

**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: 9 February 2022

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

1 **CHAIR:** Welcome back everybody. Before we start, I'm not sure, yes, there are press members
2 here. Just a reminder, which I should have done before the break; in the course of Mr. Ku's
3 evidence he mentioned some names which are subject to section 15 nonpublication orders.
4 And I just request that anybody who is in the room listening to that and is likely to publish,
5 please check carefully that the names mentioned, which ones are subject to the
6 nonpublication, please check the section 15 notice that has been made and make certain that
7 we don't breach those orders. So, thank you, that's just as a reminder to everybody.

8 That brings us then to the evidence of our next witness, which is going to be by
9 AVL. Ms Anderson, can you help me from where we go from here.

10

11 **MS ANDERSON:** Yes, Madam Chair, so Ms Cooper is leading Mr. Long's evidence, and both are
12 in Christchurch and ready to push the button and have it go live.

13 **CHAIR:** She said it would happen and it did happen, there we are.

14 **MS COOPER:** Tēnā koutou.

15 **SURVIVOR:** Hello.

16 **CHAIR:** Kia ora kōrua, thank you for attending, Ms Cooper, but especially to you, Mr. Long.

17 How would you like to be addressed, do you want to be called Steven or Steve or
18 Mr. Long? What do you prefer?

19 A. Just Steve will do thanks.

20 **Q.** Thank you very much for coming, making yourself available. I appreciate this is a difficult
21 thing for you, I hope we can make it as comfortable for you as possible. Before Ms Cooper
22 asks you any questions, though, I must ask you if you will take the affirmation. So that just
23 means listening to me and about telling the truth and hopefully agreeing. So, I'm just going
24 to read it out to you, Steve, is that all right?

25 A. Sure.

26

STEVEN JAMES LONG (Affirmed)

27 **CHAIR:** Thank you very much. I'm going to leave now for Ms Cooper to carry on. Thanks,
28 Ms Cooper.

29 **QUESTIONING BY MS COOPER:** Thank you Commissioner. So, I'll just get you to confirm
30 that your full name is Steven James Long?

31 A. Yes.

32 **Q.** And you live in Christchurch?

33 A. Yes.

34 **Q.** And you're now 56 years of age?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Just because we've got a reasonably short time to get through quite a lot of information, I'm
3 going to step you through your early childhood reasonably quickly. So, I think the
4 important thing to note is that home life wasn't very happy, and that Child Welfare became
5 involved when you were very young and you were eventually abandoned by your mother at
6 the age of 2 and your younger sister was 9 months old, and at that stage your father was in
7 jail and then you were taken into care in March 1968?

8 A. That's right.

9 Q. And initially you had six or seven different foster homes. At that time, you're made a state
10 ward and you remained a state ward for 14 years. And just one of the things that we were
11 discussing is were you ever asked, particularly as you got older, who you would have liked
12 to live with, where you wanted to go?

13 A. I've always said my father. The times I did see him there was the bond, but I suppose
14 there's powers that be that didn't let it happen.

15 Q. And one of the foster homes you talk about your foster mother broke your arm at age 4 and
16 you talk about another foster placement when you're 5 where the foster mother turned the
17 stove on and put your hands on it. Do you know what that was about?

18 A. With the arm I don't remember that one. I just don't have any recollection of it, okay. But
19 when the- stove was, this is in Palmerston North, this was in Palmerston North Family
20 Home, she'd turn the stove rings on just hot enough to, you know, you feel the burn,- but it
21 was a punishment, okay? Because whacking my butt or whatever didn't hurt me, didn't do
22 anything, so she tried to make us remember it by having a bit of pain or what have you on
23 our hands. So yeah.

24 Q. And then you get described as being hyperactive and from that stage starts a kind of long-
25 term prescription of tranquillisers to keep you tranquil, leading up to you going into
26 Marylands which is obviously where we're going to focus, on GRO-C January 1972. Can
27 you just explain what the significance of that date is?

28 A. Two things, one is it was my birthday.

29 Q. You were 6 years old?

30 A. Yeah, and the second thing is I was shown around the school a bit and then when I was left
31 alone, I was looking around and found the gym, found the squash courts, up the top where
32 you've got the seating, and came back down and next thing you know I've been hauled back
33 up to where the seatings were and accused of taking a dump on one of the seats. It wasn't

1 me, but I got my face rubbed in it. And then I had to go all the way back to the section to
2 clean myself up in front of all the kids.

3 **Q.** And you've said that this was Brother Griffin that did this to you?

4 **A.** Yeah.

5 **Q.** Yeah. I'm just going to call out a photo which was taken by a photographer in 1974, so
6 you're 8 years old and it's NZP0012575. If we can just call that out and show everybody
7 what you looked like at aged 8 at Marylands. If we need some time we'll just (inaudible).

8 **CHAIR:** Is it possible? We'll Just check that it's possible, Ms Cooper.

9 **MS ANDERSON:** Yes, it is possible, there's just a little technical difficulty, so perhaps once
10 we've got it up Ms Cooper will be able to come back to it.

11 **CHAIR:** Yes, if that suits you, Ms Cooper, yes.

12 **QUESTIONING BY MS COOPER CONTINUED:** That's absolutely fine. So, one of the other
13 things that you talk about, Steven, is that aged 6 going into Marylands you were also the
14 youngest boy there.

15 **A.** Yeah.

16 **Q.** So how old were the other boys in comparison with you?

17 **A.** Not really that much older. They're around a similar, same age group, about 7, 8, 9, all that
18 sort of thing.

19 **Q.** How old do you remember the oldest boy would have been?

20 **A.** 13 I think he was in the purple section.

21 **Q.** Right. So, one of the people you talk about quite a lot who was in charge of the red section
22 is Brother Bernard McGrath. And obviously he's somebody that you talk about in your
23 statement because you had bad experiences with him. So just talk to us as much as you feel
24 comfortable about your experiences with Brother McGrath?

25 **A.** He's certainly an evil person hiding behind the black cloaks. I know later in life we come
26 to learn how he really was, what he's been through, but what he did to me in the institution,
27 and I can reckon because of the same like way behaviour patterns of a couple of others, the
28 same thing was happening to them.

29 **Q.** So how did it start, how do you remember it starting?

30 **A.** You sort of think you're getting on all right with him and that, then in the evening you sort
31 of somehow got on, you know, you're on his knee and he's twitching himself underneath
32 you and then gets you to come in and pay him a visit that night after everybody's gone to
33 sleep. If you, didn't you got the hell beating, and if you did, well, you experienced things,
34 you know, either oral sex or play or whatever, you know?

1 Q. Had you had any prior experience of abuse like this, of this sort of --

2 A. No, no not before.

3 Q. Right. And you talk about trying to tell Brother Garchow about what had happened. What
4 happened when you tried to say what was happening?

5 A. I got beaten. Sometimes he'd sneak up on me and slap me around the ears so I'd hit the
6 ground and my ears would be ringing.

7 Q. Who was this who was beating you?

8 A. Brother McGrath.

9 Q. Right.

10 A. And just generally being real bad, he'd come up to you and just grab a piece of your skin
11 between his fingers and just pinch like hell just to make you squeal. You'd be standing in
12 line just before school and he'd (inaudible) between your legs, which at one time blew up
13 my testicles, I had to go to hospital, and I was told that I wasn't able to have children. Yet
14 three years ago, miracle in my hands which I am a solo father of my son who just turned 3
15 GRO-C. But until then, as far as I know, I never had children, so I always believed.

16 Q. And you talk about having scars, you're actually showing them to me before from your
17 knee, what caused those scars?

18 A. That was the beating he gave me, that was when I tried to speak out to the Social Welfare
19 during the holidays, tried to tell them about what was going on.

20 Q. And we'll get to that, because that's obviously quite an important part.

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. So, you talk about him taking you into his office; what would happen in his office?

23 A. Well, he got me to strip naked, he sort of brought me some new clothes in a box there, I'd
24 have to take my clothes off and get them on. But as soon as you did, he broke out with the
25 cane and just started whacking you with the cane around my knees (inaudible), around the
26 back of my thighs, on my butt, on my back, around on my neck, I'd just get beaten. In the
27 end I just curled up in a ball and then he goes and sodomises me.

28 Q. Yeah. Tell us about the coffin incident, because that's one that's obviously stood out for
29 you.

30 A. Yeah. Well, it was during the weekend, I knew it was a weekend, and the Brothers really
31 weren't around that much, I think they were doing their thing, but this particular time
32 Bernard McGrath come to me and tells me "Here I've got a job for you." And he'd grab a
33 bucket, some cleaning stuff and what have you and into the church. And right in the bell

1 tower part there's a piece that goes straight down into where they have the coffins for the
2 hospice next door. And he explained to me in order to clean out these coffins we've got to
3 be naked. So, I ended up being naked and cleaning out the coffins. And then he got me,
4 sort of flipped me up inside and shut down the lid.

5 **Q.** How old do you think you were then?

6 **A.** Again, I think about 7 or 8, something like that, around about this age here.

7 **Q.** Yeah.

8 **A.** I got sort of quite scared and what have you, and when he did open up the coffin, he just
9 hauled me out by my hair, bent me over, there's the tables that they have the bodies on, bent
10 me over that and sodomised me, yeah. And then after that I was told to go straight up to the
11 toilet, clean myself down, which I did, and saw him there, I had a big slap around the face,
12 you know, and was told I was to shut up.

13 **Q.** Another incident that stood out for you is when you went to the bach owned by the
14 Brothers at Waikuku Beach?

15 **A.** Yeah.

16 **Q.** Do you just want to talk about that? So, this involved a little French boy that you talked
17 about who was there.

18 **A.** That was the major one because I really felt there was a lot that happened during that day.
19 There were two sections, I think it was the red and the yellow sections that went to the
20 Waikuku bach that the Brothers have out there. And on this particular day we were having
21 a beach walk and it was taken by Brother McGrath, and little **GRO-B** along the way started
22 falling back a bit, a little grizzly, you know, just getting tired and grizzly, just being **GRO-**
23 **B**. And all of a sudden McGrath just turns around, tells everybody to stop, walked straight
24 up to **GRO-B**, grabs him around the neck and what have you, starts flinging him around
25 and then tosses him out to sea. On that particular beach, I've tried the experienced myself
26 and back then I was one of the top swimmers in the school. Back then that beach you'd be
27 walking along, the water would be up to your knees then all of a sudden, it's above your
28 head because you've got pockets and **GRO-B** was in one of those pockets.

29 While Bernard McGrath was looking at me daring me, all right, guys -- this guy
30 was - this boy was drowning, he didn't know how to swim, yet he stood there (inaudible) at
31 me to go in and get him. Well, I did. I went in there and yanked him out and whatever and
32 a couple of boys come- running over and helped me with him. He grabbed me, pulled me
33 into the sand dunes in front of everybody.

1 **Q.** This is Bernard McGrath?

2 **A.** Yeah, and got me to masturbate him, ejaculated in front of everybody in the sand dunes.
3 That was like challenging my mana and everything then all of a sudden stripping it away.

4 **Q.** And you talk about another time when he smashes you around because you couldn't sing in
5 church?

6 **A.** Yeah, well I had a flu at the time, I had a cough, I couldn't sing, hardly any voice, yet
7 (inaudible) him and not have him take any notice of me, I lip synched the words, you know,
8 make it look as though I was singing. But of course, he knows my voice and it wasn't
9 coming through, and all of a sudden, I was getting dirty looks, he clicked on that I wasn't
10 singing, you know? I couldn't sing, I had the flu, my voice was - I had no voice, but I was
11 expected to sing? Come on. And after the church and what have you had gone, I was
12 going up the stairs, I was sick, you know, and all of a sudden wham, get slapped around this
13 side of my ear, I hit the ground, ears just ringing like anything, I'm screaming, he -says
14 [-AVL lost].

15 **CHAIR:** We can hear you, but we can't see you.

16 **MS COOPER:** Can you still hear us?

17 **CHAIR:** Yes, we can hear you, can you hear me?

18 **SURVIVOR:** Can you still hear us?

19 **CHAIR:** Obviously not. Is someone in contact by text or phone?

20 **MS COOPER:** We're just calling the technicians up.

21 **CHAIR:** We've lost electronic contact with Christchurch but hopefully it will come back. While
22 we're waiting, did that picture come up by the way?

23 **MS ANDERSON:** Madam Chair, there seems to be a technical gremlin which is affecting not just
24 the screen here and so that's preventing the display of any of the documents that Ms Cooper
25 is going to be calling up, including beginning with the photographs, so it might be that we
26 take an adjournment.

27 **CHAIR:** Yes, I suggest we leave you too, not you, but whoever can do it, to fix the problems, it's
28 probably better than sitting around.

29 **MS ANDERSON:** I think that's right, Madam Chair, so an adjournment and we'll reconvene once
30 the technical issues are sorted.

31 **CHAIR:** You just let us know when you've got things sorted out. In the meantime, reassure
32 Christchurch that we've not abandoned them.

33 **MS ANDERSON:** Yes, thank you.

34 **CHAIR:** We'll just take a brief adjournment until that's sorted, thank you.

Adjournment from 2.38 pm to 2.50 pm

1
2 **CHAIR:** Thank you everybody for your patience. I've been told there's a work around at least
3 which gets us there. That's good news for you, Steven, sorry we had to interrupt. I can see
4 you now and I can see the photograph. Shall we go back to that, Ms. Cooper, what would
5 you like to do?

6 **QUESTIONING BY MS COOPER CONTINUED:** Yes, I'd just like to set the timeframe, so
7 that's 1974, so that was part of a series of photos taken by a professional photographer. So,
8 Steven, that would have made you 8 years old.

9 A. Yeah.

10 **Q.** Do you remember where that was?

11 A. Yeah, that's at Marylands, it's in one of the corner parts of the school, being a big old
12 school, it's like in the forecourt part of it, it's right in the, you know, one of the corners.

13 **Q.** Right. So, we'll just carry on because I know we've got a limited time. So, Brother
14 McGrath wasn't the only person who sexually abused you, you were also abused by Brother
15 Moloney, weren't you?

16 A. Yeah.

17 **Q.** So just as much as you feel comfortable talking about how that happened?

18 A. Well, admittedly I learned about the biscuits being in the Brother's eatery part where they
19 have their feeds, or where they had, I don't know what it's called, can't remember.

20 **CHAIR:** Just a moment, sorry. Can I just ask you to stop, I'm sorry - we have another technical
21 glitch, I've just been asked to stop, I'm sorry- that I've had to do that, we want to make sure
22 we record this as much as possible.

23 **MS COOPER:** Of course.

24 **MS ANDERSON:** Madam Chair, I understand the issue is that on the livestream --

25 **CHAIR:** We now have thumbs up from behind.

26 **MS ANDERSON:** I shall sit down.

27 **CHAIR:** I think you should sit down while the going's good. This is most unfortunate. Bear
28 with us, we've had the thumbs up from the back, and I think we carry on until we're told to
29 stop. Let's grab the moment while we can. So, you were talking about Brother Moloney as
30 I remember.

31 **QUESTIONING BY MS COOPER CONTINUED:** And the chocolate biscuits.

32 A. All right, I knew that the Brother s' monastery where they ate, they had the tins of biscuits
33 in there. I made the mistake one day of asking Brother Moloney about getting a couple of
34 biscuits. Little did I know that he would bring me into the back-room part and have me

1 masturbate him for some biscuits. And since then, he would, you know, it would be an
2 ongoing thing. I learned that I could get into that monastery on my own and not have to ask
3 him anymore and have the biscuits myself. And that's what I started doing. And it was
4 unfortunate one time that they noticed the biscuits were going missing, had to find the
5 person who was stealing the biscuits, and of course they tracked me and, yeah, I got a
6 hiding, yeah.

7 **Q.** So, you also had a cigarette smoking incident which introduced you to smoking. So, let's
8 talk a bit about that.

9 **A.** Okay. Ten years on, I got on with, you know, a lot of the guys at the school, especially
10 one-man Donald. He had a packet of smokes on him, and I voluntarily held them for
11 because, you know, he didn't want to get caught. And I got caught holding on to the
12 smokes for him. As a result, the next day as a punishment Bernard McGrath had our
13 section in the grounds and -- as a meeting and made me sit in front of them and smoke two
14 packets of smokes back-to-back- and each time taking a puff,- he wanted to hear the (loud
15 inhale) as I inhaled. And it just kept on, you know, smoke after smoke, puff after puff.
16 Very sick as a dog afterwards, but that day I was hanging out for a smoke and that's when
17 that all started.

18 **Q.** And you've been smoking ever since?

19 **A.** Ever since, yes.

20 **Q.** What do you think your schooling was like there? Did you learn much?

21 **A.** I learned a lot. I reckon I was one of the brightest ones there. The only issue that I had is
22 I didn't like writing. It's not that I couldn't write, I just hated writing. So, all you got in the
23 books and that was scribbles. There was a couple of times there was, you know, the school
24 had finished, and I didn't write down this part from the science place that you're supposed
25 to write down, and it was because I was alone in the class with Bernard McGrath, and so
26 he's not leaving school until that's written down and I'm alone with Bernard McGrath. You
27 can guarantee I wrote it down and out of there, all right? No time flat I wrote it down, all
28 down and out of there, all right? He said, "See you can do it", I said "Yeah, I know I can do
29 it", he said, "Why don't you?", "Because I hate it." I hate writing, that's what that was all
30 about. It's not that I was illiterate or couldn't spell, it's not that I couldn't read or anything,
31 I just hated writing. Simple. It got made a big issue.

32 **Q.** So now we're just going to come to, I suppose, notifications being made about your
33 sexualised behaviour. So, in your school holidays you talk about only being allowed to go
34 to your father's once or twice and most of the time you went to stay with foster parents,

1 didn't you?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. And I just want to call out a document [WITN]0744006 page 1 and I want to look at - call
4 out paragraph 3 please. Thank you. So that's a letter dated 6 July 1977 and it is from a
5 social worker in Auckland down to the Christchurch social work team. So,- it's your
6 caregiver there commented very strongly on "Steven's apparently unnatural pre-occupation
7 with sex. It appears that Steven would bail the other children up in a corner and grab at
8 their genitals. He would do this even to the teenage boys."

9 And then I just want to go over the page there please to the top of page 2 and just
10 highlight the part with Steven's mother. So, we've got there - yes, that's it- -- Steven's
11 mother said that two years ago -- so that would have been in 1975 - she wrote to
12 Marylands- expressing her real concern over Steven's sexual knowledge. Were you ever
13 asked about why you had this sexual knowledge?

14 A. Yeah, my mother did ask me, and I says --I told her about Bernard McGrath and what he
15 was doing.

16 Q. And do you think anything happened as a result of that?

17 A. I don't know if anything did. All I know I think I got moved on.

18 Q. One of the things you talk about, -and that document can come down now thank -you - one
19 of the things you talk about in your statement is about the influence of the Brothers-?

20 A. Mmm-hmm.

21 Q. Can you just talk a bit about how you felt about their influence and the sort of power that
22 they had?

23 A. Well, they were a law unto their own. Back in the day they hid behind the cloak, and they
24 could get in any way, they could affiliate anywhere. Today if a Catholic Brother were to
25 walk into a police station, you'd guarantee you'd have all the red tape, and everything
26 thrown at them before you can go in to see one person. Back in the day a Brother could
27 walk in and go and sit in a cell with a person. That's how easy it was for them. Okay? So,
28 they would never do anything like this, you know what I mean? They had that power, they
29 had everybody believing that they could never be like this. They could never do such a
30 thing.

31 Q. And what do you think the view was about kids who tried to say anything about this back in
32 the 70s?

33 A. Back in the 70s they didn't know what they did, but everybody knows now. It was lack of
34 knowledge, okay? A catholic Brothers wouldn't do this kind of thing. So, they swept it

1 under the carpet, they did nothing. I tried to speak out about it to my social worker and all,
2 all right? It got back to them, and I got the hell beating when I come back from the
3 holidays. Told that I was a liar, you know?

4 **Q.** And you also talk about how you started to dramatically change, you talk about becoming
5 very angry, you started to buck the system, you were, you know, in self-destruct mode and
6 you felt you couldn't trust anyone?

7 **A.** I just didn't like where I was, just didn't like who I was around, just didn't like the fact that
8 at any time one of them could come in and do whatever they wanted, you know, so I tried
9 to get away from it and then I started running away.

10 **Q.** So, then you've got some school holiday periods and this is when you also start going into
11 the boys' homes as part of your holiday period. So, we're just going to go quite quickly, so
12 you have Wesleydale where you go at 10 the first time, and you talk about getting a
13 christening beating there, badly picked on and threatened and beaten up by the other boys
14 because by that stage you developed a tic, or body twitching. Do you just want to talk a bit
15 about how you think that came about?

16 **A.** Because I'd been hit, I guess, and scared so much by McGrath, I started flinching and
17 twitching, which brought on what was called Tourette's and my body would actually go
18 to it-- got to a state where it would be out of control, to roll a cigarette or put on my socks
19 you needed to have a party afterwards for accomplishing it. It was that simple or that hard
20 for me. I found a remedy of being able to sit here today and be able to talk to you, I won't
21 go into that. But I feared the guy, I didn't want to be around him, I never liked the guy,
22 I knew what he was doing, and knew he was doing it to other kids, but I was a kid and
23 whatever I said meant nothing.

24 **Q.** So now let's talk about this where you talk to your social worker about this, because you
25 describe in your evidence being taken to the Department of Social Welfare office in New
26 Lynn and you think this is in 1977, so this is the same year that Auckland is writing to
27 Christchurch expressing some concerns about your sexualised behaviour, so that's that
28 letter we've just looked at, and you tell your social worker there and two other social
29 workers, one of whom you think is the senior, about all the things that have happened, the
30 physical and sexual abuse at Marylands.

31 **A.** Yeah.

32 **Q.** Now, have you or we been able to trace any record of that in your Social Welfare records?

33 **A.** You should be able to.

34 **Q.** But it's not there, is it?

1 A. As far as I know it got just brushed under the carpet. But I know someone was
2 taking was-- writing stuff down, I remember that, but where it is I don't know.

3 Q. And like were you told that anything would happen for you, like were you given any help at
4 all, were you --

5 A. No, I was actually told "Look this is a load of rubbish, you can't go around saying that sort
6 of thing, they don't do that sort of thing", you know? And this is where it was like well,
7 I've just wasted my time trying to, you know, ask for help, trying not to go back to danger,
8 it failed.

9 **CHAIR:** To be quite clear, if I can just- interrupt and be really clear-, who told you that it was a
10 load of rubbish?

11 A. Mary.

12 Q. Who did?

13 A. Mary, I can just say the whole name, I'm not sure if I'm allowed to, but she was my social
14 worker at the time.

15 Q. Okay, your social worker at the time told you?

16 A. And Mr. R who is her boss at the time - I'm- being careful here, sorry.

17 Q. Yes.

18 A. Her boss at the time had also sat there and said, "You shouldn't be saying this sort of thing,
19 Steven, it's not right."

20 Q. Thank you.

21 **QUESTIONING BY MS COOPER CONTINUED:** And then you basically stay there until May
22 1978, so you're there a total of six years, over six years in fact, nearly 6 and a half years,
23 even though you've made this report a year earlier and they're noticing your own behaviour
24 themselves.

25 And then you go to Holdsworth, that's another awful place for you and then you go
26 back to Wesleydale and then you go to some foster placements. And I'm skipping through
27 this because we're running out of time. Then you go to Carrington Hospital for psychiatric
28 assessment at age 13, where you ran away from, and then you went to Hokio where, again,
29 you had an awful time, that's another boys' home. And again, you have a lot of violence
30 there and then you go to Kohitere, another boys' home, you go back to Hokio and then you
31 get placed with some people that you had met when you were at Carrington, and we can't
32 use their names.

33 Now I know that this is a place that causes you some anguish because you saw
34 something you weren't meant to see and as a consequence these people contacted Social

1 Welfare and asked for you to be removed because they said you were abusing children,
2 molesting children.

3 A. There was no children there apart from me.

4 Q. Yeah.

5 A. How would that ever happen? There'd been no children living there apart from me in this
6 house and the two women.

7 Q. And the significance is that this is the time at which your complaint about what happened to
8 you at Marylands are actually documented on your Social Welfare file. So again, we'll just
9 call out [WITN]0744022 page 1 and we're looking at 21 February first and you'll see there
10 that there is a phone call from your caregiver to your social worker at home on a Saturday
11 asking if she and another person and you could come out and talk the next day, it was too
12 urgent to leave until Monday.

13 Then if we can go over to page 2, please and the second full paragraph which is
14 highlighted. So, the person "asked him if anything like this had ever happened to him and
15 he said yes when he was at Marylands when he was 6. She asked him who had done it and
16 he said Brother McGrath who had also beaten him and other boys." It says "Steven had not
17 told anyone at the time and was very frightened and unhappy."

18 And then we need to go then to the handwritten notes of what you said, which is
19 another document please, so if we can call out [WITN]0744023, the bottom of page 1
20 please. Thank you. So, Steven told your caregiver in reply to her questions that "sexual
21 molestation of his own", and if we can call out, please the next page, top of the next page,
22 thank you, just that top paragraph please. Yes, "...on his own person had begun when he
23 was sent to Marylands at age 6. It seems he was very afraid of a Brother McGrath, who
24 alternatively sexually abused and beat him, and he describes him beating other boys (i.e.
25 Brother McGrath)."

26 So, you now have this recorded that you've been sexually assaulted and beaten by
27 Brother McGrath. What happened after you made that disclosure and this one's recorded,
28 what happened?

29 A. I found that things got twisted, and before you know it, I'm one foot back in Ōwairaka
30 Boys' Home in the Secure Unit and then I'm trying to sort of speak out, I'm trying to
31 express myself, I'm trying to like, you know, but it's all falling on deaf ears and then next
32 thing I know I'm taken down to Lake Alice Secure Unit.

33 Q. You're just 15 when you go there?

34 A. 15 years old.

1 **Q.** Then you bounce back to Ōwairaka and you go to Stanmore Road, which is down in
2 Christchurch, you go to Kohitere, you go to the Manawatu Youth Centre and then
3 eventually you end up in the adult criminal justice system with corrective training. So, we
4 have to be quick now, but what was your life after that? What happened to you after that?

5 **A.** I just had a life of in and out of jail, it's a lifestyle I knew. I was looking for my sister but
6 (inaudible) I was living, that was in and out of jail. It wasn't until 2010 when I was
7 released, I did the course that was in jail and made me realise a couple of things and really
8 look at myself, and didn't like who I was and didn't like what I was about to do, how my life
9 of crime was about to upscale, get worse. But no, I found that what I was sending out to
10 people was very negative vibes, very negative feelings and I didn't like that.

11 So it was through that course that I was able to make changes, even prison staff
12 and what have you couldn't believe, they thought I was up to something because I was
13 being a good boy. Around 2010 I got out, that was the last time I've been in jail. Since
14 then, I've been in a relationship, last three years, like I mentioned earlier, I've had a son, I
15 have custody of him, he's my boy, and I tell you what, he's the only person I live for, he's
16 my reason for living and breathing today.

17 **Q.** And you talk about seeing a psychologist as far back as 1997 who was helping you
18 understand then why you'd been abusing drugs and at that stage you were diagnosed with
19 Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and other disorders. So, then we become involved with
20 getting some redress from the Brothers of St John of God, so we move right up now until
21 2002, and you talk about meeting Brother Peter Burke who was the then head of the
22 brothers and Michelle Mulvihill in prison in July 2002. And then you again meet Brother
23 Burke in August who encourages you to make a Police complaint?

24 **A.** Yeah.

25 **Q.** And you were one of the people who did complain to the Police, didn't you?

26 **A.** Yeah.

27 **Q.** This was also another important time because at this time you meet Ken Clearwater who
28 spoke this morning and he also is giving you support and has continued to do so, hasn't he?

29 **A.** Good, yeah.

30 **Q.** And then you get a newsletter in November 2002, and you get \$1,500 from the Brothers
31 and you also get told that a retired judge Sir Rodney Gallen's looking at the process. March
32 2003 you get offered some compensation and an apology which you accepted?

33 **A.** Mmm.

34 **Q.** And it's important that you understood that this wasn't full and final, didn't you, you were

1 told it was a goodwill payment?

2 A. He said to me by no means is it compensation, but out of goodwill. He goes "I am sorry for
3 what has happened, you know, but unfortunately what's done is done." I just took that with
4 a grain of salt, you know? Brother Peter Burke, wasn't his fault, he didn't do any of this,
5 you know? He's just come on board to try and make things a little bit better for everybody.

6 Q. And then the Police laid charges against Brothers McGrath and Moloney in 2003, you were
7 one of the people who was involved that. Tell us a bit about how it felt to you being part of
8 those criminal trials?

9 A. Very daunting. At the same time, it was at a time of change, being in this unit in this
10 course. It was also a time of change for me. And I dumped it on the floor in the court,
11 okay, I let it go there. There were certain conversations that went on and I just felt like
12 I wanted to have a dig at him, but I didn't, but I just left it there on the floor. I suppose I
13 had to fill that spot with purpose and that's what I was wise in doing.

14 Q. How did you feel when you found out that Brother McGrath was sentenced to five years of
15 imprisonment, how did that make you feel?

16 A. Five years didn't seem enough, but it never does. I thought to myself well, you know, I'm
17 only one, there are others too, so you know, I think he got away pretty lightly on it.

18 Q. And then you come to us in around this time as well and we go back to the lawyers
19 Saunders Robinson, the New Zealand lawyers, who were then representing the Brothers to
20 say they should look at offering you some more compensation and this is after the trial's
21 finished and Brother McGrath's been convicted, and they basically say no. How did you
22 feel about that?

23 A. I don't know, at the time I just wanted to let it go, you know, not be bothered with it. I've
24 done this piece, you know, I left it there in the courts, that's it, you know But I know there
25 was the ongoing court case with you over those years, what came off it was just like, yeah,
26 I wasn't happy about that.

27 Q. Yeah. So, because of course there's also we're dealing with your State claims as well, and
28 that was a very long-drawn-out process for you as well, wasn't it?

29 A. Yeah.

30 Q. So, it takes until 2012 to get your psychiatric hospital claims settled. And then it takes until
31 2016 to get your Social Welfare claims settled and your claim was dealt with under the
32 Ministry of Social Development's Fast Track process, and you were offered \$5,000 for all
33 of your abusive experiences in Social Welfare care, weren't you?

34 A. Yeah.

1 **Q.** And how do you - I- mean I know you talk about in your statement that you're still angry
2 about that. But the reality for you was at that time you had financial problems, didn't you?

3 **A.** I did. I felt that I was trashed, I was let down, but there were a couple of things I was able
4 to tick off and sort out, and even though I lost one of my cars in the process of it, but it's
5 what had to be done.

6 **Q.** And just in terms of, you know, like thinking back you talk about that you've basically been
7 on a journey of improving yourself and getting your life together. When you look back
8 about your childhood, how do you feel about what about- that child and- what happened to
9 you as a child?

10 **A.** I wouldn't want to relive it again or anybody else. If yeah--, no, I won't say anything, that's
11 not nice. If I had to redo everything again, well, McGrath wouldn't be doing as much as he
12 did do, I'll just say that.

13 **Q.** I just think talk a little bit about why you're here today, why you've put yourself forward to
14 give evidence in this public hearing, so you know, what's been important to you about
15 telling your story publicly?

16 **A.** Just to let it be out there, finally getting out of here and be out there and be heard. I use the
17 analogy of letting the demons speak, instead of speaking from your demons, oh yeah this
18 has happened, this has happened, but not doing anything about it. So therefore, you're
19 trapping it in yourself and you're bubbling away. As you're bubbling away, you're
20 committing your crimes and everything, you're not dealing with it.

21 So, if I let the demons speak, then I'm happy, they've spoken, I'm not bubbling
22 away, I'm not held in, you know, I can explain that. And I reckon, and I really hope with
23 all the other guys that have come forward as well that they let their demons speak and they
24 be steady, and they be comforted in the fact that they've let it out.

25 **Q.** There are a couple of other things that we talked about as being important to you in terms
26 of being part of this hearing and one of them was about justice being done in terms of the
27 Brothers. So, can you just talk a bit more about that?

28 **A.** Justice.

29 **Q.** Yeah, you wanted justice to be done with the Brothers, you said justice needs to be done?

30 **A.** When I think about that now I think in the terms of, before I was thinking in bad terms, you
31 know? Punishment has to be done. But I think in the terms now that, you know, I know
32 Brother McGrath's getting old, he's not a young spring chicken anymore and can't do what
33 he used to do, and he's been through jails and what have you, why put him through more,
34 because he is a piece a lowlife.

1 But I tend to think that just speaking out about it, getting it out there, that appeases
2 me. If anything's done about it and what have you then that's in other people's hands that
3 are higher than me, I can't do anything about it. I live a hard life and what have you with
4 my son, no compensation's kapai right now, isn't it, of this, so, you know, what am I asking
5 for? Just to be, you know, just to let it out there, you know? If any compensation can
6 happen then it can happen, sweet, but just letting it out there, you know?

7 **Q.** And I think when we were talking about the demons, one of the things that you said is to
8 speak the things that have been unspoken?

9 **A.** Yeah.

10 **Q.** Can you just talk about what are the barriers to talking about this?

11 **A.** The barriers to me is that when I have spoken up it's not been believed, no one wants
12 anything to do with it, it's too big, lack of understanding, you know? And this is at a time
13 when I think that was all true. Nowadays everybody's real aware of this self, you know,
14 really self-aware of all this, all right, they have an idea, because you have certain people
15 like Ken Clearwater and that that's made it notice. Back in the day it used to be
16 Women's Refuge. There was no men's refuge. Men were expected, like Ken used to tell
17 me, we were all expected to shut up and handle it because we're the bigger guy. So, the
18 awareness of that as well as Tourette's back in that day was not even recognised, not even
19 Tourette's. So, I went through the institutions and everything with the twitch and that and I
20 had to back myself up in violent ways when it got too, you know, took over the top. I'd get
21 teased up about it and what have you and I had to go and take out the main person who
22 started it all. That was the life of violence that I knew. It was traumatic for me because
23 I couldn't stop it. There was a way I found to stop it, as I said I won't go into, but it enables
24 me to sit here and talk to you calmly today and not be twitching and uncontrollable. It
25 enables me to be able to handle and have fun and do what I need to do, the responsibilities
26 with my son every day and not be all over the place. It was a right shock one day when my
27 son saw me, he's only ever seen me all over the place one day, and he was so frightened and
28 concerned, so I (inaudible) thought that it's not going to happen again.

29 **Q.** That's we've-- done a very, as I say, we've been watching the time, so we've covered in very
30 brief form a very long witness statement and obviously you know he has an equally long
31 story about what happened in State care, but we're conscious of time, so unless there's
32 anything that you would like us to cover that's what we have to say?

33 **CHAIR:** Well, first of all, I'm sorry if you feel constrained by the time. I want you to know,
34 Steven, that we have your full statement of evidence here and that both I and the other

1 Commissioner have read it carefully, so we are very familiar with it and it will, of course,
2 be part of our deliberation.

3 Commissioner Sandra's going to ask you some questions and then thank you, but
4 I just want to comment on how moving your story is to me personally and I'm sure to many
5 others, because it's a story of extraordinary perseverance in the face of unbelievable odds.
6 And to think that you as a young boy and a young man had to "wear it" is appalling and
7 somehow you survived and you did whatever you had to do to make you capable of
8 speaking to it, and I just want to mark and acknowledge the extraordinary strength and
9 courage that you have shown in doing that. Congratulate you on your son, which truly is
10 life affirming for you, I'm sure.

11 So, from me personally, thank you, but I'm now going to ask Commissioner
12 Alofivae if she would like to ask questions and then leave it to her, so thank you Steven.

13 A. Thank you.

14 **COMMISSIONER ALOFIVAE:** Steven, thank you very, very much for just the honest and
15 candid way in which you've shared such intimate details of your life and the horrific abuse
16 that you were put through in a number of institutions, but particularly here at Marylands.
17 Just a couple of background questions if I may. Steven, there were a number of boys, other
18 young boys at school with you, and I appreciate you were just so little, you were 6 when
19 you started there, do you remember the ethnicities or the nationalities of any of the other
20 kids?

21 A. There was Māori of course, there was I think Islander, I know there was we- believed that
22 this little fella was French, and his name was **GRO-B**, I don't know his last name, but in the
23 yellow section. He was about the same age as I was when he first came in, 6 years old.
24 And I remember he came in at the same time with- this other boy who had had to wear.

25 **QUESTIONING BY MS COOPER CONTINUED:** Hearing aids.

26 A. Hearing aids, so it was at the same time these two came in. We were told **GRO-B** was
27 French, you know? And he was a likable chap, everybody liked him, he was fun, you
28 know?

29 **COMMISSIONER ALOFIVAE:** And Steven, do you remember what was the culture of the
30 school like? You know, did they do kapa haka, did they do waiata, did they do music
31 lessons, anything like that? Is there anything that you remember around the culture of the
32 school?

33 A. No, at the time [-AVL lost].

1 **CHAIR:** We have a frozen image again. Just a moment.

2 A. We're back.

3 **Q.** We've come back, magic has happened.

4 A. Yeah, I just sat there going like this.

5 **QUESTIONING BY MS COOPER CONTINUED:** It was the cubs and St Johns.

6 A. It was the cubs, St Johns. So, there were those things that we were all, you know, it was
7 very Catholic orientated.

8 **COMMISSIONER ALOFIVAE:** Catholic orientated?

9 A. Yeah.

10 **Q.** Okay, thank you.

11 A. Orientated, yeah, so it was all sort of around the godly thing, church and that.

12 **QUESTIONING BY MS COOPER CONTINUED:** And actually, that was sorry-- to interrupt,
13 but that was one thing I wanted to ask was how that impacted on your belief in God and
14 your faith.

15 A. It had a negative impact, very negative. I mean as far as I was concerned if somebody
16 being under a cloak like that can act like that, you know, and he's a person from that person,
17 you know, it doesn't take a rocket scientist, even for that young (inaudible) you know?

18 **COMMISSIONER ALOFIVAE:** Yeah, look we know that it was a school so-- disability is
19 obviously a word that we use today, and back in the 70s when you were there, they might
20 have been using other words to describe children with intellectual disabilities. Can you
21 recall what your fellow schoolmates, what disabilities they might have had, or did they look
22 normal to you?

23 A. There were some that were very epileptic, there were some that were paralytic, like there
24 was a guy who had, I can't say his name, but he had his arm in a prosthetic thing. He was a
25 really good guy, I got on with him. There was a guy who had one arm and one leg. He was
26 another good guy that had effort in every field. I admired this guy, and today I haven't seen
27 him, I wouldn't even know if I walked past him unless he had a prosthetic arm and leg, I'd
28 ask him if, you know, who I think he might be. But this guy was always a chop(?), and the
29 cubs, St John's, he always gave it 100% in a big effort, and I always admired him, one arm,
30 one leg, you know? When you jump in that pool you try and swim with one arm on this
31 side and one leg on the other side. He got there in the end, it took a while, but he got there.

32 **Q.** Wow that's awesome. Steve, I have no more questions for you this afternoon, but just to
33 thank you as well and in addition just for your amazing heart and the way you shared
34 everything, and what comes through really clearly to me is your enormous love for your

1 son that actually -- and the reason why you'd want to shield him from all of this and why
2 you would want to make the world different for him moving forward, yeah, so kia kaha to
3 you.

4 **A.** Thank you very much.

5 **Q.** And thank you, Ms Cooper, for the way you took care of your client, thank you very much.

6 **CHAIR:** Thank you and goodbye. Ms Anderson, where shall we go from here?

7 **MS ANDERSON:** Madam Chair, time to take a 15-minute recess before we come back for Ms
8 DN. But just a reminder again that there was some language, some names used in the
9 course of that evidence.

10 **CHAIR:** That's subject to the protection --

11 **MS ANDERSON:** So perhaps you'd just like to repeat the same reminder to folk in the room that
12 certain names, including reference to the social worker and other names that were referred
13 to, are subject to nonpublication orders.

14 **CHAIR:** I'm conscious that people like journalists and the like may have access to this document
15 which stresses -- makes orders --

16 **MS ANDERSON:** The easiest way for the media to look at it, because they have embargo copies
17 of the statement, and where it's been redacted from the statement, but they've heard it in the
18 room, that's a clear signal that it can't be published again by them.

19 **CHAIR:** I'm just concerned about members of the public who don't have access to that.

20 **MS ANDERSON:** That will have been deleted from the livestream so they shouldn't have
21 received that information.

22 **CHAIR:** Just to be ultra-cautious, sorry to sound so, quote, "legalistic" about this, but there are
23 particular reasons why certain people can't be named and we don't want to, --and orders
24 have been made to protect various names from publication and they are always made with
25 very good reason, which sometimes it's not possible to explain without divulging the name.
26 So, it's difficult, but I just ask you to be mindful and respectful of the fact that these orders
27 weren't made lightly, and we do have to respect the right of privacy for some people.

28 Very well, we'll take the afternoon adjournment, what do we come back at 4? Is
29 that suitable?

30 **MS ANDERSON:** Perhaps five minutes before 4.

31 **CHAIR:** Yes, we're never going to get away lightly here. We'll come back at five to 4, thank
32 you.