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2 **MR A - AFFIRMED**  
3 **EXAMINED BY MS COOPER**  
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6 **CHAIR:** Good morning, Ms Cooper, welcome back.

7 **MS COOPER:** Before we get underway, I'll just ask the Judge  
8 to give you the affirmation.

9 **CHAIR:** Hello, we're going to call you Mr A, is that all  
10 right?

11 A. Yep.

12 **CHAIR:** You can see me? Yes. I'm Coral Shaw, I'm the  
13 Chair of the Commission and my job is to ask you if you  
14 would take the affirmation before you give your evidence;  
15 is that all right?

16 A. Yes. (Witness affirmed).

17 **CHAIR:** Thank you very much. I am now going to leave you  
18 in the hands of Ms Cooper who will ask you the questions,  
19 thank you.

20 **MS COOPER:**

21 Q. So, we're going to be talking today about your experiences  
22 in the care of the Salvation Army at Bramwell Booth and  
23 that was in Temuka. Obviously, we'll then talk to your  
24 experience of the redress process and because you were also  
25 in State care, as part of your evidence we're also going to  
26 ask you to compare your experience, at least to date, of  
27 the Salvation Army redress process and the State redress  
28 process.

29 So, just if you can confirm first that you were placed  
30 at Bramwell Booth at the age of 11 in 1982?

31 A. That's right, yep.

32 Q. And can you just tell the Commission how long you were  
33 there approximately?

34 A. I was there for about a year.

1 Q. You've described what happened to you, and I know that this  
2 can be quite difficult for you to talk to, so what I'm  
3 going to ask you to do first is just, at this stage as much  
4 as you feel comfortable, talk about your experiences there  
5 and then we will call out a document that we can go through  
6 that detail.

7 So, if you just start with how much you feel comfortable  
8 talking about your experiences there?

9 A. Okay. Well, I was sent to Bramwell Booth Home when I was  
10 11 because there was a crisis in my family. A man in the  
11 neighbourhood had been sexually molesting me and I started  
12 to act out. My [IRO] came from a Salvation Army family, so  
13 one of [IRO] relatives recommended I be sent to Bramwell  
14 Booth to give [IRO] a break. So, I went to Bramwell Booth  
15 and over the year that I was there, the bad things that  
16 happened to me were being assaulted by staff, being  
17 sexually assaulted by older and bigger boys and eventually  
18 also a staff member. I started sniffing glue when I was  
19 there and I was kind of introduced for the first time to  
20 other kids my age who broke the law often and, you know,  
21 that was okay to break the law.

22 Q. All right. And just to get some detail around that because  
23 I know that's difficult for you to talk to, we're just  
24 going to call out witness 44002 and we're looking at the  
25 analysis, the analysis document, page 4. If we can call  
26 out that. Are you able to see that?

27 A. Yep.

28 Q. So, just what we're going to highlight there is the bullet  
29 pointed points. So, first of all, you'll see you've  
30 referred to being physically assaulted by staff, and there  
31 the description is that a female staff member used to pull  
32 your hair and slap you across the face and that you  
33 estimated that this happened on approximately 30 different  
34 occasions, and you were also assaulted by a male staff  
35 member who frequently punched you all over your body, and

1 you say there that you saw this happening to other boys as  
2 well.

3 So, that's you talking about the physical assaults and  
4 that's the detail of what happened to you, isn't it?

5 A. Yep.

6 Q. And then the next description is the sexual assault that  
7 you talked about by the male staff member, and there the  
8 detail is that you were forced to perform oral sex on that  
9 male staff member who also rubbed himself over you. Can  
10 you confirm that?

11 A. Yep.

12 Q. And you've talked about the two older boys, so that's the  
13 next bullet point, and there you were forced to perform  
14 oral sex on those two older boys. And after reporting that  
15 abuse to this male staff member, that's when he started to  
16 sexually assault you, isn't it?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And then you talk about fights with other boys?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. You've already talked about starting to sniff petrol and  
21 glue and then you talk about smoking marijuana for the  
22 first time and smoking cigarettes, being taught about crime  
23 and for the first time learning about the importance of not  
24 narking.

25 So, can you just explain that? That will be a term that  
26 lots of people are familiar with, but others won't be  
27 familiar with what not narking means?

28 A. It just means talking to whoever is in authority and  
29 telling on other people, giving authority information about  
30 things that have been done.

31 Q. And the importance of that here and not narking, what did  
32 that mean for you in a practical sense, in a day-to-day  
33 sense?

34 A. It just meant keeping your mouth shut and not going to the  
35 staff and asking for help or giving the staff information

1 because if you did and the boys found out about it, you'd  
2 get beaten up.

3 Q. And that's something you'll obviously talk to more because  
4 that continued in your experiences in State care?

5 A. Yeah, through -

6 Q. Through to?

7 A. Now.

8 Q. And that's probably still the same now, is it?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. We're going to start talking about your steps towards  
11 bringing a claim. So, in your statement you talk about  
12 first visiting the Salvation Army in Dunedin in about 2003.  
13 Can you just talk through what you were wanting to achieve  
14 and what happened at that time?

15 A. Well, my life after the Temuka Boys' Home was pretty messed  
16 up and I had always been seeking for answers about why  
17 things turned out the way they had, so I went to the  
18 Salvation Army in Dunedin and asked to talk to someone and  
19 I did, I did talk to the officer who was there and he was  
20 very cynical to what I said and he questioned my mental  
21 health and inferred that I was a schizophrenic because of  
22 where I was living at that time. He thought it was a home  
23 for schizophrenic people, when actually it was a halfway  
24 house for people who had just been released from prison.

25 **CHAIR:** Ms Cooper, I don't want to interrupt too much, it  
26 would be nice to know what age you were, Mr A, when you  
27 went there, went to the Salvation Army for the first time,  
28 roughly?

29 A.

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Individual Restriction Order
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 so probably about 30, I was probably about 30 when  
32 I went to see the Salvation Army.

33 **CHAIR:** Thank you.

34 **MS COOPER:**

1 Q. Do you recall if you were asked about what had happened to  
2 you when you'd been at Temuka?

3 A. Yeah, yep, I gave him an outline of what had happened.  
4 Like I said, I felt really uncomfortable, because I felt  
5 like I was narking, and his cynicism was on his sleeve  
6 pretty much, so we didn't talk for long.

7 Q. And did you get any help at that point?

8 A. None, none at all. I actually left feeling a whole lot  
9 worse than when I went in.

10 Q. So, in your statement, you say that you obviously left  
11 things for a while and that you weren't able to tell family  
12 members because many were Army members?

13 A. Yep.

14 Q. So, how did you end up coming to approach lawyers to make a  
15 complaint on your behalf?

16 A. Well, I'd been recalled back to prison and I was just so  
17 frustrated about why my life was like it was and why I kept  
18 on making stupid decisions and how the time of the abuse  
19 that happened to me at Bramwell Booth might influence that,  
20 and I was discussing this with another man in the yard who  
21 had been in contact with you, Sonja, and he gave me the  
22 details.

23 Q. And so, you say in your statement that's roughly 2006. It  
24 took you another good 6 months or so to approach Cooper  
25 Legal, can you explain what that delay was about?

26 A. After talking to the guy, the officer in Dunedin, and being  
27 rejected, for me it was just, it was very hard to deal  
28 with. It's like being, you know, almost accused of making  
29 stories up and I just felt really bad about it and I didn't  
30 want that to happen again, so I was initially reluctant to  
31 talk to you but in the end, after talking to other people,  
32 I did.

33 Q. And so, you came to Cooper Legal on the 21st of April 2007  
34 and you were granted funding by Legal Aid on the 28th of  
35 May 2007.

1           So, as you say in your statement, the first step that  
2 Cooper Legal took was to ask McElroys, which were the  
3 lawyers then acting for the Salvation Army, for your  
4 records, and you understood that was going to be the first  
5 step, didn't you?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. And then in May 2007, the records were provided and you say  
8 in your statement that you read the document that the Major  
9 had written about you after the meeting back in 2003 that  
10 you were a schizophrenic.

11           Do you recall how you felt about that?

12 A. I was mortified, to be honest. It really upset me because  
13 I felt as if him saying that I was a schizophrenic, that  
14 maybe I was making stuff up because I was mentally ill, and  
15 I shouldn't be believed.

16 Q. So, as you know, as part of the preliminary processes  
17 before we progressed your claim, there were a number of  
18 meetings with the Salvation Army and one of the outcomes of  
19 those meetings is set out quite usefully in a document  
20 which you've seen as part of the bundle, so it's Salvation  
21 Army 29800014. If we can just call out that document, it's  
22 a letter from Amanda Hill at Cooper Legal to Murray Houston  
23 of the Salvation Army. If we can just call out the first  
24 page which refers to a meeting which took place on the 4th  
25 of October 2007. And then you will see it goes on to talk  
26 about how the claims are going to be dealt with. With  
27 people whose claims were filed in Court, those clients were  
28 going to be interviewed and then the Salvation Army was  
29 going to conduct its own investigation into those claims.

30           And then moving on to the second page, for those claims  
31 that were not filed in Court, Cooper Legal would send an  
32 initial outline of the claim against the Army and request  
33 the records, if that hadn't already been done.

34           And you will see there a reference to the firm  
35 requesting the records of the clients to verify their

1 claim, rather than as a "fishing expedition"; do you see  
2 that reference there?

3 A. Yes, I do.

4 Q. And in your statement, you refer to the fact that at that  
5 meeting it had been put to Cooper Legal that one of the  
6 reasons for getting the records was just a "fishing  
7 expedition", rather than proper work to verify claims?

8 A. Mm.

9 Q. And then there was a discussion about the need to obtain  
10 psychiatric reports, so that's the next paragraph, where it  
11 was noted that in past cases the Salvation Army had  
12 requested psychiatric reports and other material and it was  
13 explained in that letter that they were very expensive and  
14 difficult to obtain. And so, as you see in the next  
15 paragraph, the offer was made that as some clients had  
16 psychiatric reports done by Corrections or ACC, they may be  
17 able to be provided.

18 You've read that too, haven't you?

19 A. That's right, yep.

20 Q. And then just at the bottom of that page, that's something  
21 that came to you as well, was the point of contact. And  
22 there, if we call out that bottom paragraph, there it was a  
23 statement, "It's necessary to communicate with clients  
24 solely through Cooper Legal". And there the Salvation Army  
25 people were asked not to provide contact details to clients  
26 or speak to them without a lawyer from Cooper Legal because  
27 to do so would endanger the relationship between Salvation  
28 Army and Cooper Legal.

29 A. Mm.

30 Q. And following on from that, you also received a letter,  
31 didn't you?

32 A. Yep.

33 Q. And that is witness 44003. If we can highlight first on  
34 page 1 the bullet pointed material. That was explaining to  
35 you what the process would be. So, if the Salvation Army

1 didn't have details of your claim, a letter would be sent  
2 outlining your experiences.

3 And then you would be interviewed by Murray Houston and  
4 a lawyer from Cooper Legal. And then your claim would be  
5 investigated and there may be more information that needed  
6 to be provided. And, depending on the outcome, the Army  
7 would either offer to settle your claim or refuse to  
8 settle.

9 Just thinking back now, did you have any views about how  
10 that process was going to work?

11 A. Yeah, it just seemed like they were trying to find reasons  
12 to say that I wasn't telling the truth. It was like - it  
13 turned adversarial, them against me, that's how I felt.

14 Q. There's just one more point that I wanted to highlight from  
15 that letter. So, if we can call it up again, and it's the  
16 bottom paragraph. There you'll see we were saying to you  
17 that we'd had had instances of organisations, such as the  
18 Salvation Army, making small offers of compensation to our  
19 clients directly and that they were less than the claimant  
20 was entitled to. So, to protect you from this, it was  
21 important that you did not communicate with any member of  
22 the Salvation Army directly but only through Cooper Legal.  
23 And we also talked to you about the fact that there would  
24 be a Legal Aid debt associated with any settlement.

25 And do you recall that you were asked to think about  
26 that and sign a document agreeing that you would not talk  
27 directly to the Salvation Army and understanding about  
28 that, in terms of your Legal Aid debt? I need you to speak  
29 in answer?

30 A. Oh, yes, that's right, yes.

31 Q. We then talk about in your statement another meeting in May  
32 2008, so we've moved on quite a way, because there had been  
33 some breakdown again in the relationship and there was a  
34 discussion about the approach that the Salvation Army  
35 should take, and that the that stage the Salvation Army was



1 questioning why it shouldn't take a legal approach and how  
2 the Salvation Army was concerned that claimants, how  
3 claimants see the Salvation Army. And so, some concerns  
4 were raised with the Salvation Army about the approach it  
5 was taking then.

6 So, there were some ongoing discussions about how the  
7 Salvation Army would deal with these claims?

8 A. Yep.

9 Q. And you'll also see, as you say in your statement, there  
10 was also an issue about officers attending the meetings in  
11 uniform?

12 A. Mm-Mmm.

13 Q. And how that was daunting for some clients. And that would  
14 have been an issue that was discussed with you prior to  
15 your meeting, wouldn't it?

16 A. Yep and because I come from a Salvation Army family, it was  
17 a really big deal, you know, men in Salvation Army uniforms  
18 were scary to me when I was a kid.

19 Q. So, as you say in your statement, another meeting in May  
20 2009, so lots of time has moved on in that period and at  
21 that stage the issue of officers wearing uniforms to  
22 meetings was resolved and we also agreed a way of stopping  
23 the clock, the limitation clock, so that we could settle on  
24 with the claims, which meant that you could finally meet  
25 with the Salvation Army and a lawyer from Cooper Legal and  
26 an officer from the Salvation Army on the 31st of July  
27 2009, so that's quite a long time after you've initially  
28 instructed us, isn't it?

29 A. Yep.

30 Q. Now, you've talked about the meeting lasting just over an  
31 hour, can you just talk to us about your memories of that  
32 meeting and how you felt at the time and what you were  
33 hoping for, for that meeting?

34 A. I was really anxious going to that meeting because, as I  
35 said, it had become a me against the Salvation Army thing.

1 That's how I felt. I was so anxious that I just had to  
2 read out a statement that I had written, rather than be  
3 interviewed.

4 Q. And how did you feel was the reception to that written  
5 statement?

6 A. Like I say, it was like me against them. Like, I felt like  
7 I was trying to prove to them that I was telling the truth.  
8 I felt as if the whole time the Salvation Army were cynical  
9 about my claims and, like I say, were trying to find, like,  
10 cracks in my story. I don't know, trying to find reasons  
11 to deny the affect that their treatment had had on me and  
12 what had happened to me when I was in their care.

13 Q. Do you remember now whether you had an apology given to you  
14 at that meeting?

15 A. No, I can't remember that.

16 Q. And then, the next thing that happened was that an offer  
17 was received for you, and that's witness 44004, if we can  
18 call out page 1 of that document which is a letter dated  
19 14 September 2009.

20 If we just call out the first paragraph first, and that,  
21 as you will see, referred to various meetings with clients  
22 over recent weeks. It started with the proposition, "We do  
23 not believe that we have any legal liability at all to any  
24 of the claimants because of at least limitation issues, and  
25 in some cases accident compensation issues as well".

26 And then if we move to the next paragraph and the  
27 offers, nevertheless it went on to say that they had taken  
28 into account the seriousness of the allegations and the  
29 interests of certainty and finality and for economic  
30 reasons were prepared to make without prejudice settlement  
31 offers.

32 And you will see there, a range of offers there from  
33 \$10,000 through to \$25,000, and you're the further person  
34 down, you've got the top offer of \$25,000; do you see that?

35 A. Yes.

1 Q. And then if we call out the next paragraph, which is  
2 already usefully highlighted for us. It went on to say,  
3 "The amounts were all-inclusive of any costs." And it also  
4 said this was not the start of a negotiation process and  
5 that claimants were urged to view the offers on the same  
6 non-liability basis and that each claimant would be asked  
7 to sign a discharge. In other words, it's a take it or  
8 leave it offer. You have seen that letter, haven't you?

9 A. Yeah, I have, yeah.

10 Q. Just moving over to the second page of that letter because  
11 there is some specific reference to you, those are the  
12 three paragraphs. Now, you had requested help from the  
13 Salvation Army when you were released from prison, to  
14 assist you with a release plan?

15 A. Yep.

16 Q. Because you noted that you might not need to have - that  
17 might not need to be paid employment. And you will see  
18 that the response there was, "Salvation Army Officers had  
19 attempted to assist you in a similar way in the past  
20 however, even using best endeavours, you had been recalled  
21 to prison for not fulfilling your parole conditions. So,  
22 if the Salvation Army was to agree to assist you again, it  
23 would need to be assured you were prepared to engage fully  
24 in any supervised reintegration programme to minimise  
25 further relapse".

26 It is something we have discussed?

27 A. Yeah.

28 Q. Had Salvation Army Officers attempted to assist you in a  
29 similar way in the past?

30 A. No, not at all, other than family members who were  
31 Salvation Army, family members, you know, but there was no  
32 specific, there was no actual like "GRO-A", the Salvation  
33 Army is here to help you stay out of prison", that didn't  
34 happen at all.

1 Q. We were asked to ask you if you required any more  
2 assistance and that Mr Houston would do his best to provide  
3 referrals. Did you get any assistance at the end of the  
4 day?

5 A. No.

6 Q. You then received a letter explaining the offer to you, and  
7 if we can call out, I will make sure I speak into the  
8 microphone, call out a document which is witness 44005.  
9 That's another letter actually, I'm skipping forward. You  
10 had your letter explaining the offer and we said we should  
11 go back and ask for some costs for you, given how much the  
12 Legal Aid debt was at that stage. So, this letter that  
13 we've now called out is the response to that request for a  
14 contribution to your debt. And you will see there that the  
15 response was all of the recent offers had been on a costs  
16 inclusive basis, and clearly so, but we were now seeking to  
17 introduce a contribution to costs. And there the Salvation  
18 Army was saying they were not prepared to meet legal costs  
19 over and above the amount offered.

20 And the next paragraph, "We simply wish to make this  
21 position clear so that you are fully aware of it both in  
22 relation to one client and all other claimants"?

23 A. Yep.

24 Q. And, as you explain in your statement, what that meant for  
25 you is that you had a Legal Aid debt of \$5,800 which had to  
26 come out of that \$25,000. And, as you say in your  
27 statement, Cooper Legal wrote to Legal Aid to ask that part  
28 of the debt at least be written-off?

29 A. Yep.

30 Q. And do you remember how much you had to contribute at the  
31 end of the day from your \$25,000? It's in your statement  
32 if you can't remember that. I can help you, it's \$3,750  
33 that you needed to contribute.

34 A. Yep.

35 Q. So, that came out and you got the balance, didn't you?

1 A. That's right. I was puzzled about that, I don't know if  
2 you remember, Sonja, a year or so later I wrote to you and  
3 asked for the rest of my money that I thought I had. I  
4 didn't understand that I paid for Legal Aid.

5 Q. Yes. So, then you signed a discharge on the 12th of  
6 October, and we'll call that out, that's 44006. We just  
7 want to call out paragraph 1 there. So, that's you  
8 agreeing to accept the \$25,000 from the Salvation Army in  
9 full and final settlement of your claims against the  
10 Salvation Army and you signed that on the 12th of October,  
11 as we see below, didn't you?

12 A. Yep.

13 Q. Now, as part of that process you did receive an apology  
14 letter?

15 A. Yep, I have it here.

16 Q. That's Salvation Army 978. If we just call out the text on  
17 that. So, that apology letter thanked you for taking the  
18 time to talk to the Salvation Army people and it  
19 appreciated your willingness to meet with them and to  
20 express your feelings and your memories of a difficult,  
21 very difficult time for you. It then went on to say, "We  
22 are aware that you have felt much hurt, and I deeply regret  
23 that the conduct of any officers or staff of The Salvation  
24 Army responsible for your care has caused or contributed to  
25 your pain and suffering".

26 And highlight the next one, "Please accept the sincere  
27 apology that has been made by our leaders in regard to any  
28 former child in the care of the Salvation Army.

29 May I wish you all the best for the future and sincerely  
30 hope you find healing and closure. Once again, we express  
31 our sincere apologies" and it was signed off, "May God  
32 bless you".

33 I know you've only recently re-seen this document but  
34 what was your response to that apology?

- 1 A. It felt pretty - it felt like it was a letter that they had  
2 probably saved and sent to anyone, just changed the name at  
3 the top. It wasn't - I didn't feel like it was  
4 specifically for me, to me, because it says "any former  
5 child" and I just felt it's shit and, "May I wish you all  
6 the best for the future and sincerely hope you find healing  
7 and closure" was what I was hoping the Salvation Army was  
8 going to help me with but they didn't. So, I think I  
9 screwed this letter up within an hour of getting it.
- 10 Q. Before we kind of move to the end part because that really  
11 was the end of the redress process for you, wasn't it?
- 12 A. Yep.
- 13 Q. You have written some really good comments in your  
14 statement about how you feel about the outcome of your  
15 claim. If I can just get you to talk to some of that  
16 without reading that, I know that end statement that you've  
17 done, but just how you felt in terms of getting money and  
18 an apology?
- 19 A. I did feel like - I didn't feel good about it. I didn't  
20 feel like I had won. It was, how did I feel? I felt as if  
21 I was paid off by the Salvation Army and the way that they  
22 addressed my complaints about them was so unsatisfactory  
23 that it is because after 13 years I still feel like I'm  
24 trying to get proper help from the government for their  
25 part in all of this. Does that make sense?
- 26 Q. You say in your statement that when you received the offer  
27 you asked yourself is that what you think I'm worth? Is  
28 that the monetary value you put on those years of my life  
29 and the consequences of those years? Do you want to talk a  
30 bit more to that?
- 31 A. Well, I feel as if my experiences in Temuka Children's Home  
32 led to my life of more boys' homes and eventually prisons,  
33 and I just, I was looking for answers and instead I got a  
34 \$25,000 cheque and told that's it, you know, that's what

1 it's worth, that's what all the grief that we've  
2 contributed to your life is \$25,000.

3 Q. And one of the other statements that you make in your  
4 written statement, and I'm looking at paragraph 50 now, is  
5 you talked about the offer being a bit abstract and you  
6 say, what was the offer of \$25,000 for? Was it to make you  
7 feel better? To buy yourself a nice car? You ask  
8 yourself, what that compensation payment was actually for?  
9 Do you want to talk a bit more about that?

10 A. It just didn't seem right that money should make everything  
11 all right. That by giving me money the problem was solved.  
12 Yeah.

13 Q. So then - are you all right?

14 A. Yep.

15 Q. We'll just talk then, compare that with the State redress  
16 process which it's important to say you're still engaged  
17 with?

18 A. Yep.

19 Q. And I know you've written some thoughts down about that,  
20 starting with I suppose that path from Bramwell Booth  
21 through to State care?

22 A. Mm.

23 Q. So, one of the things you say in your statement is that  
24 there was that path, if you hadn't gone to Bramwell Booth,  
25 you wouldn't have gone to Lookout Point and you wouldn't  
26 have gone to Hokio and Kohitere and on to prison?

27 A. Yes.

28 Q. So, do you just want to talk, I suppose, about, I don't  
29 know whether you want to read what you've written down at  
30 this point or whether you want to talk about that  
31 trajectory and the importance of redress and the context of  
32 that?

33 A. Okay. So, since I went to Bramwell Booth, the longest time  
34 I spent out of an institution from when I was 11, I'm now

1 49, is 2 years. It was like Bramwell Booth set me off on  
2 that path of a chaotic life.

3 I've just been desperate for answers over the years.  
4 Like, why do I act like I do? What has influenced me to  
5 have these - to make my life a disaster? And the  
6 compensation, in hindsight I would have preferred some  
7 direct help from them, the help that they said they gave  
8 me, but they didn't. A life coach who would help me out,  
9 who would advise me, who I could just have there.

10 Salvation Army set me up for a life of disaster, paid me  
11 off \$25,000, I guess begrudgingly, and that was it. I  
12 spent the rest of my life in institutions and prisons.

13 Q. It probably is the point now I think for you to read what  
14 you've written because I think this is a useful point for  
15 you to talk about that. So, what you've written there is a  
16 bit of an outline about then what happened to you in State  
17 care and then how that's kind of led on to where you are  
18 now and how you feel about that overall, in terms of the  
19 redress process.

20 **CHAIR:** Which paragraph?

21 **MS COOPER:** He has written his own statement.

22 **CHAIR:** You have written another statement? That's great,  
23 good, thank you.

24 A. Okay.

25 **MS COOPER:**

26 Q. Remember to be slow.

27 A. Yep. I feel as if my time at Temuka set me up to fail in  
28 life. Like, ADHD was not recognised at that time and,  
29 also, I was beginning to abuse drugs and I was never given  
30 treatment for these things at that time. After I left, I  
31 was sent to Lookout Point Boys' Home and then on to Hokio,  
32 despite advice from a psychologist not to send me there.  
33 While I was in the boys' home, I was in and out of the  
34 secure unit. I think this affected me most of all, like  
35 being in a cell, the fear and confusion. I was 13 years



1 old and in a cell. It was continually reinforced to me  
2 that I was a bad kid, so bad that I had to be locked up.  
3 The signs were clear that residential care was not working  
4 for me and, instead of considering alternative care  
5 arrangements, I was sent to Hokio, apparently for  
6 expedience sake, like by putting me in Hokio, I would be  
7 out of their hair.

8 The year I spent in Hokio was the worse time of my life.  
9 I was constantly bullied and beaten up and had to fight  
10 almost every day. Staff and other boys, I was beaten up  
11 and bullied by staff and other boys. Violence was  
12 reinforced as a positive in Hokio. The toughest kid was  
13 admired and also used by staff to enforce rules and give  
14 out beatings. I spent time in the Hokio secure, which is a  
15 freezing cold windowless cell and every day we'd have to do  
16 PT, which was push ups, burpies and I was often hit over  
17 the head by a big bunch of keys for not doing the exercise  
18 properly.

19 There were some boys in Hokio who had come from gang  
20 families and some were there for very serious criminal  
21 offending. These things we saw as being cool, again the  
22 idea that I was bad was cool and that gangs and crime were  
23 things to aspire to. After my time in Hokio, I was put  
24 into foster care. That placement failed, so I was sent  
25 back to my mother's, despite the fact that the Department  
26 knew that, in their words, that placement was anticipated  
27 to be a vulnerable one.

28 Soon I was back in the boys' home and by this time the  
29 staff saw me as an old lag. I was only 15 years old. I  
30 was again put in the secure unit time after time for  
31 breaking the rules.

32 It should have been clear to the staff that I needed  
33 psychological help, real help, therapy or counselling. I  
34 was pretty much left to fail.

1 Kohitere was next and the violence, gangs and crime  
2 there were all glorified and I became a bully to survive.

3 Psychological help was denied. Kohitere staff said  
4 that, and this is their words, I was too sophisticated to  
5 be successfully analysed by a psychologist. Again, the  
6 opportunity to get real help for my ADHD was denied. There  
7 seemed to be little communication between my social worker  
8 and Kohitere and my social worker in Dunedin regarding what  
9 to do with me.

10 Eventually, I left Kohitere to a very unsuitable  
11 placement that fell to bits within weeks.

12 Social Welfare decided there was nothing else to do and  
13 I was discharged from Social Welfare care. I was left to  
14 my own devices, no job, no place to live, life was pretty  
15 grim.

16 I moved to a flat with older boys who have been through  
17 the system. Myself and two of those boys who was in that  
18 flat are all currently Individual Restriction Order  
19 By then violence and anti-authoritarianism was the norm and  
20 I progressed very quickly into the adult criminal system  
21 along with my friends and peers who had been through the  
22 system with me. I had no direction at all in life. I  
23 couldn't think ahead about where my life was heading. I  
24 was addicted to drugs and alcohol and offending to support  
25 that habit.

26 When I was 18, I was Individual Restriction Order and since that  
27 time, I have spent nearly all my adult life in prison. I  
28 don't want the State to deal with my case the same as the  
29 Salvation Army did, as something that can be dealt with at  
30 the right cost. A wraparound approach would be far more  
31 helpful for me. For myself, financial compensation so I  
32 can have my own home. Treatment for my ADHD. A life coach  
33 who could assist me with staying out, getting out and  
34 staying out and getting an education so I can have a fair  
35 go at getting a job.

1 An apology is important, but not just a "sorry", also an  
2 acknowledgment that the failures made by the Church and the  
3 State when they were looking after me led to drastic  
4 consequences that affected me and others my whole life.

5 The system that was supposed to protect me and nurture  
6 me into a constructive citizen of society, failed me in so  
7 many areas. It needs to take responsibility for its part  
8 in making my life so disastrous. We're people, not  
9 problems to be dealt with as if we're on a conveyor belt.  
10 Pay us off, problem solved, pay us off, problem solved.  
11 Effective redress should mean so much more than a cash  
12 payment. I need help now to break the cycle of being  
13 recalled and spending so much time in prison. I often  
14 wonder how much is this pro process costing? The  
15 government has made offers to me and I feel that they've  
16 probably spent more money talking about and arguing what  
17 I'm entitled to than what they're actually offering me.

18 That's it.

19 Q. Thank you. Just now having read that, are there any  
20 concluding comments that you want to make at this stage?  
21 You have the floor. So, as I say, if there are any  
22 concluding comments you want to make at this stage, please  
23 feel free to do so?

24 A. What I said, I've spent most of my adult life in prison and  
25 Individual Restriction Order I've just been diagnosed with having  
26 ADHD which I know now I would have had all my life and I  
27 just wish and wonder how things would have turned out if  
28 someone had diagnosed me with ADHD when I was a little boy,  
29 rather than now when I'm 49. So, the diagnosis kind of  
30 gives me some hope as well as some despair by, like I say,  
31 what might have happened, and I just want to address that  
32 directly because I feel that that's the root of my problems  
33 and if I can get help from the government, maybe things  
34 would be okay. From what I've read, treatment for ADHD is  
35 really successful and can transform lives and I want my

1 life to be transformed. I'm desperate. I'm at the end of  
2 my tether.

3 Q. Thank you. I'm not sure if there are any questions for  
4 you, but unless you have anything else to say, that  
5 concludes my questions.

6 A. No, I haven't got anything else to say.

7 **CHAIR:** Mr A, we haven't got any questions for you because  
8 everything you have written is in your statement which we  
9 have already read carefully and will continue to read and  
10 take into account. Thank you for that. I will give you to  
11 Commissioner Alofivae to thank you for coming today.

12 **COMMISSIONER ALOFIVAE:** Mr A, look, can I just thank you  
13 sincerely on behalf of the Commission for your courage and  
14 your bravery this morning in sharing your experiences so  
15 honestly with us when you were giving your evidence.

16 Your insights are very powerful, and it gives us much  
17 food for thought about what effective redress actually  
18 looks like. You've actually been able to identify really  
19 clearly what actually would have worked for you, had it  
20 been put in place some time ago, but you've also given us  
21 much hope about the future, about what we can suggest and  
22 recommendations going forward, in particular for the  
23 Salvation Army, but also for the State.

24 So, I hope that this has been an opportunity for you to  
25 feel like you've really significantly contributed to our  
26 work this morning, because we certainly feel and believe  
27 that you have and I'm hoping that you will now be able to  
28 take the time-out to find that inner peace that you're  
29 looking for because I think when you talk about  
30 transformative change, being able to speak it into  
31 existence actually starts putting that first building block  
32 on the road for you. So, all the best for the rest of the  
33 day and I hope you will continue to follow us and see what  
34 actually comes out eventually in the end in terms of our  
35 recommendations.

1 A. Thank you, Miss.

2 **COMMISSIONER ALOFIVAE:** Take.

3 **CHAIR:** Chair thank you and thank you to you Ms Cooper for  
4 caring for Mr A through this long time and probably for a  
5 long time, as well, leading his evidence. Thank you. We  
6 will take the adjournment.

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9 **Hearing adjourned from 10.55 a.m. until 11.17 a.m.**

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