

**ABUSE IN CARE ROYAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY  
MARYLANDS SCHOOL**

**Under** The Inquiries Act 2013

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

**Royal Commission:** Judge Coral Shaw (Chair)  
Ali'imua Sandra Alofivae

**Counsel:** Ms Katherine Anderson, Mr Simon Mount QC, Ms Kerry Beaton QC, Ms Jane Glover, Ms Anne Toohey, Ms Kima Tuiali'i, Ms Julia Spelman, Mr Winston McCarthy, Ms Echo Haronga, Mr Michael Thomas and Ms Kathy Basire for the Royal Commission

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

Ms Sonja Cooper, Ms Amanda Hill, Mr Sam Benton, Ms Alana Thomas and Mr Sam Wimsett as other counsel attending

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

**Date:** 16 February 2022

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**TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS**

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1 [9.49 am]

2 [Karakia tīmatanga and waiata by Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei]

3 **CHAIR:** Tēnā koutou katoa, nau mai haere mai ki tēnei hui. Good morning, everybody. Welcome  
4 to this day of hearing at the Royal Commission. Thank you for attending, whether you are  
5 here in person or whether you are watching livestream, or even watching afterwards, it's  
6 very good to know that people are watching and learning from the evidence that's being  
7 given. Ms Glover.

8 **MS GLOVER:** Thank you, Madam Chair, we're beginning this morning with pre-recorded  
9 evidence from Mr DA.

10 [Video played of Mr DA's statement]

11 **COMMISSIONER ALOFIVAE:** Mr DA, I understand you're possibly watching this morning.  
12 My name is Sandra Alofivae and I'm one of the Commissioners here with the Inquiry.  
13 Good morning and can I just thank you with much gratitude for the evidence that you've  
14 provided for us in this pre-record.

15 Your recollection of memories really highlights the fact that you knew some very  
16 good times initially in the orphanage with Sister Gertrude, and then some horrific and  
17 heinous things that happened to you when you were transferred to the school at Marylands.  
18 The tremor in your voice and the way you've been able to describe your journey tells us  
19 how long and harrowing it's been for you over the decades. And for you to be able to find  
20 love now in your latter years is a small reminder that there is still some goodness, there is  
21 still some goodness and that you are a very, very worthy person, you have been right from  
22 the moment. Really, I want to say that you came into this earth because you understand,  
23 and you actually were able to articulate for us very clearly your experiences and what  
24 happened.

25 Thank you for placing your evidence alongside many others who are brave and  
26 courageous just like you. Thank you for helping us be able to understand what happened at  
27 Marylands a lot better and to bring about some recommendations that we're looking to be  
28 able to help other young children who are still in care today as we move forward as a  
29 nation.

30 Stay well and I hope you will remain in contact with us here at the Commission.

31 Thank you.

32 **CHAIR:** Thank you.