

**ABUSE IN CARE ROYAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY
MARYLANDS SCHOOL**

Under The Inquiries Act 2013

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

Royal Commission: Judge Coral Shaw (Chair)
Ali'imua Sandra Alofivae

Counsel: Ms Katherine Anderson, Mr Simon Mount QC, Ms Kerry Beaton QC, Ms Jane Glover, Ms Anne Toohey, Ms Kima Tuiali'i, Ms Julia Spelman, Mr Winston McCarthy, Ms Echo Haronga, Mr Michael Thomas and Ms Kathy Basire for the Royal Commission
Ms Rachael Schmidt-McCleave, Ms Julia White and Mr Max Clarke-Parker for the Crown
Ms Sonja Cooper, Ms Amanda Hill, Mr Sam Benton, Ms Alana Thomas and Mr Sam Wimsett as other counsel attending

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

Date: 10 February 2022

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

1 [10.08 am]

2 **CHAIR:** Kia ora kaikarakia, thank you. Ata mārie ki a koe, welcome back to the second day of
3 our hearing into the St John of God Brothers. And thank you Ms Anderson.

4 **MS ANDERSON:** Thank you Madam Chair. For our first witness we're going to an AVL from
5 Christchurch, so I'll just hand over to the technical team where the witness will be
6 introduced, affirmation administered and then we'll begin.

7 **CHAIR:** Good morning.

8 **MS SPELMAN:** Mōrena.

9 **CHAIR:** Mōrena Ms Spelman. Is that Adam?

10 **SURVIVOR:** Correct.

11 **CHAIR:** Very nice to see you, thank you for being present and thank you for being willing to
12 come and share your account with us, we're very grateful, so kia ora ki a koe. Can I ask
13 you, Adam, before you start if you would -- it's called taking the affirmation, it's really just
14 agreeing to tell the truth, I'm just going to read that to you, are you ready for that?

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. All right thank you Adam.

17 **ADAM TAINA KARL POWELL (Affirmed)**

18 **CHAIR:** Over to you Ms Spelman. We're frozen.

19 **MS SPELMAN:** Tēnā koe. Just before we begin I'll check, we might be frozen.

20 **CHAIR:** I think we are frozen. I can hear you but...

21 **MS SPELMAN:** The screen just froze for a moment, just checking that you're there.

22 **CHAIR:** Yes, we're here and we can see and hear you. Thank you.

23 **MS SPELMAN:** Thank you. Tēnā koe. Mātua ake, e mihi ana ki tō tātou kaiwhakawairua i te ata
24 nei, tēnā koe Jesse. Nāu tēnei rā i tūwhera ka tika. Otirā, tēnā kōrua e ngā Kaikōmihana i te
25 rangi nei. Ko Julia Spelman tōku ingoa. Nōku te whiwhi ki te noho i te taha a Adam i te rā
26 hei tautoko ki a ia; tēnā tātou.

27 **CHAIR:** Tēnā koe.

28 **MS SPELMAN:** I'm just going to pass over to Adam who would like to introduce himself and
29 also his support person.

30 **SURVIVOR:** Tēnā kōrua. Ko Adam tōku ingoa. Thank you very much for this time that we
31 have together to speak the truth and nothing but the truth. I'd also like to introduce to you
32 my support person, Matiu, which has been a great help, but also Sir Ken Clearwater and
33 also the other people that have been involved with the Male Survivors Trust. Thank you
34 very much for your time, much appreciated.

1 **CHAIR:** Thank you.

2 **QUESTIONING BY MS SPELMAN:** Kia ora Adam.

3 A. Kia ora.

4 **Q.** So we know we've got here your written statement that you prepared for the Royal
5 Commission.

6 A. Yes.

7 **Q.** And just as a reminder for us all, the Commissioners have already got your statement and
8 they've read it. And so we won't be going into the detail of the abuse that you experienced
9 at Marylands, but we know that it's all in the statement that's been read. And just a
10 reminder for us to speak at a speed where they can type everything up.

11 A. Yes.

12 **Q.** And just to be careful of not mentioning names of the other boys who were there at
13 Marylands with you. So, I wanted to begin, Adam, by just asking you for some background
14 in terms of where you're from and a little bit about where you were born, nō whea koe, over
15 to you?

16 A. I was born in Otaki and I was adopted out to a whānau who was at Stratford and moved on
17 to Morrinsville and her name was GRO-B and through that whānau, I had the
18 upbringing which was okay. However, as they found out, I had disabilities of learning and
19 this is why they sent me to a school thinking that I would get the learning abilities that
20 I needed to learn and to carry on with my walk in life.

21 **Q.** Tēnā koe Adam. So, you were born in Otaki and I know you were adopted out around
22 (inaudible). Does that mean your whakapapa is to that area, Otaki? Where were your
23 parents from?

24 A. Yes, I can say that Ngāti Raukawa, Maniapoto and Tainui.

25 **Q.** Tēnā koe. But as a young boy you were adopted to another family?

26 A. Yes.

27 **Q.** And you've mentioned -- was it when you were at school that you began to have those
28 troubles with learning that you've spoken about?

29 A. That is correct, and like anything, whether it be boy or girl, the ability can be either be very
30 quick or very slow. In my case, it was slow, because it's like anything, you teach at a place,
31 or pace, sorry, you understand. If it's too fast it seems to go out the back door, if I might
32 put it that way.

33 **Q.** And when you were a young boy, when was it that your family started to notice that you

1 had these troubles with learning?

2 A. I believe it would have been prior to my adopted mother passing away in 1976 and it was
3 due to them that my family, which was my sister and her adopted family, decided they
4 heard about Marylands Special School to send me down there to get the help that I needed.

5 Q. And is it right, Adam, that you were about 12 years old when you went to Marylands?

6 A. Yes, about that, because my mother passed away in 1976, the 1st 1976 of January.

7 Q. And I understand, Madam Chair, that there's a photo that's been organised this morning, a
8 photo of Adam when he went to Marylands that was going to be put up just briefly. I'm
9 hoping one of my colleagues has that reference?

10 **CHAIR:** There's always this anxious moment while we wait but I think it's happening. What we
11 can do to relieve the pressure on the poor people who are trying to make this happen, if you
12 don't mind we'll just wait until it's ready and as soon as it comes up we'll refer back to it, is
13 that all right Ms Spelman?

14 **QUESTIONING BY MS SPELMAN CONTINUED:** That's fine thank you. Adam, if we can
15 turn then to your time at Marylands when you arrived there to start school, and I wanted to
16 ask you first of all about what the education was like there. Obviously you've explained
17 your family wanted you to go there to get the help that you needed. What was it like being
18 at school at Marylands?

19 A. The learning abilities from the Brothers quite frankly was very appalling. The only person
20 that took the time out, to whom I will mention his name, was Peter Butcher. The reason
21 why I mention his name, he was the only teacher that took the time out to teach, to show us
22 boys how to understand and write things in the proper manner and right way.

23 Q. Thank you. And you've said in your statement, this is at paragraph 26, that "during the day
24 we went to school and basically just got yelled at." Could you tell us a bit about that?

25 A. Obviously from the Brothers' point of view, you didn't understand it you get yelled at, then
26 you get the strap, and that was about a metre and a half long. And then you get told to sit
27 down and then they still yell at you, and this is in front of most of the boys that were in
28 your classroom.

29 Q. And what was that experience like for you when that happened?

30 A. For me personally, despite disability, and quite frustrating because you're trying to do your
31 best knowing that the disabilities that I had, I didn't understand and then they yell at you
32 again and again and again.

33 Q. And you've spoken in your statement, Adam, about being made to do practical work around
34 the school as well, helping in the gardens or in other parts of the school. Could you tell us a

1 bit about that?

2 A. During the time we were told to do things around the school, also even doing some of the
3 chores around the school they'd get angry because we didn't do it the correct way they
4 wanted it done and they wanted this and that done. And then they wonder why some of the
5 boys like myself walk away, couldn't be bothered, and then they wonder why we get angry,
6 frustrated, then they wonder why we started doing things to set them off and then they get
7 angry and then we get another walloping.

8 Q. You've spoken in your statement, Adam, about for you learning practically was actually
9 what worked for you, when you were shown something rather than being told. Could you
10 tell us a bit about that?

11 A. Correct. At the time when we were told to do bits and pieces around the place, I found it
12 practical that down at a school in Halswell they used to bring their broken bikes to
13 Marylands and we used to fix them. There was a brother called Stephen Coakley that used
14 to take us around the back where the bikes needed fixing and that's where I kind of learned
15 by doing things practically with bikes, showing me how to fix a bike and certain other
16 things using tools, spanners and what it's for.

17 Q. Thanks Adam. The next part I wanted to ask you about was what it was like being Māori at
18 Marylands. And so first of all could you tell us, other than yourself, do you remember there
19 being many other Māori boys there? I know we won't say their names, but were there
20 many other Māori boys when you were there?

21 A. To my knowledge there would have been one, two, three, four, maybe about six of us
22 Māori young fullas way back then. But even then, you'd try and do your best from way
23 back then from what I remember, you try and do your best to do everything possible, but
24 you still, from their intentions was, just go or else you get a hiding and it's like, well, you
25 know, we're trying to do our best as children. You give me the understanding, not a
26 problem. But you get yelled at, then you get physically hit, incidents like that, you want to
27 do things but you can't.

28 Q. And for the Māori boys at the school, was there any -- were there any classes or activities
29 organised to do with Māori culture, any kapa haka or that sort of thing?

30 A. To my knowledge I cannot remember the Brothers doing anything of the sort. The only
31 person, as I mentioned before, his name Peter Butcher would take the time out of teaching
32 us one or two small words, kia ora, tēnā koe, kōrua meaning two; koutou meaning many,
33 and that was the kind of bloke he was. It was only Peter Butcher that took the time out to
34 recognise that okay, we have Māori children here, they might need a helping hand at doing

1 that. So, he was the only one that I had a lot of respect for. As for the Brothers they didn't
2 give a hootananny.

3 **Q.** Other than him, what was it like when there was any te reo Māori spoken amongst the boys,
4 what was the reaction of the rest of the Brothers?

5 **A.** From what I gathered way back then, they were appalled, they didn't like it and you get a
6 crack. That would be whether around the backside, on the hand or around the head, and
7 I got it around the head and the arm and the backside, several times.

8 **Q.** Thank you Adam. Now in your statement we've got the detail of some of the abuse you
9 experienced from paragraph 34 through to 60 and we'll just take those as read.

10 I'd like to move now if we can to talk about some of the impacts that that abuse
11 has had on you, both when you were a child and through to now. If I could start, Adam, by
12 asking you about when you left Marylands, and I understand from your statement you were
13 about 16 when you left the school. Could you tell us a bit about that time in your life?

14 **A.** I think that the impact that it had was quite severe because you didn't have a full
15 understanding, if one was to talk to you to show you because -- particularly because of the
16 impact it had, depending on the person, in my case I was a very angry young man. And
17 because of the impact that they had on my walk in life, I know for a fact it affected me the
18 way I talked to people, especially my elders and especially to the young people.

19 And because of the impact it still impacted on my family, because they didn't
20 know what to do and because of the impact it had on my friends, they didn't know what to
21 do, so I resorted to doing mischief things and also doing silly things, as you do and the
22 consequences of your actions are wait on, you just can't do those things. That's the impact
23 and the impact, whether one wants to believe it or not, is still there until this day.

24 **Q.** Tēnā koe Adam. And that anger that you've spoken about, the impact, what did that mean
25 in terms of when you left Marylands, where did you go after that?

26 **A.** I resorted to way back then, after once my mother passed away in 1976, the family weren't
27 too bothered, so that's when I joined up with the Mongrel Mob, prospected, then I got a
28 patch. Then later on in time you learn the hard way, GRO-B and also the
29 community. From there, and the impact, wait on, I need to change my walk in life. And
30 due to that, I had the privilege from Social Welfare going into the Army, and I did a course
31 in the Army which disciplined me, showed me different ways and made me understand
32 certain aspects that one needs a little bit of helping for. And I learned in the Army how to
33 get that help and how to understand because they showed me physically, mentally how to

1 do and put that anger in another place. And that was taking it out on the field for training.

2 **Q.** So how long did you stay in the Army for?

3 **A.** It was only for about a year, I did my training, we went in as a cadet, going back in the
4 early 80s, went in as a cadet, that's what they used to do with some, not all, some of those
5 people that were on Social Welfare were on the benefit way back then, perhaps some of
6 them needed help. I was one that needed help, I decided to go in there and I didn't give a --
7 excuse my French , --a diddly hootananny about what the family wanted or what were their
8 reasons, I did it for myself.

9 **Q.** And after you left the Army, you've spoken that you still carried the impacts of your
10 childhood with you through to your life as an adult. Can you tell us a bit more about that?

11 **A.** Well, after learning stuff in the Army, the impacts, whether it be here or abroad, I mean
12 abroad up in the North Island in Aotearoa, as much as I'd like to say I've got rid of all of my
13 impacts, I'll be brutally honest with you, it's still going to be there, try and flog it off it's not
14 going to work.

15 However, when one deals with it slowly and has understanding through different
16 people, and I mean different as in male survivors, through Ken Clearwater, through Matiu
17 and through different organisations and understanding, the impact slowly dwindles, because
18 they are giving you the understanding how to cope with this or how to cope with that, and
19 then that gives you more of a respect for the person or persons and the community.

20 **Q.** Kia ora. I'd like to ask you, Adam, about another part of that impact, which is how the
21 abuse impacted on relationships that you've had. So, relationships within your family and
22 these days with mokopuna, what has that meant for you in terms of how you see that impact
23 (inaudible)?

24 **A.** The impact for me has an effect such as way back in the heyday I used to live at Alpine
25 View and I used to live on my own and I didn't have to worry about what I needed to do,
26 but I'd get things sorted my way, as we all do, men and women, they have a way of doing
27 things, and that impact helped me to sort stuff out. But as a family, they didn't really want
28 anything to do with me and my impact there, having that done, was like well, obviously
29 you don't really give a hootananny or stuff about what I'm going or what I'm doing until my
30 sister in our adoptive family, in my adoptive family mentioned to me "It happened to you,
31 did it not?" To those words. And I said yes, it did.

32 So that was the impact it had on her, before she passed away. And as was just
33 mentioned, the impact for me for children, because I am a bus driver, you have the impact,
34 well wait on, say good morning to the children, they say good morning, but don't touch.

1 And it's like well, if that being the case, learn from that, be respectful and mindful, because
2 at the end of the day something, if it's done inappropriately, it will come back and bite you
3 in the backside.

4 **Q.** Adam, just to clarify, like you're often quite cautious or thinking about those things when
5 you have interactions with young people today?

6 **A.** Yes, it does. Don't get me wrong, it would be in anybody's case where coming from the
7 boys from Marylands Order of St John, it would be very standoffish, depending if one has
8 had children, which some of them may have had children. Yes, they'd be used to that, as in
9 holding their children and perhaps doing it in front of the parents, giving them a hug as
10 well. As for me, no, I do not have children, hence why I'm a bit standoffish hugging kids
11 and doing that because all of a sudden it comes back to me wait on, don't touch the kids.

12 **Q.** Thank you Adam. I wanted to ask, you mentioned about your sister and that conversation
13 about what happened to you. Just to go back for a moment to when you were at Marylands,
14 at that time was there anyone around that you were able to talk to about the abuse that you
15 experienced?

16 **A.** At that particular time, no, not really. The only person which I believe that some of the
17 boys at that time were quite honest, the only person that I will mention the name that took
18 the time and took us under our wing, or her wing sorry, was Liz Davidson, the cook at
19 Marylands Special School. And it was through her that taught me about writing,
20 understanding, even showing how to peel spuds. She took us under her wing to show us
21 and she listened. And I know for a fact if it wasn't for her, I think in all honesty if some of
22 us boys were really honest, if it wasn't for her we wouldn't be where we are today.

23 **Q.** Tēnā koe. So am I right, Adam, that other than her there wasn't other people at Marylands
24 you could trust to talk to about what happened?

25 **A.** Correct. And having said that, coming from Marylands Special School out of the dormitory
26 block, during that time we were there, the villas were getting built and then prior to that
27 they had different ladies coming in looking after us and even then you still didn't trust,
28 because you didn't know who to tell, you didn't know who to trust, and from some of us and
29 our point of view was no, don't even bother going there, waste of time.

30 **Q.** And that experience, Adam, that you had, do you think that might have been the same for
31 some of the other boys at Marylands, those same thoughts?

32 **A.** I think so, and you'd think you'd be able to trust somebody or a brother, but being with the
33 Brothers, they go to the church next to the hospital, go and do their whatever they're doing,
34 and they'd talk about this and talk about that. And I can say that factually because we, a

1 couple of the other boys caught them out.

2 **Q.** So Adam, when was it that you started speaking to other people about what happened to
3 you as a child?

4 **A.** It was mainly my adopted sister when she spoke up and said to me "It happened to you
5 down there didn't it?" As much as I didn't want to admit the truth, she said "It happened to
6 you, did it not?" That's when the floodgates opened and I had to be honest and real with
7 her, and as I said, "It did happen **GRO-B**", **GRO-B** is her name, yes, it did happen. As
8 I stated to her, "I do not blame the family whatsoever. You did not know what was
9 happening down here in Christchurch at Marylands Special School, I do not blame you
10 whatsoever."

11 **CHAIR:** Ms Spelman, can I just ask a question of Adam. How old were you when your sister
12 asked you that question? Were you an adult or were you still a young person?

13 **A.** No, I was an adult then. So, I would have been just give and take around 20 thereabouts.
14 So, it was her that asked the question which I was quite thankful – because – --yes.

15 **Q.** Yes, thank you for that.

16 **A.** Thank you.

17 **QUESTIONING BY MS SPELMAN CONTINUED:** In terms of contact with anyone from
18 Marylands about what happened to you, I understand you were contacted by them when
19 you were an adult, by Peter Burke. Could you tell us a bit about how that contact came to
20 be?

21 **A.** The contact was by letter form, because that was the only thing he could do was by letter
22 form, and the only reason why I said to him "Everything's done by letter, you don't get my
23 phone number or nothing." And due to the letter form as such, whether that-- he did it that
24 way, because again I say, who do you trust? That's what it boils down to me. And it's no
25 different to any of the other boys, who do you trust? And it's like anybody, man, woman,
26 you build a rapport with people as I've built a rapport with the male survivors, through Ken
27 Clearwater, Matiu and also, if I may mention his name, Earle Botchell. You build that
28 rapport, if you don't there's no trust.

29 **Q.** Given that you've said, that what was your reaction when Peter Burke got in touch with
30 you?

31 **A.** At the time, excuse my appropriation, what a load of crock. As far as my understanding
32 was way back then, all he wanted to do is my understanding was then, just sweep it under
33 the carpet. "The quicker we get rid of you fullas." That's when I kind of understood slowly

1 the way how he dealt with certain things and how I understood it. In some cases, he didn't
2 take everything into consideration. However, from the letter form that's all I wanted and
3 that was it.

4 **Q.** So, he got in touch with you and did you go and have a meeting with him in person?

5 **A.** Yes, we had a meeting. At the time it was called the Star and Garter down Barbados Street
6 in a motel on the left-hand side across the river, there's a little creek and I believe there
7 was,-- I can't quote how many boys were there at the time, I believe there's quite a few of
8 us, and it was then that he started speaking to us individually and then it was then he started
9 to tell us what was going to happen. And then he mentioned about the lawyers are going to
10 get a hold of you, which I believe it was Grant Associates or something along those lines,
11 and then he said he was going to write out another letter form of how much we're going to
12 pay you.

13 **Q.** So you mentioned other boys that were there at the motel. Did you see the other boys when
14 you went in there? Were you all in together?

15 **A.** Yes, well we weren't. -- He'd pull us aside, take us into another room while the lawyer was
16 there and the boys were in a lounge room, so to speak, if I might put it that way, from my
17 knowledge. And so they'd take us into a separate room individually, talk about what
18 happened, he didn't mention too much about the sexual, physical and mental abuse, all he
19 wanted from my understanding and what he was saying, see you later. That's my
20 understanding from what I recall what Peter Burke was doing.

21 **Q.** And how did that make you feel at the time Adam?

22 **A.** Quite frankly, made me feel like mud. You go walking through a field and you've just
23 planted a load of potatoes and you're walking through mud. It felt like you were just
24 thrown out on to the paddock, you deal with it, see you later. And that's what I mean by
25 mud. I could say inappropriate other things also, but I think due to putting things in
26 perspective, I know that's what it felt like. We could say a few other words but no, I think
27 you gather what I'm talking about, mud meaning different other word, but I'll refrain from
28 using that type of word.

29 **CHAIR:** We get the picture, Adam, we get the picture thank you.

30 **A.** Thank you.

31 **QUESTIONING BY MS SPELMAN CONTINUED:** And when you had your meeting with
32 Peter Burke, were you able to tell him the details that you've put in your statement to the
33 Royal Commission?

34 **A.** Again, it's a trust factor. Peter Burke, as far as I understood then, was part of the Brothers

1 of St John of God, he was the so called 'boss' and "I'm not going to tell you everything, I
2 don't trust you. You can say this and that and you can use whatever you say against
3 whatever I've already said to you and then you'll try and manipulate it, and as far as I'm
4 concerned Peter Burke, I don't trust you." Because what you might say in a nice manner,
5 no, it's trust, and I've never trusted him and I'll tell you that straight.

6 **Q.** Tēnā koe. And you've mentioned in terms of the letter form, you didn't want to give your
7 phone number but he would communicate with you by letter. And I understand that after
8 your meeting he did send you a letter. And I think we've got a copy of that, Madam Chair,
9 to pull up on Trial Director. For the record the reference is EXT0019109.

10 **CHAIR:** Yes, I think that's coming. Did we get the photo by the way? We'll look at the photo a
11 bit later, in the meantime we'll look at the letter, thank you.

12 **QUESTIONING BY MS SPELMAN CONTINUED:** Thank you. So Adam, I know you've
13 seen this letter before and I just, --we don't need to go through and read the entire letter, but
14 I just wanted to ask you really, what was your reaction when you received this letter? What
15 did you think about it?

16 **A.** Brutally honestly, excuse me Madam Speaker, but to me it was a crock of crap. Because
17 he's only put in there what he wants to put in there and it doesn't entail what I'm thinking, it
18 only tells me what he's thinking, what he's going to do and does he give a diddly squat
19 about anything else? No. So my thoughts, yes, he has put it in letter form, but as far as
20 I feel when I read it, it was like there you go, just been chucked out in the paddock again.

21 **Q.** Does that mean there are some things missing from the letter?

22 **A.** Not necessarily missing from the letter, it just felt like you were spat on and everything else
23 and it's not genuine, I believe.

24 **Q.** Tēnā koe. Thank you, that's all we need with that letter. Adam, after the letter I understand
25 that they arranged for a compensation payment to come to you and I know you've got some
26 views about the money in these sorts of situations. Could you tell us a bit about your
27 thoughts on that, on the money?

28 **A.** On the money side of things, to be brutally honest with you, he knew what he was doing
29 and it was a pittance due to the sexual, physical and mental abuse, not only to me but many
30 of the other boys, it's pittance. He knew that, that's why he took the time out with his
31 lawyers, Grant Associates I believe, I stand to be corrected, and that's why they decided to
32 do a payout to get rid of us and the quicker they got that done, the better.

33 So as far as I'm concerned with the payout, they knew that some of us were going
34 to spend it just like that, they knew that some of us, because we didn't have an

1 understanding really about money, they knew that we could have invested in somewhere
2 else perhaps, but young as we were, we didn't understand that. All we knew that wait on,
3 we'll spend money and we'll spend it here, there and go and do this with it. That's why
4 I say it was a pittance compared to what, if I may add, what the Canadian Government paid
5 out to the boys and girls that were abused like us boys and girls that are abused here in
6 New Zealand.

7 **Q.** I just note we've still got the screen share so we're not able to see you. Could we just stop
8 the screen share so we can see you again? Thank you.

9 **CHAIR:** Have we come back, have we returned? Good.

10 **QUESTIONING BY MS SPELMAN CONTINUED:** So thank you for that, Adam. I

11 understand what you're saying in terms of your thoughts about the payment and that Peter
12 Burke meeting. The other aspect I wanted to ask you about was your interaction with
13 Police, because we've heard that there have been prosecutions of some of the Brothers from
14 Marylands School and I just wanted to understand for you whether you had been to the
15 Police yourself about what happened?

16 **A.** The Police, at the time when Brother McGrath went up and some of the boys went to
17 court, at that time again, I bring to the forefront who do you trust, who do I believe that's
18 going to believe our story. And as it was brought to me later on in time, and I'm very
19 thankful that due to a police officer that was dealing with the Marylands Special School
20 abuse, the police officer asked me how - "Why or how did you not come and see us?" My
21 thought was I didn't know who to come to see. I didn't know who to trust and who's going
22 to believe me-.

23 And then later on in time as you learn along the way, because there are people as
24 with Sir Ken Clearwater, and due to other people that have been through the situation, and
25 it's through them that put me through a gentleman by the name of Earle Botchell. And as
26 I said, trust. And you've got to build that trust, it's like a rapport, building the trust with
27 somebody or something perhaps, in this case it was Mr Botchell.

28 **Q.** Thank you. And Adam, again, that's been your experience of not feeling trust in terms of
29 contacting Police yourself and perhaps needing them to come to you. Do you think there
30 would have been other boys in a similar situation to you?

31 **A.** No doubt. And honestly, some of them even today. Now they might be seeing what's
32 happening today, oh I remember that dude, I remember this person, and now they can see
33 that the Police, as I said at a male survivors' meeting, the Police are here for us not against
34 us.

1 **Q.** Tēnā koe. I'd like to turn now, Adam, to ask you a bit about your own journey of "healing"
2 is the word you've used in here and you've touched on it a little bit in terms of the support
3 that you've got. But I understand another part of that has been reconnecting more to your
4 taha Māori and understanding more about who you are. So, I just wonder if you could tell
5 the Commissioners about what has been helpful for you in terms of healing from what
6 happened?

7 **A.** In all honesty I believe it's -- the healing aspect side of it has been having that
8 understanding and knowing that certain organisations or certain places that you can go and
9 learn something new. In my case it was a Māori programme in Palmerston North that
10 I went to, to learn -Māori and also certain aspects at a fellowship, and through that, that
11 started the healing process.

12 However, the healing process does take time and it does not happen overnight, and
13 it will not happen overnight, it depends on where I'm at, or any other boy that's been
14 involved, it takes time, and that might take forever. However, in my case, it's taken time,
15 but because I've had the support and understanding to help heal slowly, and the beautiful
16 thing about it is, now that I understand through male survivors, through Ken Clearwater,
17 my support person, Matiu, and others, they give you the understanding and that starts the
18 healing process. If it wasn't for that, I think somewhere along the line I'd still be an angry
19 man and I'd be taking my rubbish to the community wherever else and I could be in jail by
20 now.

21 So, the healing process has got to start somewhere. For some of us it might be
22 somewhere different. Hopefully the healing process doesn't start in prison. However,
23 sometimes it does due to the help they get from in prison into the community. So it can
24 work both ways, depending on where the man's at or the girl's at this particular time.

25 **Q.** Kia ora Adam. I know there's one other part that you wanted to speak about today, Adam,
26 and you mentioned briefly earlier the Canadian Government. But I know you have some
27 thoughts about what this Commission, what the Government, what the church should be
28 doing now to put things right for children who this happened to. Do you want to tell us a
29 bit now about what you think could be done going forward?

30 **A.** Well, Madam Speakers, it's very simple, as it has been kept simple, the beautiful thing is
31 the start to the finish and it's got to start here. And I think in all honesty, as the Minister has
32 mentioned, it's been going on for too long and now we need to get it sorted. And I believe
33 we're in a situation where it needs to be sorted. And why I say the Canadian Government,
34 which I read through a statement going through different organisations and stuff, they made

1 a plan, they needed to deal with it and I believe we're on the path of dealing with this whole
2 situation for the men, and excuse me, also for the girls. And I say the girls because they
3 had the nuns next door from Brothers of St John of God and I'm sure somewhere along the
4 line that those girls were affected somewhere or somewhat.

5 And at the end of the day, yes, we had male survivors here in New Zealand, but
6 I ask myself what do the women have? In that case to my knowledge there's not much for
7 the ladies to go to to get the help they need like us boys. And I know for a fact if we can
8 take a leap out of what the Canadian Government has done, or their commission or
9 whatever might be happening over there, how they put it, if we take a leaf out of their book
10 and do the right thing, front up, yes, we've done wrong, I'm not blaming the Government
11 for everything, no. My parents didn't know sending me down there and I'm not really
12 blaming the State because they didn't know what was happening, but if we get on to it now,
13 the quicker we get it dealt with, I don't want to see any other boy or girl, that is a man or
14 woman today, go through the same situation that we're all going through today.

15 **Q.** Thank you for sharing that with us. We can hear the feeling in your voice, so thank you for
16 sharing that with us. I'm conscious that our Commissioners may have some questions for
17 you as well. Do you have anything else that you'd like to cover before we check in with
18 them about whether they have questions?

19 **A.** All I need to say to Minister Hipkins from what you said online that you and I practice what
20 we preach, quote unquote, it's been going on for too long and the Royal Commission are
21 here to, --we're going to get it dealt with and we need to get it dealt with as soon as possible
22 because I don't want to see any man, woman, need to go through what we're going through
23 to get it dealt with in a right and proper manner because there's a lot of people hurting out
24 there, and yes it's not the parents' fault because of they sending us down to school, they
25 didn't know what was happening. But until now, now they know, and some of those men
26 and women that are affected, they need to know.

27 **Q.** Thank you Madam Chair, I'll just pass over to you, I'm conscious there may be questions
28 from the Commissioners.

29 **CHAIR:** Kia ora Adam. What you said has been really, really helpful. And thank you for
30 recognising that there are other groups out there who are affected in the same way as you
31 but who might not be recognised, and that's a very important thing for us to consider.

32 Adam, I've got a question, and it's up to you how you answer this, but you were, -
33 you're very critical, and I think rightly so, of the lack of education that you got at
34 Marylands. You went there I think when you were 12; is that right?

1 A. Thereabouts, yes.

2 Q. Yes, so had you been going to school in Morrinsville or other places before you went to
3 Marylands?

4 A. Correct, I went to a school, primary school, then intermediate school in Morrinsville.

5 Q. Okay. So and I think you said that it was a bit difficult because some teachers went too fast
6 and it was hard for you to keep up. Is that right?

7 A. Correct.

8 Q. When you finished at intermediate and before you went to Marylands, were you able to
9 read and write?

10 A. I was able to read and write through my adopted mother and she was the one that taught me
11 how to read and write.

12 Q. Right, so you got that from your adopted mother rather than from school, is that right?

13 A. Pretty much, yes.

14 Q. Yeah. Okay, so you could read and write. Could you do numbers, could you do sums and
15 maths?

16 A. Not really. I never had an understanding of numbers. Yes, 2 plus 2, all that kind of stuff a
17 little bit, yes, I understood. When it comes to big sums and stuff, yes.

18 Q. Well, I join you in that because I'm not very good at maths either. So now when we go to
19 Marylands and you're supposed to be going there to get further education, did you learn
20 anything more when you went to Marylands, did you have schooling that helped you
21 improve your reading and writing, for example?

22 A. Thank you for bringing that to my attention. Yes, I did, and as I mentioned, the only person
23 that took the time out for us boys was Peter Butcher and his way of doing things, whether
24 that be on the board, what do you call it?

25 **MS SPELMAN:** Blackboard.

26 **CHAIR:** Blackboard.

27 A. Yes in showing us, the majority of us learn quicker that way than just verbally talking and
28 write it down. And the majority of us learned it quicker that way than what half the
29 Brothers would teach us on a piece of paper, and that's why they got- and that's- why they
30 did things.

31 Q. So Peter Butcher obviously was a good teacher who suited you; is that right?

32 A. Correct.

33 Q. Was he there all the time you were there, was he teaching you all the time, or was he just
34 there for part of the time?

1 A. No, he was there during the week as a teacher, and yes, I can say all the time bar the
2 weekends, as you can understand, yes.

3 Q. But for the --

4 A. But yes (inaudible).

5 Q. But for the whole time you were at Marylands was Peter Butcher there?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. He was, okay, good. So he was able to do that. And but was that the, --was he the only one
8 who gave you teaching that worked?

9 A. That worked, I can't remember one or two of the other teachers at present, but yes, to me he
10 was my first teacher, yes.

11 Q. Okay. Thank you for answering that, I'm really grateful and thank you again for everything
12 you've said. I'm going to hand you over now to the other Commissioner, Sandra Alofivae,
13 and she might have some questions for you as well.

14 **COMMISSIONER ALOFIVAE:** Tēnā koutou katoa, Adam, talofa lava.

15 A. Malo.

16 Q. Malo. Can I just ask you some questions about your recall. What we know is that the
17 school didn't keep good records of who attended, so you've mentioned some Māori boys.
18 Were there any other ethnicities there? Were there any Pacific or Asian or other European
19 kids?

20 A. Yes, there were.-- I believe from memory there were two Pacific Islander boys and there
21 were one or two Asian boys there as well.

22 Q. Okay, thank you. And so your family were the ones that placed you at the school. Do you
23 remember if they had to pay fees for you at the school?

24 A. Thank you for bringing that to my attention. As far as I understand, as my brother GRO-B
25 he's the one that dropped me off down there and it was he that said to me that we had to pay
26 for your fees down there, whatever it was, hence, I can tell you both straight, why when
27 mum passed away everything went to him. In other words, the inheritance and we didn't
28 get anything, which didn't worry me, but he said to me "That's what paid for your
29 institution down here at Marylands." So (inaudible) to believe him, what he said, other
30 than you don't see the paperwork, you don't see nothing. So you obviously think okay,
31 leave it at that and that's what he told me.

32 Q. And so did they pack your suitcase with lots of clothes for you and toothbrushes and
33 toothpaste and things like that?

- 1 A. No. They sent me down with a, I don't know if you recall the old duffel bags with two
2 strings on the back.
- 3 Q. Yes I do.
- 4 A. That was it.
- 5 Q. That was it, okay. So did the school provide those things for you?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. And what about... --
- 8 A. Excuse me.
- 9 Q. Sorry, I'll let you finish, I interrupted you.
- 10 A. I just coughed, carry on madam.
- 11 Q. Okay, thank you. So, because you're in a school setting, did they make sure that you were
12 able to get to the dentist or to the doctors if you were sick?
- 13 A. Well look, from what I recall way back then, doctors, there was only one doctor and that
14 was Brother Garchow and that's who our doctor was at the time. As for dentists, I think
15 that was down in Halswell somewhere, I can't quite remember. If there was any problems
16 they'd send us to the dentist, yes, but the doctor there was Brother Garchow and I'll leave
17 that at that.
- 18 Q. So did you ever, -so you didn't do annual checks to- the dentist as a matter of routine?
- 19 A. No.
- 20 Q. What about the food, do you remember anything about the food, what that was like?
- 21 A. Well, all I can say as far as I am concerned, perhaps maybe some of the other boys, the
22 food was brilliant. Why I say that, it came from Liz Davidson and she was in charge of the
23 kitchen and you made sure you got a good feed.
- 24 Q. And so, there was enough food as well?
- 25 A. Yes, yes.
- 26 Q. You refer to when the Māori boys would speak the reo that they would get thrashings?
- 27 A. Yes.
- 28 Q. How did that make you feel, can you recall? Did you feel like the boys were being picked
29 on because of their colour maybe or...
- 30 A. I felt they were getting picked on, yes, but it made me very angry, because "Wait on, you
31 don't live here, who the heck are you blah blah blah, do this and do that." And that made
32 me angry, and then anything I picked up I just wanted to give them everything possible and,
33 okay, you're young, you're a little bit fitter than normal, then wait on, you just don't do that.
34 They expect me to learn something that's part of their culture and nationality. That's what I

1 was thinking way back then.

2 **Q.** So you went into Marylands knowing that you were a young Māori boy, but while you
3 were there you were made to feel bad about being Māori, is that what I'm hearing?

4 **A.** Correct.

5 **Q.** And you've had to relearn it now as an adult as a result of it being denied you in those years
6 in school?

7 **A.** Yes.

8 **Q.** Thank you. We've read your affidavit fully and so we are very, very grateful for everything
9 that you have generously provided the Commission with. I'll just check with our Chair if
10 there's anymore questions from her. Adam, the pleasure has fallen to me, the privilege to
11 be able to thank you this morning.

12 Can I acknowledge your ancestry. Can I acknowledge your Ngāti Raukawa and
13 your Tainui, your iwi and the roots that you hail from. Can I also acknowledge the support
14 people that you speak so lovingly about who have just given you the strength and the kaha
15 to actually be here with us today, so that's Matiu who I know is there in the room with you
16 maybe, but also, as you referred to him so I'll refer to him that way Sir Ken Clearwater who
17 is here with us giving us the support here on your behalf as well.

18 You know, it's never lost on us the courage and the absolute bravery that it takes
19 for any survivor to come forward. And so what you're gifting us in terms of your insights
20 are very, very powerful and they will absolutely help us in our work.

21 So on behalf of the Commission, on behalf of our chair, can I just extend Mālo le
22 tauivi, mālo le taumafai, mālo le loto toa. And I want to thank you in my language, because
23 that talks about the warrior that is within you, that has emerged, that is continuing to
24 strengthen. And just for the encouragement and the example that you are and will continue
25 to be to many others who suffered similar, similar journeys to you. So thank you very, very
26 much and thank you, Ms Spelman, as well for being there and leading Adam this morning.

27 **CHAIR:** And you should know that finally we have the picture up, so we can see you, you
28 probably can't see us anymore, but we can now see you as a very handsome young man, I
29 have to say, wearing red bands at Marylands and it's great to see you looking there with
30 your other people who we can't identify, but thank you for sharing that photograph with us,
31 we appreciate it.

32 Very well, Ms Anderson, I think that brings us to the... --

33