

Witness Name:

Statement No.: WITN0433001

Exhibits: Nil

Dated: .05.2021

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**ROYAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO ABUSE IN CARE**

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**WITNESS STATEMENT OF**

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I, , say as follows: -

**INTRODUCTION**

1. My full name is , I was born on  1983. While I was in care, my name was . I legally changed my name when I was 18 years old.
2. In this statement, I provide a summary of my experiences in state care, focusing on my time at . During that time, I experienced physical, sexual and psychological abuse. This abuse has had a significant ongoing impact in my life.
3. I also describe my experience of seeking redress for this abuse from the Ministry of Social Development (**MSD**) and the Accident Compensation Corporation (**ACC**).

**WHO I AM**

4. I am 38 years old and I live in . I have two young sons.
5. I identify as Pākehā. I have agoraphobia, PTSD, insomnia and anxiety. I also have

a history of addiction and self-harm.

6. I am currently unemployed. My agoraphobia means that I haven't been able to work. I am housebound and spend a lot of my time in bed.

### MY EXPERIENCE OF BEING IN CARE

7. I grew up in GRO-A. As a child, I thought my family life was pretty good - just an average childhood. Mum and Dad split up when I was quite young, and then Dad went to prison for non-violent charges. Mum looked after me but she was not very well. She had pretty severe depression.
8. My mum was often mad at me for not cleaning my room or brushing my teeth. When I was around nine years old, we had a fight and I ran away. This was when I went into a Child, Youth and Family Services (CYFS) home for the first time. I wasn't really a naughty kid, it's just that Mum was ill and Dad was in jail.
9. The home was a family home in Southland run by GRO-B-500 and GRO-B-600. GRO-B-500 and GRO-B-600 had three children of their own, and there was space for around 12 other children. Some would only stay for a night, some for a week and some for years. There was always turnover with the children.
10. I was at the home until I was 14. I would stay there on and off, sometimes for a week, but normally for between three to six months. I probably stayed there about five or six different times.
11. At times, I went into other CYFS homes, or I would be placed with family members, such as an aunt or my little brother's mum. Other times, I wouldn't see my family for two years. It was all over the place. During times my dad was in prison, my mum would actively stop his side of the family, and her own side, from seeing me. She had a real vendetta against me and the rest of the family.
12. I used to run away a lot from the A family home in Southland as I got tired of the GRO-B-500 GRO-B-600. This is often why I would be moved to a new home or end up staying with a family member. Usually, I had to run away at least three times before they would move me. Other times, CYFS would pick me up from school with my stuff in a garbage bag and take me to a new placement. I never knew when it would happen.

13. Two of the placements I stayed at were amazing. One was with a lovely family called the [GRO-B] who lived on a farm in Gore. Another was with a woman called [GRO-B]. It made me think that if I had been sent to one of these placements at the beginning, I could have done really well in life.

### ABUSE AND/OR NEGLECT I SUFFERED IN CARE

A family home in Southland

14. While I was at the [A family home in Southland], [GRO-B-500] and [GRO-B-600] were really horrible.
15. They were really funny about food. They didn't feed us very well, and we had babysitters who would smuggle in food so we could eat. The babysitters wanted to tell someone but they were stuck in a difficult position. If they lost their jobs, then they would not be able to help us anymore.
16. Then there was sexual abuse from [GRO-B-500] and his son, [GRO-B-700]. It was different for different girls at the home. There was one girl, [GRO-B-1], who was there long-term because her [GRO-B] had a medical condition. For her, the abuse was constant. When they put me in the room with her, I would be abused too.
17. In 2010, [GRO-B-500] was jailed for sexual offending against girls, which was mainly against the girls he and [GRO-B-600] fostered. The Police didn't charge [GRO-B-700] as he was underage at the time of the offending.
18. I know that when I lived at the home there were at least three of us complaining to CYFS about what was happening. [GRO-C] is a small place so they must have known that something wasn't right.
19. I told my social worker, Joan Harrison, about the abuse at least three times. She told me to stop making up lies and that no one likes trouble-makers. She said that if I didn't stop saying this then I could be sued and that I would end up homeless or in prison. At one point, she even rang [GRO-B-500] to tell him what I had said and made me apologise for lying. It was made clear to me that if I ever mentioned the abuse to anyone again, I would be punished quite badly.
20. I believed what the social worker said so I was too scared to tell anyone else what

was happening. I really didn't want to end up in trouble and I didn't want to be homeless.

21. The first time I told anyone else about the abuse was when I was 28, when the Police contacted me about testifying at [GRO-B-500]'s trial.
22. Joan Harrison also made up all these stories in my CYFS file, like saying I was bragging about sleeping with boys so they could put me on the pill. I didn't lose my virginity until I was much older, so I think they just did this because they were worried I would get pregnant to [GRO-B-500].

**Home on [GRO-B] Street**

23. When I was about 12, I stayed at a home on [GRO-B] Street in Dunedin for about three months. It was a care and protection residence rather than a youth justice residence, but it had a secure unit. It was a home for both boys and girls.
24. While at the home, I remember being put in the secure lock up for about three weeks, although my records say that it was only for three days. We were allowed out for one hour a day to eat lunch. Even though there was nothing to do, we weren't allowed to sleep during the day. It reminded me of military cells. I didn't really see this as abusive at the time. However, now that I have my own kids, I can see that they were slowly driving us insane.

**The [GRO-B-2  
GRO-B-3]**

25. When I was about 13, I stayed at a home in Milton that was run by a couple called [GRO-B-2] and [GRO-B-3]. The abuse here was more psychological. For example, they always made things up to get me into trouble, like telling CYFS I was taking drugs. One time they said I was starving myself on purpose and they threatened to get me force fed. On another occasion, they had the cops come and raid my room while I was at school. It was humiliating. It seemed very personal and it was clear they just really didn't like me.
26. I also recall being checked for STDs by a doctor while I was at the [GRO-B-2  
GRO-B-3] home.

**Staying with** GRO-B-4

27. When I was around 14 or 15, I ended up moving in with my GRO-B-4 at the time. I dropped out of school completely and stayed there until I aged out. Both of my parents signed a waiver saying they didn't mind if I moved in with him, but I don't understand this. If I was made a ward of the state, doesn't this mean that MSD thinks my parents can't make good decisions for me?
28. MSD knew that that GRO-B-4 was beating me up and starving me, because there are notes about all the different times I had to go to Women's Refuge. However, once they placed me with him, they kind of just washed their hands of me. I don't really blame GRO-B-4 for what happened when we were together - imagine having a broken child dumped on you by the state. He was quite young himself and had his own problems too.
29. Instead of paying my part of the rent, MSD would give me a grocery voucher so I could buy food for GRO-B-4 and me. However, this meant I was stuck there with no money of my own, and if I needed things like clothing, I had to rely on him for money.

**IMPACT OF THE ABUSE ON ME AND OTHERS**

30. After the abuse I became very 'difficult'. About a year after I moved into the a family home in Southland I started drinking and self-harming. Because I often ran away, it made it harder to find a good place to live.
31. School was also intermittent during this time as I was always moving around. When I was younger I had really enjoyed school, it was great. It's quite frustrating because I know that if I didn't have PTSD from the abuse, I would have studied, been to university, got a good job and had a career in something.
32. I now have agoraphobia, which is quite scary. I am housebound and spend most of my time in bed. I also have PTSD, insomnia and anxiety. In the past I have self-mutilated and I've had a few addictions.
33. These issues have made things difficult for my previous partners. My drinking would often cause problems. Even now that I have the support of family members,

it is still not easy being housebound and dealing with these mental health issues.

34. I know that these things have also been hard on my two children. I have two young sons, and I feel like the agoraphobia stops me from being the best Mum I could be. I can't even do simple things with them, like taking them to the park or dropping them at school.
35. I am not able to work as I cannot leave the house. With WINZ, they will sometimes send me things in the mail, and I have to go get documents from the doctor or other places. I often can't do this because of my agoraphobia, so we will just go without the money.
36. Other things are also difficult, like going to the dentist. I have really bad teeth, but getting dental work is hard because it requires someone holding you down and putting things in your mouth. I have lost a lot of teeth because of this.
37. I have also found it really difficult accessing counselling. I have a Rape Crisis counsellor at the moment, but it took a long time to find someone I can trust. It has taken a couple of breakdowns and a few addictions to get there.

## REDRESS

38. When I was 28, I was contacted by the Police to be a witness in [GRO-B-500]'s trial. This began a really difficult period of time, with the trials, the MSD apology and trying to get ACC cover. My wellbeing got really bad during this time and I had a massive breakdown after it all.

## Prosecution

39. I think the Police charges were initiated by a non-throwaway child, [GRO-B-500]'s [GRO-B]. That's why they finally stopped him – it wasn't because of us CYFS kids. However, [GRO-B-1], the girl whose [GRO-B] had [medical con] later brought charges too. [GRO-B-500] had said to her that if she told anyone about the abuse he would kill her [GRO-B]. Once her [GRO-B] died, she made a complaint and then the Police contacted the other children who were in the home.
40. The Police called and told me they were going to bring charges against [GRO-B-500]. He

denied the charges so there was a trial around 2010. I decided to testify to help the other girls. Altogether there were about six other survivors who gave evidence, along with other witnesses such as the babysitters.

41. I think [GRO-B-500] was only charged in relation to a few girls, but I know that there were so many more. It was an open secret and he was just allowed to do it at the time. I don't think any of the charges related to [GRO-B-500]'s offending against me, although I did give evidence about one specific night when [GRO-B-500] abused me. It turned out he would use the same line with all the girls by saying that he was coming to tuck us in. I think my evidence about this helped back up what the other girls were saying.
42. My understanding is that the Police didn't bring charges for [GRO-B-500]'s offending against me because I didn't have many memories of it. It didn't matter much to me, as I just wanted to make sure he couldn't harm anyone else, and I was glad I was able to give evidence to help the other girls.
43. [GRO-B-500] was found guilty. However, he filed an appeal on a technical legal aspect so there was a retrial in 2012. I had a baby by C-section three days before the second trial so had to give evidence via video link at the University. They mentioned my new baby in front of my abuser. I was mortified!
44. [GRO-B-500] was eventually convicted the second time and imprisoned.
45. This was a good outcome, but at the end of the process I felt like CYFS had used us. We had complained about the abuse for all those years. When they finally did something about it, it seemed like they just patted themselves on the back and then left us again. CYFS just wanted it to look like they were actually doing something, but I feel that if [GRO-B-500] had never attacked his own [GRO-B], no-one would have stopped him. There wasn't any counselling or support after the trial to help us deal with all the stuff it had brought back up.

### ***Ministry of Social Development***

46. After the trial, I spoke to some of the other girls who gave evidence and they told me I could request my CYFS file. I really wanted to piece together my childhood because I had all these sporadic memories. I had been threatened to keep quiet

so much that I had pushed a lot of it out of my head. For instance, I didn't recall that I had complained about GRO-B-500 until I saw it in my file.

47. The girls also told me about the option of making a claim to MSD and so I looked into this after I requested my file. I can't really remember how it came about, but I ended up in a hotel room with two ladies from MSD and my Mum. This was around 2011 to 2012. I didn't really have time to think about what was happening and did not know what to expect.
48. The women said they were sorry about what had happened to me and gave me \$20,000. They made out like I had won the lottery and should be really happy with the money. I also received a written apology, which said something along the lines of, "Things like that should never happen to children in care", but they never said what 'that' is. It also said something about the abuse being isolated. It was naff.
49. There was no opportunity to tailor the apology and focus it on the things that I thought were important. I asked if they would also apologise to my Mum and they said no.
50. Even though they apologised, it felt like the women were not genuinely sorry or admitting that there had been any neglect. They said that, in their defence, I had been a difficult child. This made me feel like it was all my fault.
51. I asked the women about the social worker that I had originally complained to and whether they would bring charges against her. They told me that she was still employed at CYFS - they had investigated but found she didn't do anything wrong.
52. There was no offer of non-monetary support like counselling or anything like that. I had started studying law around the time of the trials. The first trial was on the day of my first exam so I missed the exam. I asked MSD for help to go back and continue studying but they said no.
53. My impression was that the meeting was very administrative and the women were just there to sign the cheque. It felt like the women didn't want to be there. The apology wasn't heartfelt and I don't feel like they were focused on what I actually needed.

54. The whole process was degrading. I've spoken with other women who also got money from MSD, and they said it felt like dirty money in a way. They would spend it on their kids because they just wanted to get rid of it. It wasn't enough to buy a house or anything. I don't mean that in a materialistic way – I just mean that it wasn't enough to change the projection of my life or my kids' lives in any significant way.
55. This whole period with the trial and the meeting with CYFS was very intense. Afterwards, we were pretty much told to go back home and that was it, the communication just stopped. I ended up quite sick and started self-medicating to deal with everything. I didn't have any counselling or support from Victim Support or anything like that.
56. The MSD Historic Claims process happened pretty quickly from memory. I would say it took about six to eight months.

#### *MSD records*

57. I have requested my CYFS file about six times over the years. The first time was when I requested it after GRO-B-500's trial, but then I thought I wouldn't need it anymore and I didn't want it in the house so I burnt it. Later, when I was making a claim to ACC, I went back and requested it again. The second time, MSD had removed all of the information about the times I had complained about GRO-B-500, which had been in the file the first time I requested it.
58. Over the years, I also requested information on my time at particular homes during particular years. Whenever I received the same set of notes more than once, they were so different. The redactions would vary each time and sometimes pages I had received in response to earlier requests were missing completely.
59. I also wasn't able to get full notes for my time at the home in GRO-B Street.

#### **ACC**

60. Around 2012 I found out about the option of getting ACC cover for sensitive claims. I think my Mum told me about it. This ended up being a very long process, and from the beginning I never understood it.

*Initial assessment*

61. I applied for ACC cover around the beginning of 2012. When I first applied, ACC offered me 16 free counselling sessions.
62. Around mid-2012 I had my first ACC assessment to see whether I qualified for cover. This was a one hour session with a clinical psychologist, Dr [GRO-C]. My mum came with me. I had been seeing a counsellor for about five to six weeks beforehand.
63. At the time I didn't understand what the assessment was for or what it meant. I had no idea that this one hour, with someone I had never met before, was going to be the basis for my claim. I tried to look the process up online but found it very confusing.
64. This assessment was terrible. I went into the assessment not really trusting Dr [GRO-C]. I had been told for so many years not to talk about the abuse and so I still find it difficult to discuss with people. I also have difficulty trusting professional figures and people in authority, particularly those working in mental health, as they often hurt me or let me down as a child. All this meant that I was not as open about the abuse as I could have been with Dr [GRO-C]. I also thought that there would be several more appointments to talk about everything. Coming out of the assessment, I had no idea that that was it.
65. At the assessment, I was able to talk about my current symptoms and it was the first time I was formally diagnosed with agoraphobia, PTSD, anxiety and insomnia. However, it felt like Dr [GRO-C] only spent two minutes asking me about the abuse at the family home, and then spent the rest of the time looking for anything else in my life that could have caused the PTSD. I felt as though she really wanted to prove it came from somewhere else. It felt purposeful, and I definitely had a massive lack of trust after the assessment.
66. Dr [GRO-C] wrote down all the things that I said, but everything was back to front. Little things were wrong, too. I was not given a chance to correct her record.
67. Afterwards, I told ACC that the assessment with Dr [GRO-C] had brought all this

stuff back up and was making my anxiety and PTSD worse. They told me that the next time I saw Dr [GRO-C], she could prescribe me some medication to help with this. However, when I raised it with her she got angry and said it wasn't her job. She eventually prescribed me the medication, but the whole experience made me feel quite upset. I felt attacked at the time and it says in my notes that I stood over her for the medication, even though it was ACC that told me she could help me out.

68. I also learned later, through the review process, that ACC did not have a copy of my CYFS file. Apparently they had requested it twice but never received it. This meant that the information Dr [GRO-C] had to make her decision was completely inadequate.
69. After one or two weeks, ACC told me that cover was declined. They said that they couldn't link my current symptoms to the abuse I had suffered as a child – they said these mental health issues could have come from somewhere else. They also seemed very concerned that I couldn't remember some specific details.

#### *Review of ACC decision*

70. In late 2012 I filed a review of ACC's decision. Again, I didn't understand the review process and did not have any information about what was supposed to happen.
71. I contacted an [GRO-A] to see if they could help me understand the review. They were not able to direct me to anyone who could explain the process, and their main advice was for me to go and get a counsellor. I also heard through this group that it's impossible to find a lawyer to help with reviews as ACC lawyers are all very busy.
72. The review hearing was held in around 2012 or 2013. It was bizarre. The reviewer seemed annoyed at me and very frustrated with the lack of information before her.
73. She asked me why I had not got my own psychological report. I didn't even know that this was something that I should have done. I had never been told that I could seek independent advice from another clinical psychologist or psychiatrist, but she

made me feel like it was my fault that I hadn't done this.

74. Also, ACC still did not have a copy of my CYFS file.
75. The reviewer told me that the only information she had to base her decision on was the original 50 minute report from Dr [GRO-B]. There was not really any way that she could make a different decision than the original one. About a week later I received the decision formally declining my review.
76. I found this whole experience really frustrating and ended up just leaving the whole thing with ACC for a few years. During this time I had some medication for my original diagnosis, but I did not have access to any counselling or psychotherapy.

#### *Reapplying for ACC*

77. Around 2016 I decided I wanted to try again to get ACC support. I was a bit reluctant as I had found the whole process really harmful the first time. However, my agoraphobia and other conditions had started to affect my parenting. I thought that if I could at least get some support from ACC it would make up, in some way, for the fact that I can't be as good a parent as I would like to be.
78. I ended up emailing Claire Curran, the MP for South Dunedin, complaining about the process and outcome of my original application. She must have sent this on to someone, as I then received an email from ACC saying that they were going to reopen my file.
79. ACC told me that they would be sensitive to my situation this time and that they would try to make the process as easy and comfortable as possible. Unfortunately, this didn't happen.
80. I was given a case manager called [GRO-C] who was very difficult. For example, she would tell me that I should find an ACC counsellor to support me, but I found it very difficult to get one. [GRO-C] would say that she had been trying to get hold of a counsellor for ages and could not get through. To be proactive, I would then call myself and the counsellor would say that they were available. When I told [GRO-C] about this, she yelled at me for trying to arrange it myself and for not following the proper process.

81. Every time I asked for more information about what would happen next, my case manager would send me a very vague response. Even though I was somewhat familiar with the process, I found it just as frustrating the second time. This dragged on for five years.
82. The only support I really found was through GRO-A groups of people who had already gone through the ACC process. Different people learn different things about what ACC can and can't do, and they will help out people going through the process currently. However, my ACC case manager seemed really annoyed if I relied on this advice and I was told not to trust the information I received from Facebook. But actually, if I had a question, I found that people from these groups could explain the answer better than ACC could. They gave you simple answers, let you know what would happen next, and could help you work out whether you qualified for certain things.
83. It was also such a battle to get the assessment for cover set up. It took almost two years with emails constantly going back and forth. I would have an appointment made and then it would be cancelled. I would be told that a person wasn't available and then I would call up and be told that they were. I felt like I was just waiting and waiting.
84. In 2018, while I was still waiting, I thought it would be a good idea to get an independent assessment. I assumed that I would be declined cover the second time so wanted to be prepared for another review. I asked a close friend's psychiatrist to do the assessment and he agreed to do it for free.
85. Comparing this assessment to the first one was like night and day. I saw the psychiatrist for about nine hours over two or three meetings. I felt like he really spent the time going through all the information and trying to figure out what was wrong with me and how I could be helped. I had wanted to keep this independent assessment private as I planned to use it if the case went to a review, but it ended up in my medical notes. I don't think it was used by ACC in making their decision, but it was included in the materials they had.
86. Eventually, ACC provided me with a list of three possible assessors and

suggested I could only choose one of these three people, one of whom was [GRO-C] [GRO-C]. I did end up choosing one of these assessors, Lisa Turner, but later I found out that there was a wider range of people I could have chosen from. To me, it felt like they were trying to control the process and pick who I had as an assessor.

87. I had very little trust in the whole process. It felt like Alice in Wonderland and I never knew what was happening. It definitely didn't feel like they fulfilled their promise of making it as easy as possible the second time around.
88. When I eventually saw the ACC assessor, Lisa Turner, it actually went well. I can't remember what year this was, but it was a long time after I had first reapplied. Because I had been through the process before, this time around I knew that I had to be open and explicit about the abuse that I had endured. The psychologist was good and I felt comfortable sharing my experiences with her. She willing to spend as long as it took to get the whole story. I felt listened to, and she believed me when I told her I couldn't leave my house.
89. This time, in 2020, my claim was approved. The assessor had given me the impression that I would be considered as having around 50% impairment based on my symptoms.

#### *Assessment of entitlement*

90. After the claim was approved, I was told I needed to have another assessment to determine my level of impairment and what my entitlement was. I had no idea that there would need to be another assessment and I kind of panicked and went into shock. This was my third ACC assessment, with three different people. I found it very difficult and very frustrating. I actually had to drive to a friend's home at 2am because we decided I wasn't safe to be alone. I was so shocked and suicidal that I left my own home! It was hell. Pure Hell.
91. The assessment itself was bizarre. The assessor was called [GRO-C]. He seemed to just be making things up. He asked about the [GRO-A] and what they meant, but when I said they had no meaning he didn't believe me. He

suggested in the report that I had refused to explain them. He didn't even ask me about the

GRO-A

GRO-A

92. I told him about my agoraphobia and in his report he said he googled me after I left the assessment. I feel as though he did this to see whether I was lying and did actually go out and about. I sometimes speak to the media and I think he saw some of these articles, but these interviews always took place at my house. I felt like he made judgments based off things he saw in the media. He even asked how I had managed to go to the funerals of family members. I thought this was really unfair as I had to take a lot of medication to be able to do this, and there are some things you just have to force yourself to do. It was as though he was trying to catch me out in a lie.
93. After he googled me, he didn't give me a chance to explain anything. He just gave me a percentage and that was that. I feel as though he gave me a really low percentage because there was something about me he didn't like. I think he might have been a Christian and felt offended by my religion.
94. At the end of the assessment, I asked what I should do now and he told me to just go get counselling.
95. The final report came through in 2020. I was assessed as having 15% impairment which is one of the lower levels of assessment that you can get. This felt like a real kick in the guts. The reality of my life is that I am housebound due to the agoraphobia and spend a lot of time in bed. To me it felt like even though ACC had accepted the injury, they didn't actually really want to help me. To go through this whole process, and then have this be the outcome, was just nightmarish.
96. ACC decided that I was entitled to financial support. My original claim was in 2012 so they back paid that. Going forward, I could choose to get either around \$80 a month or a lump sum every five years. I chose the lump sum.
97. I am currently seeing a Rape Crisis counsellor who is not ACC accredited. It's free,

but I know ACC won't be happy about this because they don't think you're doing the work to get better if you don't see one of their counsellors. I don't trust the ACC accredited counsellors I have had in the past. This is the first time I've had a counsellor who I can trust.

*Experience of the ACC process*

98. I thought the ACC process was supposed to be about helping people to get better. I am very willing to put the work in. However, I don't think I am any better off now than when I first made my claim in 2012. I found the whole process to be incredibly frustrating, and not therapeutic at all.
99. I spent ages on my claim, trying to figure out what was going on and get all the information. Throughout, the process was very hard to understand. One of my close friends has a law degree and I have studied law, but both of us found it all very complicated. This was a huge barrier.
100. Then there were the little practical things which really add up. For example, they would send you an email with an attachment, but the attachment wouldn't be there so you would need to send several follow up emails just to eventually get the attachment. They would also just send you their decisions but wouldn't send a copy of the assessment, so you would have to email and ask for this separately.
101. I always had the sense that, behind everything, they were just saying that I was a difficult child. I always felt a certain level of victim blaming, that what happened to me was my fault, and it was not up to them to make it better.
102. It just felt like a battle. No one seemed to acknowledge that what had happened to me was terrible. No one seemed to be asking how they could support me through this. It just felt like people were focused on the institution, on ticking boxes, and not on the person sitting in front of them.
103. Looking back, the most helpful thing would be having the support of someone who understands the process. It would have been so different if I had someone to explain to me what is going to happen and what I needed to do at each stage.

**CONCLUSION**

104. It worries me to think about the kids in care today. The abuse has had a lifelong impact on me and has also affected my family, including my children. I don't want the kids in care now to be struggling to live 40 years from now. I hope that this inquiry can change this.
105. I just want it to stop. I want CYFS to stop treating these as isolated incidents. I want social workers to start being prosecuted; especially if a child dies by suicide in their care because they were negligent with notes etc. If children are harmed and CYFS had warning that the placement could be harmful, they should be prosecuted like a parent would be! But most of all I want them to stop treating children like little numbers and a hassle, and to care for them and build them up. No more abuse and scrimping on money and paperwork. Build our children into the amazing adults they can be, rather than sending them into the prison pipeline.

**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-A \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: 28/05/2021