

**ABUSE IN CARE ROYAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY  
STATE REDRESS 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)  
Dr Andrew Erueti  
Ms Sandra Alofivae  
Ms Julia Steenson

**Counsel:**  
Mr Simon Mount, Ms Hanne Janes, Ms Kerryn Beaton, Ms  
Katherine Anderson, Mr Joss Opie, Ms Echo Haronga, Ms Tania  
Sharkey, Mr Michael Thomas, Ms Jane Glover and Ms Lorraine  
Macdonald appear for the Royal Commission

Ms Sonja Cooper for Survivor Mary Marshall

Ms Sally McKechnie, Mr Alex Winsley, Mr Harrison Cunningham  
and Ms Fiona Thorp appear for the Catholic Church

Mrs Guy-Kidd, Mr James Anson-Holland and Ms India Shores  
appear for the Anglican Church

Ms Jenny Stevens and Ms Helen Thompson appear for the  
Salvation Army

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

**Date:** 10 December 2020

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**TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS**

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(Opening Waiata and mihi)

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**CHAIR:** "Tēnā rā koutou katoa, nau mai haere mai ano ki tenei hui. Good morning, Ms Janes.

**MS JANES:** Good morning, Commissioners. We will first hear from Jenny Stevens who will give a short opening statement for the Salvation Army. The Commission will then hear three witnesses, but I will go through those after Ms Stevens' opening statement.

**CHAIR:** Thank you, Ms Janes. Good morning, Ms Stevens, welcome back.

**MS STEVENS:** Thank you.

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1           It is very grateful for the survivors who have come  
2 forward to help inform the necessary change to the  
3 Salvation Army's processes and any recommendations that  
4 this Royal Commission may make. You will hear further  
5 evidence from the Salvation Army representatives at the  
6 March hearing about the redress process it has engaged in  
7 to date, including those witnesses' own reflections on  
8 areas for improvement and change.

9           In closing I will read just a very short statement, also  
10 very short, that has been prepared by Colonel Gerry Walker.  
11 Colonel Walker is the Chief Secretary or essentially the  
12 CEO of the Salvation Army and he will be one of the people  
13 giving evidence in March. The statement reads:

14 **CHAIR:** Just before you do, be mindful we are being signed  
15 and dictation is being taken, thank you.

16 **MS STEVENS:** "The Salvation Army is deeply sorry for the  
17 abuse inflicted on vulnerable children who were housed in  
18 Salvation Army children's homes. We recognise the courage  
19 it takes for those testifying to revisit trauma that should  
20 never have happened to them. What these survivors  
21 experienced was unwarranted and horrific. This has caused  
22 lasting damage to them and their wider circle of  
23 relationships. There is no excuse for what happened. The  
24 lives that these children deserved were stolen from them.  
25 It is offensive that this was allowed to happen within an  
26 organisation that exists to serve a God of love.

27           We recognise that words alone cannot heal what has been  
28 broken. We therefore want to assure survivors that the  
29 Salvation Army is fully committed to listening to them and  
30 learning from this Royal Commission and any recommendations  
31 it might make. This applies not only in relation to our  
32 redress processes, which is the focus of this stage of the  
33 hearing, but also any other recommendations made so that we  
34 can best help those harmed while in our care in the past,

1 and to ensure safety for all vulnerable people accessing  
2 our services today."

3 Thank you.

4 **CHAIR:** Thank you very much, Ms Stevens. I think it's  
5 appropriate now we take a short break while we prepare for  
6 our first witness, is that correct, Ms Janes?

7 **MS JANES:** We could either do that or there is a section 15  
8 order that pertains to the first witness. It may be useful  
9 to read that into the transcript now.

10 **CHAIR:** It is a good time to do that now.

**MATTERS ARISING**

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**MS JANES:** You will be hearing over the next two days from six witnesses, three today, Mr A is our first one, Janet Lowe and then Darrin Timpson. And tomorrow we will be hearing from Gloria White, Roy Takiaho and then Ms B. There is a section 15 order, as I mentioned, relating solely to witness A the first witness which I will read into the record now.

This is an order dated the 9th of December and with your permission I will read the actual nature of the order, rather than the whole order.

So that the Chair having reviewed the memorandum and considered the Orders required under the statute, issued an order pursuant to section 15(1)(a) and section 15(1)(b) of the inquiries act 2013 forbidding the publication and public access to the name or other particulars likely to lead to the identification of the witness, his family, his victims, his past or current prison locations and the nature of the convictions and any other rulings that the inquiry may make relating to this witness.

And just to advise, the evidence will be livestreamed anonymously. It will then be edited to ensure compliance with this order and then it will be made public on the website.

If there is nothing further, we will take that short adjournment and we will ring into the AVL.

**CHAIR:** Right, and you just advise us when the witness is ready. Can I just ask in terms of support for the survivor, I understand he has support. Where are they physically located, at arm's length from him?

**MS JANES:** There is support with him.

**CHAIR:** Where he is?

**MS JANES:** As he gives the evidence.

1     **CHAIR:** Excellent, that's good to hear. Thank you very  
2 much.

3

4             **Hearing adjourned from 9.56 a.m. until 10.02 a.m.**

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1  
2 **MR A - AFFIRMED**  
3 **EXAMINED BY MS COOPER**  
4  
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6 **CHAIR:** Good morning, Ms Cooper, welcome back.

7 **MS COOPER:** Before we get underway, I'll just ask the Judge  
8 to give you the affirmation.

9 **CHAIR:** Hello, we're going to call you Mr A, is that all  
10 right?

11 A. Yep.

12 **CHAIR:** You can see me? Yes. I'm Coral Shaw, I'm the  
13 Chair of the Commission and my job is to ask you if you  
14 would take the affirmation before you give your evidence;  
15 is that all right?

16 A. Yes. (Witness affirmed).

17 **CHAIR:** Thank you very much. I am now going to leave you  
18 in the hands of Ms Cooper who will ask you the questions,  
19 thank you.

20 **MS COOPER:**

21 Q. So, we're going to be talking today about your experiences  
22 in the care of the Salvation Army at Bramwell Booth and  
23 that was in Temuka. Obviously, we'll then talk to your  
24 experience of the redress process and because you were also  
25 in State care, as part of your evidence we're also going to  
26 ask you to compare your experience, at least to date, of  
27 the Salvation Army redress process and the State redress  
28 process.

29 So, just if you can confirm first that you were placed  
30 at Bramwell Booth at the age of 11 in 1982?

31 A. That's right, yep.

32 Q. And can you just tell the Commission how long you were  
33 there approximately?

34 A. I was there for about a year.

1 Q. You've described what happened to you, and I know that this  
2 can be quite difficult for you to talk to, so what I'm  
3 going to ask you to do first is just, at this stage as much  
4 as you feel comfortable, talk about your experiences there  
5 and then we will call out a document that we can go through  
6 that detail.

7 So, if you just start with how much you feel comfortable  
8 talking about your experiences there?

9 A. Okay. Well, I was sent to Bramwell Booth Home when I was  
10 11 because there was a crisis in my family. A man in the  
11 neighbourhood had been sexually molesting me and I started  
12 to act out. My IRO came from a Salvation Army family, so  
13 one of IRO relatives recommended I be sent to Bramwell  
14 Booth to give IRO a break. So, I went to Bramwell Booth  
15 and over the year that I was there, the bad things that  
16 happened to me were being assaulted by staff, being  
17 sexually assaulted by older and bigger boys and eventually  
18 also a staff member. I started sniffing glue when I was  
19 there and I was kind of introduced for the first time to  
20 other kids my age who broke the law often and, you know,  
21 that was okay to break the law.

22 Q. All right. And just to get some detail around that because  
23 I know that's difficult for you to talk to, we're just  
24 going to call out witness 44002 and we're looking at the  
25 analysis, the analysis document, page 4. If we can call  
26 out that. Are you able to see that?

27 A. Yep.

28 Q. So, just what we're going to highlight there is the bullet  
29 pointed points. So, first of all, you'll see you've  
30 referred to being physically assaulted by staff, and there  
31 the description is that a female staff member used to pull  
32 your hair and slap you across the face and that you  
33 estimated that this happened on approximately 30 different  
34 occasions, and you were also assaulted by a male staff  
35 member who frequently punched you all over your body, and

1 you say there that you saw this happening to other boys as  
2 well.

3 So, that's you talking about the physical assaults and  
4 that's the detail of what happened to you, isn't it?

5 A. Yep.

6 Q. And then the next description is the sexual assault that  
7 you talked about by the male staff member, and there the  
8 detail is that you were forced to perform oral sex on that  
9 male staff member who also rubbed himself over you. Can  
10 you confirm that?

11 A. Yep.

12 Q. And you've talked about the two older boys, so that's the  
13 next bullet point, and there you were forced to perform  
14 oral sex on those two older boys. And after reporting that  
15 abuse to this male staff member, that's when he started to  
16 sexually assault you, isn't it?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And then you talk about fights with other boys?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. You've already talked about starting to sniff petrol and  
21 glue and then you talk about smoking marijuana for the  
22 first time and smoking cigarettes, being taught about crime  
23 and for the first time learning about the importance of not  
24 narking.

25 So, can you just explain that? That will be a term that  
26 lots of people are familiar with, but others won't be  
27 familiar with what not narking means?

28 A. It just means talking to whoever is in authority and  
29 telling on other people, giving authority information about  
30 things that have been done.

31 Q. And the importance of that here and not narking, what did  
32 that mean for you in a practical sense, in a day-to-day  
33 sense?

34 A. It just meant keeping your mouth shut and not going to the  
35 staff and asking for help or giving the staff information

1 because if you did and the boys found out about it, you'd  
2 get beaten up.

3 Q. And that's something you'll obviously talk to more because  
4 that continued in your experiences in State care?

5 A. Yeah, through -

6 Q. Through to?

7 A. Now.

8 Q. And that's probably still the same now, is it?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. We're going to start talking about your steps towards  
11 bringing a claim. So, in your statement you talk about  
12 first visiting the Salvation Army in Dunedin in about 2003.  
13 Can you just talk through what you were wanting to achieve  
14 and what happened at that time?

15 A. Well, my life after the Temuka Boys' Home was pretty messed  
16 up and I had always been seeking for answers about why  
17 things turned out the way they had, so I went to the  
18 Salvation Army in Dunedin and asked to talk to someone and  
19 I did, I did talk to the officer who was there and he was  
20 very cynical to what I said and he questioned my mental  
21 health and inferred that I was a schizophrenic because of  
22 where I was living at that time. He thought it was a home  
23 for schizophrenic people, when actually it was a halfway  
24 house for people who had just been released from prison.

25 **CHAIR:** Ms Cooper, I don't want to interrupt too much, it  
26 would be nice to know what age you were, Mr A, when you  
27 went there, went to the Salvation Army for the first time,  
28 roughly?

29 A.

30 

Individual Restriction Order
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 so probably about 30, I was probably about 30 when  
32 I went to see the Salvation Army.

33 **CHAIR:** Thank you.

34 **MS COOPER:**

1 Q. Do you recall if you were asked about what had happened to  
2 you when you'd been at Temuka?

3 A. Yeah, yep, I gave him an outline of what had happened.  
4 Like I said, I felt really uncomfortable, because I felt  
5 like I was narking, and his cynicism was on his sleeve  
6 pretty much, so we didn't talk for long.

7 Q. And did you get any help at that point?

8 A. None, none at all. I actually left feeling a whole lot  
9 worse than when I went in.

10 Q. So, in your statement, you say that you obviously left  
11 things for a while and that you weren't able to tell family  
12 members because many were Army members?

13 A. Yep.

14 Q. So, how did you end up coming to approach lawyers to make a  
15 complaint on your behalf?

16 A. Well, I'd been recalled back to prison and I was just so  
17 frustrated about why my life was like it was and why I kept  
18 on making stupid decisions and how the time of the abuse  
19 that happened to me at Bramwell Booth might influence that,  
20 and I was discussing this with another man in the yard who  
21 had been in contact with you, Sonja, and he gave me the  
22 details.

23 Q. And so, you say in your statement that's roughly 2006. It  
24 took you another good 6 months or so to approach Cooper  
25 Legal, can you explain what that delay was about?

26 A. After talking to the guy, the officer in Dunedin, and being  
27 rejected, for me it was just, it was very hard to deal  
28 with. It's like being, you know, almost accused of making  
29 stories up and I just felt really bad about it and I didn't  
30 want that to happen again, so I was initially reluctant to  
31 talk to you but in the end, after talking to other people,  
32 I did.

33 Q. And so, you came to Cooper Legal on the 21st of April 2007  
34 and you were granted funding by Legal Aid on the 28th of  
35 May 2007.

1           So, as you say in your statement, the first step that  
2 Cooper Legal took was to ask McElroys, which were the  
3 lawyers then acting for the Salvation Army, for your  
4 records, and you understood that was going to be the first  
5 step, didn't you?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. And then in May 2007, the records were provided and you say  
8 in your statement that you read the document that the Major  
9 had written about you after the meeting back in 2003 that  
10 you were a schizophrenic.

11           Do you recall how you felt about that?

12 A. I was mortified, to be honest. It really upset me because  
13 I felt as if him saying that I was a schizophrenic, that  
14 maybe I was making stuff up because I was mentally ill, and  
15 I shouldn't be believed.

16 Q. So, as you know, as part of the preliminary processes  
17 before we progressed your claim, there were a number of  
18 meetings with the Salvation Army and one of the outcomes of  
19 those meetings is set out quite usefully in a document  
20 which you've seen as part of the bundle, so it's Salvation  
21 Army 29800014. If we can just call out that document, it's  
22 a letter from Amanda Hill at Cooper Legal to Murray Houston  
23 of the Salvation Army. If we can just call out the first  
24 page which refers to a meeting which took place on the 4th  
25 of October 2007. And then you will see it goes on to talk  
26 about how the claims are going to be dealt with. With  
27 people whose claims were filed in Court, those clients were  
28 going to be interviewed and then the Salvation Army was  
29 going to conduct its own investigation into those claims.

30           And then moving on to the second page, for those claims  
31 that were not filed in Court, Cooper Legal would send an  
32 initial outline of the claim against the Army and request  
33 the records, if that hadn't already been done.

34           And you will see there a reference to the firm  
35 requesting the records of the clients to verify their

1 claim, rather than as a "fishing expedition"; do you see  
2 that reference there?

3 A. Yes, I do.

4 Q. And in your statement, you refer to the fact that at that  
5 meeting it had been put to Cooper Legal that one of the  
6 reasons for getting the records was just a "fishing  
7 expedition", rather than proper work to verify claims?

8 A. Mm.

9 Q. And then there was a discussion about the need to obtain  
10 psychiatric reports, so that's the next paragraph, where it  
11 was noted that in past cases the Salvation Army had  
12 requested psychiatric reports and other material and it was  
13 explained in that letter that they were very expensive and  
14 difficult to obtain. And so, as you see in the next  
15 paragraph, the offer was made that as some clients had  
16 psychiatric reports done by Corrections or ACC, they may be  
17 able to be provided.

18 You've read that too, haven't you?

19 A. That's right, yep.

20 Q. And then just at the bottom of that page, that's something  
21 that came to you as well, was the point of contact. And  
22 there, if we call out that bottom paragraph, there it was a  
23 statement, "It's necessary to communicate with clients  
24 solely through Cooper Legal". And there the Salvation Army  
25 people were asked not to provide contact details to clients  
26 or speak to them without a lawyer from Cooper Legal because  
27 to do so would endanger the relationship between Salvation  
28 Army and Cooper Legal.

29 A. Mm.

30 Q. And following on from that, you also received a letter,  
31 didn't you?

32 A. Yep.

33 Q. And that is witness 44003. If we can highlight first on  
34 page 1 the bullet pointed material. That was explaining to  
35 you what the process would be. So, if the Salvation Army

1 didn't have details of your claim, a letter would be sent  
2 outlining your experiences.

3 And then you would be interviewed by Murray Houston and  
4 a lawyer from Cooper Legal. And then your claim would be  
5 investigated and there may be more information that needed  
6 to be provided. And, depending on the outcome, the Army  
7 would either offer to settle your claim or refuse to  
8 settle.

9 Just thinking back now, did you have any views about how  
10 that process was going to work?

11 A. Yeah, it just seemed like they were trying to find reasons  
12 to say that I wasn't telling the truth. It was like - it  
13 turned adversarial, them against me, that's how I felt.

14 Q. There's just one more point that I wanted to highlight from  
15 that letter. So, if we can call it up again, and it's the  
16 bottom paragraph. There you'll see we were saying to you  
17 that we'd had had instances of organisations, such as the  
18 Salvation Army, making small offers of compensation to our  
19 clients directly and that they were less than the claimant  
20 was entitled to. So, to protect you from this, it was  
21 important that you did not communicate with any member of  
22 the Salvation Army directly but only through Cooper Legal.  
23 And we also talked to you about the fact that there would  
24 be a Legal Aid debt associated with any settlement.

25 And do you recall that you were asked to think about  
26 that and sign a document agreeing that you would not talk  
27 directly to the Salvation Army and understanding about  
28 that, in terms of your Legal Aid debt? I need you to speak  
29 in answer?

30 A. Oh, yes, that's right, yes.

31 Q. We then talk about in your statement another meeting in May  
32 2008, so we've moved on quite a way, because there had been  
33 some breakdown again in the relationship and there was a  
34 discussion about the approach that the Salvation Army  
35 should take, and that the that stage the Salvation Army was

1 questioning why it shouldn't take a legal approach and how  
2 the Salvation Army was concerned that claimants, how  
3 claimants see the Salvation Army. And so, some concerns  
4 were raised with the Salvation Army about the approach it  
5 was taking then.

6 So, there were some ongoing discussions about how the  
7 Salvation Army would deal with these claims?

8 A. Yep.

9 Q. And you'll also see, as you say in your statement, there  
10 was also an issue about officers attending the meetings in  
11 uniform?

12 A. Mm-Mmm.

13 Q. And how that was daunting for some clients. And that would  
14 have been an issue that was discussed with you prior to  
15 your meeting, wouldn't it?

16 A. Yep and because I come from a Salvation Army family, it was  
17 a really big deal, you know, men in Salvation Army uniforms  
18 were scary to me when I was a kid.

19 Q. So, as you say in your statement, another meeting in May  
20 2009, so lots of time has moved on in that period and at  
21 that stage the issue of officers wearing uniforms to  
22 meetings was resolved and we also agreed a way of stopping  
23 the clock, the limitation clock, so that we could settle on  
24 with the claims, which meant that you could finally meet  
25 with the Salvation Army and a lawyer from Cooper Legal and  
26 an officer from the Salvation Army on the 31st of July  
27 2009, so that's quite a long time after you've initially  
28 instructed us, isn't it?

29 A. Yep.

30 Q. Now, you've talked about the meeting lasting just over an  
31 hour, can you just talk to us about your memories of that  
32 meeting and how you felt at the time and what you were  
33 hoping for, for that meeting?

34 A. I was really anxious going to that meeting because, as I  
35 said, it had become a me against the Salvation Army thing.

1 That's how I felt. I was so anxious that I just had to  
2 read out a statement that I had written, rather than be  
3 interviewed.

4 Q. And how did you feel was the reception to that written  
5 statement?

6 A. Like I say, it was like me against them. Like, I felt like  
7 I was trying to prove to them that I was telling the truth.  
8 I felt as if the whole time the Salvation Army were cynical  
9 about my claims and, like I say, were trying to find, like,  
10 cracks in my story. I don't know, trying to find reasons  
11 to deny the affect that their treatment had had on me and  
12 what had happened to me when I was in their care.

13 Q. Do you remember now whether you had an apology given to you  
14 at that meeting?

15 A. No, I can't remember that.

16 Q. And then, the next thing that happened was that an offer  
17 was received for you, and that's witness 44004, if we can  
18 call out page 1 of that document which is a letter dated  
19 14 September 2009.

20 If we just call out the first paragraph first, and that,  
21 as you will see, referred to various meetings with clients  
22 over recent weeks. It started with the proposition, "We do  
23 not believe that we have any legal liability at all to any  
24 of the claimants because of at least limitation issues, and  
25 in some cases accident compensation issues as well".

26 And then if we move to the next paragraph and the  
27 offers, nevertheless it went on to say that they had taken  
28 into account the seriousness of the allegations and the  
29 interests of certainty and finality and for economic  
30 reasons were prepared to make without prejudice settlement  
31 offers.

32 And you will see there, a range of offers there from  
33 \$10,000 through to \$25,000, and you're the further person  
34 down, you've got the top offer of \$25,000; do you see that?

35 A. Yes.

1 Q. And then if we call out the next paragraph, which is  
2 already usefully highlighted for us. It went on to say,  
3 "The amounts were all-inclusive of any costs." And it also  
4 said this was not the start of a negotiation process and  
5 that claimants were urged to view the offers on the same  
6 non-liability basis and that each claimant would be asked  
7 to sign a discharge. In other words, it's a take it or  
8 leave it offer. You have seen that letter, haven't you?

9 A. Yeah, I have, yeah.

10 Q. Just moving over to the second page of that letter because  
11 there is some specific reference to you, those are the  
12 three paragraphs. Now, you had requested help from the  
13 Salvation Army when you were released from prison, to  
14 assist you with a release plan?

15 A. Yep.

16 Q. Because you noted that you might not need to have - that  
17 might not need to be paid employment. And you will see  
18 that the response there was, "Salvation Army Officers had  
19 attempted to assist you in a similar way in the past  
20 however, even using best endeavours, you had been recalled  
21 to prison for not fulfilling your parole conditions. So,  
22 if the Salvation Army was to agree to assist you again, it  
23 would need to be assured you were prepared to engage fully  
24 in any supervised reintegration programme to minimise  
25 further relapse".

26 It is something we have discussed?

27 A. Yeah.

28 Q. Had Salvation Army Officers attempted to assist you in a  
29 similar way in the past?

30 A. No, not at all, other than family members who were  
31 Salvation Army, family members, you know, but there was no  
32 specific, there was no actual like "GRO-A", the Salvation  
33 Army is here to help you stay out of prison", that didn't  
34 happen at all.

1 Q. We were asked to ask you if you required any more  
2 assistance and that Mr Houston would do his best to provide  
3 referrals. Did you get any assistance at the end of the  
4 day?

5 A. No.

6 Q. You then received a letter explaining the offer to you, and  
7 if we can call out, I will make sure I speak into the  
8 microphone, call out a document which is witness 44005.  
9 That's another letter actually, I'm skipping forward. You  
10 had your letter explaining the offer and we said we should  
11 go back and ask for some costs for you, given how much the  
12 Legal Aid debt was at that stage. So, this letter that  
13 we've now called out is the response to that request for a  
14 contribution to your debt. And you will see there that the  
15 response was all of the recent offers had been on a costs  
16 inclusive basis, and clearly so, but we were now seeking to  
17 introduce a contribution to costs. And there the Salvation  
18 Army was saying they were not prepared to meet legal costs  
19 over and above the amount offered.

20 And the next paragraph, "We simply wish to make this  
21 position clear so that you are fully aware of it both in  
22 relation to one client and all other claimants"?

23 A. Yep.

24 Q. And, as you explain in your statement, what that meant for  
25 you is that you had a Legal Aid debt of \$5,800 which had to  
26 come out of that \$25,000. And, as you say in your  
27 statement, Cooper Legal wrote to Legal Aid to ask that part  
28 of the debt at least be written-off?

29 A. Yep.

30 Q. And do you remember how much you had to contribute at the  
31 end of the day from your \$25,000? It's in your statement  
32 if you can't remember that. I can help you, it's \$3,750  
33 that you needed to contribute.

34 A. Yep.

35 Q. So, that came out and you got the balance, didn't you?

1 A. That's right. I was puzzled about that, I don't know if  
2 you remember, Sonja, a year or so later I wrote to you and  
3 asked for the rest of my money that I thought I had. I  
4 didn't understand that I paid for Legal Aid.

5 Q. Yes. So, then you signed a discharge on the 12th of  
6 October, and we'll call that out, that's 44006. We just  
7 want to call out paragraph 1 there. So, that's you  
8 agreeing to accept the \$25,000 from the Salvation Army in  
9 full and final settlement of your claims against the  
10 Salvation Army and you signed that on the 12th of October,  
11 as we see below, didn't you?

12 A. Yep.

13 Q. Now, as part of that process you did receive an apology  
14 letter?

15 A. Yep, I have it here.

16 Q. That's Salvation Army 978. If we just call out the text on  
17 that. So, that apology letter thanked you for taking the  
18 time to talk to the Salvation Army people and it  
19 appreciated your willingness to meet with them and to  
20 express your feelings and your memories of a difficult,  
21 very difficult time for you. It then went on to say, "We  
22 are aware that you have felt much hurt, and I deeply regret  
23 that the conduct of any officers or staff of The Salvation  
24 Army responsible for your care has caused or contributed to  
25 your pain and suffering".

26 And highlight the next one, "Please accept the sincere  
27 apology that has been made by our leaders in regard to any  
28 former child in the care of the Salvation Army.

29 May I wish you all the best for the future and sincerely  
30 hope you find healing and closure. Once again, we express  
31 our sincere apologies" and it was signed off, "May God  
32 bless you".

33 I know you've only recently re-seen this document but  
34 what was your response to that apology?

1 A. It felt pretty - it felt like it was a letter that they had  
2 probably saved and sent to anyone, just changed the name at  
3 the top. It wasn't - I didn't feel like it was  
4 specifically for me, to me, because it says "any former  
5 child" and I just felt it's shit and, "May I wish you all  
6 the best for the future and sincerely hope you find healing  
7 and closure" was what I was hoping the Salvation Army was  
8 going to help me with but they didn't. So, I think I  
9 screwed this letter up within an hour of getting it.

10 Q. Before we kind of move to the end part because that really  
11 was the end of the redress process for you, wasn't it?

12 A. Yep.

13 Q. You have written some really good comments in your  
14 statement about how you feel about the outcome of your  
15 claim. If I can just get you to talk to some of that  
16 without reading that, I know that end statement that you've  
17 done, but just how you felt in terms of getting money and  
18 an apology?

19 A. I did feel like - I didn't feel good about it. I didn't  
20 feel like I had won. It was, how did I feel? I felt as if  
21 I was paid off by the Salvation Army and the way that they  
22 addressed my complaints about them was so unsatisfactory  
23 that it is because after 13 years I still feel like I'm  
24 trying to get proper help from the government for their  
25 part in all of this. Does that make sense?

26 Q. You say in your statement that when you received the offer  
27 you asked yourself is that what you think I'm worth? Is  
28 that the monetary value you put on those years of my life  
29 and the consequences of those years? Do you want to talk a  
30 bit more to that?

31 A. Well, I feel as if my experiences in Temuka Children's Home  
32 led to my life of more boys' homes and eventually prisons,  
33 and I just, I was looking for answers and instead I got a  
34 \$25,000 cheque and told that's it, you know, that's what

1 it's worth, that's what all the grief that we've  
2 contributed to your life is \$25,000.

3 Q. And one of the other statements that you make in your  
4 written statement, and I'm looking at paragraph 50 now, is  
5 you talked about the offer being a bit abstract and you  
6 say, what was the offer of \$25,000 for? Was it to make you  
7 feel better? To buy yourself a nice car? You ask  
8 yourself, what that compensation payment was actually for?  
9 Do you want to talk a bit more about that?

10 A. It just didn't seem right that money should make everything  
11 all right. That by giving me money the problem was solved.  
12 Yeah.

13 Q. So then - are you all right?

14 A. Yep.

15 Q. We'll just talk then, compare that with the State redress  
16 process which it's important to say you're still engaged  
17 with?

18 A. Yep.

19 Q. And I know you've written some thoughts down about that,  
20 starting with I suppose that path from Bramwell Booth  
21 through to State care?

22 A. Mm.

23 Q. So, one of the things you say in your statement is that  
24 there was that path, if you hadn't gone to Bramwell Booth,  
25 you wouldn't have gone to Lookout Point and you wouldn't  
26 have gone to Hokio and Kohitere and on to prison?

27 A. Yes.

28 Q. So, do you just want to talk, I suppose, about, I don't  
29 know whether you want to read what you've written down at  
30 this point or whether you want to talk about that  
31 trajectory and the importance of redress and the context of  
32 that?

33 A. Okay. So, since I went to Bramwell Booth, the longest time  
34 I spent out of an institution from when I was 11, I'm now

1 49, is 2 years. It was like Bramwell Booth set me off on  
2 that path of a chaotic life.

3 I've just been desperate for answers over the years.  
4 Like, why do I act like I do? What has influenced me to  
5 have these - to make my life a disaster? And the  
6 compensation, in hindsight I would have preferred some  
7 direct help from them, the help that they said they gave  
8 me, but they didn't. A life coach who would help me out,  
9 who would advise me, who I could just have there.

10 Salvation Army set me up for a life of disaster, paid me  
11 off \$25,000, I guess begrudgingly, and that was it. I  
12 spent the rest of my life in institutions and prisons.

13 Q. It probably is the point now I think for you to read what  
14 you've written because I think this is a useful point for  
15 you to talk about that. So, what you've written there is a  
16 bit of an outline about then what happened to you in State  
17 care and then how that's kind of led on to where you are  
18 now and how you feel about that overall, in terms of the  
19 redress process.

20 **CHAIR:** Which paragraph?

21 **MS COOPER:** He has written his own statement.

22 **CHAIR:** You have written another statement? That's great,  
23 good, thank you.

24 A. Okay.

25 **MS COOPER:**

26 Q. Remember to be slow.

27 A. Yep. I feel as if my time at Temuka set me up to fail in  
28 life. Like, ADHD was not recognised at that time and,  
29 also, I was beginning to abuse drugs and I was never given  
30 treatment for these things at that time. After I left, I  
31 was sent to Lookout Point Boys' Home and then on to Hokio,  
32 despite advice from a psychologist not to send me there.  
33 While I was in the boys' home, I was in and out of the  
34 secure unit. I think this affected me most of all, like  
35 being in a cell, the fear and confusion. I was 13 years

1 old and in a cell. It was continually reinforced to me  
2 that I was a bad kid, so bad that I had to be locked up.  
3 The signs were clear that residential care was not working  
4 for me and, instead of considering alternative care  
5 arrangements, I was sent to Hokio, apparently for  
6 expedience sake, like by putting me in Hokio, I would be  
7 out of their hair.

8 The year I spent in Hokio was the worse time of my life.  
9 I was constantly bullied and beaten up and had to fight  
10 almost every day. Staff and other boys, I was beaten up  
11 and bullied by staff and other boys. Violence was  
12 reinforced as a positive in Hokio. The toughest kid was  
13 admired and also used by staff to enforce rules and give  
14 out beatings. I spent time in the Hokio secure, which is a  
15 freezing cold windowless cell and every day we'd have to do  
16 PT, which was push ups, burpies and I was often hit over  
17 the head by a big bunch of keys for not doing the exercise  
18 properly.

19 There were some boys in Hokio who had come from gang  
20 families and some were there for very serious criminal  
21 offending. These things we saw as being cool, again the  
22 idea that I was bad was cool and that gangs and crime were  
23 things to aspire to. After my time in Hokio, I was put  
24 into foster care. That placement failed, so I was sent  
25 back to my mother's, despite the fact that the Department  
26 knew that, in their words, that placement was anticipated  
27 to be a vulnerable one.

28 Soon I was back in the boys' home and by this time the  
29 staff saw me as an old lag. I was only 15 years old. I  
30 was again put in the secure unit time after time for  
31 breaking the rules.

32 It should have been clear to the staff that I needed  
33 psychological help, real help, therapy or counselling. I  
34 was pretty much left to fail.

1 Kohitere was next and the violence, gangs and crime  
2 there were all glorified and I became a bully to survive.

3 Psychological help was denied. Kohitere staff said  
4 that, and this is their words, I was too sophisticated to  
5 be successfully analysed by a psychologist. Again, the  
6 opportunity to get real help for my ADHD was denied. There  
7 seemed to be little communication between my social worker  
8 and Kohitere and my social worker in Dunedin regarding what  
9 to do with me.

10 Eventually, I left Kohitere to a very unsuitable  
11 placement that fell to bits within weeks.

12 Social Welfare decided there was nothing else to do and  
13 I was discharged from Social Welfare care. I was left to  
14 my own devices, no job, no place to live, life was pretty  
15 grim.

16 I moved to a flat with older boys who have been through  
17 the system. Myself and two of those boys who was in that  
18 flat are all currently Individual Restriction Order  
19 By then violence and anti-authoritarianism was the norm and  
20 I progressed very quickly into the adult criminal system  
21 along with my friends and peers who had been through the  
22 system with me. I had no direction at all in life. I  
23 couldn't think ahead about where my life was heading. I  
24 was addicted to drugs and alcohol and offending to support  
25 that habit.

26 When I was 18, I was Individual Restriction Order and since that  
27 time, I have spent nearly all my adult life in prison. I  
28 don't want the State to deal with my case the same as the  
29 Salvation Army did, as something that can be dealt with at  
30 the right cost. A wraparound approach would be far more  
31 helpful for me. For myself, financial compensation so I  
32 can have my own home. Treatment for my ADHD. A life coach  
33 who could assist me with staying out, getting out and  
34 staying out and getting an education so I can have a fair  
35 go at getting a job.

1 An apology is important, but not just a "sorry", also an  
2 acknowledgment that the failures made by the Church and the  
3 State when they were looking after me led to drastic  
4 consequences that affected me and others my whole life.

5 The system that was supposed to protect me and nurture  
6 me into a constructive citizen of society, failed me in so  
7 many areas. It needs to take responsibility for its part  
8 in making my life so disastrous. We're people, not  
9 problems to be dealt with as if we're on a conveyor belt.  
10 Pay us off, problem solved, pay us off, problem solved.  
11 Effective redress should mean so much more than a cash  
12 payment. I need help now to break the cycle of being  
13 recalled and spending so much time in prison. I often  
14 wonder how much is this pro process costing? The  
15 government has made offers to me and I feel that they've  
16 probably spent more money talking about and arguing what  
17 I'm entitled to than what they're actually offering me.

18 That's it.

19 Q. Thank you. Just now having read that, are there any  
20 concluding comments that you want to make at this stage?  
21 You have the floor. So, as I say, if there are any  
22 concluding comments you want to make at this stage, please  
23 feel free to do so?

24 A. What I said, I've spent most of my adult life in prison and  
25 **Individual Restriction Order** I've just been diagnosed with having  
26 ADHD which I know now I would have had all my life and I  
27 just wish and wonder how things would have turned out if  
28 someone had diagnosed me with ADHD when I was a little boy,  
29 rather than now when I'm 49. So, the diagnosis kind of  
30 gives me some hope as well as some despair by, like I say,  
31 what might have happened, and I just want to address that  
32 directly because I feel that that's the root of my problems  
33 and if I can get help from the government, maybe things  
34 would be okay. From what I've read, treatment for ADHD is  
35 really successful and can transform lives and I want my

1 life to be transformed. I'm desperate. I'm at the end of  
2 my tether.

3 Q. Thank you. I'm not sure if there are any questions for  
4 you, but unless you have anything else to say, that  
5 concludes my questions.

6 A. No, I haven't got anything else to say.

7 **CHAIR:** Mr A, we haven't got any questions for you because  
8 everything you have written is in your statement which we  
9 have already read carefully and will continue to read and  
10 take into account. Thank you for that. I will give you to  
11 Commissioner Alofivae to thank you for coming today.

12 **COMMISSIONER ALOFIVAE:** Mr A, look, can I just thank you  
13 sincerely on behalf of the Commission for your courage and  
14 your bravery this morning in sharing your experiences so  
15 honestly with us when you were giving your evidence.

16 Your insights are very powerful, and it gives us much  
17 food for thought about what effective redress actually  
18 looks like. You've actually been able to identify really  
19 clearly what actually would have worked for you, had it  
20 been put in place some time ago, but you've also given us  
21 much hope about the future, about what we can suggest and  
22 recommendations going forward, in particular for the  
23 Salvation Army, but also for the State.

24 So, I hope that this has been an opportunity for you to  
25 feel like you've really significantly contributed to our  
26 work this morning, because we certainly feel and believe  
27 that you have and I'm hoping that you will now be able to  
28 take the time-out to find that inner peace that you're  
29 looking for because I think when you talk about  
30 transformative change, being able to speak it into  
31 existence actually starts putting that first building block  
32 on the road for you. So, all the best for the rest of the  
33 day and I hope you will continue to follow us and see what  
34 actually comes out eventually in the end in terms of our  
35 recommendations.

1 A. Thank you, Miss.

2 **COMMISSIONER ALOFIVAE:** Take.

3 **CHAIR:** Chair thank you and thank you to you Ms Cooper for  
4 caring for Mr A through this long time and probably for a  
5 long time, as well, leading his evidence. Thank you. We  
6 will take the adjournment.

7

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9 **Hearing adjourned from 10.55 a.m. until 11.17 a.m.**

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**DARRIN TIMPSON - AFFIRMED****EXAMINED BY MS JANES**

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**CHAIR:** Yes, Ms Janes.

**MS JANES:** Good afternoon, Commissioners, our next witness is Mr Darrin Timpson. I will let the affirmation proceed before we start the evidence.

**CHAIR:** How would you like us to refer to you?

A. Darrin is fine.

**CHAIR:** Darrin is fine, that's very good, thanks Darrin. I will just ask you to take the affirmation. (Witness affirmed). Thank you, Ms Janes will be asking you some questions.

**MS JANES:**

Q. Your full name is Darrin Timpson?

A. Yes.

Q. And you have prepared a statement for the Royal Commission dated 25 September 2020. Can you confirm that is true and correct to the best of your knowledge?

A. Yes, it is.

Q. And you are here to talk about the care that you received at Bramwell Booth Home in Temuka and your redress process. But before we do that, can you just tell us a little bit about yourself?

A. Well, I'm 54 years old now, and I'm sort of just getting to understand what happened and live a normal life, so to speak.

Q. In terms of where you were born and your heritage and where you live now?

A. I was born in the Chatham Islands. I didn't stay there for too long. I came over for a medical emergency. We did go back briefly and then we ended up in Timaru from there. Yeah, that's where I came from.

1 Q. I'm going to do the traffic stop.

2 A. Sorry. I now live in Christchurch, but I've lived in most  
3 parts in New Zealand over the last 50 years.

4 Q. At paragraph 7 of your brief of evidence, which is page 2,  
5 you talk about the water on the brain medical emergency?

6 A. Yep.

7 Q. And how you were taken off the Chatham Islands, but it also  
8 had other consequences. Perhaps you could read from  
9 paragraph 7?

10 A. I don't have a lot of memories of my early life with my  
11 parents. I had a medical condition as an infant, water on  
12 the brain, and was flown from the Chatham Islands straight  
13 after birth to Christchurch for treatment. We later moved  
14 to Timaru. From what I have been told, my parents were  
15 both chronic alcoholics, both have very violent fights. I  
16 remember a couple of fights. One of my brothers holding  
17 onto me when they were having an argument.

18 I only know how I came to be in the Salvation Army from  
19 second-hand information, mostly from reading my file, my  
20 brothers and sisters were already at Bramwell Booth and had  
21 been there for various lengths of time. My parents wanted  
22 to drop me there as well, but were told they weren't  
23 allowed to as I was too young. I would have been about 4  
24 and a half. Apparently, they went to visit my siblings for  
25 the weekend and left me there, then they disappeared.

26 Q. And what happened to you after that?

27 A. I became a State ward sometime after that. The Salvation  
28 Army couldn't find my parents to get money out of them.  
29 They made an application for my siblings and I to become  
30 State wards so they could receive money for us from the  
31 State.

32 Q. And do you recall any visits from family?

33 A. Only from my grandmother and that was sort of infrequent,  
34 like a fortnightly visit.

35 Q. And how long did that go on for?

- 1 A. I couldn't give you a timeframe on that.
- 2 Q. But you thought a few years?
- 3 A. A few years, yep.
- 4 Q. And at paragraphs 12 and 13, can you read those for us
- 5 slowly?
- 6 A. A lot of different staff came through the home while I
- 7 lived there. Officers rotated through the Bramwell Booth
- 8 around every 3 or 4 years. The Salvation Army had a
- 9 handwritten ledger where they recorded when kids arrived
- 10 and left the home. Before I left the home at the age of 16
- 11 I asked to look at the ledger, so I could work out how long
- 12 I'd been there. I was at Bramwell for 11 years, 5 months
- 13 and 27 and a half days.
- 14 Q. Darrin, just taking you back to paragraph 6 where you talk
- 15 about the size of the family that you came from, you've got
- 16 your parents and brothers and sisters and you talk about
- 17 being the youngest but with two sisters and three brothers.
- 18 Were you alone in Bramwell Booth or were any of your family
- 19 there with you?
- 20 A. That varied through the years. When I was first there, all
- 21 six of us were there. I think it was a couple of years
- 22 before the oldest, GRO-B, had left and then of course as
- 23 the years went by, as my brothers and sisters grew older,
- 24 they also left. There was a time when I was there, the
- 25 only kid in my family there, but yeah.
- 26 Q. And from 14, paragraph 14, on page 3 of your brief, you
- 27 start to talk about the abuse. Would you like to either
- 28 read from paragraph 14 or in your own words go through the
- 29 information from there?
- 30 A. I'll read what's down here. The first couple of years at
- 31 the home were the worst. This was when Captain Gainsford
- 32 and his wife were in charge along with Envoy Bezzant and
- 33 his wife. It changed my attitude towards people and I
- 34 wouldn't let anyone near me and I lost trust in people.

1 Envoy Bezzant was quite a big fellow and was very  
2 violent. I remember many occasions I was whacked on the  
3 back of the head for stupid things like having my feet up  
4 on a chair or not doing my chores on time. This was always  
5 with a piece of wood, the inside of a rail of a towel  
6 roller, he would walk around the dining room at dinner  
7 holding this stick. On one occasion this rendered me  
8 unconscious and I had to be taken to the doctor. I was  
9 taken to the local doctor in town.

10 I was also beaten when I was caught in bed with my  
11 sister. I used to creep in her bed at night when I had  
12 nightmares, but if I was caught I was given the strap or  
13 slapped around the ears.

14 I often saw other kids getting beaten and on one  
15 occasion Bezzant hit a kid so badly in the bath that he  
16 nearly drowned.

17 I have memories of being forced to wear nappies around  
18 the home and to school because I'd wet my pants and I would  
19 have been around 7.

20 I had 3 older brothers in the home. None of them who  
21 looked after me. We weren't encouraged to look after each  
22 other. [REDACTED] GRO-B

23 [REDACTED] GRO-B

I would have been around 7.

24 [REDACTED] GRO-B

25 Fighting between the boys was an encouraged thing. Captain  
26 Hobbs was good for this. He seemed to enjoy seeing the  
27 boys fight and let them go for it.

28 I spent a couple of weeks in hospital in Christchurch  
29 after Hobbs burnt me with a barbecue. I don't think this  
30 was intentional, he was just careless. I was standing  
31 around the barbecue with one of the boys from the home and  
32 Hobbs put more methylated spirits on it. When he couldn't  
33 see the flame it just went woof. I got burnt around the  
34 neck, it's under my beard you can't really see anything  
35 now. The other boy got it a lot worse. He was burnt quite

1 badly on his legs. They didn't take him to the burn's unit  
2 in Christchurch, they just took him to Timaru Hospital and  
3 he ended up with quite bad scarring on his legs.

4 Staff would give us some alcohol. I remember Envoy  
5 giving my brother and some of his friends a couple of dozen  
6 bottles of alcohol and letting them get blind drunk. Some  
7 of the staff would give some of the girls alcohol.

8 Punishment was often excessive. One of the favourites  
9 of the staff was to put us in the pit which was a big hole  
10 outside in the garage for fixing cars. The staff would put  
11 us in this and drive a car over it so we couldn't get out.  
12 Sometimes they left us there all day. It happened to me  
13 only four or five times. One time it was because another  
14 boy and I wouldn't eat porridge for breakfast. They saved  
15 it and gave it to us for tea, but we still wouldn't eat it.  
16 As punishment we were put in the pit.

17 Q. And then turning the page to paragraph 26.

18 A. Yep. I didn't talk to the other kids about the sexual  
19 abuse at the time. We all knew it was going on.

20 I was aware of what was happening to the other children,  
21 way before anything happened to me. I remember lying in  
22 bed at night and staff coming in and taking kids out. I  
23 may not have known exactly what was going on being at that  
24 age, but I had some idea.

25 Most of the sexual abuse I saw happen to the other kids  
26 was from Gainsford. He didn't physically abuse us. In  
27 fact, he was quite lovely towards the kids following sexual  
28 encounters. He gave us treats and we'd end up with  
29 lollies.

30 The earliest memory I have of seeing anything happen was  
31 in the back field where there was a play hut and that's  
32 where Gainsford used to take the girls.

33 We were outside the tree next to the play hut. It was  
34 me and another boy from the home. We were playing in the  
35 tree and we peaked through the side of the hut. Gainsford

1 was in there with one of the girls from the home. She  
2 would have been maybe 10 or 11 at the time. I didn't know  
3 what I was looking at. I was too young to understand what  
4 sex was. But now I know he was having sex with her.

5 GRO-B was sexually abused by Gainsford. She was a  
6 witness at his trial.

7 The sexual abuse by Gainsford led to a culture among the  
8 older kids that this was normal practice, and it did  
9 continue after he left between us kids. It was the older  
10 kids doing it with the younger. The older male residents  
11 would rape the small younger residents and they became the  
12 abusers. I didn't sexually abuse the other children, but I  
13 did bully them. It would get physical on occasion.

14 The sexual abuse that happened to me was later in my  
15 time at the home. I think I would have been about 8 or 9.  
16 I haven't told many people about this.

17 The main offender for me was Captain Hobbs. It first  
18 happened when he offered to change my room. He told me I  
19 could move out of the dorms and into a double room by  
20 myself. The room had access from the inside and the  
21 outside through the fire escape.

22 The first time something happened with him was the day  
23 he moved me into the room. He told me that I knew the  
24 price of it. He forced me to give him a blowjob and then  
25 had sex with me.

26 I never told anyone. I just shut my mouth. I'd known  
27 it was going on with other children. It felt more like a  
28 case it was now my turn. I didn't feel like I was offended  
29 against as much as some of the other kids at the time. I  
30 didn't like it, but I didn't think - I think I had become a  
31 bit immune to it.

32 In later years, I knew what happened wasn't right and I  
33 kind of knew at the time that it wasn't correct behaviour.  
34 Some of the girls in the home had told people earlier about  
35 the sexual abuse at Bramwell Booth. They just got shut-

1 down so I wasn't going to tell anyone at school or anything  
2 like that.

3 The sexual abuse from Hobbs went on for about a year or  
4 so. You couldn't predict when or how it was going to  
5 happen. It varied - on average about once a month.  
6 Sometimes you would be by yourself, other times in a group.  
7 A couple of times, there would be two or three of us  
8 together.

9 Hobbs liked to dress us up. He gave us clothing to put  
10 on, that was his kink. Sometimes he'd dress the males in  
11 females clothing and get us to have simulated sex,  
12 including with guys. He would be sitting there watching  
13 and masturbating himself.

14 One of the staff members found women's underclothes  
15 stuffed in my pillowcase. Hobbs had given them to me. He  
16 got them from the laundry. They must have belonged to one  
17 of the residents. I was questioned and it went on record  
18 that I was having psych issues.

19 Hobbs didn't want me speaking to a psychologist. Who  
20 knows what I might have told them? Instead of getting  
21 professional help, they decided I was lonely and gave me a  
22 stuffed toy. It was an easy way out for Hobbs.

23 Some of the other kids were sexually abused by one of  
24 the other staff members around this time. His name was Ray  
25 Vince. I walked in on Vince with one of the girls from the  
26 home having sex, but he never offended against me  
27 personally.

28 I was 15 or 16 at the time. They were in his lounge  
29 room. They were both naked. I was old enough to know what  
30 they were doing.

31 Sometime around 2008, I read that they had arrested  
32 Vince and that he was charged with historic sex offences.  
33 I went to Nelson Police Station and I gave a statement to  
34 the Police about what I had seen Vince do.

1 Q. And, Darrin, there is a document reference there, 6002, but  
2 we'll actually come back to that a little bit later. If  
3 you can carry on reading from 46.

4 A. Right. I would have gone to trial to give evidence, but  
5 Vince pleaded guilty to all the charges and there was no  
6 trial.

7 I ran away from the home a couple of times. The later  
8 years at the home weren't that bad but the damage had  
9 already been done. I didn't trust any staff members and I  
10 wouldn't let any of them get close to me.

11 I was made a State ward sometime after arriving at  
12 Bramwell Booth, but the Department of Social Welfare didn't  
13 play much of a role in my life. They used to come in once  
14 a month to Bramwell Booth to see the children that were  
15 State wards. I didn't have a lot of memories about it.  
16 Apparently, they talked to me or maybe they talked to the  
17 staff about me, because I don't remember seeing them that  
18 often. I only know that they came monthly from reading my  
19 file. There are notes about their visits.

20 At 16 I left Bramwell Booth and I was sent to live with  
21 an uncle and aunty in Christchurch. I had never met them  
22 before, but I had no choice in this.

23 They were both alcoholics with five children of their  
24 own. They were obliged to take me as I was expected to  
25 leave Bramwell Booth at that age.

26 I was there for about a year and I didn't go to school.

27 There was no physical or sexual abuse. More than  
28 anything, they were neglectful. The house was a hovel. I  
29 think I was there to be an extra kid to clean up. I was  
30 only taken in for the extra money that they would receive  
31 from the State.

32 I started to get with some wrong people and I didn't  
33 want to be at home. My uncle and aunty were always drunk.

34 I had a couple of encounters with the Department of  
35 Social Welfare after I left Bramwell Booth. One time they

1 gave me some clothing. The next time I remember seeing  
2 them I was signed off.

3 Q. Before we go on to the effects and the impact of the abuse  
4 on you, there's just a couple of issues in previous  
5 evidence that it would be useful to just have a quick look  
6 at.

7 A. Yep.

8 Q. The Salvation Army would probably be surprised to hear  
9 about children being given alcohol. You've mentioned that  
10 that was your experience. Can you just tell us a little  
11 bit more about that and what you remember or learned later?

12 A. Is that in reference to my hospital discharge?

13 Q. Yes.

14 A. Sometime later on, I requested I spent some time getting  
15 different medical files of mine. One was from Timaru  
16 Hospital, knowing I'd been in hospital a couple of times  
17 there. And when they replied to my inquiry on that, they  
18 said that the files had all been destroyed because of the  
19 period of time. So, I wrote back to them asking if I could  
20 get any records of discharge and they sent back to me  
21 discharges but one of them included a discharge from Timaru  
22 Hospital for alcohol poisoning when I was around 11 years  
23 old.

24 Q. And in terms of where you accessed the alcohol, what is  
25 your clear recollection about where that came from?

26 A. To be honest, in this case I couldn't really tell you. I  
27 don't actually have a memory of being discharged from  
28 Timaru Public Hospital for that.

29 Q. So, not necessarily that particular incident, but at  
30 paragraph 24 you talk about -

31 A. Oh, absolutely, yeah, I was plied with alcohol early on, it  
32 was available to us. One of the favourite places for us to  
33 go drinking was something called a pigsty back in the  
34 paddock, an old pigsty. We would all go in there and hide  
35 and do a wee fire and that type of thing.

1 Q. And did the alcohol come from other residents or elsewhere?

2 A. Both, it came from staff a couple of times and from  
3 residents. There were sometimes where staff took residents  
4 down to get it.

5 Q. Do you have any recollection when you obtained your files  
6 about whether the alcohol incident, alcohol poisoning  
7 incident, had been reported to the Department of Social  
8 Welfare?

9 A. No. There's no reference on my file of it whatsoever. As  
10 I said, when I did read my file, I found nothing and it  
11 wasn't until I contacted Timaru Hospital that I found out  
12 anything about this.

13 Q. And you've talked about the incident about where you felt  
14 you might have needed counselling and got the teddy bear?

15 A. Yep.

16 Q. What would you want to say about that and whether that  
17 could or should have been reported to Social Welfare and  
18 you given help that you needed at that time?

19 A. I think it would have been quite important, given the age I  
20 was at the time, yeah. I mean, I can't say the way to be  
21 honest, but I think it may have made a hell of an impact.

22 Q. And we understand from the Salvation Army that when they  
23 got your evidence, they were surprised to read about  
24 Captain Hobbs and sexual abuse?

25 A. Yep.

26 Q. They were aware of physical abuse. We will go to witness  
27 Exhibit 2. In 2008, that's going to come up on your screen  
28 shortly, we'll just orientate, if we can call out the  
29 highlighted paragraph. It's a statement made to the Nelson  
30 Police on the 26th of May 2008. Do you recall making that  
31 statement?

32 A. Yes.

33 Q. And the circumstances you made that statement?

34 A. Yes.

1 Q. And you talk about that in your evidence, about how you  
2 heard about the trial and went to the Police Station?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. So, this is a statement in relation to Envoy Ray Vince and  
5 sexual offending while at Temuka?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. If we can just turn over, there are paragraphs highlighted  
8 on page 2. We will just quickly cover these because they  
9 are relevant to your evidence. So, we'll call out the  
10 first one, thank you. Can you just slowly read through  
11 those?

12 A. Yep. "Yes. I witnessed incidents. I saw about 5 actual  
13 rapes. They were quite graphic and I don't really want to  
14 talk about them in detail. You have to understand that  
15 there was a culture within the Salvation Army Home that I  
16 was in because Gainsford had been sexually offending for  
17 some time - about 2 years. He was reported and nothing  
18 happened. He was moved on."

19 Q. And then if we call out the next paragraph, highlighted  
20 paragraph?

21 A. "A culture had developed of that's just how it is and if  
22 you didn't do as you were told there were consequences.  
23 There was a pit in the garage for fixing cars and they  
24 would put you in the pit, then drive the van over the pit  
25 so you couldn't get out. He put boards across it so you  
26 were stuck in there. We all knew what was happening. We  
27 didn't discuss it or anything. Sometimes we did talk but  
28 it was part of the place".

29 Q. And then the final paragraph? You don't need to read this  
30 because you've put it in your statement, but it refers to  
31 that incident where you had had a nightmare, gone into bed  
32 with your sister for some comfort and were scared you would  
33 be found and physically abused?

34 A. Yes.

1 Q. And just turning over the page, to page 5, that's fine,  
2 thank you, you can pull that down now.

3 So, in that statement, there is no mention of sexual  
4 abuse by Hobbs. When you think back about who you told and  
5 when you told and why you told about sexual abuse, what  
6 would you say to the Salvation Army about not disclosing  
7 about Captain Hobbs at that time?

8 A. You're meaning within the statement I made to the Nelson  
9 Police?

10 Q. Yeah or to Murray Houston later on in the redress process.

11 A. For me, it was because Hobbs was my abuser and the  
12 statement to the Nelson Police had nothing to do with me in  
13 that sense. I wasn't complaining.

14 Part of the other reason I've never mentioned Hobbs, the  
15 first time I ever really mentioned Hobbs is now with the  
16 Commission. It's never really come up. I didn't really  
17 want to speak about it to the Salvation Army at the time  
18 because he had passed on, so it was sort of like I would be  
19 flogging a dead horse with them and didn't think it would  
20 be taken seriously.

21 Q. Thank you. I think later on in your statement you do  
22 similarly cover that, but it was useful to just highlight  
23 that at this point.

24 So, then looking at paragraph 55 of your brief, we start  
25 looking at the impact of the abuse on you.

26 A. Yep.

27 Q. If you'd like to read from there.

28 A. Looking back, I can sit here and say that I would have  
29 liked a lot of things to be different. My time in the home  
30 and abuse I experienced shaped my entire life. It still  
31 affects me today. I don't go out. I stay at home. I feel  
32 a need to control my environment. I don't go where people  
33 gather, theatres, swimming pools, pubs, I hate having  
34 anyone standing behind me and I struggle to form  
35 relationships with people and still I don't trust anyone.

1 I don't have contact with my parents. I don't know  
2 where they are or if they're still alive.

3 I have limited contact with my brothers and sisters.  
4 Even today, I don't have a close, loving relationship with  
5 them. I know where most of them live, but don't have their  
6 phone numbers and I wouldn't just pick up the phone and  
7 give them a call.

8 GRO-B

9 GRO-B

10 I don't trust anyone, especially people in authority and  
11 I keep everyone at arm's length.

12 I haven't had any lasting relationships. The longest  
13 relationship I had was probably 3 weeks.

14 I am now 54 and I first went to prison at the age of 17  
15 or 18. I have spent much of my adult life in prison.

16 My time at Bramwell Booth prepared me to go to jail. I  
17 learnt to be quiet, not to trust people, not to go in a  
18 darkroom alone. Prison was like home, but without the  
19 abuse. I got told when to go to bed, when to wake up and  
20 my meals were provided. It was easy and I got told what to  
21 do.

22 I was mostly sent to prison for fraud and dishonesty  
23 offences and some theft. I got told that I came into the  
24 top 1% of New Zealand criminals because I had amassed over  
25 500 convictions for dishonesty offences.

26 **CHAIR:** You are also one of New Zealand's fastest  
27 criminals.

28 A. Sorry. Slow down, yep.

29 **CHAIR:** Take a glass of water, Darrin.

30 A. They did teach me to read well.

31 **CHAIR:** They certainly did. You're doing really well and  
32 we really appreciate it. I am sorry we have to keep  
33 slowing you down.

34 A. That's all right.

35 **MS JANES:**

1 Q. You are saying it's not really a distinction you're proud  
2 of.

3 A. It's not really a distinction I was proud of. I was never  
4 a violent offender. I didn't want to repeat on anyone else  
5 what had happened to me. I knew how it made me feel at the  
6 time and how it screwed me up.

7 I think early on my reoffending was related to the  
8 desire to return to prison. I felt unsafe outside of  
9 prison. It wasn't until late 2000, after I received some  
10 counselling, that I decided to move forward and try and  
11 stay out of prison.

12 I don't think I would have gone to prison if I'd had a  
13 different upbringing. It was an easy place to hide.

14 I have struggled to get full-time employment. People  
15 see my conviction record and don't want to hire me. I have  
16 had jobs off and on, like truck driving, but it has been  
17 difficult for me to find stable full-time employment.

18 I have also found it hard to deal with government  
19 departments. Things like going and getting a benefit were  
20 difficult for me. My time at Bramwell Booth left me with  
21 no trust of anyone in authority.

22 I started having panic attacks at 8 years old.

23 I first received counselling in prison. Some of it was  
24 mandated counselling. Most of the counselling in prison,  
25 I'd just gone along to appease the system.

26 The first effective counselling I had that really made a  
27 difference, was with Paul Oxnam. It was only really with  
28 Paul that the counselling really impacted on me. I wanted  
29 to make a change and try and get my life sorted. It was  
30 also a pivotal moment in my life. Since then, I've only  
31 been back to jail one other time and on one charge. I have  
32 learnt to cope with it a lot better and understand jail  
33 wasn't the answer. It was the first time I told anyone  
34 about the sexual abuse but, even then, I didn't talk about  
35 everything that happened to me.

1 Q. Darrin, we will go to Exhibit 3 because in your evidence  
2 you've talked about initially the counselling being  
3 something that you did to appease the system?

4 A. Yep.

5 Q. But this one making some real change for you?

6 A. Yep.

7 Q. So, to have the Commissioners know a little bit more about  
8 your life experience, I thought we'd go to some highlighted  
9 passages in this one. If we can call out the first one?

10 A. "Firstly, at the age of 4 Mr Timpson was sent by his  
11 violent parents to live in a Salvation Army Home where he  
12 suffered traumatic abuse over a 10 year period at the hands  
13 of persons entrusted with his care".

14 Q. And then?

15 A. "The nature of Mr Timpson's mental health difficulties  
16 negated his attempts at forming stable and meaningful  
17 relationships and led him to feeling unable to seek  
18 assistance from government, welfare and health agencies  
19 that could have assisted him to manage his mental health  
20 concerns and avoid engaging in criminal activity".

21 Q. We don't necessarily need to go to it, but this document  
22 also talks about what you've talked about, the need to  
23 control your environment and your beliefs of the world  
24 being a dangerous place.

25 A. Yes.

26 Q. And being unable to trust people and you've mentioned that  
27 a couple of times.

28 If we go to page 2 of this document, and if we go to the  
29 first highlighted paragraph.

30 A. "As has been documented earlier, Mr Timpson previously felt  
31 unable to talk about his difficulties due to a combination  
32 of a sense of shame and a fear of his personal information  
33 being used against him."

34 Q. And then the final paragraph on that page?

1 A. "Perhaps the most significant life event to have occurred  
2 during Mr Timpson's 12 month involvement in therapy was the  
3 trial and conviction of the man responsible for the abuse  
4 Mr Timpson and others suffered as foster children in the  
5 1970s".

6 Q. And then if we turn the page and call out the first  
7 paragraph?

8 A. "Moreover, the very public coverage of his abuser's trial  
9 has allowed Mr Timpson to begin the reconciliation process  
10 with family members whom he felt had in the past been  
11 disbelieving of his experiences".

12 "Moreover, the outcome of the trial has opened the door for  
13 Mr Timpson to pursue financial redress that will help him  
14 provide both a heightened sense of personal validation and  
15 a greater degree of economic stability".

16 Q. Just asking you in terms of the redress process, one of the  
17 elements of redress is about investigation and prosecution  
18 of abusers. Reading this document, it sounds that event  
19 was quite pivotal in your life. Do you want to explain why  
20 that was so important to you and you being able to move  
21 forward in healing and making a better life for yourself?

22 A. Personally, for me, it was because finally we'd been  
23 believed. We'd already told people earlier and we were  
24 never believed but finally somebody had acknowledged it and  
25 somebody had actually been convicted of what's happened, so  
26 I thought somebody is finally believing me or will believe  
27 me, believe the others.

28 **CHAIR:** Did you give evidence in the trial?

29 A. No.

30 **CHAIR:** You just made a statement to the Police which they  
31 used?

32 A. Not in the first trial.

33 **CHAIR:** That's right, because he pleaded guilty?

34 A. No, no, no, not in the first trial. The first trial was

35 John Gainsford. I had nothing to do with it. Just GRO-B,

1 I think, and I know the children involved in it. The  
2 second trial, I gave the statement to it, but it wasn't  
3 required because he pleaded guilty.

4 **CHAIR:** Thank you.

5 **MS JANES:**

6 Q. Thank you. We will go back to paragraph 73 of your  
7 statement.

8 A. The first attempt I made to take my own life was in my 20s.  
9 I fell through the cracks in the system. There were a  
10 couple of more suicide attempts over the years. I was in  
11 jail, and a lot of what happened in my past was sitting in  
12 the back of my head. I felt like there was no real outlet  
13 and that no-one was really listening to me.

14 One was a very serious attempt, the other two not so  
15 much. They were all related to my time in care or the  
16 effects that it had on my life and I felt that my life was  
17 a waste of time. And I started to ask what the point of it  
18 was.

19 I don't drink alcohol at all, but I've taken a few drugs  
20 over the years, but I've never been a user. Bramwell Booth  
21 taught me one thing, and that's to control my environment.  
22 Don't let people get close and being under the influence  
23 didn't let me do that, so I don't drink.

24 I'm not getting any help now. There is no help anyone  
25 can give me. I've talked it all out to a degree. I am now  
26 in a position with my life that I have accepted what's  
27 happened and I can't change it.

28 Q. And then in your evidence you go on to the actual redress  
29 process that you went through and you started that in 2003,  
30 as you note at paragraph 77.

31 A. Yes. In 2003, while I was in prison, I met with Murray  
32 Houston from the Salvation Army.

33 I didn't tell him about all the abuse. For years I had  
34 been told that nothing would happen to those who abused us  
35 because of the uniform they wear. It wasn't until the

1 Gainsford trials in 2003-2004 that I felt I would be  
2 believed or even that some of my memories were real. That  
3 it did actually happen.

4 When I was released from prison in 2003, I was put up in  
5 the Salvation Army Home for around 2 weeks. They  
6 eventually rented a flat for me and helped me with  
7 furniture, bond and some rent.

8 We never had a written agreement. The Salvation Army  
9 assistance was cut-off after a time.

10 In 2006, I contacted Cooper Legal. I heard about them  
11 through word of mouth and I heard that Sonja Cooper was  
12 doing a whole lot of legal stuff with abuse in care.

13 I didn't tell Cooper Legal everything about the sexual  
14 abuse by Hobbs at the Bramwell Booth. In my opinion, I  
15 didn't see the need to go into details. And Hobbs was  
16 dead. I didn't see the point. I've gone into details in  
17 this statement now, as I hope the Royal Commission would  
18 possibly help someone in the future to not be in my  
19 position.

20 I was frustrated by how long the redress process took.

21 In 2009 I had an interview with Murray Houston and  
22 someone else from the Salvation Army in Wellington. I  
23 think it was retired member of the Army.

24 I didn't tell them everything about the abuse. Murray  
25 didn't seem too interested. My impression was that they  
26 just wanted to get it over and done with. Don't get me  
27 wrong, I wasn't forthcoming, and I was a bit hostile. I  
28 didn't, and still don't, have any faith in the Salvation  
29 Army.

30 I wanted compensation and to see photos of the home and  
31 to get copies. I had already been through counselling and  
32 I didn't want any more.

33 I was offered around \$20,000 and the Salvation Army were  
34 not willing to negotiate. In the letter of offer from

1 Murray Houston to Cooper Legal it was made clear that this  
2 was not a negotiation.

3 I knew others had got more. I ended up with around  
4 \$16,000 after legal fees.

5 At the time I needed money. It was made clear that it  
6 was take this or get nothing. I had spent most of my adult  
7 life in and out of prison and owned very little and I also  
8 had a few debts.

9 I don't remember getting an apology. I wasn't too  
10 fussed about getting an apology. I wouldn't have believed  
11 it even if they came up to me to say sorry. More than an  
12 apology, I want an acknowledgment by the Salvation Army  
13 that the abuse happened while children were in their care.

14 Looking back now, I wish I had taken them to Court. I  
15 want people to see what they had done and were doing and I  
16 wanted them to pay.

17 Q. And we'll very quickly have a look at some documents that  
18 look at the redress process. The first one is Exhibit 5.  
19 This is a letter from the Salvation Army to your lawyer at  
20 Cooper Legal. It's dated 14 September 2009. It's a letter  
21 that clearly has a number of claimants, but we've left only  
22 your name, as you'll see in the highlight.

23 If you just call out the first two paragraphs. It talks  
24 about that the Salvation Army doesn't believe they have any  
25 legal liability at all to any of the claimants because of  
26 at least limitation issues and in some cases, Accident  
27 Compensation issues as well.

28 They go on to say that "Nonetheless, we have also taken  
29 into account the seriousness of the allegations made,  
30 comparable claims and the agreed settlements and the  
31 effects of any abuse on claimants. And in the interests of  
32 certainty and finality and for economic reasons, we are  
33 prepared to make without prejudice settlement offers  
34 as follows". And then we see the next highlighted part  
35 where it's your name and \$20,000.

1           So, we don't need to go there, we've done that. We'll  
2 go to the final one, thank you.

3           Darrin, if I can have you read that particular  
4 paragraph?

5 A. I haven't seen this before. "We are not prepared to make  
6 any offer of compensation to GRO-B or to GRO-B In the  
7 GRO-B, on investigating their claims further we were  
8 surprised to discover that their allegations exclusively  
9 involved punishment that was normal and acceptable at the  
10 time."

11 Q. How do you feel about that, reading those words?

12 A. Yeah, no, yeah, no.

13 Q. No words?

14 A. (Shakes head). "It would save both of us a lot of time and  
15 effort and expense if you could obtain sufficient  
16 preliminary information to enable you to filter out clearly  
17 untenable claims like this first".

18 Q. Just to make it clear, that doesn't relate to your claim,  
19 it relates to other claims, otherwise your name would be  
20 one of those blanked out ones.

21 A. Yep.

22 Q. And then if we can go to Exhibit 6, the next page. This is  
23 the discharge form that you've signed when you settled.  
24 So, we see in paragraph 1, that you agree to accept  
25 \$20,000, full and final settlement, and you release and  
26 discharge the Salvation Army from all liability. That's  
27 your recollection?

28 A. Yep.

29 Q. And then at paragraph 5, can you read that to us, please?

30 A. "The parties will keep the terms of this agreement  
31 confidential to themselves and their advisers".

32 Q. Do you have any sense of why that formed part of your  
33 discharge document?

34 A. I have my own opinion as to why that was there, yep.

1 Q. Was it discussed with you at the time that that was going  
2 to be a condition of your settlement?

3 A. No.

4 Q. And you had legal advice at the time before you signed  
5 this?

6 A. Yep.

7 Q. Just talking about the redress process, you've spoken in  
8 your evidence about, at paragraph 79, things that the  
9 Salvation Army did for you when you were discharged from  
10 prison at a particular time and there was a flat and some  
11 furniture?

12 A. Yep.

13 Q. And some bond. And you talk about it being cut-off later.  
14 Can you just describe what you thought at the time and what  
15 that process meant for you and whether it was meaningful or  
16 not?

17 A. At the time, it was just a way to get out of jail and to  
18 take something for nothing from people I believed owed me.

19 Q. So, there was a recognition that there was assistance from  
20 the Salvation Army?

21 A. Oh yeah, yeah, absolutely.

22 Q. And when it was cut off, were there any discussions at that  
23 stage about your circumstances at that point?

24 A. No, I don't think so. I think part of the cut-off process  
25 was also partly me and my sort of engagement with them at  
26 the time. You know, I wasn't willing to engage totally  
27 with what they required. So, I think the cut-off was more  
28 mine.

29 Q. Okay, thank you.

30 **CHAIR:** Do you mind if I ask, why did you not or was it  
31 that you didn't want to or you weren't able to? Are you  
32 able to perhaps expand on that a little bit?

33 A. It was more that I didn't want to with them, I didn't trust  
34 them at that time. I was still in the mindset, you know,  
35 like, I hadn't met Paul Oxnam at the time so it was all pre

1 that, and my mindset was the criminal mindset, I was out to  
2 get out of them whatever they could give me, knowing that I  
3 could play on the history as well. So, that's what I was  
4 meaning.

5 **CHAIR:** Thank you. That's a very frank assessment,  
6 self-assessment and thank you for that.

7 A. That's all right.

8 **MS JANES:**

9 Q. In our discussions, without wanting to lead you, you had  
10 talked about a sense of where you were in that life, what  
11 had happened to you and that there may be something owed to  
12 you; do you want to talk about that or does that  
13 encapsulate what you would say?

14 A. Well, I think it sort of encapsulates it, you know. I had  
15 the attitude that they owed me and kind of owed me big  
16 time.

17 Q. And you talked in your evidence about not recalling seeing  
18 an apology. If I can take us to a document SAL ending  
19 1846. Just take a moment to read through that and then  
20 I'll ask you how you felt when you received it and what it  
21 did or didn't mean to you?

22 A. I've actually never read it. I do remember receiving it,  
23 but I've never read it. It didn't mean anything at the  
24 time. Not worth the paper it was written on.

25 Q. And in terms of not wanting to read it or not feeling that  
26 it had any relevance to you, I know it's going back a  
27 little while, but can you remember why you might have felt  
28 that way?

29 A. Yeah. It occurred because of what happened during the  
30 Gainsford trial, when it was discovered that there was  
31 evidence missing and it had been removed or whatever by the  
32 Salvation Army of the day, not back at the time when the  
33 event was going on but of the time when the trial was going  
34 on. So, I had colluded in my head and colluded that the

1 Army was still doing the same thing, so the apology didn't  
2 mean anything.

3 Q. So, it coincided with receipt of this and therefore wasn't  
4 relevant or meaningful for you?

5 A. (Shakes head). But can I just clarify, that's not to say  
6 the people writing that or the people doing that wasn't  
7 meant with good intention, that was just the way I received  
8 it.

9 Q. And the space that you were in at that point in your life?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. If you read it now and you put the Gainsford trial to one  
12 side, if you call it out that might make it easier.

13 What I'd like to ask you when you read it, is if you  
14 received it in a different time of your life, in a  
15 different frame of mind, would that have met your  
16 requirements for an apology?

17 A. No, not mine.

18 Q. Why is that?

19 A. Because what I'm reading here is more like a form letter  
20 sent out to 39 kids. It's not addressing me individually,  
21 if you understand what I mean, my experiences. And it's  
22 the same for every other child, they're all different but  
23 this is just like a form letter.

24 Q. Do you recall being asked in the redress process what might  
25 have been meaningful for you, in terms of what you needed?

26 A. They could have but I think during that redress process,  
27 you know, it was still the same mindset, that I'm into the  
28 Army to get out what I can.

29 Q. And if you were asking for an apology now, what would you  
30 need it or want it to address, acknowledging your personal  
31 circumstances?

32 A. No, personally for me it's too late and that's not to say  
33 I'm against the Salvation Army anymore, it's just that I  
34 don't think it would matter in terms of my life.

1 Q. And if one were looking at redress processes and standing  
2 back, is there anything that could have been done  
3 differently that would have made an impact for you?

4 A. Yeah, absolutely. If they took more of the cases as an  
5 individual case, you know, looked at it like, looked into  
6 mine and spent time talking to me, instead of the office  
7 business-like, get in, get out, sign this, sign that, type  
8 of thing. It's hard to explain what I'm mean but it was  
9 more, okay, you're another one of the kids, we'll get you  
10 into this folder, bang, bang, bang, get this through and  
11 done, it's over and done with. Whereas, there was no real  
12 consideration for my experiences as opposed to other  
13 people's, if that makes sense.

14 Q. And you've talked about the counselling, that you were  
15 offered counselling but there was a distrust about going to  
16 a Salvation Army counsellor. So, from your perspective,  
17 what would have worked better for you in that regard?

18 A. I think I couldn't answer that. I mean, there would be no  
19 way I'd go to the Salvation Army one at that time. Yeah, I  
20 couldn't answer that in any way. I think, I mean I didn't  
21 think Paul Oxnam would be any good, you know. He was the  
22 son of a cop and here I was a recidivist criminal, so,  
23 yeah, I think it was just circumstances, time and  
24 circumstances. And, of course, my mindset had changed a  
25 wee bit with the trial happening and Paul Oxnam came along  
26 and it happened to work.

27 Q. Thank you. Anything else that you want to say about the  
28 redress processes, otherwise we'll move on to the ACC  
29 aspect?

30 A. Yep, no, no.

31 Q. I will have you then read paragraph 92?

32 A. Another lawyer did my ACC claim. Every couple of months I  
33 get some money from them.

34 I was also a State ward. I never got any compensation  
35 from the Department of Social Welfare.

1           Just on that there, I understood, when I did go with  
2 Cooper Legal that we were taking a case against the  
3 Department of Social Welfare but the case came back and it  
4 was declined, for some reason I was going to be put in the  
5 same category and it would take years to fight, so I just  
6 decided "forget it".

7 Q. And you talk about that at paragraph 95.

8 A. Sorry.

9           **MS JANES:** Just for the Commissioners' information, that's  
10 the White trial. It's the White brothers.

11 A. Was it? Yeah, it was brothers, I knew that.

12 Q. No, you were right on the but on.

13 A. Right, sorry. My initial understanding when I signed with  
14 Cooper Legal was my claim was against the Department of  
15 Social Welfare.

16           They didn't follow through with that because there was a  
17 case that went to trial and didn't succeed. It was two  
18 brothers. They were a different institution. I heard back  
19 that, apparently, they couldn't proceed against the  
20 Department of Social Welfare because of some legal reason.  
21 As I remember, the claim for them didn't go ahead.

22 Q. Then you have some final concluding remarks if you'd like  
23 to read those and if there's anything else that you would  
24 like to say, just add that at the end.

25 A. So many of the kids I knew from the Salvation Army are  
26 dead, from suicide or drug abuse. A lot of them are doing  
27 life lags in prison, well a few of them.

28           I have been through a lot and I can't change what  
29 happened to me. It screwed me up but maybe telling my  
30 story will help some of the kids coming through the system  
31 now. I think part of it with the Salvation Army was their  
32 focus on the financial aspect of having children in their  
33 care. They spent more time chasing money than taking care  
34 of me. There needs to be more oversight. I don't really  
35 know what the full answer would be.

1 I don't know what else to say. Just one anecdote I  
2 have, you know, and I think this affected me in a bigger  
3 way than I thought over the years, it's something since I  
4 initially started this process with the Commission, it's  
5 come in my head. It is a story on the day I was leaving or  
6 the day before I was leaving. The Captain in charge, I  
7 don't know if I can say his name, I used to do a milk run,  
8 I did it for about 3 years, I think, before I left. And  
9 I'd saved up \$60. Two days before I left Temuka, I broke  
10 one of the bikes which was donated. The Captain made me go  
11 down to the bank and withdraw my \$60 and kept it. When I  
12 left the home, I left with nothing. I think that's one of  
13 the biggest things that affected me.

14 Q. Are you able to explain why that was such a powerful event  
15 for you?

16 A. I think at the end of the day after everything that  
17 happened, the Army left me with nothing.

18 Q. Thank you for sharing that.

19 A. That's all right.

20 Q. Before checking if the Commissioners have any questions,  
21 just looking at the cultural heritage of the Moriori  
22 cultural background, how important was that in your life  
23 and did it help or hinder at any stage in your life course?

24 A. It actually helped, surprisingly enough. I don't  
25 quite - not quite the way people would think. It was  
26 actually quite beneficial having that linkage to Moriori,  
27 to survive the jail. Without being too rude or thing about  
28 it, the majority of the population in jail is Māori and  
29 having that link to Moriori enabled me to survive through  
30 that a lot easier than a lot of other people.

31 Q. And would there have been anything meaningful that could  
32 have been offered in terms of taking you as an individual,  
33 is there anything cultural that would have made a  
34 difference to you?

35 A. I don't know, I'm not sure.

1 Q. Thank you, I just wanted to check whether there was  
2 anything that we should think about as an Inquiry.

3 **MS JANES:** That concludes the evidence that I have for  
4 Mr Timpson. If the Commissioners have any questions?

5 **CHAIR:** I will just ask my colleagues if they have any  
6 questions for you.

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1  
2 **DARRIN TIMPSON**  
3 **QUESTIONED BY COMMISSIONERS**  
4  
5

6 **COMMISSIONER STEENSON:** Tēnā koe, thank you for coming and  
7 speaking today.

8 Just looking at what you've mentioned around the  
9 financial aspects, the focus by the Salvation Army in  
10 saying they spent time chasing money rather than taking  
11 care of you. Can you just expand on that for me?

12 A. Yep. When I requested a copy of my Department of Social  
13 Welfare file, a lot of my earlier years, my first two or  
14 three years there was a lot of paperwork between the  
15 Salvation Army and that trying to hunt my mother down so  
16 they could get money, which I found quite, you know, okay.  
17 It just seemed over-focused in my file.

18 **COMMISSIONER STEENSON:** Okay, thank you. And then just one  
19 other question, if that's okay?

20 A. That's all right.

21 **COMMISSIONER STEENSON:** It's just around ACC. Had most of  
22 your dealings been with a lawyer with ACC?

23 A. All of them.

24 **COMMISSIONER STEENSON:** And so, why did you choose to do it  
25 through a lawyer, rather than directly?

26 A. Because I didn't know there was another way to do it.

27 **COMMISSIONER STEENSON:** Okay. Thank you.

28 A. I thought that's how you did it.

29 **COMMISSIONER STEENSON:** Tēnā koe.

30 **COMMISSIONER ALOFIVAE:** Darrin, just one point of  
31 clarification for me. It took 6 years, I think, to  
32 actually get to settlement? You first contacted them in  
33 2003, 2009 you settled. Now, with the benefit of  
34 hindsight, because it was such a frustrating process for

1 you, what do you think would be a reasonable timeframe for  
2 these types of settlements?

3 A. Depending on the case but it shouldn't take over a year, to  
4 be honest.

5 **COMMISSIONER ALOFIVAE:** Up to at least 12 months?

6 A. Yes.

7 **COMMISSIONER ALOFIVAE:** Thank you.

8 **CHAIR:** I think I have asked the questions that I needed in  
9 the course of your evidence, so thank you, Darrin, I have  
10 no questions and I will leave you with Commissioner Erueti.

11 **COMMISSIONER ERUETI:** Tēnā koe, Darrin. I just wanted to  
12 follow-up a question from Hanne, Counsel Assist, about your  
13 Moriori heritage, about whether the staff at the home knew  
14 that you had Moriori whakapapa?

15 A. No, I don't think they were aware of it or anything, I  
16 don't think that was an issue.

17 **COMMISSIONER ERUETI:** Okay, thank you. Tēnei te mihi mahana  
18 ki a koe, he uri nō te iwi o Moriori, kei te mihi ahau ki a  
19 koe mō tō mana, ō whakaaro nui me tō kōrero ki a mātou,  
20 tēnā koe Matua. I, on behalf of the Commissioners, I want  
21 to thank you, Darrin, for your testimony here today. We  
22 recognise that this is the first time that you've disclosed  
23 your experience in full and how difficult that is for you,  
24 particularly speaking to someone in a position of authority  
25 and the issues of trust that you have with people in  
26 positions of authority. So, we all, each and every one of  
27 us, mihi you for that and recognise your courage in coming  
28 forward and speaking to us so openly and in this public  
29 domain. I want to assure you that we have listened and  
30 learned and I know that's really important to you, that you  
31 came here so that you could ensure that children currently  
32 in care in the future are taken care of, so we want to mihi  
33 you for that whakaaro as well and know that is close to our  
34 hearts and we will do the best we can to meet your  
35 aspirations. Kia ora.

1 A. Thank you.

2 **MS JANES:** Thank you. That concludes your evidence and,  
3 also, the evidence for the day.

4 **CHAIR:** Thank you. If you'd like to stay there, you can  
5 either leave now, we're going to have our final waiata and  
6 some wise words from our kaumātua, so if you'd like to stay  
7 there.

8

9 (Closing waiata and mihi)

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**Hearing adjourned at 3.28 p.m.**