

Witness Name: Jim Goodwin

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ROYAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO ABUSE IN CARE

WITNESS STATEMENT OF James William Goodwin

I, James (Jim) William Goodwin state: -

INTRODUCTION

1. I was born in 1956. I was born in Fairlie, South Canterbury. My family were farming people, so we had a farm. Dad was the farmer and Mum was the farm wife. I've got four siblings, two brothers and two sisters. I'm the oldest. In terms of ethnicity, I identify as Pakeha.
2. I lived with my parents in Fairlie until I was twelve and a half, and then I was sent up here to boarding school in Christchurch, to Christ's College.
3. My parents were boarding school people. They both went to boarding school. Dad went to Waitaki Boys and Mum went to Craighead in Timaru. Both my parents have died. Because they were Anglican. I was sent to an Anglican school rather than St Andrew's.

4. I went to Christ's College as a boarder in 1970 and was there from third till seventh form, 1970 to 1974. At the end of school, I walked away with school certificate, UE accredited and a B Bursary.
5. I did a year at university full-time and then got a job. I have been a psychiatric nurse for 36 years and I've just left the hospital. I was working for the Canterbury Men's Centre and Male Survivors of Sexual Abuse Trust ("MSSAT"), working with male abuse survivors as a peer supporter. It is similar but also very different to my work as a psychiatric nurse. Our fellas want to be there. I had been working in Forensic Mental Health, where people don't want to be. They don't want to be there.

MY EXPERIENCE OF ABUSE WHILE AT CHRIST'S COLLEGE

6. I want to tell you about my sexual abuse at the school and to give a picture of what it was like being in the Christ's College boarding house in those years.
7. The school was based on four boarding houses and four day-boy houses. I was in Richards house. There were just under 80 boys in the house, run by a house tutor who lived in the house, a house tutor who didn't, a house master and a matron. They were the four adults. We didn't see much of them. The house was really run by the house prefects. They were seventh formers and I became a house prefect myself when I was a seventh former.
8. It was pretty violent all the time. When you were a third former you walked down the corridors and the fifth formers would knee you in the leg until you fell over. We slept in dormitories. The dormitories got smaller as you moved up through the school but as a third formers (there were over 20 of us when I was a third former) we were all in a big room with two prefects who slept with us.

9. I can't recall any sexual abuse in the third form dormitories. I'm not aware of any but again, people gave you the bash when you were in bed. We had fagging at Christs College. This was where junior boys were required to do chores for senior boys. As a prefect, I had a fag who made my bed and cleaned my shoes. Like a batman in the British Army. The fagging system also meant that third formers could be sent on errands, such as going to the tuck shop for a senior boy.
10. I'm a bigger person and this is a school based on sport. I'm not a sportsman. I like reading books and making things, so I didn't really quite fit in. I wasn't really popular. I wasn't despised, but I didn't really quite fit. There was a lot of family pressure to be a sportsman, particularly from my dad, and to do well. I'm not very good at sports and I can't do maths. There was a lot of pressure from home to be better at maths.

Hauling

11. I potted along more or less until I got to the fifth form. By then, you're not a third former, you're not a fourth former, you're a bit higher up the pecking order, you don't get pushed around so much.
12. The school had this institution called 'hauling', where senior boys would take a junior boy off and beat him up basically, give him a hard time. I don't know where the name came from, but I think the current term used in popular culture for this is "hazing". Hauling was not an initiation; it was done as a punishment for perceived offences committed by the junior boy. One thing they did was to make people do press ups over the compasses that we used in maths. They would have got two or three compasses on the floor with the points up and the junior boy would have to do press-ups over them without impaling himself. It was never done to me, but people had to do press ups on top of them. I never saw anyone land on the compass, but I did see that abuse happen.

13. We get to the fifth form and one day in the summer, towards the end of the year, I went into the dining hall. There are 400 boys going into the dining hall and I bumped into a guy who was a year older than me. I know his name. He was a sixth former then. I didn't think anything of it, went on and had my lunch. After lunch, he and his mates came up to me and said, "you've disrespected H, we're going to haul you". I protested and said, "well, it was an accident, I didn't mean to". "No, we're going to haul you, come up to our study". So, I went, because that's what you did.
14. I went up to their study, which is at the top of Richards house and they said, "you've been disrespectful, we're going to teach you respect". They started to push me around. There were three of them and I know all their names and can identify them as they are now. They were the main three and various of their mates came and went during the afternoon. They abused me and bullied me for an afternoon. It was on a Wednesday or a Saturday, like a sports afternoon, where we didn't have sports for some reason. They pushed me around a bit, and I kept saying, "I'm really sorry, I didn't mean to". They said "no, we're gonna haul you, we're gonna teach you respect".
15. They produced these half gallon flagons of warm salty water and said, "drink that."
16. It feels like it was yesterday, it feels like it was so recent. I thought, well, I'll drink the water and they'll be finished with me. So, I drank one flagon but then they produced more and they kept filling them up. I think they had about six. I was beginning to feel horrible, sick and bloated. They were angry and desperate, and I thought, as a 15-year-old, they're gonna kill me. Unless I do what they tell me, they'll kill me.

17. They were angry. They were having a good time, so I did what they told me, and I was so sick. I was really really sick. They made me vomit in a metal rubbish bin and after a while, blood started to come up from my nose. You tear your throat, so my throat was tearing from all the vomiting. Blood was coming up and that worried them, so they sent me off to empty my own vomit out of the rubbish tin and to wash it out and come back.
18. I thought I've got to go back. If I don't go back, they'll find me. Who knows what they'll do to me? I rinsed out the rubbish bin and tried to clean it as best I could. I took it back and I said, "it stinks". They sent me back again, I cleaned it out again, and did that three or four times. It was all the way up, three storeys up on this top floor in this building down to the toilet on the ground floor.
19. Then, when I went back with the rubbish bin, they said, "fuck it, have sex with it. It's your girlfriend, have sex with it". It's the rubbish bin. They said shove down, so I shoved down to where I was lying prone over the rubbish tin. "Pull your pants down". I said, "I'm not going to do that", so they pulled my pants down and said, "here, go on, tell her that you love her. Say nice things to her. It's your girlfriend, get onto it". Shove, punch, shove.
20. I thought, well, I've got to do this. If I don't, I don't know what they'll do to me, so for all I knew about sex, I moved my hips and stuff and one of them, H, put a broom handle up my anus, which hurt. I screamed and I ejaculated. They stood me up and I was covered in vomit and blood and cum. Another guy, to whom I'm eternally grateful, who was a friend of theirs, came in and said, "stop it – stop." He made them stop and he said, "get out of here, go and clean yourself up".

21. I went off and cleaned myself up as best I could. One of the other guys in my year, **GRO-B-1**, to whom I'm very grateful told the House master that I had been hauled and by whom. The House master called me in and he was this huge big man. He was from England. I wasn't going to tell him anything. I thought in those days if I told him what had happened, that those boys would kill me, that they would do something, so I wouldn't tell him anything. He could see I was distressed. I'd cleaned myself up by then. He called them, the boys from the year above me in and told them they weren't to touch me and if they did, they would be thrown out of the school.
22. There was no more hauling of me after that. They left me alone, but they did let me know that they didn't like me as they believed that I had told on them.
23. I was too scared the Housemaster to feel reassured by his intervention. I remained afraid that I would be hauled again.

OTHER ABUSE I WAS AWARE OF

24. When I was at Christ's College, the prefects were delegated authority to cane the more junior boys. This had to be approved by the Housemaster each time.
25. I believe that the school staff were well aware of the hauling culture. For example, S, a guy in my year in my house was making a junior boy do press-ups over compasses in our study when the Housemaster I referred to earlier [21] walked in. He asked S what he was doing and S said something like "I'm hauling him, Sir, he has been disrespectful". The Housemaster said something like "carry on then" and left him to it.
26. I had a relative who was a house tutor. I believe he knew all about the bullying culture. He knew I was badly affected although he didn't know the details of what happened to me. I don't get on with him. His name is **GRO-B-2**. He is my mother's **GRO-B** **GRO-B**. He is still alive, **GRO-B**.

27. As far as these individuals who assaulted me are concerned, it's sexual misbehaviour of a really violent and precise kind. It would be a kind of sexual violation, no ifs or buts.
28. I know of no other boy who was sexually abused by boys. I know of one of the guys was sexually abused by a teacher. I know the boys name and the name of the teacher.
29. I have a son and he was definitely not going to be going to Christ College.

IMPACT OF THE ABUSE

30. It changed my life. I had flashbacks. I haven't had a flashback for a few years but I've had flashbacks most of my life. It was so intimate and even though it was just once, that was enough to change my life.
31. I hung on at Christ's College. I tried to join the army. Not sure if it was a really bad idea to be a regular force cadet. My Dad talked me out of it, maybe because it would have been out of the frying pan into the fire. He didn't say that though. I just thought I'd get on with it. It was something that had happened but I wanted to get on with my life.
32. In those days, there was no concept that this happened to men. I knew that women were raped. I don't even think as a 15 year old, I really knew that it even happened to young people. I had this idea of a woman leaving a pub at 9.30 at night and getting set upon but in those days, my sense of it all, was that I was the only one that this had ever happened to.

33. I rang my parents that night and I thought I'll tell my Mum and Dad. I got Mum and she could hear I was upset and she said, "I'll put you onto your father". I was in tears. She put me onto Dad and he wouldn't let me tell him. He told me I needed to try harder at maths again and told me I needed to show an interest in sport. "You need to show an interest in sport. That way, you'll have more friends and this sort of thing won't happen", but he didn't know what had happened.
34. My father died at the age of 87 without ever knowing what happened to me. He knew that something had happened, but he didn't know what, so there was no family support there. They weren't there for me, so you just seal it up and go on.
35. I didn't know what a flashback was, so these funny things happened to me. I do now, looking back.
36. Having sex would set the flashbacks off. I had a series of partners who had to put up with me writhing, screaming and crying. Going to a crowded pub or a busy place and someone coming up behind me touching my back would also set me off into another flash back. As a psych nurse, you sit with your back to the wall anyway, so that suits me. I had nightmares about being stuck back at Christ's College for many years.

REDRESS

37. I thought about going to the police. I did therapy through ACC and I talked to my therapist about it and decided not to. Partly, I thought it would be re-traumatising, partly I thought not much would happen and partly, I was worried about going up against the school. I didn't think about doing anything about my abusers for many years

38. I see the school as likely to lawyer up, and my therapist said, "well, it's your choice but it will be a difficult process". She didn't suggest one or the other, so at the time I decided not to. I've thought about it and spoken to the Police who are investigating. I would like to have a restorative justice meeting with my abusers so that I can tell them how their behaviour has affected me.
39. The perpetrators, helpers, aiders and abusers are still around, and I know where they are. I am not going to approach them by myself.
40. My brother, GRO-B-3 knows the current headmaster. He's talked to the headmaster about this and the headmaster said he wanted to meet me, which sounded positive, but he hasn't been in touch. I'm not surprised that the headmaster has not made contact. He is probably worried that it will be expensive for the school.
41. I would like to meet with my abusers. That's what I would like. I would like to meet with someone to mediate and actually tell them what I've told you and see their response. I don't have any expectation about how they respond but I would like to meet them and speak to them. That is why I went to the police.
42. One inhibition has been my family. I hadn't told dad that I'm assisting the Commission here. My partner, GRO-B-4 knows. She's lovely. I have told my son a bit about it and GRO-B-5 my oldest daughter knows.
43. I haven't heard of anybody else who sexual abuse happened to at Christ's College apart from one other guy. I wasn't aware of anybody else at the time, but I am aware that it could well have happened. Certainly, the hazing happened. The hazing was all sorts of stuff - bullying hitting, pushing, shoving, making people do stupid things. I've talked to my brothers about it and both of them knew about the hazing but they both said no sexual abuse that they were aware of. So, it may have happened, but I have no further evidence.

44. Telling people - it's called pimping. You don't pimp, you don't tell tales. It's a big strong culture. I mean, that's what I would change. That's the first thing that I would change in places like that, that you must tell, people must tell. I would like to set up a system in schools where students can go to safe adults to tell them about abuse

45. I had thought of a public hearing and my thinking is will my speaking out and the rest of it change anything? I'm starting to think politically here and I'm not sure what my answer is. I still don't know if I have the strength to participate in a public hearing.

Statement of Truth

This statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and was made by me knowing that it may be used as evidence by the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care.

Signed:

GRO-C

Dated: 21-09-20

Consent to use my statement

I, James William Goodwin confirm that by submitting my signed witness statement to the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care, I consent to its use in the following ways:

- reference and/or inclusion in any interim and/or final report;
- disclosure to those granted leave to appear, designated as core participants and where instructed, their legal representatives via the Inquiry's database or by any other means as directed by the Inquiry;
- presentation as evidence before the Inquiry, including at a public hearing;
- informing further investigation by the Inquiry;
- publication on the Inquiry website.

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