

**ABUSE IN CARE ROYAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY  
FOSTER CARE INQUIRY HEARING**

**Under** The Inquiries Act 2013

**In the matter of** The Royal Commission of Inquiry into Historical Abuse in State Care and in the Care of Faith-based Institutions

**Royal Commission:** Judge Coral Shaw (Chair)  
Ali'imua Sandra Alofivae  
Dr Anaru Erueti

**Counsel:** Mr Simon Mount QC, Ms Kerryn Beaton QC, Dr Allan Cooke  
and Ms Aroha Fletcher for the Royal Commission  
Ms Rachael Schmidt-McCleave, Ms Julia White and  
Mr Max Clarke-Parker for the Crown

**Venue:** Level 2  
Abuse in Care Royal Commission of Inquiry  
414 Khyber Pass Road  
AUCKLAND

**Date:** 14 June 2022

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**TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS**

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**Adjournment from 10.58 am to 11.03 am**

33 **CHAIR:** Tēnā koe.

34 A. Mōrena.

1 **Q.** Tēnei te mihi ki a koe.

2 **A.** Can you speak English?

3 **Q.** I can. I can say welcome to you?

4 **A.** Yes, you do.

5 **Q.** Thank you for coming, we really appreciate it. I'm going to leave it to Ms Fletcher now to  
6 talk to you, but we'll do the affirmation first. Has somebody talked to you about taking an  
7 affirmation?

8 **A.** What's that?

9 **Q.** It means promising the tell the truth.

10 **A.** Yes.

11 **Q.** So, if I just say this out to you can you listen and –

12 **A.** Yes.

13 **MR EC (Affirmed)**

14 **QUESTIONING BY MS FLETCHER:** Hello Mr EC.

15 **A.** Hi.

16 **Q.** Just a few housekeeping things, we've got to remember that we've got to speak slowly a bit  
17 so the sign language interpreter can say her bit, and if you need any breaks, you just let us  
18 you know, we'll take a pause at any point.

19 **A.** Okay.

20 **Q.** Okay? To help the Commission and those listening in we thought it might be good to  
21 understand little bit about your life prior to the time you were in care, okay?

22 **A.** Yeah.

23 **Q.** In your statement you note that you don't know much about mum or dad, or the time you  
24 were removed from your family; is that correct?

25 **A.** Right.

26 **Q.** You know that mum is from King Country and whakapapas to Ngāti Maniapoto; is that  
27 correct?

28 **A.** Yes.

29 **Q.** For dad, dads from Waitangi up north and whakapapas to Ngāti Kurī?

30 **A.** Yes.

31 **Q.** How many siblings do you have?

32 **A.** Three left.

33 **Q.** But you're one of the lucky few that has quite a lot of kids, you've got great grandmokos?

34 **A.** Yes.

- 1 **Q.** And you've got 10 mokos?
- 2 **A.** Yes.
- 3 **Q.** And 14 kids?
- 4 **A.** Yes.
- 5 **Q.** So, a big whānau eh?
- 6 **A.** Yeah.
- 7 **Q.** Another important point to note for the Commissioners that's coming out of your statement  
8 is that the State's intervention and presence in your life began when you were a pēpē, when  
9 you were only a baby and that journey ended when you were around 17 or 18 years old  
10 when you were in Mt Eden Prison; is that correct?
- 11 **A.** Yeah.
- 12 **Q.** So, we'll get into it, but in between being a pēpē and your time in Mt Eden Prison you went  
13 in about 15 places before the age of 18 years old; is that correct?
- 14 **A.** Yeah, that's correct.
- 15 **Q.** So, let's talk about your whāngai parents. It sounds like your first placement happened  
16 when you were removed from your parents and your siblings when you were quite young;  
17 is that correct?
- 18 **A.** Yeah.
- 19 **Q.** In your statement you note that you met your father late in life and he told you that he and  
20 your mum couldn't look after you, so the Department of Social Welfare got involved?
- 21 **A.** Yes.
- 22 **Q.** They didn't have the money or means to fight the DSW?
- 23 **A.** Right.
- 24 **Q.** So, when you were quite young, you were whāngai'd to an older couple; is that correct?
- 25 **A.** Correct.
- 26 **Q.** And it was just you and your siblings stayed at home?
- 27 **A.** I was the only one whāngai'd to them.
- 28 **Q.** You were there until you were about five years old?
- 29 **A.** Yes.
- 30 **Q.** Were you still able to maintain a connection with your siblings at the time?
- 31 **A.** No. Until a few years later.
- 32 **Q.** In your statement you recall them speaking te reo Māori and you could understand what  
33 was being said but you couldn't quite kōrero Māori to them?
- 34 **A.** That's right.

- 1 **Q.** Do you have any happy memories about your time with your whāngai parents?
- 2 **A.** Not really, just gardening and -not- really.
- 3 **Q.** Did you feel safe when you were there?
- 4 **A.** Yes.
- 5 **Q.** In your statement you note that your time with your whāngai parents came to an end when  
6 your whāngai father died; is that correct?
- 7 **A.** Yes.
- 8 **Q.** And you helped bury him at the time?
- 9 **A.** Yes.
- 10 **Q.** You were only five?
- 11 **A.** Yes.
- 12 **Q.** When your whāngai father died, rather than keep you with your whāngai mum, or try and  
13 help your family sort out their finances, you were then placed into care; is that correct?
- 14 **A.** Yes.
- 15 **Q.** So, we've got Mr EC when he's five years old, he gets removed from his whāngai mum and  
16 is placed on a train in Taumarunui. In your statement you say that the siblings were on the  
17 train with you, but everyone was really young, there was no adults about. Did anyone tell  
18 you what was happening when you were on the train?
- 19 **A.** No. No.
- 20 **Q.** Can you recall anything of how you felt during that time?
- 21 **A.** I was just happy I was on a train for a ride. I didn't know what was going, where I was  
22 going.
- 23 **Q.** During your train journey to Auckland when you were enjoying yourself, an adult, you  
24 come across an adult, a social worker. That social worker introduces you to a Pākehā boy?
- 25 **A.** Yes.
- 26 **Q.** Who was that Pākehā boy?
- 27 **A.** Don't know, but he had the same name as me.
- 28 **Q.** Did the social worker tell you that was your whānau?
- 29 **A.** Yes, he said it was my brother.
- 30 **Q.** There's something else the social worker then did, did they just change your name?
- 31 **A.** They changed my name because they didn't want two people with the same family with the  
32 same name, so they decided to change my name.
- 33 **Q.** Did you have any involvement in that decision-making or was it just done?
- 34 **A.** No, I just had to take it.

- 1 **Q.** So, you were on your way to Auckland, you make it to out south and your first place in a  
2 home in Otara; is that correct?
- 3 **A.** Yes.
- 4 **Q.** And you spent some time at Mayfair Primary School?
- 5 **A.** Yes.
- 6 **Q.** Can you recall how long were there for?
- 7 **A.** Not too long, couple of months, maybe a year, it wasn't very long.
- 8 **Q.** Were your siblings there with you at the time?
- 9 **A.** No.
- 10 **Q.** You were already separated from your siblings?
- 11 **A.** Yes.
- 12 **Q.** You then went to what we're going to call the Māngere family home, you were there from  
13 about ages five to seven, eh?
- 14 **A.** Yes.
- 15 **Q.** Were any of your siblings there at that home?
- 16 **A.** Yes, the one that had the same name as me.
- 17 **Q.** The little Pākehā boy?
- 18 **A.** Yes.
- 19 **Q.** The one that you just met on the train?
- 20 **A.** Yes.
- 21 **Q.** Were there any other foster children present?
- 22 **A.** One, a little girl.
- 23 **Q.** During this time, you experienced some pretty horrific abuse from those caregivers. Did  
24 you want to tell us about some of the actions that you were subject to when you were there?  
25 It's your choice, if you don't want to, it's okay.
- 26 **A.** Yeah no, I'll say something. My first night was good, I thought they loved me. They  
27 showed it. The second night was good. The third night turned to shit. I started getting  
28 beatings and all sorts. Couldn't eat, I was told went to eat and got punched in the head,  
29 "who told you to F'n have a feed", that sort of shit. And I thought they loved me, and it just  
30 turned to shit, got worse and worse and worse.
- 31 **Q.** When you say it got worse and worse and worse?
- 32 **A.** It got from being a punch in the head to being tied up on the table, fed in a dog bowl,  
33 thrown around the house.

- 1 **Q.** There's one point in your statement where you can recall that the children would blame you  
2 for things that you didn't do?
- 3 **A.** Yeah, there was a lot of stealing going on in the house and I was getting blamed for it. The  
4 foster father was a truck driver, and he had a little cash tin full of money and his kids used  
5 to go and pinch it and used to say I used to do it. That was every day. I'd get a hiding for  
6 it. Went beyond hidings. It was like the man was having an orgasm.
- 7 **Q.** One of the hidings was so severe he did something to your thumbs that now affects you  
8 today?
- 9 **A.** Yeah, I got my thumbs bent right back. I've got arthritis now, they kill me. My fingers  
10 bent back. It's just, –just got the hidings from hell.
- 11 **Q.** The hidings from hell that you refer to, it's also,– you got severe head injuries from that,  
12 eh?
- 13 **A.** Yeah.
- 14 **Q.** That's affected –
- 15 **A.** Yes.
- 16 **Q.** It's affected your way of living even now, eh?
- 17 **A.** Yeah. I don't know whether I'm Arthur or Martha.
- 18 **Q.** You had a social worker, Mr Thompson?
- 19 **A.** Mr Thompson, yeah.
- 20 **Q.** In your statement you say that he would visit you every fortnight while you were at the  
21 Māngere family home. Can you recall that?
- 22 **A.** Yes.
- 23 **Q.** The severe beatings that you were getting at Māngere family home, you actually tried to  
24 talk to Mr Thompson about that?
- 25 **A.** Yes.
- 26 **Q.** Do you want to share a little bit about what you tried to do?
- 27 **A.** He used to come and visit me a lot and ask if I was all right and I used to tell him about my  
28 beatings and everything, and my caregivers would be in the room with us and I used to tell  
29 them this and this, but when the Social Welfare officer left, I got the hua of a hiding for  
30 reporting it.
- 31 **Q.** The caregiver at the time, in your statement you're saying he used to make a lot of excuses  
32 even though there were marks on your body?
- 33 **A.** Yeah. He used to tell the welfare I got into fights with his own children, got into accidents,  
34 falling off trees and all that, but a lot of crap.

- 1 **Q.** And every time the social worker would believe your caregiver rather than you?
- 2 **A.** Yes.
- 3 **Q.** There's another bit you made in your statement where you said that the male caregiver  
4 started to catch on that you were the one making the complaints to the social worker, and he  
5 started to beat you to try and make sure you wouldn't complain; is that correct?
- 6 **A.** Yes.
- 7 **Q.** Did you stop complaining because you knew it wouldn't work?
- 8 **A.** I stopped complaining, yeah, because he got a bit carried away beating me up, I just had  
9 enough, so I shut my mouth and kept quiet. I used to tell the Social Welfare officer I got  
10 into a fight, schoolteachers used to tell the welfare I got into fights, bullshit.
- 11 **Q.** When you were there and you didn't have a person you could report to, the abuse to, the  
12 social worker because he didn't believe you, did the caregivers allow you to call your  
13 whāngai mum or anyone that you might have been connected to?
- 14 **A.** No.
- 15 **Q.** So, you were there by yourself isolated?
- 16 **A.** Yes.
- 17 **Q.** The only family you knew was the Pākehā boy you met on the train?
- 18 **A.** Yes.
- 19 **Q.** At the Māngere family home your caregivers would also send you to their relatives and the  
20 abuse still continued. Can you recall that?
- 21 **A.** Yes.
- 22 **Q.** In your statement you say that the relatives would beat you with a stick until it broke?
- 23 **A.** Yes.
- 24 **Q.** They would then put you in a pig dog kennel and make you eat out of the same bowl?
- 25 **A.** Yes.
- 26 **Q.** Did you want to talk anything more about that experience? You don't have to if you don't  
27 want to.
- 28 **A.** No, I don't really want to, it's all there.
- 29 **Q.** That's okay. Fortunately, in some ways you would think, you were then removed from that  
30 home, but then you were placed into the Clevedon family home, is that correct, what we're  
31 calling the Clevedon family home?
- 32 **A.** Can we go back to the Māngere place again?
- 33 **Q.** Sure.
- 34 **A.** Because there's other things that happened there.

- 1 **Q.** Did you want to talk more about the abuses you suffered there?
- 2 **A.** Yes.
- 3 **Q.** Okay.
- 4 **A.** I remember one day we had an old guy staying there and I stayed in the shed with him, the  
5 back of the house for a while and he passed away and for three days in that shed I slept with  
6 the old man dead. And I also remember another time I was climbing a nectarine tree and  
7 pinching some nectarines and I got caught by the caregiver in Māngere and he gave me a  
8 hiding and put me into a dog hole where the dog shit and eel guts would go, and he put it up  
9 to my shoulders and let the dog fuck my head. Sorry about the language but –
- 10 **Q.** No, no, you speak your truth, don't apologise, it's okay.
- 11 **A.** And the dog did that for three days. I'd get out of there, they'd hose me down with a hose, I  
12 had sores and the dog would not leave me alone after that. He thought I was his lover and  
13 every time I pushed the dog away, I'd get a hiding.
- 14 **Q.** So, you're made to feel worthless?
- 15 **A.** Even a dog don't think like that.
- 16 **CHAIR:** Can I ask you how old you were at that time?
- 17 **A.** About six.
- 18 **Q.** Thank you.
- 19 **QUESTIONING BY MS FLETCHER CONTINUED:** So, you were at the Māngere home for  
20 about five to seven, eh, between the ages of five to seven?
- 21 **A.** Yes.
- 22 **Q.** There's other ways that you were treated poorly as well, in that home the caregivers would  
23 make the children belittle you and call you names?
- 24 **A.** Yes. They'd even play games with me, so I'd touch them in places that I didn't like and  
25 didn't know about, they'd fight with me and hop on me and make out that I was their rubber  
26 toy and do stupid things to me and try and make me do the same.
- 27 **Q.** Did you want to talk more about the Māngere family home, do you want to continue with  
28 that one? Your choice.
- 29 **A.** No, I can just say they're horrible. I don't really want to talk about them anymore because I  
30 can go on all day about them.
- 31 **Q.** Shall we move on to the Clevedon one?
- 32 **A.** Yes please.
- 33 **Q.** So, you're in what would be your fourth placement from now and that's at the Clevedon  
34 family home, you're about seven at the time?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. That's where you actually were able to meet one of your other brothers; is that correct?

3 A. Two of them.

4 Q. Two of them. One brother wasn't there for long though, only a couple of days?

5 A. Yes, my oldest brother.

6 Q. Yeah, and these two brothers you hadn't seen since your train ride from Taumarunui?

7 A. That's right.

8 Q. Unfortunately, the abuse continued at this placement. While you were staying there, there  
9 was a female caregiver that was physically and psychologically and sexually abusing you  
10 and your brother?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. Did you want to talk about that abuse? It's up to you.

13 A. When I first went to this place, I met my older brother and I seen him in the bedroom and  
14 this big fat bitch was on top of him. I didn't know what she was doing. She had no clothes  
15 on and they were having fun anyway. And then she asked me to come over there and join  
16 them and I didn't know what to do, I didn't know what they were doing, I just took off, run  
17 away, ran up the road.

18 Q. The first time that happened, what you saw your brother went through, he went to school,  
19 and he never returned the next day?

20 A. No, he never come back after school. Never saw him since.

21 Q. Really?

22 A. Never seen him since.

23 Q. That was the last time you actually saw that brother?

24 A. Yeah. And all I heard last month he passed away.

25 Q. I'm sorry.

26 A. I want to go out.

27 **Adjournment from 11.22 am to 11.35 am**

28 **CHAIR:** Thanks for coming back.

29 A. Ka pai.

30 Q. Are you okay?

31 A. Ka pai.

32 **MS FLETCHER:** Mr EC and I had a quick kōrero before the Commissioners came back in and  
33 we thought we'd revisit. So Māngere placement.

34 **CHAIR:** Fine.

1 **QUESTIONING BY MS FLETCHER CONTINUED:** Some of the abuses that happened, there  
2 was a time where you were made to dance for the children there.

3 A. Yes.

4 **Q.** Do you want to speak to us a bit about that?

5 A. Dancing, I can't dance, I hate it, but the hidings I got were, you'd cry, I'd scream my head  
6 off and I'd get whacked and whacked and whacked until I stopped crying, like I get things  
7 like "what are you crying for, stop crying", so you get another hiding to stop crying. And  
8 then when you stop crying, you get another whack. "Dance, dance you black bastard", and  
9 the kids used to say, "look he's dancing, make him dance higher." You get more whacks.

10 The whacks got that bad, mate, I could never cry again. I got used to getting hit  
11 after a while, I just handled it. There was one time we were cleaning eels, listen to this one,  
12 we were cleaning eels and I had run away. I got caught up the road and taken back to the  
13 Māngere house. The guy got a tommy hook, put it on my leg and whacked it a couple of  
14 times, and a wooden cup, so he used it like a saw and cut my leg so I wouldn't run.

15 **Q.** There were a few incidences like that where you weren't able to express your emotions or  
16 how you were feeling eh?

17 A. One time I had my hand on the table and the caregiver walked up to goes "you like stealing  
18 my fuck'n money" and he stabbed the butcher knife through my hand. I've still got the scar  
19 today on my hand.

20 **Q.** There were also times where you were told that you weren't allowed to come and  
21 participate with everyone else, you were treated as what you were calling the ugly one?

22 A. Yes, I wasn't allowed friends, I wasn't allowed to go anywhere, I wasn't allowed to go out  
23 for dinners with anybody because that's what they said to me.

24 **Q.** So, they controlled all parts of your life?

25 A. Yes.

26 **Q.** You weren't free to express yourself?

27 A. I wasn't allowed to do anything.

28 **Q.** You weren't allowed to be a kid?

29 A. No, wasn't allowed to play sports, wasn't allowed to have friends, I was just there to be a  
30 working, little working nigger.

31 **Q.** There was a time where your male caregiver made you clean out a pit and you had to do it  
32 even though you still had to go to school. Can you tell us about that?

33 A. After about four days at this house, I got taken into his garage and they had a big water pit  
34 in there where you drive your car over the top. The pit was leaking, it was about nearly six

1 foot deep and about 12 foot long, about four foot wide. And it used to fill up with water all  
2 the time. After a few days at this house, I got woken up early in the morning to empty the  
3 pit with a bucket and I had to empty all this water out. The water's probably been there for  
4 years, and I had to do it before this clown got back from work. I went to school that  
5 morning, come back and I got into the pit to empty the pit before the caregiver got home  
6 and I wasn't even halfway, and he come in and gave me the hiding of, a- hell of a hiding.  
7 And I got the water down and there was either a dead cat or a dead dog in there, maybe  
8 both, and it was slimy as shit and he made me pull it out with my hands and throw it in the  
9 fuck'n- bucket and empty it, and he just kept hitting me and hitting me until the pit was  
10 empty. That went on every day until I left there. I never emptied that pit.

11 **Q.** When you went to school was there anyone safe that you could share what you were going  
12 through, or did it feel too unsafe?

13 **A.** No, there was nobody I could go and see, nobody. I used to talk to the schoolteachers  
14 about it, the schoolteachers didn't listen. I was just another Māori boy getting into trouble  
15 and fighting with the other kids.

16 **Q.** So, you were judged?

17 **A.** Yes, I showed teachers marks, bruises, cuts, all sorts, didn't care.

18 **Q.** There was also severe neglect at the Māngere home?

19 **A.** Yes. I used to be really sick sometimes and never go to the doctors, never ever went to a  
20 doctor ever. I had lumps all over me, I had sores, I had bruises, I had sore bones, head  
21 problems, never took me to the doctor, ever.

22 **Q.** You weren't fed either?

23 **A.** No, I only eaten about two, three times a week and if I did have a feed had a race with the  
24 dog, had to race the fuck'n dog. Never ate on the table.

25 **Q.** So, you had to compete for a dog(sic) for food?

26 **A.** Yeah, yeah, in a little silver bowl or plastic bowl under the table. First in first served.  
27 I used to pinch, –I used to go out and pinch food, go to the shop next door, pinch lollies.

28 **Q.** There was also times where you weren't clothed, and the Social Welfare would bring  
29 clothes but you were never –

30 **A.** I never had clothes, the Social Welfare used to bring them though because they used to  
31 show me. Once they were gone those were my clothes, I got clothes that were worn for a  
32 couple of years from their own kids. Hand me downs. Shorts that were about 2 feet bigger  
33 than me. I got haircuts with just a plate put on your goddamn fuck'n head and shaved

- 1 around. The kids used to go ha ha ha, kids used to call me a bastard because I had no  
2 parents. They were taught that, to do that to me.
- 3 **Q.** So, the caregivers encouraged them to be mean to you?
- 4 **A.** Yeah. I don't even know why they sent me there.
- 5 **Q.** You weren't getting the care and protection that you needed, you were getting abused?
- 6 **A.** Yeah, bad. I didn't know it was abuse, though, to me it was just a hiding.
- 7 **Q.** Just for the Commissioners to understand, though, this abuse and what happened at the  
8 Māngere home, you never saw that before you went there, eh?
- 9 **A.** Never, never in my life, never in my life, I never saw anyone get a whack or a hiding.  
10 I saw them get a whack, but that was only at a marae when you don't listen or you don't  
11 listen to the old kuia, you never got a hiding, not like that, that's not a hiding. They try and  
12 change the way you look the hidings I got. I always had a smile, they didn't like it, I was a  
13 happy little kid. I was born with a smile and when I smiled, "you cheeky little bastard" eh,  
14 give me a hiding and I used to get that much of a hiding, I still go, –you can't change a  
15 man's looks, eh.
- 16 **Q.** So, they would just find excuses to just give you a hiding?
- 17 **A.** A bunch of wankers, mongrels, dogs from hell are worse eh, better than them.
- 18 **Q.** There were two other instances of neglect, but I just want to check in, did you want to talk  
19 about that, or do you want to move on to the next one?
- 20 **A.** No, it's okay, go, I'm okay.
- 21 **Q.** We just want to get a full picture about this place. When you were speaking about staying  
22 with the koro at the back, you were saying you were never given a room or a place to stay  
23 for ages, eh?
- 24 **A.** Yeah, for a couple of weeks I slept with the old guy when he passed away and I slept with  
25 him when he was gone, three days I slept with that old man when he was dead. The man  
26 was dead and stinking.
- 27 **Q.** Even after that, though, you're really never given a place of your own?
- 28 **A.** No, no.
- 29 **Q.** No toys of your own?
- 30 **A.** Nothing, I didn't even know what a toy was. Never had a toy all my life, still haven't. Born  
31 Christmas Day, never ever had a toy. Bullshit. They tell me Christmas the best day of your  
32 life; bullshit. Don't believe it people, it's not true.
- 33 **Q.** There were also other instances where even just trying to get a wash and a shower, they  
34 wouldn't let you do it?

- 1 A. No, I wasn't allowed to have a wash, they used to,— the caregivers used to hop in the shower  
2 and get me to wash them.
- 3 Q. Oh.
- 4 A. Yeah, I used to wash the private, both of theirs, private parts, dry them. Yuck. When I had  
5 a bath, they used to play with me and call me names, eh?
- 6 Q. This was only happening to you, was it happening to the other kids too?
- 7 A. It never happened to any of the others. Who wants to wash a fat woman's arse?
- 8 Q. A child shouldn't be washing anyone.
- 9 A. No. Disgusting. Who wants to wash a man's private parts? Who wants to open his arse  
10 cheeks and wash him with soap. Who wants to wash the woman's fanny with soap.
- 11 Q. No-one.
- 12 A. Nobody, but they enjoyed it when I did it, mongrels.
- 13 Q. So, you were used, you were never spent –
- 14 A. Just a nigger, yeah.
- 15 Q. Is that what they called you?
- 16 A. Just a black bastard. I was only put there to do work.
- 17 Q. And be abused?
- 18 A. Yeah.
- 19 Q. Was there anything else you wanted to cover off with Māngere?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. You speak to it.
- 22 A. They used to go on holiday these people, then they'd send me somewhere else, to relations  
23 of theirs and this person was a pig hunter. When these caregivers went on holiday, never  
24 ever took me, they used to send me to this other place and say things to them that I'd been  
25 playing up and this and this and stealing, and then these people would give me a hiding,  
26 would smash the fuck out of me. "Oh yeah, you like eating with the dogs and acting like  
27 that" they put me in a dog kennel for nearly a week to live with the dogs, the pig dogs that  
28 fight with their food. Shitting on you, living at the back of a kennel. I used to hide at the  
29 back there so they wouldn't get me out, to give me a hiding.
- 30 Q. You're telling the Commissioners you were about six or seven at this time?
- 31 A. Yeah, only about six, seven, going on eight, yeah.
- 32 Q. The dogs had been treated better than you?
- 33 A. The dogs, they were having food.

- 1 **Q.** Is it anyone,— this might sound simple, but did anyone call you by your actual name during  
2 this time or was it always just a –
- 3 **A.** No-one did know my name.
- 4 **Q.** No-one made the effort to get to know you?
- 5 **A.** No, they changed my name and kept it like that.
- 6 **Q.** Do you want to move on to the Clevedon family home?
- 7 **A.** Please, yeah.
- 8 **Q.** So, you're at the Clevedon family home. In your statement you said you were probably  
9 around seven at that time; is that correct?
- 10 **A.** Seven, eight, just a little fulla, yeah.
- 11 **Q.** Were they also relatives of the Māngere or are these separate people?
- 12 **A.** No, separate people. These were Pākehā people these ones. The Māngere ones were  
13 Māoris. Don't ever let a Māori stay with a Māori people, don't ever let your kids get  
14 adopted by Māori people, it does not work. Honest to God, it will not work. You have to  
15 be from the same iwi.
- 16 **Q.** Okay.
- 17 **A.** Have to be, otherwise it goes back to the historical days where they hated them, they hated  
18 them, they bring it up in the kids, they take it out on your kids.
- 19 **Q.** So, kind of like intergenerational trauma, eh?
- 20 **A.** Yeah, it will not work.
- 21 **Q.** At the Clevedon family home, these Pākehās, they abused you too?
- 22 **A.** Yeah, she was a horrible woman. He was okay, the husband was good, he used to take me  
23 out on his truck and deliver soft drinks to all the racecourses.
- 24 **Q.** Okay.
- 25 **A.** Yeah, but he never come home and after what I saw I don't blame him.
- 26 **Q.** Because you earlier shared with the Commissioners that the wife sexually abused you and  
27 your brother?
- 28 **A.** Yeah.
- 29 **Q.** And your brother went to school and never came back?
- 30 **A.** He never come back.
- 31 **Q.** But there was also another time when she tried to have another go at you, eh?
- 32 **A.** Yes. I also had another brother there, one a year older than me, she just would not leave  
33 him alone.
- 34 **Q.** He got the brunt of her advances?

- 1 A. Yes. She tried many times with me, but I was smart, I used to run away, I used to run  
2 away. Can't catch me you fat bitch, you can't climb the tree.
- 3 Q. One time when you were running away, though, you actually ran away to a house, and you  
4 saw your sister?
- 5 A. Yeah, I'll tell you about this one. I run from this house in Clevedon, never seen my sister  
6 for a few years and I hid under this house and these kids come out and "you're not allowed  
7 under there, piss off home." The parents come out of this house, and they were Pākehās  
8 too, and I got out from under the house, and I looked in the door and there's my little sister  
9 with a fuck'n dog chain around her waist, chained to the table.
- 10 Q. That's the first time you saw your sister since Taumarunui, eh?
- 11 A. Yes, always wondered what happened to my little sister.
- 12 Q. Did you see her again after that?
- 13 A. I saw her.
- 14 Q. Later in life?
- 15 A. A few years later I was on a farm somewhere and I was going up the road and I seen this  
16 little Māori girl on a motorbike, and it was her. But she told me some horrible things that  
17 went on in that house.
- 18 Q. It sounds like when you've been in your different placements, even with the Clevedon  
19 family home, there's been known, a social worker come see you and say hey your siblings  
20 are coming, or do you want to have contact with your siblings eh?
- 21 A. Nobody.
- 22 Q. No-one?
- 23 A. Nobody, we're all kept apart.
- 24 Q. So, you didn't get a lawyer coming to see you about it?
- 25 A. No.
- 26 Q. Or ask for your views?
- 27 A. No. We were just given to people and forgotten about.
- 28 Q. You felt like you just weren't wanted, eh?
- 29 A. Nobody wanted us. But they had a lot of work for us.
- 30 Q. You were just used?
- 31 A. Yeah, I used to wash the clothes, do the dishes, scrub the floor every single day before  
32 I went to school.
- 33 Q. That was at Clevedon family home you were doing that for a few months?

- 1 A. That was in Māngere, but I did that in Clevedon too for a couple of days and then one day I  
2 had this old lady, my whāngai nan gave me some jewellery and this woman in Clevedon  
3 took it off me. Never seen my whāngai mum until, -the last time I saw her was when  
4 Social Welfare took me off her, and then she pops up one day because she heard down the  
5 line that I had been cut with an axe and she come up to fix my leg up, and she gave me a  
6 little jar with some jewellery in it and this woman took it off me. So, I got a hiding for that  
7 for taking the jewellery, because back then you were taught don't take things that aren't  
8 yours. But I took them, and I run away,- and I sneaked back up the house during the night  
9 and stole them back from her and stole hers too.
- 10 Q. Did you hide them as well?
- 11 A. I hid them under the house and they're still there today. That was in 1965. Stuff the fat  
12 bitch eh. Yeah.
- 13 Q. So, you did get to see your whāngai mum, but you weren't able to make contact with her?
- 14 A. No, they only let me speak to her for about half an hour.
- 15 Q. Half an hour, that's it?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. Did you ever ask during that placement whether you could talk to her, did they say no?
- 18 A. I just got nos. Couldn't even talk to my mother. They wouldn't even tell me who my mum  
19 was. I don't even know who my mum is.
- 20 Q. That was a regular theme through all your placements, eh?
- 21 A. Yeah.
- 22 Q. Trying to ask about your whānau but you were never told anything?
- 23 A. I went to about nine places in two years one time there. Shift around, beaten up, just a  
24 punching bag, but I handled it.
- 25 Q. Is there anything more you want to talk about the Clevedon family home before we go on  
26 the next one? We think we've covered most of it.
- 27 A. No, that's okay.
- 28 Q. Okay. For a few months you're there for the Clevedon family home for a few months,  
29 you're seven or eight at the time, then you get shifted to the, what we're going to call the  
30 Road family home in Papatoetoe, you're still seven?
- 31 A. Yes.
- 32 Q. Yeah. What were those people like?
- 33 A. Horrible.
- 34 Q. They're horrible?

- 1 A. Just as bad as the last two.
- 2 Q. But you were there for quite a long time, you were there for seven years?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. In your statement you say that this was a Dutch couple –
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. – Is that correct? And both of them subjected you to physical abuse?
- 7 A. Him more than her.
- 8 Q. Were there other foster children in the home?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. Were they subject to abuse as well?
- 11 A. Yes. Sexual abuse.
- 12 Q. Sexual abuse, so there was girls in the home as well, eh?
- 13 A. Yes, there was a lot of young girls there. Young 12, 13-year-olds, 11-year-olds, we were  
14 only young then, and he used to go into their rooms and did what he liked.
- 15 Q. In your statement you state that the foster kids didn't talk about the abuse that was  
16 happening because you said that when you were in a family home you think that you're  
17 there because no one wants you?
- 18 A. Yeah, that's right.
- 19 Q. You also state that we did not think anyone would believe us, we had gotten hidings when  
20 trying to complain before?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. So, in the seven years that you were there, you tried to complain, even though you were  
23 getting these hidings, eh?
- 24 A. Many a times, many a times.
- 25 Q. What happened with those complaints?
- 26 A. I heard nothing. Nothing, nothing, absolutely nothing.
- 27 Q. So that was to a social worker?
- 28 A. Yeah.
- 29 Q. Was that to any teachers when you're going to school?
- 30 A. I used to always complain to the teachers.
- 31 Q. What did they say to you when you tried to complain?
- 32 A. They just didn't want to listen.
- 33 Q. Did she just say you were a naughty boy?
- 34 A. Yeah, just a naughty boy, you're getting in trouble GRO-A Mr EC, always fighting.

- 1 **Q.** So, you were always blamed?
- 2 **A.** I was blamed for everything, maybe because I hung around with the wrong people, I don't  
3 know, it's just the way they brought me up. Got to blame somebody, eh. I was the ugly  
4 little boy, so you blame him. That's life, mate.
- 5 **Q.** Yeah.
- 6 **A.** The odd sheep out.
- 7 **Q.** So, you always feel like an outcast –
- 8 **A.** Yeah.
- 9 **Q.** – In all your placements?
- 10 **A.** Yeah.
- 11 **Q.** Never felt welcome?
- 12 **A.** I've never felt it, I still don't today. See these two ladies here, the safest I've been for years,  
13 honest to God.
- 14 **Q.** Is that one of the impacts that's happened with all the abuse you suffered, it's hard to  
15 connect because you feel –
- 16 **A.** It's hard, it's very hard. Very hard.
- 17 **Q.** Tell us about it, if you want to?
- 18 **A.** I don't know how to, – it's just, –I don't know how to say it.
- 19 **Q.** The abuses that happened and with your attempts as a child to complain to a lot of people to  
20 try and get it noticed, no one believing you, is there a sense of you can't connect with  
21 people because you don't feel like they will believe up or trust you?
- 22 **A.** Yeah, yeah, they just don't believe you, eh, they don't believe me, they wouldn't believe me.  
23 I can show them scabs, sores, welts on my back. They don't believe you, not back then,  
24 they just didn't care, they didn't believe you.
- 25 **Q.** That's still impacting your adult life now?
- 26 **A.** Oh yeah, it's got worse. I don't sleep, I have three hours of sleep every single day of my  
27 life. I'm on medication every single day of my life. I take 12 pills a day from stress,  
28 anxiety, pain, everything. I take painkillers every day because my body's shot.
- 29 **Q.** That's directly from the abuses you suffered, eh?
- 30 **A.** Yeah, yeah. I can get doctors' reports saying my body's shot from the abuse I've had.
- 31 **Q.** You really didn't have a good start to life?
- 32 **A.** No, I had a shit life.

- 1 **Q.** So, speaking about when you were little, though, with that Clevedon family home  
2 environment, that would have continued had the Dutch couple stayed in that home eh, but  
3 they got moved out?
- 4 **A.** Yeah, they got moved out and some better people come.
- 5 **Q.** Can you tell us a bit about the better people there?
- 6 **A.** They had no children of their own, I was getting on in my age then and they put in a request  
7 to adopt me, because they loved me, and the Social Welfare said no.
- 8 **Q.** Why did they say no?
- 9 **A.** I was reaching the age of getting released from the Social Welfare.
- 10 **Q.** So how old were you the time, 14?
- 11 **A.** 14 back then, you get released 14, 15, then, you get kicked out of the Social Welfare home  
12 and you were at the age to go to boys' homes.
- 13 **Q.** Like a Borstal or something like that?
- 14 **A.** Yes, you're due for it, you're at that age.
- 15 **Q.** You're due for it?
- 16 **A.** If you played up that's where you're going to go.
- 17 **Q.** But these people were loving to you?
- 18 **A.** No, these people were lovely to me, yeah.
- 19 **Q.** They wanted to keep you?
- 20 **A.** They wanted to keep me, and the Social Welfare said no. I had two people wanted to have  
21 me and they said no, and yet the Social Welfare took me to them.
- 22 **Q.** You know, with your age at 14 years, you know, you've had some experience, you can  
23 speak for yourself, did anyone actually ask you what your views are and what your wishes  
24 were?
- 25 **A.** No, no. No. I had no say back then.
- 26 **Q.** So, you actually had a chance to be in what might be like a home for the rest of your life  
27 with loving people, but they said no?
- 28 **A.** They said no.
- 29 **Q.** As a result of them staying home,— no, sorry, you were then moved to what we're calling  
30 the Manukau Heads farm?
- 31 **A.** Yes.
- 32 **Q.** You're still 14 at the time?
- 33 **A.** Yes.
- 34 **Q.** That placement was okay, but then you got moved to a farm home in Waiuku?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. Which was a different story. Can you tell us about the Waiuku family home?
- 3 A. These people weren't too bad, I liked them actually.
- 4 Q. Okay?
- 5 A. I liked them, but after a few months, work had run out and I got sent down the road to this
- 6 Māori couple.
- 7 Q. Okay. Is it the Patumahoe farm or is that a different one?
- 8 A. No, that was another good place, no, this is –
- 9 Q. So, we're still in Waiuku?
- 10 A. Still in Waiuku, yeah.
- 11 Q. Is this where you were called an ugly black bastard?
- 12 A. Yeah, I got run over by a tractor.
- 13 Q. Aah yes, do you want to tell us a bit about that?
- 14 A. My social officer, social worker brought me a motorbike, called a mountain bike, mountain
- 15 goat it was called, and I thought first toy ever and I loved it, spoiled little kid, Christmas
- 16 present. I went to round up the cows one morning on it and this person I was staying with,
- 17 a caregiver, he come out on his tractor and slammed straight into me and run me over with
- 18 the tractor and went off about me rounding up the cows on the motorbike. Yeah, and then
- 19 got off his tractor, gave me a hiding and threw me in the hay barn for a couple of days until
- 20 my leg straightened up.
- 21 Q. He didn't give you any?
- 22 A. No, no medication, no nothing. Just threw me in the hay barn down by the cow shed and
- 23 said, "you'll be right in a few days."
- 24 Q. He tried to hide you?
- 25 A. He tried to hide me, but the Social Welfare stopped coming to see me around that time.
- 26 Q. Why is that?
- 27 A. I don't know, once I got on a farm, they didn't make much more contact with me. They left
- 28 me alone. They actually left me alone.
- 29 Q. They didn't leave a number or any way to contact them?
- 30 A. Nothing.
- 31 Q. So, you were isolated again, eh?
- 32 A. Yes, welfare just said like I'll stand on my own two feet now, I was at the age where I was
- 33 old enough.
- 34 Q. You were still 14 at this time, though, eh?

- 1 A. I got kicked out of school and they weren't very happy.
- 2 Q. So, you've left school, you're on this farm by yourself, you've suffered an injury, you're  
3 only 14 and you were made to do manual labour, eh?
- 4 A. Yeah.
- 5 Q. And you were only getting paid \$15 a week, is that right?
- 6 A. If I was lucky.
- 7 Q. If you were lucky?
- 8 A. Most of it was \$4.
- 9 Q. So, if you were lucky getting \$15, that would probably average out if there's any adults  
10 listening to what 40 cents in an eight-hour day, something ridiculous?
- 11 A. Yeah.
- 12 Q. And you're only 14?
- 13 A. Yeah.
- 14 Q. So, you had child labour?
- 15 A. Well, the farm before that I was getting 40 cents a week.
- 16 Q. So, they're just using you, eh?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. From that time did you then went to Patumahoe?
- 19 A. Yeah.
- 20 Q. Was life a bit better at Patumahoe?
- 21 A. Yeah, I started getting to meet some nice people.
- 22 Q. How old were you when you were at Patumahoe?
- 23 A. 14, 15.
- 24 Q. So still quite young?
- 25 A. Yeah.
- 26 Q. But you had a good connection with a farmer there, eh?
- 27 A. Yes, yes, he offered to give me his farm when he retired.
- 28 Q. But this is around about the time that you reconnected with your brother?
- 29 A. Yes.
- 30 Q. And your sister?
- 31 A. Yes.
- 32 Q. Do you want to tell us a little bit that?
- 33 A. I gave up the farming life. My brother had a better lifestyle for me, he said, an easier one.
- 34 Q. He sold you a better lifestyle, eh?

- 1 A. Yeah. Stealing.
- 2 Q. Did you know at the time that's what it was?
- 3 A. No.
- 4 Q. Did you think he had a job?
- 5 A. He took me out one day and stole some lollies and broke into a shop and stole some money  
6 and it was more than what I could earn, so I thought that's me. No more hidings, no more  
7 worries, like F the world eh.
- 8 Q. It was your chance to take charge of your own life, eh?
- 9 A. Of myself, yeah.
- 10 Q. So that was the better alternative for you?
- 11 A. It was a better life. It was a safer life. We got fed, I got fed every day, I had a roof on my  
12 head. I wasn't getting hidings.
- 13 Q. So even though there was some illegal activities it meant that you were safe?
- 14 A. I was safe.
- 15 Q. You were loved?
- 16 A. Yeah.
- 17 Q. You got what you needed because you had never got that during your placements?
- 18 A. It wasn't a very nice life, I joined the gangs after a while.
- 19 Q. Just to help for the Commissioners, so you moved with your brother to Pukekohe?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. And you joined the gang life there eh?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. That's where the habits started coming out then?
- 24 A. My life changed, I turned into a mongrel.
- 25 Q. Right, do you want to talk about that?
- 26 A. I only want to say a couple of things. I done everything wrong except have sex with my  
27 mother.
- 28 Q. So, life changed completely for you at that point?
- 29 A. It changed, 17 years in prison in and out, 17 years, but I didn't enjoy it, but I did. I had  
30 friends, I had food, I was safe.
- 31 Q. We'll actually go into that. Even though we might be skipping ahead a few placements  
32 because you spent some time at the Borstals, and you got shifted down to Invercargill, eh?
- 33 A. Yeah.
- 34 Q. Then you went to Invercargill Prison?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. So, you went from I think it was –
- 3 A. That day I got released.
- 4 Q. So, you went from Rangipo detention centre, you went to Waikeria Borstal?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. Invercargill Borstal?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. And Invercargill prison?
- 9 A. Yes. Hautu prison, Mt Eden Prison, Mt Eden Prison, Rangipo.
- 10 Q. Then Mt Eden Prison?
- 11 A. Yeah.
- 12 Q. One of the things in your statement that you share with us is quite hard hitting, though,
- 13 you've already mentioned it to the Commissioners, is at paragraph 152 at page 16 of your
- 14 statement. I'll read it to you, and we'll get your comment. You say:
- 15 "Nothing bad happened to me while I was in that wing at Mt Eden Prison.
- 16 I actually went on to enjoy prison life. I turned out to be the prisoner's best mate. They
- 17 would look after me and no one would touch me because the murderers were my friends."
- 18 A. I know where you're coming from, yeah.
- 19 Q. "Prison wasn't a nice place to be put, but after what had happened to me during my life as a
- 20 State ward, prison was actually heaven compared to what I had been through."
- 21 A. Yeah.
- 22 Q. "To be honest there were lots of people like me in prison, people who had been treated
- 23 poorly in straight care but had a better life in prison."
- 24 A. Right.
- 25 Q. Do you want to share more about that with Commissioners?
- 26 A. I just want to say that's the truth. My first day in prison wasn't very nice, they got this wing
- 27 for murderers on remand. Now I had a couple of run-ins with prison officers when I went
- 28 to prison because a smart little prick, they thought I was, but I started standing up for
- 29 myself and the prison officers used to always pick on me and I thought one day I'll get you,
- 30 so I started retaliating against society and against the prison system like everyone else in
- 31 there was doing. So, they decided to beat me up and throw me into the murderers' wing as
- 32 a wing cleaner. You don't have wing cleaners in the murderers' wing, they only want to kill
- 33 people. Anyway, I got put in there for two years and I loved it. I loved it working with
- 34 them because I was the safest person in the prison.

- 1 **Q.** Were you respected?
- 2 **A.** Yeah. I was the safest person in that prison on earth.
- 3 **Q.** Was it the first time you were respected?
- 4 **A.** Yeah.
- 5 **Q.** You hadn't got the respect like that when you were in placements?
- 6 **A.** And that's from murderers. They even told the prison officers "don't swear at him, don't yell at him or you're dead." I got to liking prison. I didn't want to, but no one else wanted me, no one else cared, so I look forward to going back to prison back then just to see my friends.
- 9 **Q.** It was your safe space?
- 10 **A.** It was safe.
- 11 **Q.** Safe away from everyone else?
- 12 **A.** Everybody, yeah. Today, though, I regret it. I got kids, I lost too much going to jail.
- 13 **Q.** We'll actually talk about that, but I'm just going to check with Madam Chair, just with the time, can we get going until half past or shall we have a break?
- 14 **CHAIR:** You decide, how do you feel about carrying on?
- 15 **A.** No, how do you feel?
- 16 **Q.** I feel fine.
- 17 **A.** So, do I. Cool, up to you. You want a break?
- 18 **Q.** You're clever.
- 19 **A.** You want a break, don't you, I'll have one with you then, I'll go too, all good.
- 20 **Q.** Let's just take –
- 21 **A.** And you.
- 22 **Q.** And you.
- 23 **A.** And you, so you can have a coffee.
- 24 **Q.** I think we just want to keep going.
- 25 **COMMISSIONER ALOFIVAE:** I think we want to keep going.
- 26 **A.** All good.
- 27 **CHAIR:** We really do want to keep going.
- 28 **A.** Why don't they bring the coffee to us?
- 29 **Q.** In that case we're going to take a break, we're going to take 10 minutes so we can all have a cup of coffee.
- 30 **A.** Okay then.
- 31 **Q.** See you soon.
- 32
- 33
- 34

1 A. Yeah, thank you.

2 **Adjournment from 12.11 pm to 12.28 pm**

3 **CHAIR:** Thanks for coming back, it's really good to see you.

4 A. Thanks to see you again.

5 **Q.** That's great, okay, let's carry on with listening to your important, important history, thank  
6 you.

7 A. Thank you.

8 **QUESTIONING BY MS FLETCHER CONTINUED:** Mr EC and I had a quick catch up, we  
9 had a quick kōrero, and he wants to go into his impacts of what his experience has been on  
10 his adult life. One of the things you put in your statement is that you really enjoyed your  
11 time at school and that was your kind of fun time away from all the abuse. But because of  
12 the abuse you couldn't have that fun time, eh?

13 A. That's right. I loved school, only had two days off school all my life. Once for the mumps  
14 and once for the measles. Yeah, I would never ever, ever miss school, ever. I went to  
15 school sick, sore, battered, bruised. I loved school, I just loved school, I love reading,  
16 I used to read an encyclopaedia every day of my life. I went through a few encyclopaedia  
17 books. I love sports, I was a sports fanatic. I love science, but I hated going home. If  
18 I could stay at school, I would have lived under the school room. I love school.

19 **Q.** And it was because of the abuse that happened to you, you had to stop school, eh?

20 A. Yes, yes. I got into a fight one day and got a bit carried away and I got expelled.

21 **Q.** Speaking of some of the fights that you've been in, we've already talked about some of the  
22 injuries that you've had, but you actually had to get your teeth removed, eh, because of all  
23 the fights?

24 A. Yes.

25 **Q.** That's impacted on any dietary requirements that you have, eh?

26 A. Yes.

27 **Q.** One of the more important kaupapa that you wanted to part with the Commissioners with is  
28 that the impact of your time in prison and being away from your family, eh?

29 A. Yeah.

30 **Q.** And how had you not been abused you would have never been in prison life. Can you talk  
31 a bit more about that?

32 A. I went to prison, I had a family, I lost my family, I was, -I used to drink every day, I haven't  
33 drunk anything for 43 years. I used to drink about \$60, \$70 alcohol a day every single day,  
34 got out of prison. I don't drink anymore,- I haven't had a drink for 43 years. But during

1 that time, I lost my family, I've lost kids, I've lost friends, and it was because of my  
2 upbringing. I just didn't care. I didn't care about my family, I didn't care about my kids,  
3 I didn't care about my friends, I just didn't care.

4 **Q.** You were never taught to care about anything, though, eh?

5 **A.** No, no, I didn't know the meaning of it.

6 **Q.** You didn't know the meaning of love and support?

7 **A.** No. There was none.

8 **Q.** In your statement you say that the memories of your abuse can sometimes trigger you and  
9 has impacted upon your relationships with others?

10 **A.** Yes.

11 **Q.** Do you want to speak a little bit more about that?

12 **A.** I don't like, I– hate seeing kids yelled at, sworn at, slapped around the ears, I just hate, hate  
13 in big letters people hurting kids. If I could, mate, watch out if I catch you. I hate it, it's  
14 just, –it's horrible. I hate kids being abused. I hate them being sworn at, I hate them being  
15 yelled at, I hate them not being fed, I hate anybody that doesn't look after their kids. They  
16 shouldn't have children. You want to have children, go have it with an animal because you  
17 are an animal.

18 **Q.** That's why it's been quite hard because unfortunately some of your own whānau are in the  
19 care system at the moment?

20 **A.** Yes, I've got a couple of grandkids in the system.

21 **Q.** And you tried to be there for them, but you were told –

22 **A.** I tried to be there, I even tried to care for them, but the Child, Youth and Family refused me  
23 to care for them for the simple reason because I've been to prison. Bullshit. I know of  
24 rapists and murderers that see their kids. Lot of crap. You can't stop a man seeing his  
25 children because he's been to jail. You can't. How's that kid going to feel when he grows  
26 up? What's he going to do? I can't see dad, I don't care anymore, they won't let me see dad  
27 or mum. He's going to turn out to be a mongrel.

28 **Q.** And you met a few people like that in prison, eh?

29 **A.** I know hundreds of people like that because the system just ain't there for them. They can  
30 say this and this and this, but a lot of bullshit. I've been there, seen it. Adoptions. No.  
31 You don't know what goes on behind that closed door. You could meet people at the Social  
32 Welfare office and go wow you're a cute little boy, you're lovely, when that door closes, the  
33 dogs from hell come out. Now how do we prevent that?

- 1 **Q.** Speaking about that, because you actually put that in your statement. What's your  
2 recommendations that you want to tell the Commissioners about, about changing the Care  
3 and Protection?
- 4 **A.** It's going to cost money, but hey, you can give money to prisoners, you can give money to  
5 drug addicts, you can give them to piss heads, why not give them to the kids? What's  
6 wrong with having cameras on their bedrooms, why would an adult go into your child's  
7 room after he's gone to bed and he's asleep or she's asleep? Why? What are they up to?  
8 Put a camera on their room, who cares if it's 24-hour surveillance, who cares? It's the care  
9 of the child. You can watch a prisoner all day in jail, you can watch someone in, eh, who's  
10 more important?
- 11 **Q.** The kids.
- 12 **A.** Our kids. There's a lot of things should be changed, a lot. Hell of a lot.
- 13 **Q.** Based upon your experience you say in your statement that you need to be able to teach  
14 kids what are safe actions, what are not safe actions?
- 15 **A.** Give them, – should be teaching them signals, teach them signs. Like if your case officer  
16 wants to talk to you and ask you are you all right, are you happy, they're not going to say  
17 no. You're going to get a hiding, maybe not a hiding but a telling off. There must be a way  
18 where they can give you a sign like a finger sign or something, a hand sign, like "are you  
19 being hurt? Go like that or something, yes", caregiver don't know what you're doing. We  
20 need to do something. I see it every day.
- 21 I know of Child, Youth and Family swear at their kids. I experienced one the other  
22 day where she got released from there, from their care and they said to her "good, piss off  
23 you fat useless bitch, we're fuck'n sick of you." Who says that? The girl just got released  
24 from their care and she's mental health. Wow. What a nice thing to say. I've heard other  
25 people telling their kids "fuck off, piss off", they're in care of the CYFS, caregivers. I see it  
26 every single day.
- 27 **Q.** Must be hard to see as well, eh?
- 28 **A.** Oh, it's horrible.
- 29 **Q.** Is there –
- 30 **A.** You'd be surprised how many times I have rung the Police on people. Very surprised, and  
31 yet they're still getting shit.
- 32 **Q.** Is there anything else?
- 33 **A.** Not enough's being done.
- 34 **Q.** Not enough's being done?

- 1 A. Nothing's being done. This was going on when I was a little kid, it's still going on today.  
2 I'm 64, 60 something years to this. When's it going to change? I remember five or six  
3 times Social Welfare changed the system. What did they change? Their underpants.  
4 That's all, and their food bill.
- 5 Q. The change in a name wasn't enough, eh?
- 6 A. No, they have changed nothing. You're on a benefit with them, when are we going to get  
7 more money? 100 and something dollars, come on, grow up people.
- 8 Q. So, you're telling us rather than putting the money into the prisons they should be putting it  
9 into the children –
- 10 A. We shouldn't have prisons. People don't need to get to prison, they don't need to, they go in  
11 there for their safety. They're safer in prison, they're getting a roof over their heads, they're  
12 getting fed.
- 13 Q. That's what you were sharing before, a little bit before, is that the people that you've met in  
14 prison are mostly Care and Protection children, aren't they?
- 15 A. Yes, they ain't mongrels like people say. The one that calls them the mongrel is the  
16 mongrel, eh. We're human, they're all human. They're all little babies like we were. Look  
17 at them now, big babies crying for help, no one wants to help them. So, what do they do?  
18 They go against society.
- 19 Q. They act out?
- 20 A. Yeah, been there done that. Yeah.
- 21 Q. That ends my line of questioning, but before I think we pass on to the Commissioners, did  
22 you want to share a bit more about anything, Mr EC?
- 23 A. I could sit here all day but youse have got more work to do so I'll stop there.
- 24 **CHAIR:** Well, just so that you know, we've got your full statement here.
- 25 A. Do you want the other half?
- 26 Q. If you've got more?
- 27 A. I'm still writing part two.
- 28 Q. Are you, well, –are you prepared to share that with us?
- 29 A. I will in due course.
- 30 Q. We would be honoured if you would do that. We would be honoured if you would do that.
- 31 A. I will in due course.
- 32 Q. Excellent.
- 33 A. I've just got to settle down on this one.
- 34 Q. Yeah, sure.

1 A. And talk to my stepmother over here. In due course I will pop up again.

2 **Q.** We would be honoured if you would do that. Just to let you know we've read this carefully,  
3 anything else you send in, to us we will, of course, read even more carefully, so very  
4 grateful to you. I'm just going to check with my colleagues. I'm going to hand over to our  
5 good Commissioner here just to thank you.

6 **COMMISSIONER ERUETI:** Tēnā koe e hoa. I'm Anaru, one of the Commissioners, so I want  
7 to thank you on behalf of us all for coming and meeting with us today, and it takes  
8 tremendous courage. You know, we think of the five year old who was placed in this  
9 family home in Māngere who thought he was going to find love, who was a happy, smiley,  
10 intelligent kid and then, as you put it so well, you know, subjected to the dogs of hell, the  
11 experience and you had the courage to come here and, before all of these strangers, talk  
12 about what happened to you.

13 It's so critical that we learn about what happened to you because we can't make any  
14 recommendations for change until we know how poorly our children have been treated in  
15 care. So, I want to mihi you, kei te mihi atu ki a koe me tō whānau, for having the courage  
16 and the strength to come and to meet with us and we look forward to part two of the  
17 narrative. We'll be here and we're always here with the big ears waiting to listen and learn.  
18 So, ka mihi ki a koe e te rangatira, tēnā koe, thank you.

19 A. Kia ora cuz. Can I ask one thing?

20 **CHAIR:** Yes.

21 A. When I leave here today, I need to know something. What's going to happen to me? I'm  
22 not going to feel any better when I leave here. Now what's going to happen to me? Do I go  
23 home and still feel like a bastard, a cunt, or what? I've done my job.

24 **Q.** Yeah, can I just answer that, if I can, I can't give you the full answer. What I can say is that  
25 we have people to help, people for you to talk to, people to offer you what we can, okay?  
26 Within our limited resources. But I'm sure there will be people who will be wrapping  
27 around you, checking in on you afterwards, making sure that if you have got some needs  
28 that come as a result of talking to us that we can meet them as best we can. I know that's  
29 not the full answer, I know that, I'm not –

30 A. There's no answer eh.

31 **Q.** There's no answer, but what we can do in our limited way is offer you as much  
32 wrap-around support as we can in recognition of the fact that coming here, as Andrew says,  
33 it's really hard, tough, and it's going to have an impact on you, and we want to make sure  
34 that you don't suffer too much from the impact of what you've done today for us. So

1 please, I'm sure you'll get lots of support offered to you, take whatever is offered that suits  
2 you. And that's the best answer I can give you.

3 A. Thank you.

4 Q. You're allowed out now.

5 A. Don't want to go.

6 Q. You don't want to go?

7 A. No, I want to hear some more from you.

8 Q. Well, if you want to sit and listen to other people's kōrero, please do. It's up to you, but it's  
9 entirely up to you.

10 A. Yeah, no I will.

11 Q. Cool, we're here all week as well, if you want to come back at some stage.

12 A. No, they won't pay me to come back again.

13 Q. Won't they?

14 A. No.

15 **MS FLETCHER:** Maybe I can approach him.

16 **CHAIR:** Thank you.

17 A. Thank you very much for this. Appreciate it.

18 Q. Best wishes.

19 A. Thank you, bye, youse all have a nice day.

20 **CHAIR:** We've been left without, – Dr Cooke, we are left wallowing just a little bit. Is our next  
21 witness ready to start? We've only got about quarter of an hour before,– tell us how you'd  
22 like to go. Was Ms Fletcher going to lead the next witness?

23 **DR COOKE:** Ms Fletcher was going to lead the next witness, and I'm mindful of the time of  
24 course.

25 **CHAIR:** I've got signals from the back to say she's having a small cigarette out the back. So, I  
26 think what we should do is leave you and you come and tell us what we should do, whether  
27 it means taking an early lunch and then coming back, we'll just fit around the witnesses, all  
28 right?

29 **DR COOKE:** Okay, thank you.

30 **CHAIR:** All right thank you.

31 **Adjournment from 12.46 pm to 12.53 pm**