

Witness Name: Cabrini Makasiale
Statement No.: WITN0689001
Exhibits: N/A
Dated: 15 July 2021

ROYAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO ABUSE IN CARE

WITNESS STATEMENT OF Cabrini Makasiale

I, Cabrini Makasiale, state as follows:

Introduction

1. I am of Tongan and English ancestry and I was born and raised in Fiji. I am fluent in English, Tongan and Fijian. I currently reside in a community of Catholic women with religious vows in South Auckland.
2. I have a Master's degree in Christian Spirituality from the Sydney College of Divinity, Australia. I also hold a Postgraduate Certificate of Proficiency in Supervision from Auckland University and a Diploma in Psychotherapy from Auckland University of Technology.
3. I hold a Certificate in Group Analysis from the Institute of Group Analysis, London, a Diploma in Theology from the Religious Education Centre, Auckland and a Teachers' Training Certificate from the Department of Education, New Zealand.
4. I am a qualified Psychotherapist, Counsellor, Tutor, Supervisor, Spiritual Director and Group Facilitator. My practice is NZAP and ACC approved.
5. I developed the 'Pacific Living Without Violence' Program which is delivered by Catholic Social Services in Auckland and deliver training to group facilitators. The program was originally requested by the ADHB as an attempt to reach communities beset by family violence.

6. I deliver the training for programme facilitators and as of June 2015, 504 Facilitators have been trained. Since February 2017, 13 groups have taken part in the programme. Currently, community groups are requesting the development of youth, parenting and rape in marriage programmes with spirituality at their core.

Public Hearing - 'Tulou – Our Pacific Voices'

7. I have been asked by the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care (the Inquiry) to participate as part of the public hearing on Pacific people's experience of abuse in care, 'Tulou – Our Pacific Voices' ("the Hearing").
8. I have been asked specifically to provide my views as part of the Talanoa Panel discussion on 'Pathways into care' and have been asked to provide my views on the following topics and questions:
 - a) How can we build safe spaces in Pacific communities to share information about mental health, care and protection and justice for our children and young people?
 - b) What do Pacific communities need to understand about the care and protection, mental health, transitional justice and disability support systems in New Zealand?
 - c) How can Pacific families and communities better support each other to prevent our Pacific children from going into care?
 - d) How can we ensure that Pacific children are given the opportunities to grow their knowledge and understanding of their culture and language if they go into care?
 - e) How can we hold caregivers accountable for their actions of abuse and/or neglect towards Pacific children's cultural wellbeing and needs?
 - f) What does a care system/justice system/mental health system underpinned by Pacific values look like?
9. I believe that my cultural and academic background and experience qualify me to participate as an expert witness on the Talanoa Panel discussion.

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: 15 July 2021

Annexure A**Consent to use my statement**

I, **Cabrini Makasiale**, 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.

I also confirm that I have been advised of the option to seek anonymity and that if granted my identity may nevertheless be disclosed to a person or organisation, including any instructed legal representatives, who is the subject of criticism in my witness statement in order that they are afforded a fair opportunity to respond to the criticism.

Please tick one of the two following boxes:

if you are seeking anonymity

or

if you are happy for your identity to be known

Signed: .. GRO-C

Date: *15 / 7 ' 21*