anyone about the abuse that you'd suffered at the hands of him, your brother?
- 25 **A.** He was a boy, you try to tell people and then they say you're a liar so why talk about it?
26 I've tried.
- 27 **Q.** So you did tell them?
- 28 **A.** Yeah, they knew.
- 29 **Q.** Did anyone support you or –
- 30 **A.** No.
- 31 **Q.** – believe you?
- 32 **A.** I've had no support ever in my life, apart from you people.
- 33 **Q.** Then after all of this, or first, do you want to say anything else about your time at
34 Sunnyside?

- 1 A. I got to go – it was the beginning of my nursing career, they got me a job in the kitchen to
2 start with. I don't know how old I was, I can't remember, but they did, they got me a job in
3 the kitchen and that's where I became interested in nursing.
- 4 **Q.** Was that at Burwood Hospital?
- 5 A. Yes, yeah.
- 6 **Q.** So your file shows that that was October 1967 when you were 17 years old. So where did
7 you stay to begin with when you got that job?
- 8 A. In the nurses' home.
- 9 **Q.** Over at Burwood?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 **Q.** And that's the hospital in Christchurch, isn't it?
- 12 A. The burns unit, the big burns unit in Christchurch, yeah.
- 13 **Q.** Did you have to go back to Sunnyside?
- 14 A. No. I can't remember going back.
- 15 **Q.** I think you mentioned that –
- 16 A. Yes, I did, yes, I did. I went to a session there.
- 17 **Q.** A day clinic?
- 18 A. Is that what it was? Yeah.
- 19 **Q.** Were you on any medication by the time you went to Burwood?
- 20 A. I don't think so.
- 21 **Q.** So the medication ended?
- 22 A. Yeah.
- 23 **Q.** Did you get paid?
- 24 A. Yes, I did.
- 25 **Q.** Do you remember what you did with your first pay?
- 26 A. Yes, I do, I bought soap powder and I bought shampoo and conditioner, you know, they
27 belong to me, I was able to use them.
- 28 **Q.** Had you not had access to those things before?
- 29 A. No. Nothing ever belonged to me, ever, it was always in great big commercial bottles or –
30 belonged to everybody.
- 31 **Q.** Okay. How did you enjoy that job?
- 32 A. I enjoyed the freedom. Yes, I enjoyed being there, the freedom, being able to make my
33 own decisions.
- 34 **Q.** And I think at some stage you, I think was it one of your relatives, maybe a sister, whose

- 1 name we've redacted came to Christchurch by boat?
- 2 A. Yes, yes, that's my closest sister that I tried to kill, they say. I knew that the abuse was still
3 going on, so I paid for her to come to Christchurch.
- 4 Q. Do you mean abuse of her from him, being your brother?
- 5 A. [Nods].
- 6 Q. And what did – I think you two went fruit picking?
- 7 A. Yes, we did, yeah.
- 8 Q. And then after that did you – I think you said you became interested in nursing?
- 9 A. [Nods].
- 10 Q. Tell us about that, did you go to study?
- 11 A. Yes, I studied at Palmerston North Hospital. In those days you actually trained on the
12 wards, in the nurses' home, hands on. I was top of my class. Anything written I couldn't
13 do. I had to do three summer schools to pass.
- 14 Q. Had you had any – you'd told us this, but was there any education between intermediate and
15 coming out of State care at 17?
- 16 A. No, no, I had no – none.
- 17 Q. So how did you – was there any support or assistance for you in studying –
- 18 A. No.
- 19 Q. – the nursing requirements?
- 20 A. Well, you went to – way back then you went to what you called "block", and that was your
21 schooling, when you did all your written work. As I say, you know, you trained on the
22 wards and then you went to block for written work.
- 23 Q. I just want to bring up a photo. This is a photo, Maureen, that you've given us permission
24 to bring up of you. Is that you as a graduate nurse?
- 25 A. Yes.
- 26 Q. Did it take you a bit longer –
- 27 A. Yes, it did.
- 28 Q. – to do the training than the others?
- 29 A. Yeah, I couldn't get the written work. As I said, I had to do three summer schools, what
30 they call summer school is when in between graduating and, you know, getting your badge
31 and things, there's a time span and there you do what you call summer school, you go back,
32 not on to the wards, but into the classroom.
- 33 Q. And I think you also got an endorsement in geriatrics?
- 34 A. I did, yes.

- 1 **Q.** Is that something you're particularly interested in working in?
- 2 **A.** I did that until three years ago when I got sick with cancer.
- 3 **Q.** How are you now, Maureen, how's your health now?
- 4 **A.** It's – every day I wake up it's a good day. I've had a double mastectomy; my voice goes
5 because I've had it on my vocal cords and in my throat. But every day you wake up it's a
6 good day. I have the support of my children.
- 7 **Q.** So just talking about your life after nursing, you went back to Levin, I think, and met your
8 ex-husband whose name we've taken out?
- 9 **A.** Yes.
- 10 **Q.** And had your children?
- 11 **A.** Yeah.
- 12 **Q.** How many children have you got, Maureen?
- 13 **A.** Four.
- 14 **Q.** I want to ask you now about a more difficult subject about seeing him, your brother, when
15 you got back to Levin, where you went to live as an adult and still live?
- 16 **A.** Yeah.
- 17 **Q.** Did you see him just on occasion around Levin?
- 18 **A.** Yeah, I did.
- 19 **Q.** How did that make you feel?
- 20 **A.** If I had a gun I would have shot him.
- 21 **Q.** And eventually did you make a complaint to the Police?
- 22 **A.** I did.
- 23 **Q.** As an adult?
- 24 **A.** I did. Along with my other sisters.
- 25 **Q.** And how did it go with the Police on this occasion?
- 26 **A.** They were – they were awesome, they were really, really awesome. But once we got to the
27 High Court in Palmerston they threw it out because he was dying of throat cancer.
- 28 **Q.** Who threw it out?
- 29 **A.** The judge I think. The Levin Police were absolutely horrified that it had been thrown out,
30 but the word they got was that he was dying and there would be too much paperwork, you
31 know?
- 32 **Q.** How did that make you feel?
- 33 **A.** Angry.
- 34 **Q.** I think you've enjoyed having your children who live around you?

1 A. Yes, my children do live around me, I've got my oldest boy, he did 26 years in the Army,
2 now lives in Australia. I have contact with them all the time. I have got TJ here that just
3 lives on the other side of town that I see most days with his babies. I've got another son
4 that just lives around the corner, four doors away from me and I see him four times a day,
5 he checks on me every night, every morning, in and out during the day. And I've got a
6 daughter that works and lives in Wellington.

7 **Q.** And your house you've said in your statement has become a bit of a drop-in centre around
8 Levin?

9 A. I've had a lot of children over the years, my boys have brought home wayward kids, or
10 meant to be wayward kids, I've never had any problems. I still have them in my home
11 today. They all drop in.

12 **Q.** Is there anything else you want to say about your health issues, Maureen?

13 A. No. As I say, every day I wake up is a good day. I can't have chemotherapy because I'm
14 not well enough, I can't have radiation because I'm not well enough, so I'm just going for
15 quality of life not quantity anymore.

16 **Q.** I want to talk to you now about the impact that all of this has had on your life. What do
17 you want to say about not being believed about the abuse that you suffered at the hands of
18 your brother?

19 A. I just think that any child that goes to anybody and says this is what's happening, please
20 believe them, you know, because my life was pretty horrendous because I wasn't believed.
21 Because children should be playing in the dirt. They can tell you about that, they can also
22 tell you what goes on in a bedroom. They shouldn't be able to.

23 **Q.** What do you think would have happened if you had been believed when you went to court
24 that day? Would you have gone to care do you think?

25 A. I think we probably would have, but we all would have gone, it wouldn't have just been me,
26 it would have been all of us.

27 **Q.** What do you think, would it have changed your experience of being in care, do you think, if
28 you hadn't been called a liar?

29 A. Yes, of course it would have.

30 **Q.** Has it swung the other way for you with trusting people too much in terms of your own
31 ability to believe people?

32 A. I believe any child, a child I'll believe. They have to prove me wrong for me not to believe
33 them. I don't trust adults, I don't like humans. I could say the world would be a better place
34 without them, but of course that's not possible. Animals, yeah, I love them to bits, they

- 1 don't hurt you; humans do.
- 2 **Q.** Do you think it's had an impact on your relationships?
- 3 **A.** Absolutely it has, yeah.
- 4 **Q.** In what way do you think that is?
- 5 **A.** When my daughter, I had my daughter, she was growing up, I used to follow my husband
6 to the toilet at night to make sure he was going to the toilet and not into her bedroom. I had
7 her bedroom door taken off so it could never be closed on her. Now I realise that, you
8 know, she had no privacy either, unless she went to the bathroom or she went into the boys'
9 room. It was just so that I could see her at all times. She actually thought, and probably
10 still does, that I was a bit crazy because I didn't trust her. It wasn't her I didn't trust, and it
11 wasn't actually my husband I didn't trust, I didn't trust anybody, you know?
- 12 **Q.** What about anxiety?
- 13 **A.** I suffer badly from anxiety now.
- 14 **Q.** Do you have panic attacks?
- 15 **A.** I do have major panic attacks that bring on asthma attacks, they put me in ICU on life
16 support three times in the last couple of years.
- 17 **Q.** I think you also have, you told me quite a particular way of doing things, like a—
- 18 **A.** Yes, I'm OTT. TJ and I had a laugh last night, all my knives and forks have to—they have
19 to face south in a line.
- 20 **Q.** What do you think that's from, Maureen?
- 21 **A.** I don't know, I'm just over the top.
- 22 **Q.** Do you think that links back to your time in care?
- 23 **A.** Probably, yeah. I won't have a toilet brush in my house; dirty, filthy things. I haven't let
24 my children grow up. This morning I got TJ's clothes out. Yeah, you know, it's just things
25 like that. When I get my grandbabies with me, I have an 18-month-old granddaughter
26 who's so sassy she's naughty, I just watch her like a hawk if she's around any—sorry, any
27 males. They're not going to hurt her, I know they're not, but I'm still aren't happy with their
28 just being there, I like to be there, or I'm telling TJ or his wife, you know, watch that baby
29 girl. We go to the park and I'm on top of her the whole time, you know, TJ's telling me to,
30 "Mum just leave her", but I just can't.
- 31 **Q.** What about redress? I think you've made a claim through ACC, is that right, did you make
32 a claim through ACC?
- 33 **A.** What's that?
- 34 **Q.** Accident Compensation?

- 1 A. Oh, yes, compensation. What did you say?
- 2 Q. ACC.
- 3 **CHAIR:** No, redress.
- 4 A. Sorry, I don't know that word.
- 5 Q. That's fine, it's compensation.
- 6 A. Yes, I have.
- 7 **QUESTIONING BY MS TOOHEY CONTINUED:** How did that go for you, do you want to
- 8 tell us about that?
- 9 A. Is that for being in care?
- 10 Q. That one's for the abuse from—
- 11 A. I do get a payment every five years.
- 12 Q. How much is that?
- 13 A. \$7,000 I think. Every five years.
- 14 Q. How many payments have you had so far?
- 15 A. About four or five.
- 16 Q. What about the historic claims process for being in care, is that something you've been
- 17 aware of?
- 18 A. Yes, I have a lawyer in Levin that's doing that for me, but there's no amount of money that
- 19 can cover what they did to me, or every person that they put in a cell and left them there, I
- 20 don't think I was the only one.
- 21 Q. I want to talk to you now about looking forward. You mentioned before about the need to
- 22 believe children.
- 23 A. Yeah.
- 24 Q. Do you want to say anything more about that?
- 25 A. Kids have to be believed. They just have to be.
- 26 Q. You've talked in your statement about believing in the Māori culture, te ao Māori ?
- 27 A. Yeah.
- 28 Q. Do you want to tell us about your interaction with that culture?
- 29 A. Yeah, you know, they're loving people, they're—I'm not going to say they're perfect
- 30 because they're not, but a lot of them now that I've come across, they actually embrace you,
- 31 you know, their ways are different from the Pākehā ways.
- 32 Q. I think your children have a—a lot of your children have had Māori partners?
- 33 A. Yes, yeah, and I have as well. I've never been out with a Pākehā guy or a Pākehā woman,
- 34 I just don't like them.

1 **Q.** Maureen, that's all the questions I want to ask you. The Commissioners may have some
2 questions for you, but before that, is there anything you want to say, anything more you
3 want to say to the Commissioners?

4 **A.** It's been a privilege to come here because of 60 years I've had this—or 65 years really—I
5 don't have to carry it anymore because I'm believed now. I'm not the only one that has been
6 through this and now they're believed as well. So what time I do have left, which I don't
7 think is very—isn't going to be a long-term thing, I've got an unstable brain aneurism, so at
8 least I can die now knowing that I have been believed. And if somebody goes up to Sandra
9 and says, "This is what's happening to me", she will say "Come with me because I believe
10 you." Yes. That's how I feel anyway.

11 **Q.** Thank you. Do you have any questions Commissioners?

12 **CHAIR:** I don't think we have any questions for you, Maureen. You said it was a privilege to be
13 coming here, it's a privilege for us that you have, in spite of the pain and experience you've
14 had, to share that with us and the general public, that is a privilege. And I'm going to ask
15 Sandra, who I know you have met, to thank you.

16 **COMMISSIONER ALOFIVAE:** Kia ora Maureen. Good morning and thank you, TJ, for being
17 a real anchor, for being a real rock for mum this morning. We stand together, Maureen.
18 We said it to our witnesses yesterday and we say it again to you today, we stand with our
19 Chair when we say we really do believe everything that you've said.

20 The resilience and the courage that you've shown, despite everything that you've
21 been through, just speaks volumes of who you are. And you might be OTT to your
22 grandkids but you know what, you're creating some pretty special memories there for them
23 as well. Thank you, the resilience and actually persevering with your career, because no
24 doubt there'll be many who have benefitted greatly from your care.

25 **A.** Thank you.

26 **Q.** Yeah. And thank you also for being a haven, because it's your lived experiences that
27 continues to open your heart, despite your own personal experiences, to other young people
28 in your local hometown. So just know that it really was a privilege to be able to receive
29 your story and again to have it add to the wider body of our work to help us bring about
30 change. Thank you so much.

31 **A.** Thank you.

32 **CHAIR:** And I believe we have—yes, please.

33 **MS TOOHEY:** I think we have a waiata for you, Maureen, if you'd like that?

34 **A.** Thank you.

[Waiata Te Aroha]

1
2 **CHAIR:** Thank you very much for your evidence, Maureen, it's time for us all to have a break,
3 thank you.

Adjournment from 11.26 am to 12.34 pm**MARYANN KARANGAHUI RANGI**

4
5
6 **CHAIR:** Tēnā koe Mr Snelgar. I'll just ask Ms Rangi if she would do the affirmation. Do you
7 mind if I call you Maryann?

8 A. Not at all.

9 **Q.** I'd be happy if I could.

10 A. Thank you.

11 **Q.** Tell me the name of your supporter. Sitting there beside you?

12 A. Sorry, do you want me to introduce—

13 **Q.** It would be very nice if you introduced her.

14 A. This is my sister Joanne sitting next to me.

15 **Q.** Kia ora Joanne.

16 A. She's the youngest.

17 **Q.** Tēnei te mihi ki a koe, ki a kōrua.

18 A. And of course Mike.

19 **Q.** We know him, he's one of us.

20 A. Kia ora.

21 **Q.** So Maryann, if I just ask you to take the affirmation before Kingi asks you some questions.
22 Do you solemnly, sincerely and truly declare and affirm that the evidence you give today
23 will be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?

24 A. Āe, I do.

25 **Q.** Kia ora, tēnā koe. Thank you Mr Snelgar.

26 **QUESTIONING BY MR SNELGAR:** Tēnā koe, tēnā tātou o tēnei whare he mea tuatahi ka
27 mihi atu ki a koe, Maryann, hurinoa ki to tuahine kua tae mai I mua o te aroaro o tēnei
28 Kōmihana. Me ngā whakapapa maha kua tae mai runga i a koe I tēnei ra huri rauna i tēnei
29 whare ki ngā whaea, te mana whenua o konei engari ki a koutou ngā mana wāhine kua tae
30 mai ki te tautoko i tēnei wā tātou whanaunga, tēnei wā tātou taonga, i puta mai i ngā kōrero
31 to oranga. Nō reira, tēnā koe, tēnā tātou. Maryann, you were born in 1962; is that correct?

32 A. Correct.

33 **Q.** How many siblings do you have?

34 A. There was ten of us, now we're down to five.