

**ABUSE IN CARE ROYAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY
LAKE ALICE CHILD AND ADOLESCENT UNIT INQUIRY HEARING**

Under The Inquiries Act 2013

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

Royal Commission: Judge Coral Shaw (Chair)
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Mr Eric Forster for Victor Soeterik
Mr Lester Cordwell for Mr Brian Stabb and Ms Gloria Barr
Mr Scott Brickell for Denis Hesseltine
Ms Anita Miller for the Medical Council

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

Date: 17 June 2021

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

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1 They've only just recently found each other again and have found a lot of support in that
2 connection that they have made. They tell me they talk about four times a day in the lead
3 up to this Inquiry. So it's my privilege to introduce both of them today.

4 In terms of how we will proceed, Mr Alan Hendricks will be providing the
5 substantive kōrero today and he'll be reading to his statement he's prepared. Mr Matthews,
6 Doug Matthews will close their session with a 10 to 15 minute kōrero that he's prepared.
7 But just so Your Honour and the Commissioners are aware, Mr Matthews' statement that he
8 provided is reference 325001 and that is with the Commissioners now.

9 **CHAIR:** Thank you. So I think, probably out of an excess of caution, I should get them both to
10 do an affirmation. Would you agree with that?

11 **MS A THOMAS:** Yes, your Honour.

12 **ALAN ARTHUR HENDRICKS**

13 **DOUGLAS JOHN MATTHEWS**

14 **CHAIR:** All right thank you. Good morning gentlemen.

15 A. Good morning.

16 **Q.** Thank you both for coming. I must say it's good to see you're getting support,
17 Mr Hendricks, and thank you for coming along, Mr Matthews. I'll ask you both if you'll
18 take the affirmation so it covers whatever either of you has to say, okay, are you okay with
19 that?

20 **MR MATTHEWS:** Yeah.

21 **MR HENDRICKS:** Yeah.

22 **CHAIR:** Mr Hendricks, Mr Matthews, do you solemnly and sincerely and truly declare and affirm
23 that the evidence you'll give today to the Commission will be the truth, the whole truth and
24 nothing but the truth?

25 **MR MATTHEWS:** Yes.

26 **MR HENDRICKS:** Correct.

27 **CHAIR:** Thank you. I'll leave with you Ms Thomas.

28 **QUESTIONING BY MS A THOMAS:** Tēnā koe. So, Alan, we'll start with you, if you just
29 wanted to introduce yourself?

30 **MR HENDRICKS:** My name is Alan Arthur Hendricks. I was Alan Arthur GRO-B. My father
31 was a nurse in the adolescent unit of Lake Alice until I was admitted there. First of all I'd
32 like to thank Alana, Frances, Doug, Abbey and Rachel. You've all helped me and your
33 support's been great.

1 I spent nine months in Lake Alice and what a horrible place. I wonder why I'm here
2 talking to you guys when the perpetrators are still out there, you know, it's a pretty hard
3 thing to live with. I was in part of Grant Cameron's inquiry, if you like, and I didn't get
4 anything that, you know -- what's the word I'm looking for -- closure. To him it was all
5 about money. I can't understand, I've been questioned by the FBI, why has it taken 47
6 years, you know, to get to this stage again? I was hoping that I'd buried it years ago, but
7 I haven't.

8 **MS A THOMAS:** Thank you for those introductory comments, Alan. Would you like to
9 introduce yourself Doug?

10 **MR MATTHEWS:** Hi, I'm Douglas John Matthews. I've come here today to be a support for
11 Alan and since I turned 60 I've hidden it for 46 years.

12 **MS A THOMAS:** Thank you Doug. I think it's really important you're here supporting Alan
13 today, so mihi ana ki a kōrua.

14 So if we just start at paragraph 3, Alan, and just take your time reading through your
15 statement and take any breaks that you need to when you need to.

16 **CHAIR:** Can I just say, Alan, and both of you, we have read your brief of evidence, so if there are
17 parts that you don't want to read out you can skip over things, we have read it all so we are
18 very familiar with it. So it's up to you what you want to -- how you want to manage this.

19 **MR HENDRICKS:** All right. I was born in [GRO-B]. My father is [GRO-B] and my mother is
20 [GRO-B]. I don't know if [GRO-B] is still alive. It doesn't really worry me whether he is or
21 not. He had no clear conscience, that's obvious. How can you put your own child into a
22 place that you worked at knowing full-well what was going on? You know, in those nine
23 months that I was there, I used to see him drive past quite often, you know, and I'd wave
24 and he just ignored me. I wasn't even there. So, yeah, that was pretty hard.

25 **CHAIR:** Alan, can I clarify something? He was a nurse there, but I think did you say right at the
26 beginning that he was a nurse up until the time you went in there?

27 **MR HENDRICKS:** He was a staff member of the adolescent unit to where I was admitted and --

28 **CHAIR:** And he was -- sorry.

29 **MR HENDRICKS:** When I got admitted he was transferred elsewhere at Lake Alice to another
30 villa.

31 **CHAIR:** So he remained working at Lake Alice?

32 **MR HENDRICKS:** Yes, that's correct.

33 **CHAIR:** But not in the unit where you were?

1 **MR HENDRICKS:** No, no.

2 **CHAIR:** Thanks for clarifying that.

3 **MR HENDRICKS:** Like I said, I saw him quite often drive past coming to or going home, but
4 didn't acknowledge me. So yeah.

5 **MS A THOMAS:** Return to paragraph 4 Alan. Because I think it's important this background to
6 your admission into Lake Alice.

7 **MR HENDRICKS:** In 1967 my parents divorced. My father remarried. My sister and myself
8 stayed with **GRO-B** and his new wife **GRO-B**. My home life was not a happy one. My
9 stepmother and I just didn't seem to get on, you know, I'd get home from school and the
10 jobs I had to do were horrendous jobs for a young kid, you know, half an acre of lawn to
11 mow, gardens to dig, hedges to cut, I'd be there until dark, you know, and everybody else
12 would be inside watching TV and that. I must admit, I did get defiant. She'd hit me across
13 the face and I'd just turn the other cheek.

14 **MS A THOMAS:** Paragraph 6.

15 **MR HENDRICKS:** In 1972 and 73 I started having counselling sessions with Selwyn Leeks. I
16 was admitted to the Manawaroa for about three weeks. The first impression I had of
17 Selwyn Leeks was that he was a nice guy. But that was just a front, he was actually a snake
18 sitting in the grass eh, he was a bastard.

19 **MS A THOMAS:** Continue on to 7 thank you Alan.

20 **MR HENDRICKS:** I remember the night that I was taken out to Lake Alice by my father. I was
21 in my bedroom and I was rolling up a cigarette out of newspaper. Both my parents smoked
22 and I thought it was cool. I was 12 at the time. Now I was blowing the smoke out the
23 window and being a dumb-ass I could still smell it in my room so I opened up the room that
24 goes into the kitchen off my bedroom and I fanned the smoke out. Well, they smelt it.

25 My dad thought I was trying to light a fire. Well, he put me in the car and he said
26 "That's it, you're out of here." Now on the way to Lake Alice I tried to explain that I was
27 just smoking cigarettes. He didn't listen. He had an object in mind and -- or objective,
28 sorry, and that was to put me in Lake Alice. To me I thought it was either me to go or his
29 wife to go and well, he wasn't going to have either that, so that's when I was taken to Lake
30 Alice Hospital.

31 **MS A THOMAS:** And keep going on to paragraph 8 thanks Alan.

32 **MR HENDRICKS:** As I explained, I was taken to Lake Alice by my father the same evening.
33 It's my understanding that my father told them I had behavioural and become increasingly

1 bizarre and that I had tried to light a fire in my room. As I said above, that's not what
2 happened. Social report has got this documented for 1 July 1975.

3 **MS A THOMAS:** And you wanted to set this out to show the relationship that your father and
4 Leeks had prior to and your belief that they had --

5 **MR HENDRICKS:** Well, I couldn't understand how can I go from a house to an institution
6 within half an hour. Who had the right to incarcerate me? You know, was that legal?

7 **MS A THOMAS:** And if we could actually bring up Alan's Exhibit 5316005. This document is a
8 Department of Social Welfare letter by RD Kean dated 25 July 1975. This document talked
9 about the fact that the director RD Kean of Department of Social Welfare didn't think you
10 had an actual disorder to be admitted to Lake Alice either. And it will come up on the
11 screen soon, paragraph 2. Perhaps I'll just read that out.

12 **CHAIR:** Here it is I think we're getting there now.

13 **MS A THOMAS:** If we could highlight paragraph 2. "Mr -- that would be your dad's name there
14 -- a nurse at Lake Alice Hospital had admitted his son to that hospital supposedly suffering
15 from an acute psychiatric disorder and they say no actual disorder was recognised."

16 And so the admission just came from that evening that you talked about and the
17 relationship that Leeks and your father had, and what you say your idea that your father just
18 wanted you out of the house?

19 **MR HENDRICKS:** That's correct.

20 **MS A THOMAS:** And I think that's very important for you to make clear to the Commission as
21 well, thank you Alan.

22 So if I could take you back to your statement. Paragraph 11, admission to Lake
23 Alice. If you could just continue to read from there, Alan.

24 **MR HENDRICKS:** I was admitted to Lake Alice on 8 May 1974. I was 13 years old. I was
25 discharged on 29 January 75 after spending nine months locked up there for no reason.
26 Lake Alice discharge notes dated 29 January 1975 and Dr Leeks discharge letter dated 17
27 February 1975. I think I was in villa 9 or 11.

28 **MS A THOMAS:** Keep going.

29 **MR HENDRICKS:** I do not believe that I should have been admitted to Lake Alice. I was a
30 physically and mentally well 12 year old when I was admitted. A report obtained from my
31 school at the time, which was Rangitikei Intermediate -- they've got Rangitikei College
32 here, which is incorrect, it was Rangitikei Intermediate -- indicated that until my removal
33 from Lake Alice -- removal to Lake Alice, I was cooperative, helpful, no trouble at all. The
34 principal of Rangitikei College dated 10 November 1974.

1 I had always done my schoolwork and tried hard to please. I had liked games and
2 always played with good sportsmanship. I was described as having an outgoing personality
3 and that most children liked me. I was also described as generally clean and tidy. The
4 principal recorded that my father had been to school prior and the principal even said to
5 him that he had not noticed any change in my behaviour or attitude at school and that I was
6 a pleasant and helpful child. Despite that, I was removed from school and sent to Lake
7 Alice as I mentioned above.

8 **MS A THOMAS:** And paragraph 14.

9 **MR HENDRICKS:** I think that this shows that my father had been thinking about putting me into
10 Lake Alice for a while. It wasn't just the one smoking incident in my bedroom. He wanted
11 to get rid of me and Leeks was quite happy to have another child to torture.

12 **MS A THOMAS:** Just before we go into being at Lake Alice, do you think your – GRO-B was
13 aware of the situation he'd be putting knew, what was happening at Lake Alice?

14 **MR HENDRICKS:** Absolutely, he knew bloody well. He used to tell me before I was even
15 admitted, you know, "I should take you out there and, yeah, you wouldn't like it" and he
16 mentioned ECT, he mentioned Paraldehyde. And there was always those threats, so --

17 **MS A THOMAS:** So whenever you misbehaved, he would threaten you with putting you in Lake
18 Alice?

19 **MR HENDRICKS:** Yeah, yeah. Other times it was just a hiding and then chucked in my room or
20 whatever, yeah.

21 **MS A THOMAS:** If I could take you back to your statement at paragraph 16, Alan, in your own
22 time.

23 **MR HENDRICKS:** I was placed in a villa with other kids who were clearly extremely unwell.
24 My sleep would be interrupted by people talking to themselves, screaming, fighting with
25 other children, some having epileptic fits. I understand that there were a number of
26 schizophrenic children at the hospital. It was a very scary place for me. And no doubt
27 others.

28 **MS A THOMAS:** The next paragraph you start to talk about punishment. Could you read on
29 from there, Alan?

30 **MR HENDRICKS:** Saturday mornings Selwyn Leeks would turn up in his van and it was a
31 Volkswagon Combi. We all knew it, we all feared it, Saturday mornings anyway. The
32 lounge door would be locked, the staff would meet with him and they'd have a meeting
33 looking through the glass window at us in the lounge. You know, you could have heard a

1 pin drop eh, everybody was shit scared.

2 There would be constant fear on Saturday mornings as everyone sat around looking
3 at each other thinking sure, I've been a good boy this week. If they said you'd been bad
4 then you were taken for ECT or you could be punished by being given drugs as I will
5 describe below. Excuse me.

6 **MS A THOMAS:** So that terror was there every Saturday morning, every time you saw his van
7 come up?

8 **MR HENDRICKS:** That was the extreme time, but there was terror always, 24/7. It didn't matter
9 whether it was Saturday specifically because it didn't matter on days. If you were selected,
10 you were punished. And -- yeah.

11 **MS A THOMAS:** I just want to talk to you a little bit about what that punishment was. So in
12 paragraph 18 you start to talk about ECT. Can you read from there please, Alan.

13 **MR HENDRICKS:** Thankfully I did not get ECT. My records from Social Welfare show that
14 I did not cause much trouble at all at Lake Alice. I tended to keep to myself. Even Selwyn
15 Leeks said I was a delightful child to have around. There was a good reason for that. I was
16 terrified of the punishment that I had seen given to other kids. ECT was really used as
17 punishment. The ECT machine would be wheeled into the dining room to scare us into
18 being quiet or being good. As soon as we saw the machine everybody stopped talking and
19 we would be silent. The only reason for the presence of the ECT machine was as a threat
20 of punishment.

21 **MS A THOMAS:** And what would happen after that? They didn't just bring it out and keep it
22 there, did they then take children away? What would happen after that, Alan?

23 **MR HENDRICKS:** No, no, no, it would stay there until we'd finished dinner, yeah. Now there
24 didn't have to be certain times, eh, that they electrocuted kids. You know, I don't know
25 how they decided who or what or when they were going to get it. But you heard the
26 screams, you heard the cries, yeah. Yeah, it was horrible.

27 **MS A THOMAS:** And just the presence of the machine was enough?

28 **MR HENDRICKS:** The presence of the machine brought instant silence, yeah. I remember on
29 Friday essential when we had fish and chips for tea; everybody likes fish and chips,
30 everybody was happy, one time everybody's happy. And as soon as it got too noisy, out
31 would come the machine, well, yeah, yeah.

32 **MS A THOMAS:** Then at paragraph 20 you start to talk about what you would see and hear.
33 Could you read that for us in your own time, Alan?

34 **MR HENDRICKS:** From the dormitory where I was placed you could hear the screams of the

1 boys being given shock treatment. I regularly saw people or kids getting dragged into the
2 surgery. I'm quite sure it was a punishment and not part of the treatment. I wasn't stupid
3 and I could put two and two together. I saw people misbehave, saw them threatened with
4 the punishment, saw them dragged away, heard their screams. You could see the heat
5 marks on their legs after they'd been tortured. Yeah.

6 I remember a guy **GRO-B** and he was just a naughty kid, not bad naughty, just
7 naughty, you know, quite defiant. He used to get it quite a lot. Same as **GRO-B**. We call
8 him -- we called him Roadrunner, because that's all he did, the first opportunity he could
9 he'd run away. They always got him. He'd be back, he'd get ECT on his legs and the next
10 day he's gone again. Now that was defiance. What a brave guy.

11 **MS A THOMAS:** You also talk about drugs given as punishment from paragraph 23. Could you
12 read that, Alan?

13 **MR HENDRICKS:** I might not have been given ECT for punishment but I did get drug injections
14 for punishment. I remember one time I was punished for misbehaving but I was just being
15 a normal 13 year old boy running around being noisy. Me and a group of boys were taken
16 back to the villa and told to wait outside the surgery. I remember the deathly silence, there
17 were six of us. The screams, the line getting shorter and you couldn't go anywhere, you
18 had nowhere to go, you just knew your number was coming up because I was number 6 in
19 line, yeah. And when my turn came I was given Paraldehyde. Yeah.

20 **MS A THOMAS:** And paragraph 24 you talk about how that was given to you. Could you read
21 that too please, Alan?

22 **MR HENDRICKS:** Yeah. When it was my turn I was taken into the surgery and held down by a
23 nurse, **GRO-B**, while another nurse, Steve Hunt injected me with Paraldehyde. I can't
24 explain the pain. It's like someone putting boiling water on your arm. Paraldehyde had a
25 distinctive smell eh, I could smell it today if I saw it. I don't know what it is designed for
26 eh, but torture was certainly a good bloody use for it, that's for real.

27 **MS A THOMAS:** You say yourself at paragraph 25 that you've had two hips replaced and spinal
28 surgery but that pain, the pain of Paraldehyde was even more than those?

29 **MR HENDRICKS:** That's correct. I've had both hips replaced, I've had two spinal surgeries.
30 Yeah, that was painful, I had Sciatica. But Paraldehyde, that takes the list for pain, yeah,
31 yeah, horrible.

32 **MS A THOMAS:** You say you only received it one time, but that was enough?

33 **MR HENDRICKS:** I learned my lesson and that's when I began keeping to myself. I was lucky I

1 had my friend here, Douglas. And we sort of hit it off and kept to ourselves, you know, we
2 weren't running around noisy and, yeah, yeah, survival I think you'd call it, yeah.

3 **MS A THOMAS:** Would you start reading from paragraph 27 thank you.

4 **MR HENDRICKS:** I was also given a drug that we called the "truth drug". I don't know the
5 name of it, but someone here will. It was different from Paraldehyde. You'd be given -- I
6 was given it by Selwyn Leeks. Like I said, I don't know what it was called. But he would
7 give it to us and then you would start to feel wasted, out of it. Felt like you were asleep but
8 you weren't, you could still talk. I could -- I would wake up in a padded cell, all alone. It
9 was completely dark and the windows were shaded. Yeah. I only received this the one
10 time as soon after I was given that drug, whatever I said must have triggered alarm bells
11 because I was released from Lake Alice Hospital.

12 **MS A THOMAS:** Can you start reading from paragraph 30.

13 **MR HENDRICKS:** As I said, Dr Leeks ran the adolescent unit. My father worked in the
14 adolescent unit until I was admitted and then they moved him to somewhere else. Like
15 I said, I'd see him now and again passing but that's it.

16 I had a few meetings with Selwyn Leeks. He was placid to talk to, but you couldn't
17 go against him. He was the boss. The less you had to do with him the better. It wasn't
18 good to have him around. You know, he just brought consistent fear. And I suppose that
19 was his strategy, I don't know.

20 **MS A THOMAS:** Can you start reading from paragraph 33.

21 **MR HENDRICKS:** I went to school in Lake Alice with about a dozen other boys. It wasn't every
22 day. It was just now and then. I don't remember how often and I don't remember what we
23 learned. There's not really much more to say about school. I remember we would be
24 having breaks sitting on the steps outside. There would be some of the other patients, adult
25 patients who were also at Lake Alice walking past by. If they had wanted to, it would have
26 been easy for them to do anything they wanted to us. Luckily it didn't happen to me. I just
27 kept to myself and I didn't communicate with them.

28 **MS A THOMAS:** When you say some of the adults, what adults are you talking about there?

29 **MR HENDRICKS:** Patients of Lake Alice. Grown people, walking along picking up cigarette
30 butts. Unwashed. Street people I suppose you'd call them, yeah.

31 **MS A THOMAS:** So they had access to the children, or you at that time?

32 **MR HENDRICKS:** Well, yes, they could have, yeah, yeah. Like they were just walking by, you
33 know? Like I said, I was never physically abused in a sexual way. But I certainly was
34 mentally abused.

1 **MS A THOMAS:** That's the terror that you talk about every day being in Lake Alice?

2 **MR HENDRICKS:** That's correct. You know, you live in a place for nine months and every now
3 and then you'd have a laugh. Dennis Hesseltine and Terry Conlan, they befriended me.
4 Now Dennis Hesseltine used to play us music, he'd organise games for us and you could
5 have a laugh with him, you know, which was a pretty rare commodity in Lake Alice.

6 He took me home for the one Christmas and, yeah, it felt like I was in a family, you
7 know, sitting around a table laughing and being normal. Terry Conlan, he used to do the
8 same, he'd take me home for a weekend to get me out of Lake Alice. Now these guys were
9 friends with my father, and I use that word father very lightly. But I take my hat off to both
10 of them too, eh, they put a sense of normality in a place that was hell.

11 **MS A THOMAS:** And to be clear to all of us in the room, Dennis Hesseltine and Terry Conlan
12 were nurses at Lake Alice?

13 **MR HENDRICKS:** Yeah, that's right, Dennis Hesseltine and Terry Conlan, they were nurses in
14 the adolescent unit, yeah, correct.

15 **MS A THOMAS:** And just to continue on to paragraph 35 please Alan.

16 **MR HENDRICKS:** For seven months I was exposed to the stresses of life in a psychiatric
17 hospital. Dealing with the threat of ECT and drugs as punishment. The actual drug
18 punishment and generally the horror of being locked up as a child against my will.

19 **MS A THOMAS:** And at paragraph 37 you note that a psych report was prepared in order for you
20 to be considered for discharge and the report noted that you were above an intellectual scale
21 and the only thing that was affecting you behaviourally was your home life. Would you
22 agree with that?

23 **MR HENDRICKS:** I most certainly would.

24 **CHAIR:** Can I just stop, I've just had a message, it's just about the photo that you've got there.

25 There's some reasons why it's important that it be kept private. The Commissioners would
26 very much like to see it, but I wonder whether we could just remove it from public view at
27 this stage. Is that all right? We'll certainly have a look at it before your evidence is over,
28 Alan. Is that all right?

29 **MR HENDRICKS:** That's fine.

30 **CHAIR:** Thank you.

31 **MS A THOMAS:** Do you think it would be appropriate for Alan to describe what that photo is?

32 **CHAIR:** Whenever you are ready to do that, of course, yes.

33 **MS A THOMAS:** If we could go to paragraph 38 when you're ready, Alan. And your evidence in
34 these paragraphs talks about how you were discharged from Lake Alice.

1 **MR HENDRICKS:** In November 1974 I understand that my father approached Social Welfare
2 and requested that a section 12 agreement be prepared for me. He entered into that
3 agreement on 29 January 75.

4 **MS A THOMAS:** And this agreement was to put you into State care was it, to not be returned
5 back to your dad, to GRO-B?

6 **MR HENDRICKS:** I was actually given a choice of going into a Social Welfare home, or going
7 back to my father's. So the choice was easy on that, I went to (inaudible) Ave in
8 Palmerston North, a boys' home.

9 **MS A THOMAS:** If you start reading from paragraph 39.

10 **MR HENDRICKS:** I found out later that my mum didn't know anything about me being admitted
11 to Lake Alice, or my father tried to section 12 me. It actually took her a long time to even
12 find where I was. I understand that when she found out she contacted the doctors so she
13 could get custody of me. My father agreed and the section 12 agreement was terminated.
14 I went to live with my mother.

15 **MS A THOMAS:** Paragraph 40, sorry.

16 **MR HENDRICKS:** In July 1975 I went to live with my mother who had been remarried in a
17 place called Cheviot in the South Island. I was adopted by her husband and took the name
18 of Hendricks, which I've kept to this day.

19 I was glad she found me. After Lake Alice there was no way I wanted to go home
20 to my father. How could he do that to your own kid? To lock me up in Lake Alice
21 knowing what they did to kids there. I remember seeing him on the streets in a caravan
22 park in Whanganui, be 27 years ago. I chased him down, eh, my father and I'd heard that
23 he'd been hassling my sister, I'd heard it through friends.

24 So I confronted him. I approached him, he didn't even recognise me. I just said to
25 him, you know, "How can you live with yourself?" And he said "Oh well you had
26 problems." I said "What, the only problem was, was you." And I said "You've been
27 hassling my sister. Now if you hassle her anymore I'm going to come and sort you out."
28 He looked at me and he says "Don't you threaten me", I said "Look I'm not threatening you,
29 I'm telling you." I walked away from there and the adrenaline was just pumping eh, but
30 I won that fight.

31 **MS A THOMAS:** That was the last time you saw him?

32 **MR HENDRICKS:** That's the last time, yeah.

33 **MS A THOMAS:** If I could take you back to paragraph 42 please, Alan. And here you talk about

1 complaints and the Grant Cameron proceedings you went through. Could you read those
2 two paragraphs for me please?

3 **MR HENDRICKS:** I am not sure how I originally got involved in the Grant Cameron
4 proceedings. It could have been through watching the 60 Minutes programme that I was
5 involved with. He contacted me that way. I can't remember. I don't know if I was in the
6 first group or the second group. The whole process was all -- yeah, to me it was all about
7 Grant Cameron really, that's all I can say about that. There was no closure. I even received
8 a letter from Helen Clark and for an apology. Well, that photo that I had out here was the
9 last time I was part of a family. And I haven't seen them since.

10 **MS A THOMAS:** That was your siblings in that photo was it, Alan?

11 **MR HENDRICKS:** That's correct.

12 **MS A THOMAS:** When was the last time that you saw them?

13 **MR HENDRICKS:** I saw my brother when my son was 2. So that's 28 years. Now my sister up
14 from me, I haven't seen her since I was admitted to Lake Alice, and my other two sisters, I
15 don't know where they are, I don't know if they're alive.

16 **MS A THOMAS:** So the last time you were all together was before Lake Alice and after you
17 were separated?

18 **MR HENDRICKS:** Yeah, yeah. Yeah, this photo here, eh, I must be about, I don't know, 5,
19 I suppose, so, yeah, seven years maybe before I was admitted to Lake Alice. That's 50 odd
20 years that I haven't seen my family.

21 **CHAIR:** Would you like the registrar to bring it up? We'd like to look at the photo if you'd like
22 us to see it.

23 **MR HENDRICKS:** Yeah, sure.

24 **MS A THOMAS:** Alan is the baby.

25 **CHAIR:** You're the baby.

26 **MS A THOMAS:** I know this was important for you to bring today, wasn't it Alan, because one
27 of the biggest impacts you've told me that Lake Alice and State care's had has been the
28 separation within your family and the effect it's had on your family.

29 **MR HENDRICKS:** What can you say about that? You know, I wouldn't recognise them if
30 I walked down the street and past them. You know, that's my right, that's my family. Now
31 my brother there is a lot older than me and my sisters and my two older sisters are older
32 than me. You know, if Selwyn Leeks was there to help people, why couldn't have he
33 contacted them for me to go and stay, you know? I'll never get that back. Ever.

34 **MS A THOMAS:** Thank you for bringing that photo in to show us, Alan. I want to speak a little

1 bit more with you about the effects of Lake Alice and State care on your life. So if we
2 could go back to paragraph 44 when you're ready.

3 **MR HENDRICKS:** As soon as I was able to start working and earning money, I made a
4 commitment to myself that I would not let Lake Alice to affect my ability to provide a life
5 for myself. The best way to do that was to stay out of jail and keep constant employment.
6 I've worked in gold mines in Australia. I've driven heavy machinery. I've driven graders
7 underground.

8 I'm now a security officer and have been so for the last three years. I've brought my
9 boy up, eh, with the ethics you work hard. He's got a terrific job, he's earning excellent
10 money. He's got 15 people under him, he's got a company vehicle. So I -- what's the word
11 I'm looking for. I instilled some good ethics in my son and I'm very proud of him.

12 **MS A THOMAS:** I know you talked about always having employment, but you also say in your
13 statement "I fought hard with my demons inside so that I could just keep a job and people
14 wouldn't look down on me." Getting dizzy spells -- you also got dizzy spells as well. So
15 you might have had employment but you were always struggling. Is that right?

16 **MR HENDRICKS:** Yeah, well to a certain degree, you know, with my hips being done and two
17 spinal surgeries. But even the stigma of Lake Alice, it just stays there. You know, last
18 couple of weeks it's just been yuck. But we're getting there, me and my friend here. I told
19 him from the beginning you know we'd ride this wave together, and that's what we're going
20 to do.

21 **MS A THOMAS:** And you're very lucky to have found each other in the lead up to this Inquiry
22 and once again thank you guys for both being here.

23 **MR HENDRICKS:** I haven't laughed so much since we've been in touch. Sometimes four times
24 a day. Brothers from another mother.

25 **MS A THOMAS:** If I could just take you back to the statement, Alan, paragraph 46. If you could
26 read from there please.

27 **MR HENDRICKS:** For years after Lake Alice, even now, I simply withdraw into myself. I do
28 not communicate with anybody. I certainly don't take fools lightly. I guess I became a
29 robot doing what people told me to do, being where I was supposed to be and saying what
30 I'm supposed to say because that's how I survived in Lake Alice. That fear just doesn't go
31 away because we were released. I've done my best to battle against that fear, but it comes
32 back every now and then and haunts me, yeah.

33 **MS A THOMAS:** Can you keep going to paragraph 47 please, Alan.

34 **MR HENDRICKS:** Although I've done my best to get on with my life, the whole experience at

1 the hands of doctors and nurses and also the authorities in charge of Lake Alice has had a
2 traumatic impact on my life. It has affected my quality of life and the memories of being
3 exposed to pain and hearing others exposed to pain in Lake Alice. Those memories haunt
4 me every day and will be with me forever. When you are 12 and see fear all around you, it
5 is a frightening experience. You can't put words to it really. You know, you're there and
6 there's nothing you can do about it.

7 **MS A THOMAS:** And you've talked about the stigma that you've had to deal with ever since
8 coming out of Lake Alice and I just wanted to read a line that you provided in your
9 statement.

10 "I have always had considerable guilt and embarrassment regarding my time in
11 Lake Alice and in particular the fact that people might find out and brand me as having a
12 mental disorder. I do not and never did, but people don't know that and they don't know my
13 story."

14 And that's what you have to live with all the time isn't that right, Alan?

15 **MR HENDRICKS:** That's correct.

16 **MS A THOMAS:** Have you told much people about you being in Lake Alice?

17 **MR HENDRICKS:** My son, his mother, and a couple of close friends and that's it. Like when I
18 was asked to come to this hearing and I had to take time off work and I explained I had to
19 go to a hearing and they said "What's that all about?" I just said "Look I can't tell you, eh,
20 it's involved the CIB, sorry", so yeah.

21 **MS A THOMAS:** I just want to take you back to -- we're nearly at the end and thank you, Alan,
22 for taking your time to take us through this -- paragraph 51 of your statement.

23 **MR HENDRICKS:** I now have a family and am employed in **GRO-B**. When my son was born
24 I made a commitment that I would love him and treat him like a father should, not like the
25 way I was treated. The cycle needed to be broken and I'm happy to say that I have a loving
26 relationship with my son, he lives in Tauranga now. He's given me three mokopunas who
27 I love dearly and we get on great, how a father and son should be. I didn't certainly learn it
28 from my father.

29 **MS A THOMAS:** Just paragraph 52.

30 **MR HENDRICKS:** To get to that stage has been very difficult, though. I have had great
31 difficulty in forming and maintaining relationships as I do not express myself but tend to
32 bottle up my feelings. As I said, that is behaviour I learned in Lake Alice, a coping
33 mechanism and that feeling will never go away.

1 **MS A THOMAS:** I just want to conclude with your statement, for you to read the sections of
2 what you want from the Royal Commission at paragraph 53, Alan.

3 **MR HENDRICKS:** The main thing I want from the Commission is for someone to step up and
4 take accountability and responsibility for what happened to us, all the kids really, all of
5 them. This needs to be individuals like Selwyn Leeks, **GRO-B**, Steve Hunt, and most
6 certainly my father **GRO-B**.

7 But also those who were in charge in Government at the time who turned a blind
8 eye to everything that was going on. They let this happen and no-one owned up to it.
9 I want a public apology. There's no point in Government letters. It doesn't mean anything.
10 Everyone in New Zealand needs to hear that apology and why they are apologising.

11 **MS A THOMAS:** And it's important as well that you say that some sort of appreciation should be
12 given to those who were trying to help you in there at the time?

13 **MR HENDRICKS:** Most definitely, Dennis Hesseltine and Terry Conlan. They had their hearts
14 in the right place and they tried to make a flower out of a weed, I suppose. Yeah. At least
15 you could get a laugh out of them. We didn't laugh often, that's for sure. But they did help
16 us.

17 **MS A THOMAS:** Thank you for taking us through your statement, Alan. We really appreciate
18 you sharing your story. Is there anything else you'd like to say before Doug makes a short
19 statement himself?

20 **MR HENDRICKS:** I've tried to take my own life. I lost my family when I was a kid. I walked
21 out of my house, I was nearly freehold when that Grant Cameron fiasco carried on. But I
22 was getting verbal with my partner, my son's mother, so I moved out and I knew my boy
23 was safe. Thank you everybody.

24 **MS A THOMAS:** Thank you, Alan. Doug, would you like to speak to the statement that you've
25 prepared?

26 **MR MATTHEWS:** I didn't know I was going to be saying anything today, but I come as a
27 support person for Alan. So I just wanted a little thing, but I don't think I can read it. Can
28 I get someone to read it for me?

29 **MS A THOMAS:** Did you want me to read it?

30 **MR MATTHEWS:** Yes please.

31 **MS A THOMAS:** So this is the statement that Doug has prepared in summary of his evidence that
32 has already been provided to the Royal Commission.

33 "My name is Douglas John Matthews. I am 60 years old and I am a survivor from

1 Lake Alice Hospital. I think all survivors from Lake Alice will have a mental and
2 physical -- will have, sorry, mental and physical abuse from their time there. I have hidden
3 Lake Alice from family and friends for 46 years and have only opened up about it since I
4 turned 60 years old and reconnected with Alan Hendricks who was at Lake Alice at the
5 same time.

6 What I would like to see at this Inquiry is that all survivors get proper justice from
7 this. I want to see accountability, decent compensation and full closure for all the survivors
8 of Lake Alice. I can't actually see this happening for me as all of my Lake Alice files have
9 been wiped. But I hope all survivors have some kind of closure. I hope that will be the
10 case. All Lake Alice survivors received life sentences. Life sentences from the mental and
11 physical abuse while those accountable were able to roam the country and the world free of
12 pain and living normal lives with no remorse."

13 And that's the statement that has been prepared by Doug. Did you want to add
14 anything Doug?

15 **MR MATTHEWS:** No, that's all thank you.

16 **CHAIR:** Thank you for reading that, Ms Thomas. Commissioner Gibson would like to ask you a
17 question.

18 **COMMISSIONER GIBSON:** Thanks so much Alan. First an acknowledgment of the father you
19 have been, the proud father you've been and the role that you have -- that you've broken a
20 cycle there. Talking about some of the conversations you had with your father, it seemed
21 like he was threatening and was well aware that Lake Alice was a place of punishment
22 rather than therapy. Is that how you would describe it?

23 **MS A THOMAS:** I couldn't have said it better myself. He knew bloody well what was going on
24 there, he was part of it.

25 **COMMISSIONER GIBSON:** And you think that was the same of most of the nurses, we've
26 focused previously a lot of on Leeks but the nurses, or staff were aware that what was going
27 on there is punishment, or is that the right word, definitely not therapy?

28 **MR HENDRICKS:** Certainly wasn't therapy.

29 **COMMISSIONER GIBSON:** And that's how the other nurses would have understand it do you
30 think?

31 **MR HENDRICKS:** They worked as a team. Now I don't know how they got their ideas and that,
32 but like I said, Dennis Hesseltine, Terry Conlan were two guys that were in the right job
33 because that's -- they knew what they were doing. But the rest of it was pain and torture.
34 That's correct.

1 **COMMISSIONER GIBSON:** Thanks Alan.

2 **CHAIR:** The only question I have for both of you is whether -- I understand, Alan, you've had
3 lots of medical interventions through your physical things, have you ever had any
4 counselling or support or help with the trauma that you suffered as a result of Lake Alice?

5 **MR HENDRICKS:** No.

6 **CHAIR:** And you, Doug, have you ever had anything?

7 **MR MATTHEWS:** I think my family tried to get me some when I moved to Auckland.

8 **CHAIR:** So you've both buried and had to try and cope with this, what you've called a life
9 sentence on your own without any assistance.

10 **MR MATTHEWS:** I've never smoked but I like a beer. I think a lot of them tend to turn to drugs
11 or alcohol to hide it all.

12 **CHAIR:** Yes, okay. So I just want to say that, and I hope -- I think you're already being
13 supported by our well-being staff here.

14 **MR MATTHEWS:** Yeah.

15 **CHAIR:** Do take advantage of anything that they can offer you. It's a small but important thing
16 because I think, as Alan said, while he's been preparing for this, life's become hellish again
17 because it's brought it all to the surface, and we don't want you to suffer anymore harm than
18 is possibly necessary.

19 And that brings me to my second point. We've heard from many survivors already,
20 and will hear from more; many of them raised these issues early, tried to get resolution and
21 have in some way dealt more or less with what happened to them. But both of you men
22 have held it in the whole time and have kept it to yourselves and that makes your coming
23 forward and making your witness statements public in the way you have even more
24 remarkable. So your courage and bravery in doing that is something that we recognise and
25 applaud. I think, Alan, you'd say you're doing it for the greater good, would that be right?

26 **MR HENDRICKS:** That's correct.

27 **CHAIR:** Yeah. So the people of Aotearoa New Zealand must be very grateful to you that you're
28 prepared to expose this deep hurt and shame which you've described like that.

29 **MR HENDRICKS:** But there were probably hundreds of kids, you know?

30 **CHAIR:** Yes. And you are their voice.

31 **MR HENDRICKS:** I hope it works.

32 **CHAIR:** Yes, it's worked, we've heard you and we'll be taking this into account. The last thing
33 I want to do is, in the back of your brief of evidence there are some documents which are
34 nursing notes and all the rest of it. And you say that you live with the stigma, and so

1 because this is public I want to just say what DG Page, a district psychologist, said of you
2 when he assessed you at some stage on 11 December 1974. And he said this, and this is not
3 disputed anywhere in your records:

4 "Alan is a highly intelligent adolescent who has not been able to function anywhere
5 near this ability due to a severe break-down within his family."

6 **MR HENDRICKS:** Thank you.

7 **CHAIR:** You had no mental illness whatsoever. That's quite plain from your records and I think
8 it needs to be put in the public domain that you never had any illness whatsoever.

9 **MR HENDRICKS:** Yes please.

10 **CHAIR:** It's right there now and people are watching and listening. So thank you both, sincerely,
11 please go away, rest and take whatever help he can offer you. Thank you. [**Applause**].

12 **Lunch adjournment from 11.55 am to 1.35 pm**

13 **CHAIR:** Ms Thomas again. Nau mai hoki mai.

14 **FREDERICK TERENCE RAWIRI**

15 **MS A THOMAS:** Kia ora. Tēnā koe Fred.

16 A. Kia ora koe Alana.

17 **Q.** I mua i tā tāua kōrero . I runga anō i te mōhio, kā tahi ano tō tuākana kā hoki ki te kōpu o
18 te whenua, e tika ana kia mihi ia, e tika ana kia mihi a rātou, kua taka kei tuā o Nukutaurua
19 e kore ā muri e hokia. Kia rātou, kua wheturangitia kē tia kua iri rā ki tō tātau rangi, hāere,
20 hāere, hāere atu ra. Tau ārai o te pā kia rātou titoko o te āo mārama ki a tatou. Tihei
21 Mauriora. Tēnā koe Fred.

22 I thought it was appropriate to recognise the very recent passing of your elder
23 brother in these last couple of weeks.

24 A. Thank you.

25 **Q.** I know it's really hard for you to be here today and even more harder. I te mea noho ana
26 koutou i te kapua pouri. Nō reira, kia koutou te whānau Rawiri e mihi ana ki a koutou.

27 So Fred just before I pass it over to introduce yourself, our chair of the
28 Commission Coral Shaw will do an affirmation with you for your evidence and then we'll
29 leave it to you to introduce yourself how you wish to. Kei te pai tēnā?

30 A. Okay, kia ora, thank you.

31 **CHAIR:** Would you like the affirmation to be in Te Reo Pākehā or Te Reo Māori ?

32 A. Pākehā will do thank you.

33 **Q.** Pākehā will do, all right, Pākehā it is. Fred, do you solemnly, sincerely and truly declare
34 and affirm that the evidence that you'll give before this Commission will be the truth, the