

**Witness Name:** Paul Zentveld

**Statement No.:** WITN0341001

**Exhibits:** WITN0341002 – WITN0341050

**Dated:** 17.03.2021

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

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**WITNESS STATEMENT OF PAUL ZENTVELD**

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I, Paul Zentveld, will say as follows:

1. I have given previous statements about my time at Lake Alice.
  - a. A handwritten statement detailing my life up to and including 1975 (My Life Story, Paul Zentveld, c. 1975 [WITN0341002]).
  - b. An handwritten statement detailing my life in 1976 (Me, Paul Zentveld, c. 1976 [WITN0341003]).
  - c. A statement sworn before a Justice of the Peace on 11 January 2006 (Affidavit of Paul Zentveld, Paul Zentveld, 11 January 2006 [WITN0341004]).
  - d. A transcript of an interview with Victor Boyd and Steve Green of the Citizens Commission of Human Rights (CCHR), carried out in approximately mid-2004 (Paul Zentveld Interview with CCHR, 2004 [WITN0341005]).

2. There has also been a report about my time at Lake Alice, prepared by David Collins QC, for Roger Gallen, as part of the second round of settlements with Lake Alice claimants (Report on Paul Zentveld for Judge Gallen, David Collins QC [WITN0341006]).

### Early life

3. I was born GRO-C 1960. I grew up in a family of Mum and Dad, two younger sisters and a little brother on a farm in Rahutu in Taranaki. We moved to Palmerston North when I was 11.
4. At the farm in Rahutu I helped do the milking of the cows, fed out hay and drove the tractor. One day after it was wet, we went up the biggest hill on the farm and Mr Campbell, the boss, was driving the tractor and Dad and I were on the back tray filled with hay bales. We went half-way up and then it happened, the tractor fell back into a deep ditch and Dad and I fell off the back. I rolled down the hill, bleeding and bruised and the tractor came rolling backwards toward me. Luckily Mr Campbell turned it away. Dad was too busy to take me back home, so I walked. I got into bed and the local doctor came to see me. He said I ripped my cartilage on both legs.
5. In the weekends, Dad and I went fishing down the road at the boat race. After about two years we shifted to Pungarehu on a farm for about one season then we moved to Palmerston North into a brand new house in Milson.
6. Small arguments started to arise between Mum and Dad at home, mostly about money and not getting on with each other. Then one night when Dad came home from work another argument started between them. That night, Dad started packing all his things, said goodbye to us kids and left. Ever since that night I wanted Dad to come back home and to fight back. After that I got into trouble with police, smashing windows, theft from shops, stealing milk-bottle money and other things. I never got into trouble before he left. Mum got very angry and started to blame me

for Dad taking off. My school work started deteriorating and I nearly got kicked out for fighting and mucking around.

7. I was seen by a psychologist, Craig Jackson, when I was 11 years old after a complaint at school of me threatening another child and truanting (“Psychological Service Report” on Paul Zentveld, Department of Education, 13 November 1971 [WITN0341007]).
8. Mum got a job at the Royal Hotel and started bringing men home. I did not like that. Then a boarder moved in whose name was Alan Montieth — he helped me a lot. Mum brought another man home by the name of **GRO-B** and I quite liked him. After two years they got married. I tried to protest because I wanted my first Dad to come back, but I was just ignored.

#### **How I came to be in lake Alice**

9. I got into trouble with the police and a detective made friends with me. He said if I have got any more worries then I can go to him. Then I got a job in Palmerston North with a joker who lived down our street and this got me out of trouble. Then one Sunday I started to get headaches and bleeding noses. I spent a week in hospital and I got a series of tests including a lumber puncture which hurt a lot and I had to lie on my back for two days. They found nothing wrong with me. A report dated 13 November 1971 by a psychologist called C C Jackson from the Department of Education found that with two exceptions, I was otherwise a “personable, co-operative and friendly boy, with no typical features noted to either his classroom behaviour or academic record.” It was also noted that “the behaviour of concern to the school would appear to be episodic and not symptomatic of any deep seated personality disturbance (Psychological Service Report, [WITN0341007]).
10. Then they called in Victor Soeterik, a psychologist from a place called Manawaroa which is just down the road from the hospital. I walked with him over there. I didn’t tell him but I was sort of shocked when I was

going there because I knew (or thought) that Manawaroa was a place where 'mentals' went. I went into the building with him and attended a discussion group but I thought it was just a waste of time, I just sat there in a dream. I went home after the first group and every Thursday after school I had to go to Manawaroa for the group sessions for at least two months. I was put through psychological tests by Victor Soeterik (Soeterik report, Victor Soeterik, 1972 [WITN0341008]). I was 12 years old.

11. After that I stopped going to the group discussions and Manawaroa. I was still the same and was getting into trouble again, so Mum got in contact with Manawaroa and tried to talk to Victor Soeterik, but he wasn't there. Instead there was a psychiatrist whose name was Dr Selwyn Leeks and he looked at Mum's report and said that I should try a wee while at Lake Alice Hospital. I was stunned because everybody in Palmerston North knew that Lake Alice was a place for 'loonies and cracked-up people' and I never thought I would ever go to a place like that. Dr Leeks had a few interviews with Mum and GRO-B and me, then he sent me to Lake Alice Hospital for the first time on 22 March 1974. I was 13 years old (Letter from Dr S Leeks to Dr J. Brownlie, 20 March 1974 [WITN0341009]).

## **Admission to lake Alice**

### ***First admission***

12. I was 13 years old when I was first admitted to Lake Alice. The first day I was there, just after lunch, all these guys were sitting around in the day room. The nurses introduced me and showed me all around the place. All meals were provided, I thought it was like Sunday camp, the first week there, and then I started getting all drugged up. Some other kids had told me it was a loony bin. I went to discussion groups run by Victor Soeterik during the first week. I wouldn't talk so I started getting punished, so that was the start, because you're shy, you didn't know anyone, you're just trying to get the feel of the place.

13. Within a week I was given Paraldehyde for making insolent remarks toward the staff and misbehaving. In my medical records it notes that on 29 March 1974 I was heard to say that one staff member ought to have ECT and Paraldehyde (“Nursing Notes” Relating to Paul Zentveld”, Lake Alice staff, 1974-1976, p 1 [WITN03410010]).
14. I did not like it at Lake Alice. After two weeks there I started to give the wrong impression to the staff by playing up and for that I got ECT (Electro-Convulsive Therapy) and boy I hated that.
15. I recall waiting in the day room with other kids. One of the nurses, Steve Hunt, called me up. As I was unfamiliar with ECT, I willingly walked with him upstairs and down the corridor into the second room on the left. The room contained a long bed, window shutters and had a trolley on one side. I recall taking off my shoes and belt and laying down on the bed. Terry Conlan, **GRO-B-200** and Steve Hunt and **GRO-B-350** were in the room at the time, holding me down. I recall a kidney-shaped dish containing headphones which were soaking in liquid. This was on the trolley next to the bed. At this stage, Dr Leeks walked into the room, introduced himself and said he was going to give me *‘Some of this to teach me a lesson’* and to let me know what it was like. He also said that he wanted me to start talking during the group therapy sessions.
16. Terry applied gel to my temples. A hand towel, which was rolled in a sausage-like shape, was placed in my mouth. The hand towel was to gag me to ensure that I wouldn't bite my tongue. The experience of unmodified ECT was pure pain. After receiving ECT for the first time, my next recollection was waking up in bed with water running out of my mouth.
17. I was in there for two months and got sent home on 24 May 1974. My diagnosis was listed as “behavioral disorder” and “reactive depression” (“Admission Papers to Lake Alice” for Paul Zentveld, Lake Alice staff, 22 March 1974, p 1 [WITN0341011]).

18. I went back to school at Queen Elizabeth College. There was some interaction between the principal of Queen Elizabeth College, Ted Worthington, and Dr Leeks of Lake Alice as he wrote to him in August 1974 saying I wanted to see Dr Leeks about my relationship with my family. He also wrote that I was very hyperactive and a worry to the school (Memorandum from T Worthington to Dr S. Leeks, 5 August 1974 [WITN0341012]).
19. I hated the ECT at Lake Alice and I thought it was punishment for being naughty. I told the principal this and in my medical file there is a letter he wrote to Dr Leeks on 21 August 1974 saying that I was “frightened of ECT & [saw] it as a punishment for being naughty. [The principal] felt [Dr Leeks] should know this as [I was] to be re-admitted” to Lake Alice Hospital (Memorandum from T Worthington to Dr S Leeks, 21 August 1974 [WITN0341013]).

### ***Second admission***

20. My mother and I saw Dr Leeks at Manawaroa and he wanted my mother to send me back to Lake Alice. I was re-admitted on 21 August 1974 because my behaviour had become unmanageable at home (Admission Papers to Lake Alice, p 2 [WITN0341011]).
21. One of the issues I had was bed wetting due to a complication when circumcised. This however was never examined as a physical problem when I was at Lake Alice, instead it was seen as a psychological problem. Even my mother thought I was doing it on purpose (Nursing Notes, p 4 [WITN0341010]). In adulthood, this was diagnosed by a urologist as a physiological problem, and it is being managed as such.
22. I was given Paraldehyde as punishment for throwing apples on 26 August 1974 (Nursing Notes, p 4 [WITN0341010]).
23. I got ECT on 31 August 1974 for sticking the vacuum cleaner in a bucket of hot water when another patient wouldn't move it. I thought if it could

go in then it would come out and I could squirt it at some kids I never knew it could have given me a shock although it didn't, so I was lucky (Nursing Notes, p 5 [WITN0341010]).

24. On 14 September 1974, I filled my bed with pillows and towels and ran away from Lake Alice and flogged a bike from the village and biked to Palmerston North. I smashed into shops and then I stayed the night in an old abandoned truck carriage. On the third night, I jumped onto a freight train to Wellington, but I was scared there so I jumped onto another one, but this time to Masterton and that is where I got caught and brought back to Lake Alice five days later (Nursing Notes, p 5 [WITN0341010]). After I was returned to the hospital I was put in a shuttered room (Nursing Notes, p 6 [WITN0341010]). Dr Leeks then came to shock me. This instance of ECT is not recorded in the notes.
25. On 10 October 1974, I and another boy were causing a disruption when watching TV I was given electric shocks and placed in a seclusion room for the following day. My nursing notes recorded that both of us "got a 'blast', which seemed to pacify the situation" (Nursing Notes, p 6 [WITN0341010]).
26. I was given Paraldehyde on 18 October 1974 for "continual agitation and fooling in the bathroom" (Nursing Notes, p 7 [WITN0341010]).
27. I was given Paraldehyde on 22 October 1974 apparently to help me sleep and to "deflate" my "exuberant behaviour", according to the nursing notes (Nursing Notes, p 7 [WITN0341010]).
28. I was discharged on 19 December 1974. Dr Leeks considered I was doing better at the group discussions and that my nocturnal bed wetting had improved. I was sent home at this time (Letter from Dr. S Leeks to Dr.N. Dorrington, 20 December 1974 [WITN0341014]).
29. The cause of my bed wetting problem was correctly diagnosed by urologist Roger Chambers in 2001 where he put it down to a meatal

ulcer following circumcision when I was a baby.<sup>1</sup>

30. While I was in Lake Alice, I was going to group therapy with psychologist, Victor Soeterik, as this was part of the treatment under Dr Leeks.
31. I went to Dad's (my first father) place for a couple of weekends. It was Christmas time and I went to Auckland to pick up my Nana who came from Holland and we went to New Plymouth to my uncle's for the night. After that I went back to Palmerston North and on Christmas Day I had lunch at Dad's place. Then I went and visited Mum and she proposed different things, one was that I could come home only if I was alright and she promised that the kids would not nag or mingle or be a nuisance to me. So I went back to Dad's and picked up all my gear and went back to Mum for that night. The next day I went to the beach and the next day to some friends of Mum's, then back to Dad's and he brought me back to Lake Alice.

### ***Third admission***

32. I was admitted to Lake Alice for the third time on 8 January 1975 following a disruptive holiday with my family at Foxton Beach, where there were disputes with family members and fights between me and my younger siblings (Admission Papers to Lake Alice, p 3 [WITN0341011]);(Priscilla Leeks' Report on Paul Zentveld, 28 January 1975 [WITN0341015]).
33. On 14 February 1975, I was given unmodified ECT after I was accused of "*adopting a threatening attitude to a female staff member*" (GRO-B GRO-B). Dr Leeks saw me and gave me ECT that afternoon. Two days later on 16 February I was placed in a seclusion room for several nights after being caught fighting in the dormitory (Nursing Notes, p 14 [WITN0341010]).
34. Then a month later on 17 March I was transferred to Villa 11 and was

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<sup>1</sup> A meatus is a passage or opening leading to the interior of the body.



made to sleep in a seclusion room for several nights. The room was locked overnight. This was for causing disturbances in the dormitory (Nursing Notes, p 15 [WITN0341010]).

35. I escaped on the night of 1 April 1975 along with another boy. We were found the next day. This time they put me in Villa 8 and I was locked up for over a week. I was allowed into Villa 8 day room but only in my pyjamas. I was given kitchen duties for a while after that (Absconding from Lake Alice, Lake Alice staff, 2 April 1975 [WITN0341016]); (Nursing Notes, pp 16-17 [WITN0341010]).
36. I went back to Villa 11 and after some home leave I was discharged on 15 June 1975 (Letter from Dr. S Leeks to Dr.N. Dorrington, 25 June 1975 [WITN0341017]).

#### **Fourth admission**

37. I came back to Lake Alice for the fourth time on 24 July 1975. I was being accused of stealing \$20 and I ran away from home. Dr Leeks advised my mother to send me back to Lake Alice (Admission Papers to Lake Alice, p 4 [WITN0341011]);(Nursing Notes, p 20 [WITN0341010]).
38. It was this admission period that I was given a lot of ECT which was both modified and unmodified and given as punishment for my behaviour. The ECT notes from 1975 record 11 entries (ECT Notes 1975, Lake Alice staff, c. 1975 [WITN0341018]).
39. On 30 July 1975 I was given Paraldehyde for fighting (Nursing Notes, p 21 [WITN0341010]).
40. On 6 August 1975 the ECT started. This was given to me in Villa 6 and it was modified. It says in the Nursing Notes on that day that, "*He has become increasingly vague, inappropriate and paranoid. E.C.T. x 4 prescribed by Dr Leeks*" (Nursing Notes, p 21 [WITN0341010]). I was given ECT over the next twelve days and I developed headaches and chest complaints and was put on antibiotics.

41. During that time I was again locked in the seclusion and given Paraldehyde as punishment (Nursing Notes, pp 21-22 [WITN0341010]).
42. My behaviour did not change much despite the ECT almost every day. On 28 August 1975, my father (first father) was advised to call me less frequently. I had also asked that my mother stop visiting (Nursing Notes, p 23 [WITN0341010]).
43. On 30 August 1975 there is a nursing note saying I challenged one of the female nurses and I wouldn't do what she asked. The note says I was seen as potentially dangerous, "*as his behaviour is much more vindictive and impulsive since the completion of his recently completed ECT course.*" Dr Leeks then ordered unmodified ECT times two (Nursing Notes, p 24 [WITN0341010]).
44. After more reports about my behaviour Dr Leeks prescribed three more modified ECT sessions in Villa 6 from 22-26 September (Nursing Notes, p 25 [WITN0341010]).
45. I was also being heavily medicated and on 26 September 1975 there is a nursing note saying I am "*in a continual dream like state as if not quite with us*" (Nursing Notes, p 24 [WITN0341010]).
46. Again there was four more modified ECTs in October, from the 2nd to the 13th. Then on 15 October it is reported that I smile "*inappropriately and fatuously during group discussion although [my] behaviour has been greatly modified since completion of ECT.*" I was wising up to their games and I would sit there, say nothing and smile.
47. I would go outside and sit under the birch tree and read books to be safe. I would only come inside when I was called. When I visited the grounds of Lake Alice in the early 2000s the tree was still there with my initials etched into it.
48. On 19 November 1975 I had stopped taking my medication for three days because I was becoming scared I was becoming high. I was

persuaded to continue with the medication in 1976 (“Letter from Paul Zentveld to Parents”, 25 January 1976, pp 28-30 [WITN0341019]).

49. I went on home leave on 28 December 1975 over New Years and I went back into Lake Alice on 9 January 1976.

50. On 25 January 1976 I wrote to Mum, Dad [GRO-B] and the kids saying I wanted to work with Dad when it is all right with him, but would also look for another job in the meantime. I was still in Lake Alice when I wrote this letter and I included that Victor Soeterik said he had given up on me in the discussion group and that he is going to tell Dr Leeks to let me go home (Letter from Paul Zentveld to Parents [WITN0341019]).

51. I was put of medication and then discharged to my mother’s place at the end of the month — 29 January 1976 (Admission Papers to Lake Alice, p 4 [WITN0341011]).

52. I was on psychiatric medication while at home. I was doing okay as I found a job in a lolly factory and I started on a Monday. On the fifth day I forgot to take my pill and after morning tea I had a drug reaction so the boss took me to Manawaroa. At that time Dr Leeks was on holiday and the lady at the office didn’t know me and couldn’t do anything. I called Mum and [GRO-B] and they came and got and took me home. I had a cold shower and went to bed. The doctor came and put me on some special pills.

53. Then I got another job at AF Martins and everything was okay until I would get home. It was then the kids started playing up and I got uptight and I started belting them. Even Mum asked the other kids to stop it. They would stop, until she turned her back. One weekend Mum and [GRO-B] went out somewhere and it was getting near lunchtime so I went up to the shop and bought myself some chips and a pie and went back home and had it out of the way of the kids, but they were watching, which I didn’t know. When Mum and [GRO-B] came home [GRO-B] my sister, told Mum I bought a pie and some chips and wouldn’t share them. Mum got wild

and said, "Of course you couldn't share them with the kids now could you Paul." So I went around in a sulky mood as I thought it wasn't fair.

54. After about a week the other kids started fighting between themselves and I tried to stop them, but I was the one who finally got in trouble even though I wasn't fighting. They were spitting, biting, scratching, the works, so I finally kept out of it. Then GRO-B (my small brother) got so sick of it he took off and came back an hour later sulking, so he and I took off to the Sheraton's and went to the hay barn. GRO-B found some matches and some candles and we lit them to see what we were doing, then the farmer caught us. He said we were trying to burn the hay barn down, which we weren't, and we started arguing about which was his hay barn because we thought it was the Sheraton's, but it wasn't. After that ordeal, GRO-B and I went home and the next night when Mum and GRO-B were not yet back from work a policeman came and told us that he wasn't going to press charges, but he told us that it was the farmer's barn. When Mum and GRO-B came home GRO-B told Mum what happened and we told a lie saying the policeman was thanking us for saving the farmer's barn as some kids were going to burn it down. Mum rang the constable and he told her what really happened.
55. The next day Mum and I went to see Dr Leeks and I went back to Lake Alice Hospital. I made up my mind that if I got any ECT I would take off.
56. Despite efforts by my mother to either return me to Lake Alice or turn me over to Social Welfare, neither wanted me. The family situation was not much better, but clearly the treatment and punishment at Lake Alice made things worse for me, not better. I believe Dr Leeks did not want me back there.

#### ***Fifth admission to Lake Alice***

57. I was admitted to Lake Alice for a fifth time on 7 April 1976, aged 15 (Admission Papers to Lake Alice, p 5 [WITN03410011]). This time it was under Section 19 of the Mental Health Act as an involuntary patient for

aggressive and erratic behaviour at home. I was treated once again in the adolescent children's villa.

58. On 11 April 1976 I was given Paraldehyde for quarrelling and disturbing other patients, and also made to sleep in the seclusion room (Nursing Notes, p 32 [WITN0341010]).
59. My notes on 10 May 1976 record that I was "suspicious and paranoid" (Nursing Notes, p 34 [WITN0341010]). With all of this treatment using drugs and electric shocks as punishment for my behaviour I had a deep distrust of the staff at Lake Alice, but most especially of Dr Leeks and GRO-B. I saw them as working in conjunction and behind the treatment I was getting.
60. On 29 May 1976 I was given oral Paraldehyde for fighting with two other patients (Nursing Notes, p 34 [WITN0341010]).
61. I was put in the seclusion room again on the 3rd of June for fighting and oral Paraldehyde again for "boyish behaviour" on the 14th of June (Nursing Notes, p 34 [WITN0341010]).
62. In one of the nursing notes on 9 June 1976 it says: "*Still the same 'young Dixon' a smile like a Cheshire cat abounds, always thinks he's smart....*" (Nursing Notes, p 34 [WITN0341010]).
63. Then on 14 June I was given oral Paraldehyde for "boyish behaviour" (Nursing Notes, p 34 [WITN0341010]).
64. On 19 June 1976 I was organising to abscond with some other boys and got caught.
65. When I was asked by one of the staff why I wanted to get out, I said I was hacked off with being committed ("Nursing Notes", p 35 [WITN0341010]).
66. On 7 July 1976 I was given Largactil for being involved in a pillow fight

(Nursing Notes, p 36 [WITN0341010]).

### **Leaving Lake Alice**

67. When I got to sixteen years of age, I became an adult and was put into the adult villa under Dr Bill Carr. He was my life saver. They moved me from Villa 7 to Villa 8 on 16 July —the adults' ward (Nursing Notes, p 36 [WITN0341010]). That was great because within five months I was chucked out of there. After three months I was off my medication. Dr Carr said, *"We're throwing you out, you don't need to be here, there is nothing wrong with you, you shouldn't have even been in those other villas."* I was a committed patient, he saved my bacon, he got me out of there. No more shock treatment, cause Dr Leeks wasn't in control any more.
68. I worked on the store truck from 20 July for over a month. I found working to be beneficial for me and I kept out of trouble (Nursing Notes, pp 36-37 [WITN0341010]).
69. On 3 November 1976 I was discharged for the final time (Nursing Notes, p 37 [WITN0341010]).
70. Dr Carr said, *"What do you want to do Paul?"* I said, *"sky diving"*. Dr Carr said, *"Yeah, sweet"* and I was the best out of my class for that year, out of three jumps. So I achieved something, it was a thrill.
71. While I was in Lake Alice this final time I was on intramuscular Modecate, 50 milligrams every three weeks and Artane 1 milligram. I was treated in the villa with group psychotherapy with Victor Soeterik, schooling and ECT from Dr Leeks. This is all detailed in a letter to Dr I. McKay by M.L. Benson, Medical Officer, on 16 November 1976 (Letter from M Benson to Dr I McKay, 16 November 1976 [WITN0341020]).

### **General observations of Lake Alice**

***Bullying and abuse***

72. I was never sexually abused or badly bullied. There were a gang of four of us that hung out together and looked out for each other. I could stick up for myself. For a lot of the time I was there it seemed like about 80% of the boys were Maori. They had come from violent boys homes like Kohitere, Hokio and also Holdsworth. They could be pretty aggressive.
73. I understood that I was admired because I was picked on so often by staff for ECT but I showed the staff I didn't care. I was strong and stubborn. I remember once I was locked down for 2 weeks and just sat there glaring at the wall. I wouldn't talk. They tried to shock me out of it but each time I was put back in I just stared at the wall and wouldn't talk. In the end I recall Brian Stubbs coming in and bringing me back downstairs.
74. Being in the boy's villa was like being with a whole lot of boys who were stoned all the time. Everyone was on drugs of some sort. We wasted so many days being drugged out.

***Schooling***

75. I didn't learn anything at school. I remember two teachers called Anna Natusch and Sheila Daily. They were kind enough and mother figures.

**ECT**

76. At Lake Alice if you do something wrong, didn't do your school work or not talk in the groups —upstairs for shock treatment and that was the start. This was after the first couple of weeks. Everyone else was getting it as well. Every Friday, the boys would all be sitting in there, shaking, waiting for Leeks to come in through that door. "You, you!", then I found out what it was about, I was just as bad as them, wetting your pants while sitting on the seat, couldn't be helped.

77. The ECT sessions usually occurred on Friday's when Dr Leeks would come about 9 or 10am in his white kombi van and have discussions with the staff, while we were sitting in the day room in a big circle waiting and being scared in case your name was called to go upstairs.
78. Sometimes the Doctor would visit on a Wednesday if some other boy had played up.
79. The nurses would say, "*Oh, we'll do him, we'll do him and we'll do him.*" Dr Leeks would come in during the week or anytime. He was on call, he would come in for one thing, and suddenly there was two or three of the other boys gone upstairs at the same time, for things they had done, like they had smashed a plate or something.
80. Sometimes two or three of us would get called singularly and were taken to individual, single rooms where we were left on our own, looking at plywood white shutters over the windows with one-inch thick circles for the fingers, to wait our turn and listen to the screaming of other boys getting ECT knowing we were next.
81. We were all individual people in there but all felt sorry for each other on ECT days.
82. The ECT I got was mostly on the head, but I also got in on my knees and scrotum about three times.
83. I would be held down by three of the nursing staff, one on each knee and one holding my shoulders down. Usually Terry Conlan or Steve Hunt on my shoulders and two others for my knees.
84. I cannot recall exactly how many times I got ECT for what, but I got it at least 12 times for group therapy discussions to try to change my attitude and stubbornness.
85. Mischievous behaviour, not getting on with other people, having an argument with some of the other guys, not eating my meals, not talking



in a group, that's what started it. I wouldn't talk so I'd go upstairs for ECT, then I'd talk and get myself in trouble, then I got more ECT, that's when the willpower games started. Wetting the bed — ECT. You'd be on more drugs, so you'd be like a zombie, The first time it wasn't for mischevious behaviour, it was because I wouldn't talk.

86. You could get ECT for not talking in group discussions run by Victor Soeterik, or it was up to the head nurse. They would look through the notes for the week, like we would have mass dorm pillow fights because we were bored or something to do. It would make us all happy, but the night nurse would come up, sneak up, shine the torch, "*You, you, you!*" We would pretend to be asleep. "*Come with me!*" -- Paraldehyde. Or the next morning, Dr Leeks would come, "*You upstairs! You upstairs!*" Sometimes there would be nine or ten of us go up, in line just waiting, then they'd come down, get a couple more, sometimes there was big runs of them.
87. During the ECT Dr Leeks would pause and say something smart, like, "*Were going to change your way of thinking*" or "*You've been bad Paul, we've got to change your thoughts.*" Then he would turn the dial up. Then he would give you a bit more, it was always in threes, once, then stop for about, ten seconds, fifteen at the most then he'd turn it right up and push the button and that's it, you'd wake up, and no one was there, naked, and looking at the plywood shutters, over the windows, feel like shit, you'd want to get the bastards, any bastard that was there. You'd lie there for a couple of hours. Then the nurses would say, "Come on Paul, come on down and have tea," the staff would feel sorry for you, the first time, trying to cheer you up, biscuits and Milo.
88. One time I stopped talking for two weeks and refused to come out of my room. I ignored them. Nurse GRO-B-100 would try and get me out of it. He even slapped me once. But I was in my own world and I was focused on it, because that way I could block out all of this abuse that was happening.

89. I remember my father coming along once he had found out where I was. He came to see me. Nurse Dennis Hessiltine told me later. On a Sunday I was upstairs getting zapped. He was bawling his eyes out. *"I want to see my son."* And that was the authority in those days. *"Sorry, you'll have to come back another day."* He had made a special effort to come and see me. He was bawling his eyes out and he left. He wanted to do something and he couldn't and he could hear me screaming my father said later, years down the track. Nothing he could do.
90. When I was in Lake Alice I would write letters. One I wrote to Mr Corkran, one of the head nurses, saying I wanted to know what was going to happen to me because I was getting sick of asking and getting the same answers. I also wrote that I sometimes talked in the group therapy but I wasn't sure what to say which worried me because if I didn't talk I would get kicked out of group and might even get ECT (Letter from Paul Dixon to Mr Corkran, c. 1975 [WITN0341021]).
91. I wrote an angry letter to Dr Leeks about how I only wanted to stay with my first father and that he could give me as much ECT and security in Villa 8, but I would not change my mind (Letter from Paul Zentveld to Dr S Leeks [WITN0341022]).
92. How the ECT was administered was as follows:
- a. Step 1: They would lay me on the bed forcefully because I would struggle. I knew what was coming and I was petrified because it really hurt and I didn't want it, so I would struggle for my life.
  - b. Step 2: Three nurses would hold me down.
  - c. Step 3: Dr Leeks would come in and put on white gloves then the nurse at my shoulders would roll up a towelling flannel and force it into my mouth (across my mouth so I was biting it).
  - d. Step 4: Dr Leeks put jelly stuff on my temples and the first round of shock delivered.

- i. Stop, re-adjust dial upwards and second round delivered.
  - ii. Stop, re-adjust dial upwards and third round delivered.
  - iii. Stop and push a button and fourth round delivered and then unconscious.
  
- 93. When the first round is delivered the pain is unbearable. You could see black zigzags going through your head. Same with the second and third rounds, black zigzags still in your head, excruciating pain. In the third round your teeth were sore from the pressure of biting down and then the fourth round, bliss because you were unconscious.
  
- 94. ECT to the kneecaps was similar:
  - e. Step 1: Same as above except the jelly was applied to the sides of the knee.
  - f. Step 2: Re-adjust the dial upwards after the shocks.
  
  - g. Step 3: Jelly to the temple.
  - h. Step 4: Zap delivered.
  - i. Step 5: Bliss—unconscious.
  
- 95. ECT to the scrotum:
  - j. Step 1: Jelly to the scrotum—zapped.
  - k. Step 2: Jelly to the scrotum—zapped.
  - l. Step 3: Jelly to the temple—zapped.
  - m. Step 4: Bliss—unconscious.

96. I got this for bed wetting, apparently doing it on purpose, they said. I assume it occurred on a Friday but I cannot recall. I am able to remember this occasion because it was particularly painful and because I was required to wait for 10 to 15 minutes in the day room, during which time I was exceptionally scared. While I was being held down prior to receiving ECT, Dr Leeks informed me that the reason for the ECT was to combat my continuous wetting of the bed. Dr Leeks said, *'I am sick and tired of you wetting the bed so I am going to give you something to think about'*. I was exposed to three sets of ECT. It was first applied to my head, then my knees and then to my testicles. Prior to the ECT being applied to my testicles, I recall biting down hard on the towel. On this occasion, Terry and Steve were not in the room. I am reasonably certain that GRO-C was in the room but I cannot recall if Dennis Hessiltine was present.

### **Modified ECT**

97. Modified ECT was done over in the girls' villa. Modified ECT was quite different from unmodified ECT. It was the same routine each time. By this, I mean you would be nil by mouth. You would also receive an injection before the ECT was given. When you woke up you would be given Milo and biscuits. You would still have a splitting headache. You would be dragged back by two nurses because you couldn't walk properly. I was supposed to have two lots of 24 ECT treatments. During the first block of 24 treatments they stopped after I received 12 ECT treatments. I am not sure why they stopped. In the second lot of 24 treatments they stopped after 16 treatments. The Modified ECT was not pleasant but it was much better than the unmodified ECT. Dr Leeks never gave me modified ECT, I don't know who gave it to me, I was asleep.

### **I was given Paraldehyde for punishment**

98. A nurse would give the injection by putting their arm around my middle like a waistlock and bending me over to administer the injection to my

left or right buttock. The Paraldehyde was really painful and it made your breath smell like the bark of a tree and I can still recall the smell.

99. Dr Leeks never administered the Paraldehyde injections, the nurses did. I recall receiving Paraldehyde injections for pillow fights, throwing an apple, saying something cheeky to the nurses and when I ran away twice from Lake Alice.

100. While in Lake Alice I was administered Imipramine, Stelazine, Benzhexol, Chlorpromazine, Modecate, Artane to name some of the medications (Medication Chart for Paul Zentveld, Lake Alice staff [WITN0341023]).

101. We were used as target practice for pillow fighting. There would be three or four of us in the little medical room. Pants down, facing the wall. [GRO-B-100] would throw the Paraldehyde syringe like a dart, from about one metre away from us, into our buttocks. He would wait until he threw it, to keep us guessing when it would come. Then he would push us towards the wall so we couldn't move away from the needle as he pushed the syringe in.

### **Seclusion**

102. I was put into seclusion many times. The rooms were about three metres square with a thin mattress and no blankets. I often spent the night in these rooms. They had these special plywood shutters with small holes in them on the windows so as you couldn't see out. The room was very dark when the lights were turned out. There are photos of the room taken on a visit to Lake Alice in the early 2000s (Lake Alice Seclusion Room Photos [WITN0341024]).

### **School at Lake Alice**

103. I went to the Lake Alice school and they issued school reports each term (School Report for Paul Zentveld, 9 May 1975 [WITN0341025]; School Report for Paul Zentveld, 22 August 1975 [WITN0341026]).

104. I don't think I learnt much, except my teacher was Sheila Dailey and I had a crush on her. I also had Anna Natusch as a teacher.
105. I did start to read more which is noted in the 19 December 1975 school report. I also wrote on this report that I couldn't do much as the ECT affected me a lot and the drugs I was on (School Report for Paul Zentveld, 19 December 1975 [WITN0341027]).

### **Life after Lake Alice**

106. After my final discharge from Lake Alice in November 1976 I was transferred to Fergusson House, a half-way house in Palmerston North.
107. I was given a final psychiatric assessment by another Lake Alice Hospital psychiatrist, T. Siriwardena, on 14 July 1977. From his assessment which was in my medical file, he considered my attitude of suspicion and distrust was a paranoid schizophrenic condition and required compulsory psychiatric treatment (Psychological Report for Paul Zentveld by Dr. Siriwardena, 15 July 1977 [WITN0341028]). He failed to see that my deep-seated issues of distrust were largely born out of the psychiatric treatment and abuse I received at Lake Alice Hospital.
108. I left for Australia to start again where I spent eight months. I got mixed up with the wrong people which resulted in conflicts with the criminal justice system there and I was deported back to New Zealand.
109. I got back to Palmerston North but then flew to Nelson where I stayed with the Salvation Army emergency lodge. They taught me things I didn't know, such as personal hygiene. They also got me a job unloading fish at Sealords.

### **Employment**

110. While I was unloading fish from a fishing boat I was offered work on a fishing boat. I did that for two years. I was drinking at that time. Then,

with encouragement, I cleaned up and went into schooling and with great difficulty I managed to pass exams, getting my skipper's ticket and a second-class diesel engineer's ticket. I have been involved in commercial fishing ever since. For the last 11 years I have been employed as a skipper for a fishing company doing charter cruises in the Hauraki Gulf. I have a lot to thank the Salvation Army for. I don't know where I would be if they hadn't got me working in that industry. It gave me confidence and the start I needed.

111. I also had a motor business in Glendene for a while.

### ***Relationships***

112. I have had two children from separate relationships and have a five-year-old grandchild. I am on my own now. I lost my sibling relationships after Lake Alice. No-one believed what it had been like for me. It was better not to be around them. I have always found it very hard to be intimate in a relationship.

### ***Health***

113. I was taking 16 Nurofen tablets per day to address migraines and blinding headaches. I attribute this to the ECT I got while at Lake Alice Hospital.

114. I saw a psychiatrist in 2002 about my headaches. It was after the activity around Lake Alice case came up. She put me on a drug which I took for a day but after I started hallucinating on it so I stopped. I won't take drugs anymore and I won't ever seek psychiatric treatment again. I have never had counselling, apart from with that psychiatrist.

115. I still have migraines frequently. I have learned to live with the pain. I also have explosions in my head, like a hand grenade going off. This can happen daytime or night time and happens when I am being asked or trying to remember things about Lake Alice. I have to shake my head to get it back to normal. I suffer panic attacks occasionally. I control the

bed wetting by not drinking anything in the evening and no coffee. My body aches all the time and I have cramping in my joints.

### **Complaints and compensation**

116. In 2001, I was in Auckland and I heard about the Grant Cameron class action suit on the radio. I found his number and called his office but I was told I was two weeks too late. The person on the phone advised me to get my medical files, which I did. I then called Martin Johnson of the NZ Herald who ran stories about other Lake Alice claimants. Then Annette King announced there will be a second round. Dr David Collins QC was assigned and he got in touch with me. I sent him my medical file and he said he was up all night reading it. That was how the second round started.
117. Months later I got a visit from David Collins and Judge Gallen when they interviewed me. Initially I was told by David Collins that I would be receiving \$114,912.28 as a payout, which I initially agreed to (Letter of Apology from the Prime Minister to Paul Zentveld, Rt Hon. Helen Clark, 2002 [**WITN0341029**]).
118. I was then later informed that the amount I would be receiving would be \$80,438.60 as there was to be around \$34,000 taken off for legal fees.
119. If I had been told that 30 per cent of any determination that I received would be taken from the final determination amount, I would not have agreed to sign the Agreements set in front of me by the Crown. I thought we were getting free legal advice. It was for this reason I decided to contest this decision with a legal suit which was filed in 2002 (Rebuttal Brief of Evidence of Paul Zentveld, 15 December 2005 [**WITN0341030**]).
120. I attended the Court hearings for this case in Wellington in mid-December 2005 and was accompanied by the representative of the Citizens Commission on Human Rights (**CCHR**), Steve Green whom I had met earlier along with Victor Boyd who was their researcher.



121. I won this case and the sum of the additional \$34,561.40 was awarded to me by Judge Broadmore on 11 September 2006 after the government abandoned the appeal (Judgment of Judge T Broadmore for Zentveld v Attorney-General, 11 September 2006 [WITN0341031]; Mistreatment of Lake Alice patients continues, National Business Review, 13 July 2007 [WITN0341032]). Judge Broadmore noted that that he did not agree that what I ultimately received was objectively fair, and that the government's decision to deduct the c. 30 per cent amount was "a political decision" rather than a "principled or evidence-based one" (at [115]). The Judge also said that "I record Sir Rodney's comment that the plaintiff's experiences in the unit were amongst the worst he had encountered". The government then went on to award all of the second round claimants the additional 30 per cent they had initially deducted from their determination by virtue of this legal case.

122. What I did not know at the time, but know now that Dr David Collins QC, was a partner of the legal firm Rainey Collins Wright and Co who were engaged by Dr Leeks in 1994 to represent him a case where a former patient was suing him for his treatment at Lake Alice (Judgment of Durie J for Zentveld v Leeks & Ors, 4 August 1999 [WITN0341033]). Dr Collins resigned from his partnership in the firm in 1995. He was appointed as the Solicitor General from 2006 to 2012 and he is now a judge of the Appeal Court of New Zealand. This strikes me as a conflict of interest and that he should not have been the lawyer representing the Lake Alice claimants in the second round, and that he was the Solicitor General when the Police were conducting an investigation into the abuses at Lake Alice and found no case to answer for.

### **Complaint to the Medical Practitioners Board of Victoria**

123. Dr Leeks was still practising in Victoria, Australia, and had been doing so ever since he left New Zealand in 1978. Therefore I filed a complaint along with other Lake Alice victims to the Medical Practitioners Board of

Victoria (MPBV) in Australia in 2003 urging them to investigate Dr Leeks and his practice at Lake Alice Hospital in the 1970s. By this time, I was working with CCHR as they had been working on the Lake Alice issue since 1976 (New Probe Looks into Lake Alice, New Zealand Herald, 3 August 2005 [WITN0341034]).

124. The Medical Board of Victoria took three years to do their investigation and gathering evidence and in 2006 the Board prepared for a formal hearing. They had 39 allegations against Dr Leeks of infamous conduct in a professional respect when practising at Lake Alice in the 1970s. On the eve of the date set for the formal hearing (16 July 2006), Dr Leeks resigned all forms of practice and the Board accepted this and therefore the hearing never took place. Their reasoning was that they had no jurisdiction over a resigned practitioner and by Dr Leeks resigning the public were protected from him (Letter from the Medical Practitioners Board to Paul Zentveld, 20 July 2006 [WITN0341035]).

#### **Accident Compensation Commission (ACC) claim**

125. The government talked about a Wellness package for the victims of Lake Alice ill-treatment, but nothing happened. I, and some others, applied for Accident Compensation due to the ongoing effects of our medical mistreatment and torturous treatment at Lake Alice.
126. I filed a claim in 2005 along with evidence of the ill-treatment and abuse that happened at Lake Alice. By 2006 it was decided that the claim was not valid and that ACC would not be covering any compensation for the psychological and physical injuries I suffered as a consequence of the Lake Alice psychiatric abuse (Letter from ACC to Paul Zentveld, 8 February 2006 [WITN0341036]).
127. In the process of their evaluation of my case ACC engaged two psychiatrists to look at what happened. They had access to my medical records and my statements as well as the government apology and other documents. GRO-C report of 12 December 2005 mentions

that use of unmodified ECT because in some countries it is cheaper than medication and still used a lot in India and Thailand (Psychological Report of Dr. **GRO-C** Psych to ACC, 12 December 2005, pp 8-9 [WITN0341037]). This is similar to Dr Leeks explanation on his use of unmodified ECT in the Case of the Nuiean Boy Inquiry in 1977. At no point in her report did she acknowledge that the ECT and the drugs I was given was a form of punishment and ill and degrading treatment. I believe that if she did, she would have to acknowledge the psychological damage this inflicted.

128. Dr A.D. Macleod, Consultant Psychiatrist, also wrote an opinion, but his was much briefer than **GRO-C**. He did acknowledge that ill-treatment occurred at Lake Alice but not the potential psychological damage (Psychological Report of Dr. A Macleod Psych to ACC, 4 January 2006 [WITN0341038]).

*Victor Soeterik's ACC report*

129. What really added insult to injury was that psychologist Victor Soeterik provided the first report to ACC on 18 October 2005, saying he wasn't really involved in either my care or the adolescents in general (Report from Dr. V Soeterik to ACC, 18 October 2005, p 2 [WITN0341039]). The truth is that Victor Soeterik was very involved in my care, before I went into Lake Alice with his group therapy ("Soeterik Report" [WITN0341008]) and this continued inside the Unit, every week. His group sessions were a big part of the treatment and if we did not perform well and talk this could lead to ECT and drugs, which Victor Soeterik knew full well.
130. In his letter he says the records of the patients in the Children's Unit have largely been destroyed, but this is also not true as there are many former patients who do have their records and these show the level of abuse and ill-treatment that happened there. I believe Victor Soeterik wrote this so as to encourage people at ACC and others to not go looking for such records and therefore not find out what happened there.

131. He also wrote that as far as he can recollect, *“Dr Leeks from time to time administered unmodified ECT treatment to adolescents...” [and] “Nursing staff at Lake Alice were also at times authorised to use paraldehyde injections for poorly controlled adolescents and adult patients.”* But this downplays the severity of what happened there and the regime of abuse and torture on us kids. The ECT wasn't time to time, it was dished out every week and the same with the Paraldehyde, which you could get any day of the week.
132. Patricia Leeks—wife of Dr Selwyn Leeks—also wrote to ACC regarding my claim. In her letter dated 27 October 2005, she wrote how her work at Lake Alice was in no way connected with our treatment. *“I was at that time a therapist”* and *“I do not remember Paul very well...”* (Letter from Priscilla Leeks to ACC, 17 October 2005 [WITN0341040]).
133. This was wrong, Patricia Leeks was at the Children's Unit all the time and she would be sympathetic to us kids. She would talk to us and she exactly knew what was going on because we would tell her (Priscilla Leeks Report on Paul Zentveld [WITN0341015]).
134. With these reports to ACC by people who were part of the abuse at Lake Alice (if only by virtue of knowing about it and not stopping it) and two people from the same profession as Dr Leeks, it is little wonder my ACC claim was not approved. They did not want to open that floodgate door because to do so would be to admit that the psychiatric treatment at Lake Alice, with drugs and ECT, caused lasting damage.
135. I understood that Ruth Dyson, ACC Minister, reviewed the ACC decision and used the Victor Soeterik report as the reason why she upheld their decision.

### **2009 Mr Zentveld's complaint to New Zealand Police**

136. With the Medical Practitioners Board of Victoria investigation now closed the only remaining course of action was to file a criminal complaint with

the New Zealand Police. They were already investigating complaints laid by CCHR and Grant Cameron on behalf of 41 Lake Alice victims since 2002. CCHR helped compile my complaint which was filed in 2009. Steve Green of CCHR and I visited Detective Superintendent Malcolm Burgess and handed him the complaint (Police Job Sheet, [WITN0341041]).

137. To assist Detective Burgess with his investigation I informed him about the Lake Alice staff statements that were obtained by the Crown Law Office for the Cameron class action suit. He was not aware of these. There were 36 statements and through my MP Tau Henare we put pressure on Chris Finlayson, Attorney General, to release them to the Police. However, they only released six of them and maintained the rest were confidential under legal privilege (Police finally get hospital child-abuse papers, New Zealand Herald, 1 November 2009 [WITN0341042]).

138. Later in 2009 the Police concluded their investigation saying they could not mount a criminal prosecution which might be successful. Police gave factors of the time since the Lake Alice events took place, the unavailability of witnesses and the likelihood of a defence where there has already been investigations, as reasons not to mount a prosecution.

139. In 2015 I applied to the Police for a copy of their report of the investigation regarding my complaint of ill treatment and torture. This report included how the Police considered a charge could be considered in relation to an occasion when Ectonus therapy was used on me in 1974 (Paul Zentveld Synopsis (redacted) [WITN0341043]). I understand ectonus therapy refers to the use of the ECT machine to give the person electric shocks without the usual convulsions associated with full ECT.

140. Despite this finding the Police still did not prosecute.

141. After the decision by Detective Malcolm Burgess I was interviewed on Radio NZ on 30 March 2010. In the interview I said this was good

because we could now take the case to United Nations. **GRO-C**  
 the Wellington lawyer, who picked up some of the Lake Alice survivors  
 in the mid-1990s, also came on the same radio show. His position was  
 the Police were correct in not prosecuting and doubted the United  
 Nations could do anything further. He thought the Lake Alice victims  
 should be happy with the progress they have made and should move  
 on.<sup>2</sup> **GRO-C**

### **I sought a correction to my medical file**

142. In 2014 I laid a complaint with the Whanganui District Health Board concerning a mental illness diagnosis which had been made when I was 13-years old and admitted to Lake Alice Hospital's Child and Adolescent Unit. I sought a correction of information about the flawed diagnosis when I was admitted to the Unit. This was based on the reports by Sir Rodney Gallen and Professor Walter who had conducted investigations into the treatment of the children at Lake Alice and found that many of us were not actually mentally ill.
143. The Whanganui District Health Board held all of the mental health records from the Adolescent Unit. They refused to investigate the matter but agreed to accept a written correction from me claiming Point 7 of the Health Information Code would be complied with. This meant I could submit a statement of correction. Theoretically the statement would be read and my views taken into consideration by any authorised person reading the file.
144. CCHR helped me put together the documents and statements for my correction which included ten or so reports from the Government, the independent medical expert report by Professor Walter, the Government Apology, and it was reiterated through the correspondence from CCHR that the information was not merely my views on the matter, but those of the Government, medical experts and other authorities. It was highlighted that Dr Leeks, who made the diagnosis, considered the children and adolescents in

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/ninetonoon/audio/2252935/lake-alice-psychiatric-home>

his care were “murderers, rapists and liars” and that he has shown no remorse for what happened at Lake Alice then or since.

145. The Whanganui DHB accepted these submissions and that no psychiatrist or doctor can use his diagnosis from Lake Alice to support the making of any new mental illness diagnosis of members of my family.

### **United Nations**

146. Steve Green, the director of CCHR had been making submissions about the Lake Alice Child and Adolescent Unit to the United Nations Committee Against Torture (UNCAT) in 2009 and 2012. In 2015 we decided we would go to Geneva and attend the next UNCAT Periodic Review where New Zealand would be scrutinised. This was the right time to go as the next review was four years later and that would have been too late. We did some fund raising and even did a fundraising fishing trip on my boat. CCHR provided the remaining funds. Then we flew to Geneva and attended the UNCAT sessions. Steve and I held two private sessions with the Committee and I got to tell my story. I was thanked for turning up. One of the Committee members said many victims of torture are dead and we do not get to talk to them, so we appreciate you attending (UN Photos, 2015 [WITN0341044]).

147. Una Jagose, the Crown Solicitor was there representing the New Zealand Government. At one point she said the New Zealand Police do not shoot people, they just taser them. I stood up and shook my head in disapproval so as she and others in the room would notice. Then the spokesperson from the Prime Minister’s office took over apologising that Una Jagose didn’t have it quite right.

148. While we were there we got to meet and talk with Felice Gaer who was, and is, a key person on the Committee Against Torture. She was very interested in our case.

149. The UN Committee Against Torture in its 2015 Concluding Observations, that the New Zealand Government had *“failed to investigate or hold any individual accountable for the nearly 200 allegations of torture and ill-treatment against minors at Lake Alice”* and thus reiterated its prior recommendation to conduct a prompt, impartial and thorough investigation and prosecute persons suspected of ill-treatment (United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment: Concluding observations on the sixth periodic report of New Zealand; CAT C NZL CO 6, 23 January 2020, para 15 [WITN0341045]).

### **The formal complaint to the United Nations Committee Against Torture**

150. By 2017 there was no independent investigation of what happened at Lake Alice and it did not look like the Government was ever going to do one. So I got with Victor Boyd the researcher for the Citizens Commission on Human Rights and we looked at the possibility of putting in a formal complaint to the United Nations Committee Against Torture. In order for them to accept such a complaint we had to have done everything we could to exhaust all of the legal remedies within the country. We figured this had been done so Victor put together the research and the documents and along with the new CCHR Director, Mike Ferriss, the formal complaint was filed on 10 July 2017, stating that the treatments at Lake Alice were degrading and torturous and that the NZ Government had failed to properly investigate these (Complaint to CCHR from Paul Zentveld [WITN0341046]).

151. The New Zealand government responded to the complaint trying wriggle out of their responsibility to properly investigate what occurred at Lake Alice, even claiming there was not a public interest to do so (NZ government response to complaint, para 111 [WITN0341047]).

152. CCHR responded showing how the NZ Government were really dodging the issue by offering up lots of information but no substance. No investigation had taken place and no-one had been held accountable for



the ill-treatment and torture of the children and under the Convention Against Torture they were obligated to (CCHR reply to NZ government [WITN0341048]).

153. The UN Committee Against Torture upheld our complaint and we were sent the findings on 29 December 2019. Their 16-page decision vindicated everything we had been claiming as victims of torture and abuse in a psychiatric hospital and that the Government acted irresponsibly in not properly investigating what happened at Lake Alice and therefore in breach of its obligations under Articles 12, 13 and 14 of the Convention and directed the NZ Government to remedy the breach (United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment: Decision adopted by the Committee under article 22 of the Convention concerning communication No. 852/2017 [WITN0341049]).

154. There was a flurry of media that followed and new interviews with me. It really seemed that we had broken through and something different was going to happen.

155. No-one from the government contacted me though, they were deadly silent. I don't think they saw it coming. A lot of supporters did however call and message me, giving their congratulations and saying *really well done!*

156. The Royal Commission said they would be doing a case study of Lake Alice as part of their inquiry into Abuse in Care and the NZ Police said they are opening up a new investigation into Dr Leeks.

### **What I want from Royal Commission**

157. With over 40 years of stonewalling and white washing, and millions of dollars in defence the NZ government needs to show some heart and tell the truth and do what the UN Committee Against Torture have urged and to uphold the law.

158. The gutless ambitions of Crown Law who work for the Government with seemingly unlimited resources should fall into line with what this Commission recommends and to support the victims of State abuse and not to work with conflicts of interest to advantage the State.

159. They should not be working in the best interests of the Government but to allow survivors who have little or no resources to obtain proper redress and to make it possible to prosecute those people responsible for the abuse. The first step is not discarding the claims of abuse, but to really investigate them.

160. How much blood has to be spilled before real justice can be obtained. Certainly 40 years is too long and people have died in the process, some directly relating to the abuse they received. Their blood is on the Government's hands. So, do the right thing and tell the truth.

### **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.

Name: Paul Zentveld

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: 17 March 2021

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