# ABUSE IN CARE ROYAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY MĀORI 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:	Ms Julia Steenson Dr Anaru Erueti Mr Paul Gibson Judge Coral Shaw Ali'imuamua Sandra Alofivae
Counsel:	Ms Julia Spelman, Mr Kingi Snelgar, Mr Wiremu Rikihana, Mr Luke Claasen, Ms Maia Wikaira, Ms Alisha Castle, Ms Tracey Norton, Ms Season-Mary Downs, Ms Alana Thomas, Mr Winston McCarthy, Mr Simon Mount QC, Ms Kerryn Beaton QC for the Royal Commission
and Mr Max	Ms Melanie Baker, Ms Julia White
	Clarke-Parker for the Crown Mr James Meagher for the Catholic Church
	Ms Fiona Guy Kidd for the Anglican Church Ms Sonya Cooper, Ms Amanda Hill as other
	counsel attending
Venue:	Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei Tumutumuwhenua Marae 59b Kitemoana Road Ōrākei AUCKLAND
Date:	16 March 2022

#### TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

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1	[9.52]	am]

2	(Waiata: He hōnore, he korōria, maungārongo ki te whenua, whakaaro pai e ki ngā
3	tangata katoa. Ake ake, ake ake, Āmine. Te Atua, te piringa, tōku oranga.
4	[English: Honour and glory to God and peace on earth. Goodwill to all people.
5	Forever and forever, amen. God, my companion, my forever, my salvation. Amen).
6	KAUMĀTUA NICK: Me īnoi tātou. Whakataka te hau ki te uru, Whakataka te hau ki te tonga.
7	Kia mākinakina ki uta, kia mātaratara ki tai. E hī ake ana te atākura he tio, he huka, he
8	atākura. Haumi e! Hui e! Tāiki e!
9	[English: The wind swings to the west, then turns into a southerly. Making it prickly cold inland,
10	and piercingly cold on the coast. May the dawn rise red-tipped on ice, on snow, on frost.
11	Join! Gather! Intertwine!
12	Katahi nei, ka tuku mihi ki tō tātou nei kaihanga, koia te tīmatanga me te whakaotinga o ngā mea
13	katoa, ka whai kōroria ki tōna ingoa tapu, tēnā koe e Pā. Ka rua, ka mihi atu ki ngā tini
14	aitua, puta noa i te motu. Me kī, ko te ao katoa me tēnei ngāngara te Covid. E pāngia ki te
15	nuinga o ngā tāngata o te ao katoa. Nō reira, moe mai, moe mai, haere atu rā, okioki atu.
16	Rātou ki a rātou, tātou ki a tātou. Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā tātou katoa.
17	[English: Honour to God, the beginning and end of everything, glory to his name.
18	Secondly, to those who have passed on, those affected by Covid that has affected the world,
19	farewell. Those passed, farewell. Those of us that remain, thank you.]
20	Haere tika tonu ki te kaupapa o tēnei rangi. Tēnei te mihi ki a koutou, ngā purapura ora. E
21	whāki ana ō koutou kōrero e pā ana ki tēnei kaupapa tino hōhonu rawa atu. Nā tō koutou
22	kaha, nā tō koutou mana, nā tō koutou māiatanga, ka āhei mātou te hunga mātakitaki,
23	hunga e whakarongo ana ki te mōhio tō koutou mamae, tō koutou hiahia i ngā rā e whai ake
24	nei. Nō reira, kia koutou katoa, tēnei te mihi a Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei ki a koutou, Ki a koe e
25	te rangatira e noho ana ki tō kainga, ki tō wāhi noho, i Muriwhenua, tēnei te mihi a Ngāti
26	Whātua ki a koe me tō iwi nui rawa atu, a Te Rarawa. Tēnei te mihi, mihi kau ana ki a koe.
27	Mihi kau ana ki a koutou ngā purapura ora i tēnei rangi.
28	[English: I go directly to the proceedings. Here I want to acknowledge you
29	survivors in sharing your narratives and your stories. It is your strength, your pride and
30	courage for those of us who are listening and watching and have been watching over the
31	days, we acknowledge you. This is an acknowledgment from Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei to the
32	tribe of Te Rarawa. To you in your home in the region of Muriwhenua, I acknowledge you.
33	To you the survivors of today, here I acknowledge you.]

Kia koutou ngā Kaikōmihana, āe rā he mahi rangatira tēnā kei mua i a koutou, nō reira, kei te mōhio au, ka mōhio ai mātou ka taea e koutou ki te kitea he hua mō tēnei mamae. Nō reira, tēnei te mihi. Ahakoa he mihi poto, he mihi aroha mai i a Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei ki a tātou katoa kua tae mai nei i tēnei wā, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā anō tātou katoa.

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[English: To the Commissioners, you have a hard task in front of you. We know that you can see an outcome, a successful outcome. Here's an acknowledgment for Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei to everyone in these proceedings. Thank you.]

8 (Waiata: Tangi a te ruru, kei te hokihoki mai e. E whaka-whero-whero i te 9 pūtahitanga. Nāku nei rā koe i tuku kia haere. Tērā puritia iho nui rawa te aroha e. Te 10 Hokinga Mai, tēnā koutou. Tangi ana te ngākau i te aroha. Tū tonu ra te mana te ihi o ngā 11 tūpuna kua wehea atu rā. Mauria mai te mauri tangata hei oranga mō te mōrehu tangi mōkai 12 nei, e rapu ana i te ara tika mō tātou katoa. Te hokinga mai, te hokinga mai. Tū tangata 13 tonu!

[English: We're looking for the path forward, the owl cries to the return, to the 14 hooting out where the path meets. I was the one who followed you to go, it 15 was -curbed - my- deep love for you. But now the formal return home, greetings to you all. 16 How my heart weeps with affection. Still standing tall is the prestige and the power of the 17 ancestors who have passed on and who are now bringing back the true spirit of the people. 18 To help heal the remnant crying like lost souls, while searching for the true path for us all. 19 20 While searching for the right path for us all. The return here of our artworks, our prestige, we people can stand tall again.] 21

22Āpiti hono, tātai hono, te hunga wairua, ki te hunga wairua. Āpiti hono, tātai hono,23te hunga ora, ki te hunga ora. Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā anō tātou katoa.

[English: Connecting those spirits to those spirits, connecting the living to the
living, greetings, thank you.]

COMMISSIONER ERUETI: E te kaikarakia, tēnā koe e kawea nei i te taha wairua. Kei te mihi
ki te moana e hora nei, ko te Waitematā, e karapoti ana i te motu tapu me te rangi i toto ai te
ihu. Ko Takaparawhau te whenua tapu i porotēhi ai, kia tutū ai te puehu, takoto mai rā. Ka
whakaaro atu ki a rātou kua mene ki te pō. E ngā mate, haere, moe mai rā, moe mai rā. Ko
tātou anō, ngā waihotanga o rātou, kia ora anō tātou te kanohi ora. Ngāti Whātua ki Ōrākei,
te mana, te wehi tēnā koutou me ngā manaakitanga.

[English: To you who have connected the spiritual realm to the living realm, thank you. To
 the Waitemata sea and to Rangitoto, we acknowledge you. Takaparawhau is the land that
 was protested, rest, I think of those who have passed, to those, farewell to you all. You are

- the succession of those who have gone, those who remain, Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei, thank
  you, and protection be on you.]
- E mihi ana ki a koutou, ngā purapura ora. Koutou i whakauru mai, koutou e mātakitaki mai
  ana, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa.
  - [English: I want to acknowledge the survivors. You who have come in, you who are watching, thank you and greetings to you all.]

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- Kia ora koutou, ko Anaru Erueti tōku ingoa, nō Taranaki, (my name is Anaru Erueti), I'm one of the Commissioners here with the Inquiry welcoming you here back today on Day 8 of our Māori hearing. Great to have you here.
- I want to acknowledge too my colleague Commissioner Steenson sitting here with
   me at the tēpu (at the table). Also watching live via AVL are our fellow Commission are,
   Commissioner Coral Shaw the Chair of the Inquiry, Commissioner Sandra Alofivae and
   Commissioner Paul Gibson.
- As you would have heard each day, we want to emphasise the importance of accessibility for our hearing. We have sign language interpreters here, we also have te reo Māori interpreters who are interpreting into English for the sign language interpreters and for our tireless stenographer, who is writing closed captions for the transcript of the hearing, ngā mihi ki a koutou (thank you).
- I also want to acknowledge, before we start, the others who are not in the whare. In
   addition to our fellow Commissioners, we also have our panel watching each day and our
   panel will be presenting on Friday, the last day of the hearing, Friday in the morning
   providing their insights and observations about what they have learned from our witnesses
   over the past two weeks.
- We also have watching offline closely members of our Survivor Advisory Group, Sage, and members of Te Taumata, our Pou Māori Rōpū that provide us with advice on all things. We want to acknowledge too the survivors out there and their support networks and whānau. The Crown is also watching proceedings, and also to you all out there, Aotearoa, who are tuning in and watching and listening to the evidence and information each day.
- So, I want to acknowledge ka mihi nui ki a koutou katoa all of you. (I want to
  acknowledge you all). Apologies, aroha mai, for not referring to our ropū, who are
  watching each day, yesterday.
- I also want to acknowledge here within the whare, we have our haukainga Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei (our home people), our tech team here, our Māori investigation team who have put our hearing together, and of course our interpreters.

1	Ka pai, Ms Spelman, I think we've got there, so I'm going to cross now to Counsel
2	Assist Ms Julia Spelman, e mihi ana ki a koe (I acknowledge you).
3	MS SPELMAN: Tēnā koe. E mihi ana ki te poutūteāniwaniwa matua Nick, tēnā koe, otirā,
4	koutou ngā rangatira o Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei i tō koutou mākohakoha, i tō koutou āhuru
5	mōwai o Tumutumuwhenua i ngā tini āhua nei. Tēnā kōrua, tēnā koutou. Kia koutou ngā
6	purapura ora, kia tātou e kāpunipuni mai ana i te tahuna a tara nei, tēnā tātou katoa.
7	Tautoko ana i ngā mihi kua mihia ki a rātou kua whetūrangitia.
8	[English: I want to acknowledge the Spiritual guide, Matua Nick, Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei for
9	your care and your shelter here in Tumutumuwhenua for us during these times. To those
10	survivors, us that are gathered to this important proceeding, thank you and
11	acknowledgements to all. I also support the acknowledgements to those who have passed.]
12	Good morning, commissioners. I acknowledge Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei again for
13	opening us up this morning and for their ongoing manaaki (ongoing care) towards us during
14	this hearing. I also acknowledge all of you online survivors and those listening to the
15	important kōrero that will come today.
16	Ka whakaaro ake au ki te whakataukī e noho hei pou mā tātou i te rangi nei. (I think
17	of the proverb that it sits as a post for us today). "E kore e heke, te kakano rangatira" [a
18	noble heritage will never perish.] This whakatauki speaks to the central place of
19	whakapapa in Te Ao Māori and the intergenerational nature of whakaaro Māori (Māori
20	thought), that whakapapa is not lost as it descends but that experiences are carried through
21	time.
22	Legacy and whakapapa are central concepts to the korero that will be shared today.
23	We will hear about intergenerational impacts of abuse in care, the heketanga o te tūkino
24	(the coming down). We will also hear of the kakano rangatira, of what has emerged from
25	those experiences.
26	This morning we will be opening with Matua MM who will be joining today
27	through live video link from prison, and I will be assisting him this morning.
28	Matua spent time at Ōwairaka, Oakley Hospital, several foster homes and Waikeria
29	Borstal. While at Borstal he was wrongly accused of being involved in a fight and
30	convicted of serious charges which has impacted his future dealings with the justice system
31	as we will hear shortly.
32	The first session, Mr Chair, will be from 10 o'clock going through to the lunch
33	break with a morning break around 11.30.

Whai muri te wā kai, ka tahuri atu tātou ki te kōrero o Natasha Emery. (After lunch
we will turn to Natasha Emery's experience). Ms Emery will be sharing her experience
today through a pre-recorded video which is about two hours long. Luke Claasen from the
Māori investigation team will introduce her kōrero this afternoon, including her focus on
intergenerational trauma suffered by survivors.
No reira, te rā te mahere mō te rā, tēnā koe e te Heamana. (That is the plan for
today, thank you Mr Chairman).
COMMISSIONER ERUETI: Tenā koe, Ms Spelman. To recap, and thank you for reminding
us, we start now at 10, we go until around 11.30 and then we take a 15-minute break, to
11.45 am, then continue with our first witness until around 1 pm when we break for lunch
until and- then we resume at 2.15 pm with our second witness
Yeah, tēnā koe Ms Spelman, mō korero hei timata tēnei rā kua rite mō te
kaiwhakaatu tuatahi tēnei rā?
[English: For what you have shared today. Are we ready for the first witness].
MS SPELMAN: Yes, I'll just check with our tech team now to make sure that the anonymisation
is in place for this witness. Thank you, yes, confirmed that that's in place. So, I'll just
check that we have matua with us now.
MR MM: Tēnā koe, Julia.
MS SPELMAN: Tēnā koe matua, e mihi ana ki a koe, i tō tū i tēnei rā. E mōhio ana au i ngā piki
me ngā heke i te huarahi kia tae noa ki tēnei rā. E mihi hoki ki tō whānau. Tē taea rāua ki te
noho ki tō taha, engari kei te marae tō matua kēkē, me tō whaea kēkē. Nei rā te mihi ki a
rāua, otirā ki a ngā kai tautoko, Jenny rāua ko Matua Wī, ko Hōri. Tēnā tātou katoa
[English: I acknowledge you for your stance today. I understand the ups and downs to
arrive here today. I acknowledge your family, although they can't be with you at this
moment, but your uncle and aunt are at the marae, and I acknowledge them, to the
supporters Jenny, Wi and Hōri, thank you.]
Ata mārie, matua (morning, matua). I just wanted to acknowledge you, first of all,
and of course your whanau who I know will be watching from the marae today, not this
marae but from their marae. And I know that you would like to open up your session this
morning with karakia. So, I'll pass the rākau (baton) to you matua, kei a koe te wā.[the
time is yours]
MR MM: Tēnā koe (thank you). Māku e tuku he karakia. [English:I will open with a chant, ritual
chant.]

Tūātūā. I te orooro, i te oromea, i tukitukia ai koe, i taitaia ai koe, oi kiri Tangaroa. Tere te 1 2 nuku nei, tere angaia. Tūtaria ki tēnei mānuka, tūtaria ki tēnei ngahoa. Kāpiti hono. Tupu te 3 mahara, tupu ki roto koia te hono tawhito. Purua ō taringa kia turi, kia hoi. Kei whakarongo koe ki te korero iti. Ko te korero iti, ko tahuhunu, ko tahu-rere, ko te hau-aitu. Kia ea ai ko 4 te kanohi titiro, ko te taringa whakarongo. Rere mai te maramara koi hōpiri, koi hōtau. Rere 5 mai te mangamanga, koi hōpiri, koi hōtau. Torotika! E tū te maota, hē! Tūtākina i te kiko. 6 Tūtākina i te uaua. Tūtākina kia mau. Tūtākina kia ū. Tēnei te rangi ka tūtaki. Tēnei te rangi 7 ka ruruku. Tēnei te papa ka wheuka. E Rangi e, awhitia. E Papa e, awhitia. Nāu ka awhi, ka 8 awhi. Nāu ka toro, ka toro. Nāu ka āka, ka āka. Tupu he toka whenua, tupu he toka Mata-9 terā. Na wai i homai? Na te pakanga i homai. Na te riri i homai. Nā ngā tāngata i homai. I 10 homai ki a wai? I homai ki te kikokiko. Kei te kikokiko, kei te tini honohono, he manawa 11 ka irihia nei e Tūmatauenga. E tū i te korikori, e tū i te whetā, e tū i te whaiao, e tū i te ao 12 mārama. Ko maiea. Maiea ngā Atua. Maiea ngā tāngata. Ko maiea. Whano, whano, 13 haramai te toki, haumi e, hui e, tāiki e. (Ritual chant recitation) 14 Ko te mea tuatahi, he honore, he kororia ki to tatou Matua nui i te rangi. Nana te 15 tīmatanga me te whakaotinga o ngā mea katoa. He maungārongo ki te whenua, he 16 whakaaro pai ki ngā tāngata katoa. Tēnei he mihi atu ki te amorangi, nānā i whakatuwhera 17 te kuaha mā tātou i tēnei rā. Tēnā koe e te rangatira. Tēnā koe me āu korero ki to tātou 18 kaihanga, e whakarite i te huarahi mā tātou i tēnei rā. Tēnei anō. 19 20 [English: My first acknowledgment, honour and glory to God, the beginning and ending of all things. Goodwill on to the land and to everyone. I want to acknowledge to that person 21 who opened this spiritual realm today, thank you. Thank you for the words to our 22 kaumātua to prepare our path for today.] 23 Tēnei hoki te mihi ki te haunga kainga rā. Kia koutou e noho i roto i te āhuru mōwai o 24 Tumutumuwhenua. Tēnei he mihi atu ki a koutou. Mō tō koutou manaaki i a mātou ngā 25 purapura Ora i roto i tēnei hui, kia whakarongo ki ngā kōrero tūkino mō ngā tāngata i 26 tūkinotia mātou i ngā wā o mua. Nā reira, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou. 27 [English: I want to acknowledge the home people there. To you who are sitting in 28 the shelter of Tumutumuwhenua, thank you for protecting us and sheltering us the survivors 29 in these proceedings. To listen and hear the wrongdoings on us years ago, years past. 30 Thank you. 31 Tēnā anō koutou. Kia koutou e whakarongo mai nā, o ia marae, o ia marae. Koutou, 32

rena ano koutou. Kia koutou e whakarongo mai na, o ia marae, o ia marae. Koutou,
 e hāpaitia tēnei kaupapa mā tātou. Kei te rere tonu ngā mihi ki a rātou, ki ngā tini mate e
 pīkauria e koutou i runga i ō koutou pokowhiwhi, kia tangihia, kia mihia. Nō reira koutou

mā, moe mai koutou, moe mai, hoki wairua atu. E tika ana ngā kōrero, Kāpiti hono tātai hono, rātou, te hunga mate, ki te hunga mate. Kāpiti hono, tātai hono tātou ngā waihotanga nei, te hunga ora ki te hunga ora.

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[English: Thank you to those listening from all maraes across the land, and those supporting this proceeding for us. I want to acknowledge all those who have passed on those many marae, farewell, farewell to you all. It is right to say those passed to the spirit realm, those who remain, the living to the living.]

Kōkiri te manu, tākiri mai te ata, ka ao, ka ao, ka awatea. Tīhei mauri ora. Tēnā anō tātou. Tēnā anō tātou, kia koutou, te maha puta noa i te motu e whakarongo mai nei ki tēnei kōrero. E mihi kau ana au ki a koutou katoa. Ahakoa he iti te mātauranga kei roto i ahau mō tēnei tino taonga o tātou, me kī te reo Māori. He pai te iti nei ki te mihi atu, ki te mihi mai tātou ki a tātou ki roto i te reo wairua o tō tātou mātu tūpuna.

[English: The bird calls and the sun rises and jthe light shines through. Thank you.
 Greetings to us all. The many around the country listening to this, I acknowledge you all.
 Although my knowledge is limited around te reo Māori, it is enough to acknowledge te reo,
 the spiritual language of our ancestors.]

Nō reira, tēnei hoki he mihi kia koutou, kia haramai nei ki tēnei hui whakahirahira 17 mō tātou. Kia whakarongo ki ngā kōrero mō mua i ngā wā o te tūkinotanga o te tangata ki a 18 mātou ngā purapura ora. Ahakoa tērā, he korero mamae, he korero taumaha tēnei, kia 19 20 maumahara aua wā o mua, kia mahia ngā mahi ki roto tērā mahi, kia haere tonu te ora o te tangata. Ahakoa tērā, tēnei he mihi atu ki a koutou katoa, Nō reira tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, 21 tēnā anō tātou. Ahakoa he paku, ka nui ngā mihi ki a koutou. Kia koutou hoki ngā 22 Kaikōmihana. Koutou o te hau kāinga me koutou e anga mai ki tēnei kōrero i tēnei wā. 23 Tēnei te mihi aroha ki a koutou katoa, tēnā koutou. 24

[English: I want to acknowledge you also for coming to this gathering of ours, to listen to the wrongdoings done to us, the survivors. Despite that, it a difficult and painful narrative to remember, but to continue in to wellbeing, but thank you all. Despite how small it is, I want to acknowledge you, the Commissioners, the home people, and those listening today. You have my respect, thank you.]

30 (Waiata: Mā wai rā e taurima, te marae i waho nei. Mā te tika, mā te pono me te
31 aroha e)

32 [English: Who will stand upon the marae, let it be justice, let it be truth, and let it
33 be love).

1		I mua i taku wehenga mai i tēnei wahanga o tēnei rā, maumahara au i tētahi kōrero o
2		ngā matua tūpuna. Hutia te rito o te harakeke, kei hea te kōmako e kō, Ka kī mai koe, he
3		aha te mea nui o tēnei ao? Māku e kī atu he tāngata, he tāngata, he tāngata. Nō reira kia
4		koutou katoa, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, huri noa, huri noa tēnā anō tātou katoa. Ka huri.
5		[English: Before I turn, I remember a saying from my ancestors. Pluck the shoot
6		from the flax bush. What is the most important thing in this world? It is people, it is
7		people, it is people. So, to you all, thank you, thank you very much).
8	СОМ	MISSIONER ERUETI: Kei te mihi atu ki a koe, matua, me ō kōrero māia i takoha mai.
9		[English: I want to acknowledge you, matua, for the gift you have given to us.]
10		Welcome to the Inquiry, we're very honoured to have you here to give your evidence today.
11		And I just want to note that all of the Commissioners have read your evidence very closely.
12		Before we start, matua, if I could take the affirmation, please.
13		MR MM (Affirmed)
14	QUE	STIONING BY MS SPELMAN: Tēnā ano koe, matua, i aua mihi i takoto nei.
15		[English: Thank you, matua, for the words that you have shared). Just before we begin, just
16		for the benefit of those who are watching, matua, I just want to explain that for your
17		evidence today you have the name Mr MM, so we won't be mentioning your real name but,
18		of course, I will refer to you as matua as we go through, and I'll just keep an eye on those
19		words that we won't say on the livestream for us.
20		Matua, I know you wanted to start your korero at the beginning in the way that
21		you'd like to share it, so I'll pass over to you to begin in terms of your statement.
22	A.	Tēnā koe, Julia. Tēnā anō koutou i whakarongo mai rā (thank you to those who are
23		listening). I missed out one thing in my mihi ki a koutou (one thing to you all), te mea
24		nōhea (where I was from). Ko Tutāmoe te maunga. Ko Tai tamatāne te moana. Ko Tinana
25		te waka. Ko Tūmoana te kaihautū. Ko Ahikiwi tōku marae. Ko Te Rarawa tōku iwi. Ko
26		Ngai Takoto taku hapū. Tēnā anō koutou.
27		[English: Tutamoe is the mountain, Tai Tamatane is the sea, Tinana is the canoe, Tumoana
28		is the chief, Ahikiwi is my marae, Te Rarawa is my tribe, Ngā Takoto is my subtribe,
29		greetings to you all).
30	Q.	Tēnā koe.
31	A.	So, I'm participating in this hearing today because I want to bring clarity to the systemic
32		negligence and failures within some of the Government services, processes, and
33		procedures. I also want to highlight the connection that can identify the extent of harm,

injury, and ongoing ramifications such negligence has had on the lives of victims, and the 1 2 survivors who have suffered abuse in care. 3 **O**. Kia ora. Could I ask you then, matua, to begin by telling us a bit about your early years in the time when you were living with your grandparents? 4 5 A. Kia ora. In my early years, my childhood was quite traumatic. It wasn't a nice childhood. I often lived in a state of fear and anxiety, which I believe caused ongoing issues for me 6 7 both mentally and emotionally. What made it worse was I couldn't tell anybody about what was happening to me. 8 When I was a baby, I suffered from malnutrition, and I was moved around from 9 place to place, between different families. 10 On 26 May 1959, I first came to the attention of Social Welfare, of, sorry, Child 11 Welfare. My grandparents had called them seeking to have me placed in their care, but my 12 mother had refused. A short time later my grandmother passed away and I was left in the 13 care of my grandfather anyway. 14 My early years were nomadic, and a social worker once said that I was "shunted 15 around from home to home". 16 My grandfather and I moved to live with my uncle, my mother's brother. Later 17 I lived with my grandfather in a home with a number of adults, including my mother. As 18 time passed, I found myself living more and more with my mother, and brothers and sisters. 19 20 One of my sisters was adopted at a young age and I didn't have much to do with her. It felt more like I had just the three brothers and one sister. 21 There was a distinct difference in how I was treated by my mother compared to my 22 other brothers and sister. They didn't receive the harsh treatment and abuse I suffered from 23 my mother. Over time my mother physically and verbally abused me. My grandfather was 24 25 my protector and intervened when I was being hit by my mother on the occasions, he saw it. He would often take me to work with him. 26 When I was seven or eight years old, I was living in Mt Wellington with my 27 grandfather, mother, and other adults when my grandfather passed away, and after that, the 28 29 abuse from my mother got worse and intensified. When my grandfather was around, he would protect me. He was my grandfather, 30 and I was his moko. To me it felt like he was my primary carer. With him gone, I was left 31 to fend for myself. 32 Q. Kia ora, matua. I understand it was after your grandfather passed that you shifted to live 33 34 with whanau in Warkworth. Could you tell us about that now.

A. Kia ora. Yeah, I was moved to Warkworth to live with an uncle and his wife and six of my
 cousins. I went to primary school in Warkworth. I don't remember much about the
 schooling. I was often kept home by my aunty to clean the house.

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My aunty regularly physically abused me, and she also psychologically abused me and sometimes she wouldn't even let me speak.

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I remember the beatings were quite vicious. She would hit me with an electric cord or the washing machine hose. Sometimes she made me go and find a stick for her to beat me with, and if she didn't like the stick she would slap and punch me and make me go and find another one. I was terrified of this woman.

If the school called to complain about my behaviour, my aunty would also beat me
for that. There was one time in March 1968 when Social Welfare became involved with
me after the principal at the school called them about me stealing from school.
Occasionally I was sent to school with no lunch. And I was hungry, so I stole food from
the other kids at school.

My records show my aunty admitted to Social Welfare that I got plenty of hidings
from her, and she said I was lucky it was from her rather than my uncle, as otherwise
I wouldn't have been able to walk for a month.

18 My aunty also made my cousins hit me and punch me. Sometimes my cousins also
19 beat me up when they hadn't been told to.

My uncle at that time, he was a long-distance cattle truck driver and sometimes he had me and my eldest cousin fight. After one such fight, I remember that the next morning after my uncle had gone to work my aunty had called me in and tied my hands behind my back and had my cousin beat me. I can remember her saying something like, "Don't think just because your uncle had said so that you can get away with hitting my children".

I was first sexually abused by one of my cousins. I was threatened I'd get into trouble with my aunty if I told anybody about what he did. I was quite fearful for most of the time I lived there because I was worried that I would be blamed for anything that happened.

Q. Kia ora, matua. I understand after that time you moved back to live with your mother and
stepfather and during that time the abuse continued. Could you take us tell-- us more about
that?

A. Kia ora. Yes, eventually, I was moved back to live with my mother and my stepfather. My
 mother continued to abuse me severely, multiple times each week. One experience, after

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getting one hiding from her I remember she split my head open with a after- hitting me with a frying pan on the head. And I've still got the scar to that today-.

I wasn't taken to a doctor or anything like that, instead my aunty applied cobwebs to the wound, and I was reminded of this incident years later by a nurse when I had to get an MRI scan done on my head and she commented on the scar. This caused, at that time, a bit of sadness to come over me, that really affected the rest of my day.

My mother wouldn't allow me to leave the house except for - to go to school or to run errands for her. If I left for other reasons she would come and find me and give me a hiding out on the street using either a garden hose or a tree branch-.

Of course, other children on the street would often see me being beaten by my mother. I don't recall if any adults saw me getting beaten. I do remember at the time when my head was split open that it was an aunty who applied the cobwebs to my wound, and I also remember another time when my when- a nana of mine told my mother to stop hitting me while she was giving me a hiding-.

- Q. Tēnā koe. Just on your stepfather, matua, just to confirm from your statement that your
   stepfather, there was also some physical abuse there and I just wonder if you could tell us
   about what that was like for you?
- A. Kia ora. Yeah, my stepfather, yeah, he used to give me hidings too. Not as often as my
  mother, but he would punch me on the top of the head multiple times in very quick
  succession. Other times he held me with one hand while he used a belt and whipped me
  with the other.

Yeah, my mother also psychologically abused me. I remember she used to force me to stay up with her at night sometimes while she was ironing clothes and doing the laundry and when I fell asleep during this, she would slap me awake and yeah, no, I was I- lived in fear of my mother-.

I'm not sure why I was treated so differently and with such malice. I was just a naive, frightened little kid. I felt I had no one, I lived in a state of fear and home didn't seem like home at all. The worst part of it is my family, my whānau, didn't really feel like my whānau. And I never had a place I could call home.

- My younger brothers and sister, they were too young to comprehend anything or have any empathy for me at that time at the way my mother treated me, and they sort of basically ignored or didn't really know what was going on and what was happening to me.
- It turns out that I couldn't really trust anyone. It just seemed that way for me. I
  have some very, very profound memories of the abuse I experienced. I even feel like that I

was robbed of my childhood to some degree. I mean, I was moved from home to home,
from school to school; later on, from various foster homes to other foster homes.
Unfortunately, in those years the foundation for mental and emotional harm had already
been laid.

However, what followed only compounded the extent of the damage I have lived with for the rest of my life so far.

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Q. Kia ora. Thank you for telling us about that foundation, it's important that we understand
that before moving to the next section where the State becomes involved again in your life.
In this next section, matua, you refer to going to live at the home of a Pākehā man. Could
you tell us about going to stay at that home and what sort of a home it was?

A. Āe. Yeah, I think I was around about 10 or 11 then when that happened, Julia. And I was
 moved to a house, to a home run by a Pākehā man who lived on Western Springs Road in
 Auckland. There were a number of Māori kids staying there and I believe that I was the
 youngest of them all.

According to my records, a doctor at the Glen Innes Health Centre called Social Welfare and informed them that I was staying at this fulla's house and shared his concerns of this man and that he was known to take in unsettled and semi-abandoned boys. This fulla, this Pākehā man, he repeatedly sexually abused me while I was living there in his house. I don't recall exactly how many times he did this to me. He also abused other kids that were in the house, other people and I often saw that he had a different person in his bedroom every night.

When he abused me, he would make me masturbate him and squeeze and play with his testicles. I still can remember feeling the touch of his sweaty, fleshy testicles and his pubic hair. I have flashback memories of his abuse to me and of his kissing me with his gummy mouth, coming towards my face and seeing his salivaed lips surrounded by a moustache and his goatee beard. I can still, I can still feel his moustache squashing against the area of my face around my mouth. I can also remember the smell of his breath and hearing his heavy breathing over me.

This guy attempted to sodomise me quite a few times and I remember him grunting and carrying on, but he was unsuccessful for most of the time, but I remember feeling his penis stretching the opening of my anus in some of his attempts. It hurt, but he failed, he failed to penetrate me. However, he kept going by rubbing his penis and so on between my legs and up the back of my bottom until he ejaculated. Sometimes he had me masturbate him until he ejaculated. I can still smell his semen in my memory.

**Q**. Tēnā koe, matua. I just want to acknowledge those details that you've shared with us. 1 2 I know you thought very carefully before deciding how much to share with the Commission 3 and that it was important to you to set that out of what happened to you, so I just acknowledge you for sharing those details with us. 4 5 A. Kia ora. Matua, were there also some occasions where you experienced physical abuse from this 6 **Q**. man? 7 Āe, there were occasions when this fulla used to whip me with a belt and often left me with 8 A. bruising and welts to my body. There was a lot of abuse in that house in those days. It 9 seemed like a haven of sexual abuse and physical violence. Even the other kids, the 10 other some- of the other boys attempted to sexually abuse me also. I recall one boy trying 11 to put his penis in my mouth, but I fought him off in a fit of rage. This young fulla-, I saw 12 again in the boys' home later on when I was there, in Ōwairaka. 13 There was another occasion too where a much older boy that was living in this 14 house did sodomise me. At that time, we were the only two boys at that place. Everybody 15 else was out or doing something, and yeah, we were the only two at home at that time. 16 I remember I tried to fight this boy off, but in the end, he ended up holding me face down 17 18 and sodomising me. Q. Matua, I just want to check at this point if you would like to have a break at all or if you're 19 20 happy to keep going. We can take a break any time you'd like to have one. Kia ora mō tērā, Julia, no kei te pai, me haere tonu (thank you for that Julia, it's okay, let's 21 A. continue). 22 Q. Ka pai. So, you've spoken, matua, in your statement also about the physical abuse amongst 23 the boys in the house. Was there anything else you wanted to tell us about that physical 24 25 abuse? A. Look, yeah, no, it was quite common, it was quite common, and I ended up being the target 26 of a lot of physical abuse by various members of this house, and yeah, I started to fight 27 back at them for picking on me and so forth. But it was it-- just became too much, and 28 I used to sort of go into fits of rage and yeah, I never really had any major, major anger 29 issues before this, before this time. 30 Q. Could I ask you, matua, at this point to tell us about after this period when you moved back 31 to live with your mum when there was some news about that Pākehā man whose home 32 you'd been staying in. Could you tell us a bit about that? 33

A. Āe, kia ora, yes, yeah at that stage I was back with my mum and a news bulletin came up
on the TV about this guy who had sexually abused me. He was being arrested at that time
for multiple sexual offences and I remember my mother asking me if he had abused me and
when I answered her yes, that he had, lo and behold I got a hiding. I got a hiding and called
stupid. She was asking the question why I hadn't told her before and, yeah, I was just a wee
bit in shock, I guess.

7 8 **Q.** Kia ora. It was after that, matua, that you decided ultimately to run away around the time of your birthday?

A. Āe, kia ora, Julia. Yes, in actual fact it was on my birthday I ran away. That's one of the
reasons why I remember this, because although I've never had a birthday with my family,
on this particular occasion when I was young, I think, it was one of the first times I really
thought about having a birthday, and so I was expecting something to happen. However,
my mother and stepdad took the other kids out somewhere and made me stay home, and I
was told to fold clothes that were in the spare room until they got back. And I, I don't
know, I just had enough and took off, run away.

- Q. Matua, I'd like to take you, if I can, to paragraph 45 of your statement because I know that you've mentioned in your statement that you were on the run for about a week before being caught by Police, taken home, and eventually taken to Ōwairaka for the first time where you were made a ward of the State. I just wonder if you could explain for us what your experience was like arriving at Ōwairaka and what happened the first days that you were there?
- A. Āe, kia ora, kia ora. Ae, tika tau, Julia (you are correct, Julia). You know I was picked up
  by Police about a week later after running away and the day after they took me home, I was
  taken to Ōwairaka Boys' Home. And yeah, it was a strange place, and I remember waking
  up the first morning and wondering what I was doing there. I was quite bewildered and
  somewhat frightened.

I remember on the first day I was led to breakfast by what I soon found out were one of the housemasters and I was directed to sit at a particular table. There were other boys sitting at previous tables all around the place and at this table there were three others and I found out that one of them was the head boy of the table and when I looked around, I felt that I was one of the youngest there at that time. Whether this is true or not I don't know, but it certainly felt that way to me.

And anyway, after sitting down at this particular table and after grace was said, the head boy lent across the table and underneath the table he put a knife to my stomach and threatened that he would stab me if I didn't give him my toast. After that I was just, you
know, totally - totally fearful of just about anything that went on there. I had no- just- so
wary of others and, yeah, very frightened. I honestly felt I couldn't trust anybody and yeah,
I guess what- happens is that I learned to adapt over time to that place.

- Q. Tēnā koe. Matua, in the next section you speak about the abuse from staff, and we have,
  Commissioners have your statement and they've seen that, but I wonder if there were any
  particular incidents you wanted to highlight in terms of the abuse from staff at Ōwairaka?
  A. Kia ora, Julia. Yeah, I remember one particular incident that stands out the most, in actual
- fact there's a couple of different incidents there that had happened, but one in particular. 9 I attended -- I was put to attending the school that was on the grounds of Ōwairaka and one 10 day the teacher, this old Pākehā man, thrashed me with a cane, just went totally berserk on 11 me with a cane and left me with black and purple bruises all over the back of my body, 12 down my legs, on my backside, and I don't really recall what the beating was for, but I do 13 recall that whilst I was in the shower one of the other housemasters had asked me what had 14 happened and I told him, I told him the teacher had beaten me up with a cane. But the thing 15 was that, particularly now, nothing happened after I had told him that, and I wasn't sent to 16 get any medical treatment or anything for the bruises and so forth that was all over my 17 body. Mmm. 18

19 **Q.** And matua, there was verbal abuse from the staff as well, is that right?

- A. Āe. Kia ora, yes, there was, you know, there was a lot of intimidation I guess is the word
  that I would tend to use where some staff would speak to us kids in a way that wasn't very
  nice, calling us names like, you know, for things like getting in line and they would say,
  "Get in line, you little brown turd", or call me "a horrible boy", or even calling me "dumb".
  And yeah, it was quite a common thing in those days and, you know, we were often cuffed
  around the head and booted up the backside and that sort of treatment was dished out there.
- The only thing this sort of thing did to me was make me more fearful of that environment and heighten my sense of paranoia, I guess.
- Q. Kia ora mō tēnā (thank you for that). I turn now, matua, to ask you about the abuse from
   other residents at the home. Could you tell us, or if there's anything you want to highlight
   particularly about that section?
- A. Kia ora, yeah, I guess I was quite tall and sort of skinny and gangly looking and I guess that
  sort of made me the focus of attention by other boys who always seemed to want to
  challenge me or fight me for some reason or other, and on many occasions, I was assaulted
  by the other residents, or some of the other residents in that whare. Most of this stuff was

done behind the scenes, sneakily, out of sight of the housemasters, or the people or the staff that were in control.

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Yeah, this happened to me quite often. I was punched and slapped and kicked and often I was given a bleeding nose and, yeah, and it was it- just seemed like I was a target for no apparent reason that I could fathom anyway, other than the fact that I must have been an easy target. And maybe because I was probably one of the youngest ones there-.

I remember when I first got there, we used to get our allowance in chocolate bars each week, but initially my chocolate bars were always taken off me.

There was another occasion there where the boy that lived at the at-- that old Pākehā 9 fulla's house that sexually abused me, one of those other boys who had attempted to 10 sexually assault me also at that house turned up in Ōwairaka too, and I remember seeing 11 him walking into the little compound that they have there, and he saw me and started 12 walking towards me. And I remember feeling a wee bit frightened and that, and when he 13 got close to me, I had no idea of what he was intending to do, but anyway, he lashed out at 14 me, caught me in the throat, and punched me in the throat. And of course, that caused me 15 to gag and have difficulty breathing. 16

And I just, again, felt it was too much for me and attempted to run away. Right there and then I turned around and ran across the yard that they have there and jumped the fence and took off down the road and staff caught me a couple of blocks away and took me back to Ōwairaka.

Q. Kia ora. When you were brought back to Ōwairaka, I understand you were placed in the
 secure unit. Could you just tell us a bit about what that experience was like for you being
 placed in secure?

A. Yes, yes. Yeah, I was, you know, I sort of lived with constant fear and I was quite paranoid 24 about these things so when they brought me back to Ōwairaka after I ran away, they took 25 me into a separate unit that used to be called "Secure". It was a building that was isolated 26 from any other buildings, it was on its own, it was quite a big place and from memory there 27 was only one way in. When you go in, all the there- was no windows facing outwards, you 28 couldn't see outside. The cells that were in this unit were all around the outside of the 29 perimeter of it and with all their doors and windows facing inwards towards a compound 30 and there was -a the- roof was covered over but there was a huge skylight that I recall in the 31 roof-. 32

And, yeah, I was that- first time this was my first experience of secure. -I was put into a cell there and I was the only person in that unit at that time, and I hardly saw

anybody else there unless they came to let me out for a shower or give me a feed, give me a 1 2 meal, and yeah, staff were quite horrible. I remember the staff member that took me back 3 and into the secure unit, he kicked me up the backside and cuffed me around the ears and threatened that threatened- me with further violence if I ever tried to run away again. And 4 5 I remember staff saying, you know, I would never get out of that place. And I remember even at one stage there, you know, the staff were calling me "the runaway" rather than 6 calling me by my name. They would say things like "Runaway, come and do this, 7 runaway, do that". And yeah, it was quite an experience for a boy of my age then-. 8

I remember while I was there the boy who had punched me in the throat just prior to
my running away was brought in to secure unit also and placed in another cell. And of
course, throughout his stay there he was throwing threats at me left, right and centre of how
he was going to beat me up and all this carry on, and then and- of course I was quite
terrified. It was like -a it- was like I was being tortured, to hear this boy calling out his
threats towards me. Fortunately, though, the next day he was taken out and I've- never seen
that boy since.

Q. Kia ora mō tēnā, thank you for taking us through that about secure, matua. Could I ask you
 now about what your experience was like with education while there?

A. Yeah, as I said earlier, you know, the first time I was there I attended their school there and,
yeah, it wasn't a very nice experience for me, as I've already mentioned. After that
particular beating I got or that caning I got from the teacher, I actually don't recall being
taken back to that school. So yeah, my schooling there wasn't very good at all.

22 Q. So, instead of school, was it right that you had work that you were made to do?

Yeah, yeah, well, you know, they -- the boys at Ōwairaka sort of - some were sent to the A. 23 school and others were made to work around the grounds and so forth and so on, and I was 24 25 on one of my occasions there, I was made to work in the vegetable garden which was quite large, and there was a small group of boys that were made to work there, and I recall on my 26 first day there the housemaster there who was running that garden at the time, I ended up 27 getting whacked across the back of the legs with a stake, with a piece of wood. And the 28 reasons he gave me for my being hit around the legs with this piece of wood was because I 29 had stepped on some plants. And the thing was I didn't know anything about gardening, 30 and I wouldn't have been able to tell you which was a plant, - and which was a weed, so I 31 had no knowledge that I was standing on plants that were vegetables or anything like that, 32 but however, it didn't stop my getting whacked with a stake across the back of the legs. 33

Q. Matua, while you were at Ōwairaka, was there any acknowledgment of your Māoritanga, of
 being Māori?

A. Kao, kāo (no, no). No, there wasn't at all, all the way through my childhood there was no
acknowledgment of my being Māori, except for when Māori was used in a derogatory term
by various people. And there were some people in this place that used those terms, like
calling us Māori turds and things like that. Yeah, I don't recall what they said in particular,
but I do remember that, you know, they used Māori as a in- a derogatory way. -We
weren't we- weren't- told about anything Māori, we weren't acknowledged as Māori, and
yeah.

10 **Q.** Was there any efforts made while you were there to arrange contact with your whānau?

A. No, no, while I was there, I had no contact with my whānau. And even when they had,
what do they call it, family days, I recall, you know, feeling sort of quite sad actually,
because others were getting visited by their family and so forth, and but- I never did. So
yeah-.

- Q. Tēnā koe. The next section of your statement, matua, speaks to your experiences in three
  different family homes and I just want to ask you at a general level about those experiences,
  because I know there's a common theme that runs through them in terms of you being taken
  to a home where it turns out they had asked for a different sort of child to be placed and you
  being then uplifted and moved to another home. So, I just wonder if you could speak to us
  about that common theme that ran across those experiences?
- A. Kia ora, Julia. Yes, no, you're absolutely right. After spending some time in Ōwairaka
  Boys' Home, just out of nowhere I was uplifted, I wasn't told that I was going to be uplifted
  and I wasn't told anything about why I was being uplifted. Just that a social worker turned
  up one day and the next minute we were driving off somewhere and it wasn't until we were
  sort of on the road that I was told that he was taking me to live with a family somewhere.
  As it turned out, the first family was in a little place, called Kopu ---
- 27 **Q.** And while you were there ---

28 A. -- over by Thames.

29 **Q.** Aroha atu, matua (sorry for that).

A. Kia ora, yeah, it was a place in Thames. Now, the people that he'd placed me with were a very nice old couple and I recall the conversation I overheard from the old couple that they were having where they were saying that they didn't want a boy my age, they wanted a girl the same age as their little mokopuna who was 4 years old.

So, when I had heard this, I sort of felt that I wasn't really wanted here. And then I ended up, you know, I got on quite well with these old people anyway, and I was I-- lived with them for some months and during living with them I, you know, I sort of settled there to a degree and, you know, things like I used to go out and earn pocket money from and- so forth. And then one day again, out of nowhere, the social worker turned up again and without any warning or anything I was uplifted again and moved to a place on the Hauraki plains called Turoa, I believe it was, and there I was placed with another couple. Only they didn't want a boy, they wanted a girl the same age as their girl who was attending St Joseph's school so that she could be a companion for their girl. So again, I sort of felt I wasn't wanted-.

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And then, however--, I lived with them, again for a couple of months, and lo and 11 behold again, the social worker turned up and I was uplifted again without any warning, 12 and taken to a place in Paeroa, a family home there that was run by a Pākehā couple, nice 13 couple they were. And only that there were six or so other boys that were living there also, 14 I was the only Maori boy there, and I lived there for quite some time, I even recall running 15 away from that house with a couple of other -- a couple of the other boys, mostly due to the 16 fact that I was being constantly abused or given a hiding by one of the older boys that used 17 to live there also, a Pākehā boy that had an issue with Māori, and he used to beat me up 18 quite often, and run me down for being Maori and so forth. 19

I even recall one night before after-- or during the pictures on a Friday night in the interlude he beat me up in front of my friends at that time and referred to me as a Māori bastard and, yeah, so I ended up running away mostly because of him. Eventually, we were picked up again by the Police and taken to Hamilton Boys' Home, and there I was placed into a cell, a unit. I never saw anybody else; I didn't speak to anybody else that day or during the night, and the next morning I was picked up again by the social worker and taken back to the family home in Paeroa. But that didn't last long.

An incident happened there where the Pākehā boy I spoke about, he used to give me 27 a hiding quite often, was chasing the cat, a cat around, in the kitchen area. The cat 28 belonged to the female owner of this place. And some days later when I got back from the 29 Hamilton Boys' Home, this boy, he was actually a teenager, yeah, he blamed me for 30 chasing this cat and scaring it. And of course, he was telling this to the woman that owned 31 the place and she got very upset over the over- her cat being chased and frightened and 32 when she heard this from this boy,- she walked straight up to me and slapped me across the 33 34 face and said that I was going to be moved.

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When I tried to explain to her that actually it wasn't me, that boy, he just walked straight up to me and punched me in the face and knocked me to the ground and the very next morning after all of that I was the-- social worker came and picked me up and took me back to Ōwairaka Boys' Home.

- Yeah, so that was my experience of those foster homes down there, Julia.
  Q. Kia ora mō tēnā (thank you for that). Matua, if I could turn now to ask you about the time
  when you were -moved, I know you were taken back to Ōwairaka for a brief time and then
  moved to Wesleydale when you were 14 years old, and while at Wesleydale there was a
  relationship with one of the nurses. Could you tell us about that?
- A. Kia ora, yes. So yeah, I was about 14 at that time when I was taken back to Ōwairaka and 10 then I'm- not sure how long after I got back there that I was moved or uplifted again and 11 taken to this place called Wesleydale. At that time, Wesleydale was an orphanage for kids 12 and young teenagers, and while I was there I entered into an intimate relationship with one 13 of the nurses who -was - she was 18 then, and often she would come across from the girls' 14 dormitory where she worked and come across to the boys' dormitory where I was staying 15 and we would get together in various places around the home and make out and kiss and 16 fondle each other and so forth and so on-. 17
- One day, I wrote a letter to this young lady and sent it to her home address and it was there that her father apparently read the letter and ended up making a complaint to the staff at Wesleydale or to the managers at Wesleydale there about this nurse and I having this relationship, and unfortunately she got the sack and I was uplifted again by the Social Welfare and taken back to Ōwairaka and put in secure unit there.
- I recall that day that the social worker took me back, he took me into the secure unit, and we sat at a table, and he blamed me for what had happened to the to- my girlfriend then. And said things like, "See what you've done, you've caused this girl to lose her job and her career", but there was no thought or anything about how I was feeling or anything like that about what was happening to me or indeed what had happened to the girl-.
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So yeah, it was like I just had to cop it and that was that.

29 **Q.** And you were only 14 at this stage?

30 A. Āe, yes, I was only 14 then.

Q. I'd like to turn now, if I could, to ask you about your time at Oakley Hospital. I know
you've explained that you were discharged from Ōwairaka, but that you appeared in the
Children's Court in 1973 on two assaults, I'm just looking at paragraph 88 here, matua.

I just wondered if you could explain for us why it was that you were placed in Oakley
 Hospital?

A. Well, as you say, I committed two assaults and the Children's Court requested a
psychological report be done on me and I was sent to Oakley Hospital into Male 3, they
called it, Unit, and it was a unit for adults that were, well, let's put it this way, while I was
there I witnessed and saw a lot of adults that weren't -- that were mentally impaired or, you
know, mentally sick, and I recall, you know, some of these patients that were there in quite
detail, because I mean, you know, it was quite a bit of a shock, I guess, to see some of the
behaviours.

I recall one man who used to walk up to a wall and, particularly when somebody mentioned the word "blood" to him, or he saw blood, he would walk straight up to a wall and repeatedly bash his head against the wall until it was a mess, until there was blood coming out of his head and his face and so forth. Another experience I had there, I saw another male guy, very big guy he was, walk in to a particular room that I was in and with a couple of others and stood there and masturbated in front of everybody.

There was also another- example of people that were there was another man, used to always sort of, yeah, in a funny way approach me and used to tell me about his desire to sexually abuse little girls-.

So, it was quite a quite- a profound place for me to be in and witness these things and, you know, there was even a separate dining room for some of these men that were, you know, that really needed help. They -couldn't they- weren't allowed to even sit in the main dining room because of their mental state-.

So, yeah, I think I was there for probably about a month or so, I can't be absolutely
certain, but that was my experience of Carrington or Oakley Hospital, yeah, Male 3.
Q. Yes, we know you were there between May and June that year and just to clarify, matua,

you've said you were there for about a month, but the reason you were there was simply so
a report could be written, but they kept you there for that full month to do the report?
A. Absolutely, yes, that's the case.

Q. And once that report was completed, that was back to the Children's Court when you were
 sentenced, is that right?

A. That's correct, yes, yes, and so when I went back to court I was sentenced to Borstal, to
Waikeria, to Waikeria Borstal.

Q. Kia ora. I just wonder, matua, before we move to speaking about Waikeria, just looking at
 the time this, might be a good point to have a break and we could return to what happened
 when you arrived at Waikeria?

4 A. Kia ora, kia ora, kei a koutou te tikanga (it's totally up to you).

COMMISSIONER ERUETI: Tēnā koe, matua. Kua tae tātou ki te mutunga o tēnei wāhanga.
 (Thank you, matua, we have reached the conclusion of this part). We will take a 15minute
 break so you can refresh your water glass and we'll see you back here at quarter to 12, ngā
 mihi.

9 A. Kia ora.

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#### Adjournment from 11.30 am to 11.49 am

QUESTIONING BY MS SPELMAN CONTINUED: Nau mai hoki mai, matua, ki tēnei
 wāhanga (welcome back to this part). I'm just checking with our tech team that they've got
 the anonymisation in place still, yep, and that we're ready to keep going with your
 statement.

15 A. Ka pai.

Q. So matua, we left off just before the break you telling us about being sentenced to Borstal
 to Waikeria and I just wonder if we could pick up then, you could tell us about what
 happened when you shifted over, really this part in terms of changing from being a state
 ward to then being passed to the Corrections or Justice system?

A. Kia ora, Julia, mō tēnā (thank you for that, Julia). Yeah, no, absolutely. Of course, I was
sentenced to Waikeria by the court, to Borstal, and my experiences there in terms of abuse
just continued. I do recall, you know, on a number of occasions at least three times being
knocked unconscious and also being sexually abused there by other prisoners, I guess, or
inmates.

But I'm unaware, also, Julia of the time factor here, and so I'm just going to outline the experience that has affected me, that I believe has affected me quite significantly from my life for- my life since then and what that incident was, was a total abuse of authority and abuse by the staff and that that were there at Waikeria at the time-.

So, what happened was, on one occasion while I was in Waikeria, there was an incident that sort of escalated into a type of riot, semi riot type of thing. I had no idea that this was going to take place and after it kicked -off one- night there while we were having rec and I was watching TV, and it kicked off down the other end of the unit -and with- chairs and so forth were being thrown at the officers that were on duty at that time. And very shortly after this incident started, a whole lot of other stuff, a large contingent of 1 2

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28 29 staff came into the unit and ordered all the boys back to their cells. -And so, I myself, I went back to stand in front of my door and eventually it was opened, and I was pushed in.

Shortly after that, the staff came around again and pulled me out of the cell, told me to strip naked, which I did, and while this was happening other staff were inside the cell throwing everything out of it. There was nothing left in it. Anyway, after that happened, they pushed me back into the cell, naked. And there was nothing in there, absolutely nothing. There was a steel bed and a steel bench and a toilet hand basin unit they- were all bolted to the wall, there was nothing-.

And I was made to stay like that through the night and I only assumed that others
were in a similar position throughout the wing -- I was in a cell by myself -- and this
particular night anyway I remember freezing and shivering as the night went on, and I ran
the hot water tap that was in a small basin on top of the toilet/basin combination and I ran
hot water into it and I put my hands into it and sometimes I put one foot in at a time to try
and stay warm.

As the days progressed, and that, the very next morning for breakfast we ended up getting a piece of toast with a spoonful of porridge on it and for dinner I- don't recall what we got for lunch or whether we got any lunch, I can't recall that, but I recall that for dinner we got another bit of toast with a spoonful of green vegetable on it. This went on for, I don't know how -long.

Eventually, eventually I was I- attended a court hearing. -On that particular day I was given shorts and a t-shirt by staff,- and I was military style directed to go to this court-.

Now, when I, you know, I was quite frightened of what was happening because there was a lot of intimidation by staff then and very intimidating behaviour and so forth, and language. Anyway, prior to court I recall - prior to going into the courtroom I recall standing at attention outside the door to go into -the - when it was my turn to go in, I was ordered in and told to stand in the witness box and I was totally, totally sort of bewildered and at a loss -for - I was so confused, being scared and paranoid and so forth and that -really - the- only thing that I noticed in that room were a whole lot of Pākehā people and I noticed how bright the room was.

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When I when- things had finished in that courtroom, I had no idea that I had walked out of that courtroom with four charges of -causing assault- causing grievous bodily harm-.

Apparently, well, I have no reason to not believe that one of the officers suffered quite significant injuries to his face, he had his cheek bone crushed or something by a chair and so forth, and - but- - and I had absolutely nothing to do with it, I didn't- even know it

1		was going on or anything like that, but however-, walking out of that courtroom again, I
2		had no idea. And I don't recall speaking to anybody before court either about my being
3		charged with anything, so I was quite naive in those days
4		But that's pretty much what happened in that particular incident, yeah.
5	Q.	And so, you came out with convictions for assault and those convictions have remained on
6		your record to this day and I understand are still having an impact in your life?
7	A.	Yeah, absolutely, absolutely. They have impacted just about every time I've been to court,
8		and they've always been considered, I guess, in sentencing, when I've been sentenced in
9		front of the court, mmm.
10	Q.	And is it right, matua, that history is also assessed in terms of currently when you appear
11		before the Parole Board?
12	A.	Yes, yes, those things, those four charges are still being mentioned in forums like the Parole
13		Board and/or when speaking to psychologists and so forth.
14	Q.	Kia ora. I know we'll return back to your whakaaro about psychologists and their role a
15		little bit later, but if I could now just ask you about once you finished your time at
16		Waikeria, when you were about 16 and you'd left State care, where did you go to after that?
17	A.	Well, yeah, after Borstal, the first time I was at Borstal I went to stay with an uncle and an
18		aunty in Ōtara then, and yeah, unfortunately for me personally I was a little bit lost, and
19		I guess, I guess regardless of their aroha (their care) for me, I felt a bit alienated, or
20		"disconnected" is another word that I would use, from my family. I just sensed that
21		of- course, you can understand at that age I had no idea that this sort of thing was
22		happening to me, but yeah, that's- how it sort of how- I felt that it- was for me in those
23		times.
24		Anyway, I began working in a factory in Mt Eden and there I met a young lady, and
25		this young lady and I decided to live together and of course, I moved out living with my
26		uncle and aunty, and yeah, that was quite a profound night also.

But anyway, we got a flat together, this young lady and I, and we ended up having a child, my first boy, and we moved to stay with her parents in - up north in Whangā-rei and we were doing all right there for a period of time but one night after he got back from the pub a little bit drunk and that, he decided -- her father decided to attack me and beat me up, and so I moved, I moved back to Auckland the very next day, and I guess, yeah, that relationship between me and the young lady sort of ended there and then. And I moved back to Auckland, yeah.

Q. When you came back to Auckland, I understand it's that time that you fell in with the gang 1 2 lifestyle and you speak about searching for connection. Could you tell us about that? 3 A. Yeah, so already I was feeling disconnected and not really, I- didn't really have anyone and so I was sort of like- a I- was on my own. And I fell in with gangs and it was there that 4 5 I sort of found- a, I guess a type of whanaungatanga, a connection somewhere where I was made to feel like somebody, I guess. And yeah, I guess I found that a- sense of 6 7 comradeship there. -

And, you know, with the way that all the mamae (hurt) and such and such, the 8 neglect and feeling aggrieved at what had happened to me in the past, I guess with all that 9 coming together at that time, I sort of relished in this -- in gang behaviour and I found it 10 quite easy then to take out my frustrations and anger on others and, you know, and some 11 very -- I became very antisocial and I relished in it, I loved it, and of course the violence 12 that was attached with that, I had no qualms about who was on the other end of that 13 violence. It was sort of a, I guess it was sort of a way to get back at my own, you know, in 14 my own anger, I guess, at the world and everything that happened, had happened to me up 15 until that stage. 16

Yeah, so it wasn't it- was no problem for me to abuse others, men, women, no
problem at all. -Only I never did I- never did that to children, yeah-.

Q. And you've spoken, matua, about the way that alcohol and drugs sort of fitted in with that
part of your life?

A. Āe rā, āe rā, yes, it was sort of like it- was a norm, it was a normal thing to do was be
involved in drinking alcohol and taking drugs and I felt that -that doing- that sort of thing
helped one to be accepted -and but- yeah, I never really gave any consideration to the
effects of those substances on a mind that had already been distorted by some pretty
horrific- abuse.

Q. You've begun, matua, I suppose, speaking about some of the impacts of what you
experienced while you were in care, and I know you have some detail on this in your
statement.

29 A. Sure.

30 **Q.** What would you like to highlight for us today in terms of the impacts on you?

- A. Yeah, well, you know, it was a funny thing, you know, during my life, and today I've recognised that it would have been quite difficult for people to recognise that I had had any issues or recognise the effects of that abuse or that trauma that I had suffered from and, you
- 34 know, even now, you know, at my age now I have so many, so many mental and

psychological struggles, that I believe has come from that trauma of my growing up during childhood into adolescence and so forth.

3 And not only that, I think about the intergenerational effect that that has had on my children and my mokopuna now. I mean, here I am in jail, and I haven't seen my 4 5 mokopuna or children for something like 20 odd years, -so mmm.-- Yes, and my kids, my two eldest boys, my first born and my second born have followed me into this system of 6 care, you know, being jailed and so forth and so on, which, you know, it makes me feel 7 like, you know, I've failed them, I've failed them as a father, you know, and, you know, 8 I often wonder, you know, what the heck, what a heck of a cycle that must be, you know, 9 that first I've suffered this and now my children and I have no ideas what's in store for my 10 mokopuna, you know? So yeah, sad. 11

Q. Kia ora mō tēnā, thank you for sharing that with us. I know in your statement and I'm just
looking at paragraph 113, in there you talk a bit about, and just before this, "the ongoing
state to hypersensitivity to any form of abuse, threats or unfairness" and I just wondered if
you wanted to elaborate on that for us?

A. Kia ora, kia ora. Yeah, well, you know, growing up I never had too much formal education
being moved from place to place and so forth and given those experiences of abuse that
I suffered. But most of my life, most of my life I've lived in what I call a state of
unconscious oblivion, and this is only existing, this is only a matter of existing in the
moment, and having no sense for the future, not having any plans or anything about the
future, not recognising anything outside of what was going on for me in that moment.

A very significant impact of the abuse that I have experienced has caused me to adapt in a way of, I guess, in trying to survive. And over time you sort of adapt to this way and this, for me personally, developed into an automatic psychological default mechanism so which- was often triggered by, you know, further threats of abuse or whether that threat was being perceived -or real- or otherwise-.

You know, a state of fear and paranoia would, or confusion or anger
or would- come over me and sometimes all four, all four of these things would come over
me warping my senses into not being able to function as a normal person would or in a way
that was normally expected-.

31 **Q.** Mmm.

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A. And really all it did was just these- things did was heighten the anxiety and the fear that I had. -And but- there was two ways this default mechanism could go. One was to shut down into a state of paranoia and fear and so forth, and the other one was to burst out with

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violence. -And it was quite often, particularly in the gang world, that that violence was seen as a good thing. It was seen to give a person some recognition, some sort of mana.

But then, you know, today even, you know, leading up to the day I should say, it was quite easy for me to have outbursts of violent anger and so forth. To this day I live in what I've called that state of hypersensitivity to any form of abuse, threats or unfairness. And this is, you know, I'm very yeah- as I say, hypersensitive to it-.

Looking back now, you know, I can see how my experiences of being abused as a child has made me very vulnerable to violent outbursts and so forth. It feels like I have struggled with extreme violence, impulsive actions, and reactions for most of my life, from a young adult right up until, you know, recent years, so to speak.

Q. Kia ora. I wanted to ask you, given how you've outlined really helpfully for us those
 impacts, and the fact that you've been in institutions or prisons for most of your life, what's
 been your experience of receiving help while in those institutions to deal with the impacts
 that you've described for us?

A. Yeah, sure. You know, I've been coming in and out of prison since that first time in Borstal
for most of my life. I'm in my 60s now and, you know, as bad as that sounds, it is a shame
on I-- think anyway, on the system for not becoming aware of these things a lot earlier.

Sadly, for me, those institutions that I've been through, or the prisons, in fact, that I
have experienced for most of my life, have not helped me to identify or process the impacts
of that childhood abuse and this is despite the many, many psychological reports that have
been done on me, and each of them, all of them highlighting the fact that I had a very
traumatic childhood growing up.

However, none of them have recommended a process to look into the extent of that trauma or any form of counselling to help me recover from what has happened to me as a child. Instead, the reports have focused more so on risk profiling me and labelling me and categorising me, you know, however hypothetical those results are.

27 So, it's only been in the latter years now working through Cooper Legal, a law firm 28 in Wellington, and the Royal Commission that has enabled me to share what has happened 29 in the past.

Q. And is it right, matua, that your thought is if there had been better processes and earlier
 intervention, there would be a lot less victims?

A. Absolutely, absolutely. I believe that wholeheartedly, that if there was, as you say, some early recognition, some early interventions for me back there, it would have been, yes, a whole lot less victims in my life. And yeah, that makes me sad, yeah. Q. Given what you've said about not really receiving any help with that, I know that you have
embarked on your own journey to find things that help you understand the past and make
what happened make sense to you. Could you tell us about that?

Kia ora, yeah, no, well, as I say, you know, I've been in and out of prison for that long that, 4 A. 5 you know, it became a I- started to wonder why, why do I keep coming back to prison? What's wrong with me, you know? And so, you know, there was a desire in me always to 6 change, to change my reality and my perception about life and so forth. Importantly, 7 though, in this, I never knew, I never knew how to. I never knew even what to look for. 8 People would say, you know, but you know, you know what's right from wrong. Yeah, you 9 do sort of, but then when you're put into this default mechanism that I suffered from, you 10 don't. That sort of stuff doesn't come to mind at all-. 11

And so, I set out on a journey of my own and to make sense of what had happened to me, and what has helped me come to terms with my past and even now my present situation has been mātauranga Māori (Māori knowledge). It's the only thing that I have been able to relate to in terms of accepting what I've done and what other people have done to me. And if it wasn't for the paralleling of mātauranga Māori and English knowledge, I probably wouldn't even be here talking to you now.

But yeah, when this particular sentence started of mine, I recall some of the things 18 that a late uncle of mine had shown me. He'd shown me this because he'd asked me to 19 20 transport him, to be his driver to various Māori hui around the country and so forth. And you know, prior to this I had made attempts to learn Maori and so forth and so on and to 21 speak, but I never really grasped its significance then to what it means to me now. You 22 know, he was part of the taumata o Ngāpuhi nui tonu (he was part of the Committee of 23 Ngāpuhi nui tonu). And during the time that I travelled around with him to various hui in 24 25 Te Ao Māori (gathering in the Māori world), I observed, you know, mātauranga Māori and tikanga Māori in use (Māori protocols in use) and it brought around a bit of a, I guess, a 26 change in whakaaro, a change in my thinking, as - that- sort of started, I guess, started the 27 process of my reassessing my life's journey and starting the process of walking a different 28 pathway, if you like. 29

30 You know, I learned concepts like, you know, in Māori that we all refer to, those 31 that understand Māori, you know, tautoko, manaakitanga, aroha, (support, care, love, all of 32 those things) wairuatanga, mana tāne, mana wāhine, mana tamariki, aua korero katoa (the 33 prestige of the man and woman and children). Yeah, and it's been through that kōrero that 34 I've come to understand he aha tēnei me te Māori, ko wai he tangata Māori (what is Māori,

who is a Māori person) and what that really means to be a Māori person in terms of your beliefs and the way that one conducts themselves in society. Ahako (no matter) whether it's here or out in the community, and so that was a pathway I've chosen for myself and I've found many rewards in that.

You know, during the sentence I've only increased in my understanding and knowledge of things Māori and I've used it also to help others to gain a bit of an awareness and bring some understanding to others that are in my particular situation, you know, just to give them that feeling, that knowledge of what it means to be a Māori person in modern society today, you know, it's not a thing of, say, asking the question ko wai koe (who are you), kāo, because that to me that only speaks about the individual, it doesn't speak about his connections.

The question that needed to be asked is no heakoe, where are you from, and 12 therefore you are able to make those connections with your people and your maunga and 13 your awa and so forth (your mountains and your rivers and so forth). You know, and then 14 everything that's attached to that, which is, you know, all those Maori concepts that I've 15 mentioned, wairuatanga, whanaungatanga (spirituality and connections), kaitiakitanga (and 16 guardianship) and so forth. And then, you know, how those things speak of your whanau 17 and your hapū and your iwi and how we are related, I guess, to the Atua (to God or to the 18 gods) and what that means in terms of a person's life. 19

So, I've been very fortunate in my journey over the last 20 odd years to make that connection and I've seen, I've seen it so many times in here coming through the sentence of the mate, the hurt, the pain, the taumahatanga (the burden), the effects that men in these places carry on their shoulders in terms of the lifestyle that pertains to guys that, and women, and youth, living in prison.

Q. Tēnā koe, matua, it's clear how central that shift has been for you and, as you say, likely for
many others as well.

27 A. Mmm.

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Q. I wonder if I could shift now to ask you about your experience and your whakaaro with
 redress as it currently is. And what you'd like to highlight for the Commissioners, your
 thoughts on that?

A. Āe. Kia ora, kia ora, Julia. I'm just trying to find some notes that I wrote on it, so just give
me a moment.

33 **Q.** Kei te pai (that's fine).

A. You know, one of the things that, in terms of redress, is of course this process that's going
on now, and how valuable this process is in terms of making people aware of the intricacies
of the impacts that this has had on people throughout their life, I think the name is
purapura ora (survivors) and the impact that has abuse had on them.

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One thing that comes to mind is equity, fairness, a fair process, in dealing with redress for ngā purapura ora (for the survivors). You know, I'm well aware that people have their own opinions and their own methods for dealing with things and so on, and I think that redress has to be, I guess, for us as Māori consistent with the Treaty of Waitangi in terms of tikanga (Māori protocols), in terms of giving our people, Māori, iwi, a say in that process and how it should be managed and organised into, you know, providing that redress for ngā purapura ora (for the survivors). So, it has to have, I think, Māori representation.

I think that it has to also provide structures of support. Currently, where I'm at, at the moment we don't have there's- not available to me somebody that can offer me counselling over this, over the abuse that's happened to me. And why that is I have no idea but, you know, that's one of the things that sort of concerns me, is that whatever the strategy be, that it's able to be implemented throughout the country where such strategies are required- for ngā purapura ora (for the survivors).

I think, I really think, you know, that for Māori, Pasifika, or any other indigenous 19 20 people that have suffered trauma and abuse and so forth, that those processes be addressed by the tikanga (practices) that applies to those people because, you know, I'm aware also 21 that some of the barriers that ngā purapura ora come across (survivors come across) in 22 terms of stopping them from coming forward and speaking about their abuses, you know, 23 just all their lives they've had a lack of trust in people. That goes for me too, you know? 24 And, you know, they haven't had the necessary support systems put in place. And/or, you 25 know, even a sense of feeling whakamā and ashamed about what's happened to them, and it 26 makes it difficult to speak about. 27

And even for me to be here today speaking about the details of the abuse that's happened to me has been a long and very hard journey to get here to this state of mind that I'm in today to be able to tell you about that.

So, you know, we have issues like in Māoridom like a lack of men, men who have an understanding of literacy and numeracy. We have in these places a lack of men who do not know anything of their who-- they are as Māori, and I think for a Māori it's very

important for them to come to know those sorts of things and recognise that the pathway 1 2 along those lines is a pathway of rongoā, of healing. 3 So yeah, in the organisations, you know, there's a systemic, I guess, lack of knowledge from a Māori point of view about how to address these sorts of things. 4 And unfortunately, you know, there's a lot of men in these places that are suffering 5 the same thing, same symptoms as I've suffered from, and I have no doubt also that there's a 6 lot of our tamariki and mokopuna in Justice institutions that are suffering exactly the same 7 8 way. Kia ora, matua. I just wanted to clarify with you, I know you've spoken really helpfully **Q**. 9 about the barriers to coming forward for Māori and also, in your particular case, even when 10 that does happen the resources not being there. And just in terms of the counselling point 11 you raised, just to clarify, that's the ACC sensitive claim counselling that they haven't yet 12 provided someone to come in and see you, is that right? 13 A. Āe rā, āe, I believe that's the case, yes. For what reason I don't know. When I was, prior to 14 coming here in Christchurch, I was receiving a Māori counsellor coming in to see me down 15 there, but up here there's been a bit of a breakdown in the processes of obtaining somebody, 16 mmm. 17 Q. And I know talking about, you mentioned the systemic changes and I know you have some 18 whakaaro in terms of how mātauranga Māori (Māori knowledge), tikanga and whakaaro 19 20 Māori and (Māori protocols and Māori way of thinking) would be an asset to making changes but that needs to be done in a way that's not just tokenism. 21 Could you tell us your thoughts about that and, if it helps, matua, I was just looking, 22 I think you should have it as around paragraph 137 of your statement. 23 A. Kia ora mō tēnā (thank you for that). Yes, okay. I have an analogy for this. You 24 can't cannot- make a square peg fit into a round hole. -This analogy is the same as saying 25 you cannot have a Maori name given by a Pakeha process and say that it adheres to the 26 principles of a Maori whakaaro and tikanga (Maori thought process). Unfortunately, in 27 these such- places there's- a tendency to follow the Pākehā process, trying to implement the 28 Māori whakaaro (Māori thought) and in saying that, you know, I am grateful, I am grateful 29 that there is a little bit of Māori whakaaro in a place like this and 30 there's and-matauranga-Maori in places like this (Maori knowledge). 31 But, you know, if Māori are serious about, or even this process is serious about 32 helping Maori in these places, then we need to have a clear and serious look at the way that 33

34 Māori is delivered in these places. I myself was a kaiatawhai of a tikanga Māori unit (I was

a supporter of a Māori unit) and so I experienced this sort of thing first-hand and where it
lacks is a continuation, if you like, of the good work that starts in places like this by
bringing awareness to Māori that Māori is available, that they in fact are Māori and that
consideration for them should be given to their Māori heritage. Unfortunately, it's not most
of the time.

I think that, you know, the assimilation of non--Māori processes and systems has
become so prevalent in our society, that it's influenced the way we allow, as Māori, a lesser
degree of understanding of things Māori to happen. Not everybody of course does this, but
it's quite prevalent in these places, these institutions.

Q. Kia ora. Matua, I know we're just coming getting- close to the end of your written
 statement, and I just wondered if you wanted to share any other whakaaro- in terms of your
 thoughts for change and looking to the future?

Kia ora. You know, I understand the critical element of hearing these the-- extent of the A. 13 impact childhood abuse in care has had on ngā purapura ora (on survivors) and how the 14 impact has affected the lives of us survivors, and how it's prevented us to have, I guess, a 15 normal, normal life. But in saying that, you know, we know the stats, we know the stats for 16 Maori in these institutions in Youth Justice facilities and even in mental facilities and so 17 forth, and we also know that, you know, we have a lot of placement of Maori in various 18 foster situations, foster homes and so forth and so on. And, you know, the thing that I think 19 20 of now is well, you know, where they not where-- they might not be my direct whanau, we are a whānau in terms of Māori and yeah, I actually feel a sense of loss, I guess, a sense of 21 lack of understanding as to how Maori have become the highest stats in just about all social 22 areas of society. Yeah, and it's a shame, I think it's a shame on us as Māori and I think it's a 23 shame on people like myself who have, unknowingly in some cases, come through the 24 25 system that we have.

At the same time, you know, compensation can be given for the lack of awareness, the lack of understanding and so forth from these people, whether they be men, women, or adolescents or so forth, where they have been abused. I think that gives them some degree of an excuse I guess, and perhaps, you know, we can look towards the future with more open mind about these impacts and a better understanding of how they actually have affected our people.

I once thought that nobody ever understood me, and, you know, it just brings the joy, I guess, to my wairua (to my spirit) to realise that the Royal Commission is involved in this journey to help bring resolution to the past in terms of the abuse that's happened. One

of my biggest fears in being a part of this process is that I am here telling you about what happened to me growing up, and I am probably one of thousands, my biggest fear is what happens now with this knowledge that we give to you and what happens with it after, and in fact will the Government do anything about it? Kāore au i tino mōhio. Engari -- no, koina (I don't know, but that's it, that's all, Julia).

Q. Tēnā koe. Koira aku pātai, matua. Those were the questions that I had for you. I just want
to check in with you if you are still open to having some questions from Commissioners at
this point?

9 A. Āe, kia ora (yes).

Q. Ka pai, just before I pass the rākau back to the tēpu. E mihi kau ana ki a koe Matua, i tō
kōrero i te rā nei, i tō kaha, i tō māia. Nō māua ko Hōri te waimārie ki te tautoko ki a koe.
[English: Before I hand it over to the table, I want to acknowledge you, matua, for your
story you've shared, your bravery, your courage. It was mine and Hori's privilege to
support you.] I just want to mihi to you, matua, I acknowledge you. It's been a privilege to
work with you preparing your kōrero today and I'll now pass the rākau back to our
commissioners. Tēnā koe.

17 A. Tēnā koe, Julia.

- Tēnā koe Julia. Ngā mihi anaō ki a koe mō tō āwhina i a au, mai te tīmatanga o tēnei hīkoi,
  tae noa mai ki tēnei wā. He mihi rangatira tēnei ki a koe.
- [English: thank you, Julia, for supporting me from the beginning of this path to this time
  now. I want to really acknowledge you, thank you).
- COMMISSIONER ERUETI: Tēnā koe, matua. Kei te mihi atu ki a koe Matua. Kei te mōhio he
  uaua ki te hoki mahara ki ngā wā pouri me te mamae. He pā mamae hoki ki te kōrero i mua
  i te aroaro o te Kōmihana, i te aroaro o te tokomaha. Kia whai tikanga, me whakarongo ki
  ngā kupu. Ki ngā kupu mai i te ngutu o ngā purapura ora. Nā reira, ka mātau ai te āhua o te
  kino me ngā hē o mua. Tūturu nā mātou. Tēnā koe matua. Tūturu nā mātou i rongohia, i
  mātauria ō kupu i hoatu i te rangi nei.
- [English: (I want to acknowledge you, matua. I know how difficult it is to reminisce on those times and it is hard to talk, to remember in front of the Commission. We need to listen to the words of our survivors. Through that, we will get an understanding of the abuse and the wrongdoings.]

32 A. Kia ora.

33 **Q.** Tēnā koe, matua. (We honestly heard what you have shared with us today).

1		So, Matua, I wanted to thank you for your evidence and for the opportunity for us to
2		ask questions of you. I understand our Commissioner Coral Shaw has a pātai for you (has a
3		question for you). Kia ora.
4	A.	Tēnā koe.
5	COM	MISSIONER SHAW: Tēnā koe ano, matua.
6	A.	Tēnā koe, whaea.
7	Q.	I have just one question to ask you, and it relates to the part in your evidence, I think it's
8		about paragraph 119, when you were talking about your self-rehabilitation, when you're
9		talking about your the ways in which you're trying to redeem yourself through
10		mātauranga whakaaro- Māori (through Māori knowledge and Māori thinking). You
11		mentioned in your oral evidence that you have been the kaiawhina of a tikanga unit (you're
12		a support staff) at the prison.
13		I'm interested to know, apart from that, were there any other programmes available
14		in the prisons to support you and other Māori in that journey towards mātauranga Māori,
15		and have you got a sense of what works and what doesn't work?
16		And before I finish, I take your point that whatever is there has got to continue and
17		not stop, but I'm very interested in hearing what whether- you have been assisted by any
18		other programmes, and what you think works and what doesn't work in that area
19	A.	Tēnā koe mō to pātai (thank you for your question). Āe, yes, I'm sorry because
20		sometimes I feel like I want to break into Māori.
21	Q.	Please do. Korero Maori koe (speak Maori).
22	A.	Kia ora. Āe, ko ngā wā o mua, i te wā i tīmata au i tēnei haerenga kei roto i ngā whare
23		herehere, he maha ngā wānanga Māori i roto nei, hei tīmatanga te hīkoi o ngā Māori i roto
24		ngā whare pēnei.
25		[English: in the times that I started this journey in the prisons, there were many
26		proceedings, Māori proceedings to help Māori.]
27		There's been some good programmes. There's been programmes like Mahi Tahi which is
28		I- found supported me very much at the beginning of my journey in prison here. And it
29		was the knowledge that I was very interested- in that they shared with us about things
30		Māori that helped to, I guess, helped me to see some of the to- see and recognise some of
31		the things in my past and gave me a desire to continue to learn about mātauranga- Māori
32		(Māori knowledge).

So that particular ropū, I became very close to one of the kaumātua of that ropū, a fulla called Lorry Moore (to one of the elders) who was a great help in the initial stages along this path.

There have been other programmes, or wananga Maori in these places that has 4 5 helped. I'm of the belief that any such programme is better than no programme. Unfortunately, I find that the I- have found that there's- not enough of a continuation from a 6 Māori point of view. I mean, here in these places men are given a reconnection, a point of 7 reconnection and an understanding to things Māori. But I wonder, I often wonder, does it 8 teach you those experiences, teach - or those wananga, teach or get to the -nitty-gritty of the 9 problems for a lack of understanding of our position in these such places, and of course 10 I've- heard many men, you know, they talk about Māori and their desire to learn it, but this 11 place isn't really geared up to teach them that, or give them that, I guess that higher level of 12 learning. They make the reconnection, but they don't continue on with the higher level of 13 learning. 14

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Yeah, I hope that helps you.

Q. Yes, kia ora. And so, I just take from you that there is a thirst, there is a hunger to
reconnect to learn, but the way the programmes are presented, they've got to be from a
Māori perspective, and they've got to be continuing and support Māori to continue in this,
it's got to be ongoing. So that's what I'm taking from your kōrero, nē?

A. Yes, yes, āe rā, āe, tika tera, (that is right, that is correct). You know, such places as this,
they provide a reconnection with taha Māori (Māori side). They provide an introduction to
the knowledge. They provide other aspects surrounding that that help men to maintain a
reconnection, and they give a level of understanding about things Māori, Te Ao Māori (the
Māori part). And you're right.

However, they don't go on to continue that particularly, like I was in the just-- an example, quick example, I was in the Māori focus unit for five years, I was the kaiwhakahaere there, the leader, and when that ended, when that ended, I was put back into mainstream with no Māori support, with no more support to support me in my journey as a Māori.

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So that explains to you I think in a nutshell what happens in these places.

Q. Yeah, a very good example. Tēnā rawa atu koe (Thank you very much). Thank you very
much for your evidence and I'll pass it back to our chairman. Thank you.

33 A. Tēnā koe, tēnā koe e te kui (thank you very much).

COMMISSIONER ERUETI: Tēnā koe, matua. I'll now pass to Commissioner Paul Gibson to
 see if he has any pātai for you. Kia ora, Paora.

COMMISSIONER GIBSON: Yes, tēnā koe, matua. This follows on from Coral's question.
 Appreciating and acknowledging all the work you've done inside the prison, growing your
 own mātauranga (your knowledge), what do - assuming you get out sometime, what do you
 need, who should be on the other side of the Parole Board equation, what do they need to
 know when they come to that meeting? And I suppose, most importantly, what do you
 need and purapura ora (survivors) like yourself need when you walk out the gate-?

9 A. Tēnā koe e te rangatira. He pai ō pātai ki a au mō tērā tūmomo āhua, o te poari nei e tū
10 ana i mua i a mātou ia wā, ia wā. Hei whakawā i a mātou me ō mātou whakaritenga ki te
11 hoki ki te hāpori a waho rā.

[English: thank you very much, that is a great question as it pertains to the Parole Board, as 12 they assess us and who we are and how we can return back into the community.] I think, 13 personally, that there's not enough understanding across the whole Government system, 14 particularly in anything that pertains to this particular situation where men are in prison, 15 and we have to address the Parole Board. I think there's not enough understanding of 16 things Māori there and its significance to those who live by the principles and values of 17 Māori in terms of how significant the concepts contained in Māoridom mean to people like 18 myself who have, I must say, who doesn't know everything but has a little bit of knowledge 19 20 about things Māori, and I particularly pride myself for my hikoi in Te Ao Māori (my journey in Te Ao Māori) and I think there needs to be a lot more people employed or given 21 the opportunity to learn Māori in depth throughout the system so that there is an 22 understanding of te höhonutanga o ngā mea Māori, te tuturutanga hoki o ngā mea Māori 23 and mātauranga Māori (of the depth of things Māori, the depth and knowledge of Māori) 24 25 and what it actually means to a Maori who has an understanding of that, or who presents themselves in that light. 26

I personally have experienced that, or it appears that Māori doesn't really have a significant place, I guess, in positions of power in places like this throughout Corrections, and other Government services too. Because I've spoken a lot about my knowledge of Māori to various people, psychologists, the Parole Board, and yet there appears to be a lack of understanding of Māori at the level that I'm speaking about. It's just my experiences that I come from in that degree.

So, I think there should be a lot more people trained in Māori within the system to 1 2 understand Maori and are able to help, guide our Maori back to a pathway of healing and a 3 pathway of wellbeing for themselves, their whanau, hapu and iwi. So, and-I'm- not, I guess, lacking any understanding in the fact that that particular 4 5 request that I've made here is going to be an easy one. But, you know, I would feel personally a whole lot better if there was somebody, say, for an example, that sits on the 6 Parole Board, Māori, who understands Māori from where I come from when I speak about 7 Māori, and who can then inform the others of my position in life and my journey where I 8 9 am now. So, I hope that answers your question, Paul. 10 **Q**. Kia ora. Thank you, matua. 11 **COMMISSIONER ERUETI:** Ngā mihi, matua, mō ō whakaaro (thank you, matua, for your 12 thoughts). I'll turn now to Commissioner Sandra Alofivae. 13 **COMMISSIONER ALOFIVAE:** Thank you. Tenā koe, matua. [Samoan] (Samoan). Thank 14 you so much for the richness and the wisdom of your lived experiences. One of the points 15 that I picked up on was in your oral evidence around the lack of support, the lack of 16 counselling that's actually available to yourself and to other men like you, women, 17 presumably as well in the female prisons, and to our rangatahi (our youth), around how do 18 they actually process, how do they get the support to actually process their experiences so 19 20 that we can get to that greater space of matauranga (of knowledge). And I heard the wero (the challenge) around the challenging of the status quo, that currently the systems on offer 21 are just not good enough. And in -- fact, in your evidence in paragraph 82 of your second 22 statement 23 A. Kia ora. 24 Kia ora, where you say: "There needs to be recognition of the ongoing abuse by the 25 **O**. system, the Government and the services supplied to us. It is no different now to what it 26 was back then." 27 And you have the mandate to make that comment because actually you've lived 28 through the different changes, and you've seen very little change. 29 Tēnā koe, whaea (thank you for that). A. 30 0. What I'm wanting to - are- you able to expand on that for us, how do we effectively do that 31 differently? 32 A. Very big question, that one. 33 34 Q. Yeah.

A. I think, you know, it requires a very high level of understanding of the position that people like myself and ngā purapura ora (survivors) actually are in, in the now. I do feel that the future is very more important now than the past was, but I still understand also that the past is as important to us in how we move forward.

Whaea, it's quite difficult to explain. I think in my statement there at paragraph 82 it reflects the - I guess the somewhat ignorance- of people that work in such positions of Government power, of their own processes and procedures, that they, those can have an effect on the outcomes for our people.

I think also that the way to combat that sort of perception, if you like, is to first 9 make people aware of the fact that there is a need for different ways of approaching 10 rehabilitation for different types of people, different groups of people, particularly here for 11 Māori, you know, not in any way putting down or, I guess, yeah, putting down any Māori 12 initiatives that are going on in these places now. As I've said before, they are a start. What 13 I would like to see is that they are expanded on, and that people recognise that abuse can 14 come in many forms, that there as- we know, there's the physical abuse, the sexual abuse, 15 the psychological abuse and so forth. But in these places what I've experienced is that 16 there's, throughout my journey, is that there is a lot of abuse of power, abuse of authority, a 17 lack of integrity in some cases and I have experiences and have been sanctioned for things 18 that I have should not have been sanctioned for-. 19

So, I guess it comes back to the integrity of the individual, and I think most of us as Māori know that Māori is about integrity. So, I hope that answers your question, whaea. It does because what I hear you saying, and you correct me if I'm wrong, is that actually the fundamental principles that underlie the prison system and how it's supposed to help you actually are wrong, it doesn't. And that we should be listening and actually having the courage to go into the matauranga space more securely and confidently, especially in the prison system.

A. Yeah, I have a tendency to agree with you there whaea, but understanding that, you know,
there are a lot of people in these places that are genuinely there to try and help.

29 Unfortunately, it's the processes and the procedures that provide a negative environment,

I guess, for those people to work in and are not able to, I guess, assert their own ideas and initiatives that they propose that may improve such systems and processes, so...

32 **Q.** Yeah, thank you, matua. Thank you, malie lava.

33 A. Kia ora.

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COMMISSIONER ERUETI: Kia ora ano, matua. Actually, my question was a question asked
 by Commissioner Alofivae, as we're hearing from you and many other, he purapura ora
 (many other survivors) how essential it is to ensure that Māori in prison have access to
 kaupapa Māori based counselling and services while they are there to meet their needs.

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Now, I'm going to thank for your whakaaro on redress, it's insightful comments, strong advice for this Inquiry, but I'll turn now to my colleague, Commissioner Steenson, to mihi you and thank you for your kōrero.

8 A. Kia ora, tēnā koe.

9 **COMMISSIONER STEENSON:** Ngā mihi Anaru, Commissioner Erueti.

10 Tēnā koe, matua. It is my privilege to mihi to you today because what a valuable 11 gift you've provided to us with your kōrero. I mean, you were a genuine situation where 12 you needed to be taken into care, but care, the care never happened, you were just failed by 13 everybody at just a young age, as a young tamariki (child). And as you say, this was the 14 foundation for the rest of your life, the pathway that you experienced from thereon in.

And you went looking for whanaungatanga (connection/companionship) and for some connection which are basic human needs, and you found some comradeship through the gangs and again, it somewhat seemed to have given you licence to play out the trauma and the violence to pay back for the suffering and the abuse that you'd experienced.

We can all only imagine if you'd been given a proper chance with a caring and
loving environment, creating that connection as a child, you wouldn't have been there.

So today you've shared with us very raw, personal details of the abuse you suffered, and as you pointed out, it's critical for the rawness of the details to be known so that the impacts can be better understood in what's needed to alleviate the impacts, the long, lifelong impacts.

Kei te Purapura tuawhiti o Te Rarawa Koinei te reo maioha o Ngāti Whātua te rere
nei ki a koe, i ngā kōrero i te wā.

[English: to the survivor of Te Rarawa, this is my acknowledgment of Ngāti Whātua to you and what you've shared.]

Thank you, matua, for your bravery and being so giving with your korero today.
Ngā mihi nui, no reira, tēnā koe, tēnā koe matua (thank you very much).

31 I'm now going to ask my kaumātua whanaunga to close with a karakia after we
32 waiata for you.

KAUMĀTUA CLAY(?): Tuatahi mai, e te matua. Kei te tautoko ana ngā korero kua korerohia e 1 2 pā ana ki te to māiatanga, to kaha ki te whākī mai to korero i waenganui i a mātou. No 3 reira, kia kaha, kia māia, kia manawanui. [English: Te reo Māori firstly, matua, I want to support what -you I- want to acknowledge 4 5 you and support what has been said about you, your courage, your support, be brave, be strong.] 6 Me īnoi tātou. Unuhia, unuhia. Unuhia ki te uru tapu nui kia wātea, kia māmā, te ngākau, te 7 tinana, te wairua i te ara takatā. Koia rā e Rongo, whakairia ake ki runga. Āe rā kia wātea, 8 9 (Waiata Whakaaria mai tō rīpeka ki au. Tiaho mai rā roto i te pō. Hei kona au titiro 10 atu ai. Ora, mate, hei au koe noho ai 11 [English: oh Lord my God, what an awesome wonder. Consider all the worlds thy 12 hands have made. I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, oh, the power throughout the 13 universe displayed. Then sings my soul, my saviour God to thee, how great thou art, how 14 great thou art. Then sings my soul, my saviour God to thee, how great thou art, how great 15 thou art. How great thou art, how great thou art. Amen). 16 Hei whakakapi i tēnei kaupapa, ka tuku ki a koe. Ko te kai a te rangatira, ko te 17 kōrero. Anei te kōrero, kua wehe atu nei ināianei. Nō reira tēnei te mihi ki a koe anō e 18 matua mō tō kaha. Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā anō tātou katoa. 19 20 [English: To close this part, the food of chiefs is the narrative and here's the narrative that you have heard today. Matua, thank you, thank you.] 21 Lunch adjournment from 1.11 pm to 2.18 pm 22