

**ABUSE IN CARE ROYAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY
FAITH-BASED INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSE 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 Anaru Erueti
Ali'imuamua Sandra Alofivae
Paul Gibson

Counsel: Mr Simon Mount KC, Ms Kerryn Beaton KC, Ms Katherine Anderson, Ms Tania Sharkey, Mr Michael Thomas, Ms Kathy Basire and Ms Alisha Castle for the Royal Commission

Ms Rachael Schmidt-McCleave and Ms Julia White for the Crown

Ms Sally McKechnie and Ms Brooke Clifford for Te Rōpū Tautoko, the Catholic Bishops and Congregational Leaders

Mrs Fiona Guy-Kidd and Ms India Shores for the Anglican Church

Ms Maria Dew KC, Ms Kiri Harkess and Mr Lourenzo Fernandez for the Methodist Church and Wesley Faith

Mr Brian Henry, Mr Chris Shannon and Ms Sykes for Gloriavale

Ms Sarah Kuper and Mr Matthew Hague for the Presbyterian Church

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

Date: 19 October 2022

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

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7 **Adjournment from 12.20 pm to 1.18 pm**

8 **CHAIR:** Nau mai hoki mai, welcome back, everybody, for this afternoon's hearing. I think this
9 afternoon we have Mr Hague; is that right?

10 **MR HAGUE:** Yes, Madam Chair.

11 **CHAIR:** Welcome to the Commission, Mr Hague. Would you like to introduce yourself then I'll
12 do the affirmation for the witness.

13 **OPENING STATEMENT BY THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
14 **OF AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND**

15 **MR HAGUE:** Good afternoon, Madam Chair and Commissioners. My name is Matthew Hague
16 and I'm the counsel for the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand, which I'll refer
17 to as PCANZ from here on in.

18 I am a white male, 36 years old, medium build, with reddish brown hair.

19 I intend on keeping my opening remarks short, as will Reverend Wayne Matheson,
20 who I'll introduce shortly. In this way we want to allow the Commission to hear from and
21 ask questions of Wayne and in this way we believe we can best support the time and work
22 of the Commission.

23 At this stage I would like to, as has been done this morning, acknowledge the
24 survivors and their families and the acknowledge the impact and cost of both the abuse but
25 also the subsequent reporting process on them and their families.

26 I'd also like to offer survivors who wish to make a report to the Church about abuse,
27 perhaps prompted by what they hear and see today, to contact PCANZ about their
28 experiences or to make a complaint. There are various ways I could do this. One way
29 which I thought I could offer during my time now is our 0800 number, which is
30 0800244357.

31 I'd like to offer a brief description of PCANZ because it has a relatively unique
32 governance structure compared to some other denominations. It is decentralised compared
33 to some other churches within New Zealand. It is separated into different levels, starting at
34 the top with the General Assembly, which sits biannually, down to the presbyteries of

1 which there are seven, five regional, one Pacific Presbytery and Te Aka Puaho, which is
2 formally known as the Māori synod, which I will talk about more today. And then
3 underneath the presbyteries sit the local parishes.

4 But despite this seemingly hierarchical structure, the day-to-day operations of the
5 Church are led by local parishes, supported by the presbyteries and supported by the
6 National Office in which Wayne sits as Assembly Executive Officer.

7 The Book of Order is the, perhaps not foundational document of the Church, but it
8 is our best reference and day-to-day document that we rely on and within the Book of Order
9 it lists a range of other authorities, some theological, it lists the Treaty of Waitangi on
10 multiple occasions throughout the Book of Order and there are other important, what I
11 would call constitutional documents for the Presbyterian Church.

12 A chapter in the Book of Order is committed to Te Aka Puaho which, as I said, is
13 the Māori Presbytery in the Presbyterian Church. The presbyteries, all seven of them fulfil
14 a senior leadership role within the Church. Te Aka Puaho is unique in several respects but
15 one being that they have a privilege of being able to appoint ministers to serve nationally
16 whereas other presbyteries are only able to appoint ministers to be appointed to specific
17 positions within specific churches.

18 The Assembly Executive role, which Reverend Matheson fills, is based in
19 Wellington and is part of the National Office, and I would describe Wayne as perhaps the
20 closest thing the Presbyterian Church has to a Chief Executive Officer. Wayne reports to
21 the Council of Assembly and he is responsible for the day-to-day leadership of the National
22 Office and the National Office supports presbyteries and parishes.

23 That concludes my opening remarks and I would hand over to Madam Chair
24 perhaps to affirm Wayne.