

**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)
Ali'imuamua Sandra Alofivae
Mr Paul Gibson

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Mr Scott Brickell for Denis Hesseltine
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Abuse in Care Royal Commission of Inquiry
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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

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Hearing opens with waiata and karakia tīmatanga by Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei

[10.00 am] [10.07 am]

CHAIR: Tēnā tātou katoa, nau mai hoki mai ki tēnei hui. Ms Thomas, mōrena.

MS A THOMAS: Tēnā koe e te Kaiwhakawā otirā, koutou katoa ngā Kaikōmihana i runga anō i te mōhio ko tēnei te wāhanga tuatahi o te rā, kā mutu te kaikōrero tuatahi, e tika ana kia mihia ki tō tātou Pāpā ka tahi anō kā tuku i te karakia hei timata i tō tātou rā. Kā mutu e whakaaro nui ana ki ērā ō ngā tāngata ki roto i Pōneke e noho haumarua ana i tēnei wā, i runga anō i te mate urutā ka tae ki terā rohe. Nō reira e whakaaro nui ana ki a tātou, engari ki a tātou, ki a rātou, ki a tātou kua tatū mai nei kua whakarauika mai ki tō tātou whare, tēnā tātou katoa.

Ma'am, it is my privilege to know and to introduce our next witness for the morning, Mr Andrew Jane. Morena Andrew, like we discussed I'll pass it over to our Chair for the affirmation and then we'll begin with your evidence.

ANDREW MORRIS JANE

CHAIR: Hello Andrew. Do you like to be called Andrew? What's your favourite name?

A. It's fine.

Q. Fine for that, okay. So I'm just going to ask you, do you solemnly, sincerely and truly declare and affirm that the evidence you'll give before this Commission will be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?

A. Yeah, absolutely.

Q. Thank you very much. I'll leave you now with Alana.

MS A THOMAS: Thank you ma'am. Just to introduce Andrew before we begin our evidence. Andrew did want to make it clear to the whare and to the Commissioners that his story is about the abuse that he has suffered in State care generally and what's different about his experience with Lake Alice is that there is no records of any admission for Andrew into Lake Alice and he will speak as to why that is the case throughout his statement. But he wanted to make that clear right at the beginning.

CHAIR: Thank you for that, that's really important that we know that Andrew. Thanks for sharing that.

QUESTIONING BY MS A THOMAS: So Andrew, if I could take you to your statement. Like I discussed, we have plenty of time, so take your time to read through the statement. If there's anything there that you want to add on as we go, feel free to do that as well, and if you need to take a break, then just let Maik know and we can do that as well. So if I could take you to paragraph 1 and if you could start reading from there.

1 A. Yeah, righto. My name is Andrew Morris Jane, and I'm born in 1963, I'm 58, 57 years old.
2 And I'm a survivor of, you know, extensive abuse, you know, from 7 until 15. And so
3 whatever's going to be said today is for everybody, for all us people that went through stuff
4 we should never have been subject to, and quite frankly I'm amazed I'm even sitting here,
5 I should be dead actually. But, anyway, so -- what?

6 **Q.** Let's go to paragraph 3 Andrew.

7 A. Right-o, okay, so --

8 **CHAIR:** Andrew, I'm just talking to you from over here, Andrew. You've got a choice, the way
9 you tell us your story is entirely up to you, whatever way you like. There's lots of options.
10 One is you can just read out what your statement says.

11 A. Yeah.

12 **Q.** But I've got a feeling you might not be feeling very comfortable about that. You can do it
13 that way, or another way is that Alana can just ask you some questions and you can answer
14 them, or third way, is for you just to talk to us about what you want to say. Now it's up to
15 you. If you want to take a minute to think about that and talk about it with Alana I'm happy
16 for you to do that. Would you like a chance to have a chat with her about that?

17 A. Just guide me.

18 **QUESTIONING BY MS A THOMAS:** Another way is perhaps I could start reading a few of the
19 paragraphs just so we start to hear your words and you get more comfortable with hearing
20 your story and then you could take over. Shall we start that way?

21 A. Yeah, right-o.

22 **Q.** Okay, we'll give it a go and just the most comfortable way for you, that's how we'll do it.

23 **CHAIR:** Yeah, and change it over, you know, at any time, any time you want to change up how
24 you do it is fine by me, all right? Okay.

25 **QUESTIONING BY MS A THOMAS:** So I'll start at paragraph 3 there. "My parents split up
26 when I was 5 to 6 years old. I lived with my father and my brothers in Napier. My sister
27 lived with my mother." I won't say that sentence just there will I, Andrew, I'll just leave
28 that. "I didn't want -- I ran away a lot from home. But the Police would find me and take
29 me back. I became fairly well-known to the Police.

30 At the same time I was struggling at school and so the principal referred me to a
31 psychiatrist. The report says that I was struggling from an unsettled home environment and
32 needed stability and reasonable supervision." Is that generally what home was like at that
33 time Andrew?

34 A. Yeah, I ran away from attempted, you know, shit from the old man. But the unfortunate

1 thing was is no-one understood what I was, you know, that in those days, and so it didn't
2 enter my head to say what was happening, it wasn't just me, you know, and so from --
3 anyway, from about 7 years old I was -- that was it, it was the beginning of the end
4 I reckon. So State care, birthright, you know, all that sort of stuff and then -- so basically
5 I went from an early stage of abuse at home and I was the only sibling that had the guts to
6 run away and hence that was the start of --

7 **Q.** And that's what you talk about in paragraphs 5 and 6, don't you, about being taken on a
8 warrant by the Police for a number of theft charges, so you were getting into trouble with
9 the Police but they were taking you back to a home environment where you were also
10 suffering abuse as well?

11 **A.** Yes.

12 **Q.** Did you want to read paragraph 6? You don't have to if you don't want to but I think it's a
13 good background into how you ended up in State care.

14 **A.** Okay, so after the birthright homes in Manawatu, there was half a dozen of them I got
15 shipped around to, then I was in Child Youth again, court, Social Welfare, and I was about
16 10 now I guess, 9, 10. And then all of a sudden I end up at Holdsworth in Whanganui.

17 **Q.** And that's what you say at paragraph 7 that you were admitted to Holdsworth in 1976 and
18 you were about 12 years old?

19 **A.** I was 11, 10 and a half, 11. So the next year of my life was -- I got there and I'm not going
20 into detail what happened to me, but I've already done that. Yeah, so it's stuff that you
21 would never comprehend actually, so people, you know. And but that's where it started, the
22 social people, men, boys, you know, every type of stuff you wouldn't even read about.

23 **Q.** And you say there that in just the first week of being at Holdsworth you tried to run away?

24 **A.** Yeah, oh yeah, twice I took off from there.

25 **Q.** And what would happen, they would find you and take you back?

26 **A.** Yeah, yeah. So the Whanganui Police, you know, just took, you know, found out I was a
27 guy in Holdsworth and that was it, back there, and that was, you know, punishment, beat,
28 you know, hidings, the whole lot. And that's where the first physical shit happened from,
29 you know, staff members, men, they're all sickos mate.

30 **Q.** I think it's important to outline you running away, because those are documented in the
31 Holdsworth reports, aren't they, that you ran away and --

32 **A.** Yeah.

33 **Q.** -- were returned?

34 **A.** Yeah.

- 1 **Q.** And what you say is between some of those escapes or you running away was when you
2 were taken to Lake Alice for punishment?
- 3 **A.** Yeah.
- 4 **Q.** So let's go to that now, which is outlined in paragraph 9 of your statement. Do you mind if
5 I read that and then ask you a few questions about that?
- 6 **A.** Sure.
- 7 **Q.** Or would you prefer to read it?
- 8 **A.** No.
- 9 **Q.** So paragraph 9 says, "After the second time I ran away they sent me to Lake Alice as
10 punishment and to try and deter me, I guess, from running away again. I don't know when
11 this was but if I look at my Holdsworth notes it must have been between me running away
12 the second time in February 1976 and running away the third time in March 1976." So that
13 puts that timeframe of when you think you were taken to Lake Alice?
- 14 **A.** Yeah no, in my case I was in a van and I ended up in -- just down the road as I've, you
15 know, I didn't know what it was at the time, but I certainly know now. And, you know,
16 how is it possible that I could -- how is it possible that I even ended up in there? How is it
17 possible that an 11 year old kid gets sent to a nuthouse and put in a room, you know, fuck'n
18 trying to whatever, you know.
- 19 **Q.** And just going back a few steps to before you even arrived at Lake Alice, you described it
20 as something out of a movie or like a covert operation and you were one of a few boys who
21 were taken there in the Holdsworth van?
- 22 **A.** Yeah.
- 23 **Q.** Holdsworth was close to Lake Alice, so it was easy for them to just take you over there to
24 get shocked?
- 25 **A.** Yeah, well I don't know how many kids this happened to prior or after me, but, you know,
26 how can you -- how was it justified that I even ended up there?
- 27 **CHAIR:** Andrew, when you went in the van to Lake Alice, were you in the van, were you the
28 only boy in the van or were there other kids there too?
- 29 **A.** No, I was -- it was just me and staff members.
- 30 **Q.** Right, okay.
- 31 **A.** Yeah. There was no other kids there, it was me.
- 32 **Q.** Just you.
- 33 **QUESTIONING BY MS A THOMAS:** Do you remember who the staff people --
- 34 **A.** No.

- 1 **Q.** -- the staff were?
- 2 **A.** I can remember -- I can remember one inmate's name the whole time I was in Lake Alice, I
3 can't remember any staff members, I can remember no names. Why is that? Why is that?
4 Help me. You know what? I've blanked it out. I've never spoken about this publicly in
5 anything, ever. It's been in here.
- 6 **CHAIR:** We really appreciate that, you know, that you've taken the courage to come and do this,
7 it's really, really good for us, yeah. Thank you.
- 8 **QUESTIONING BY MS A THOMAS:** And I know that you have tried to blackout, blank out a
9 lot of those memories. But I appreciate that you have really tried to remember and provide
10 detail of that time you were in there and especially with the ECT that you received, and you
11 go into quite a bit of detail there in paragraph 13 and 14. Would you like to tell us about
12 that time when you arrived and what you saw and what happened?
- 13 **A.** Yeah, right-o. So yeah, just what I said.
- 14 **Q.** Should I read the paragraph?
- 15 **A.** Yeah.
- 16 **Q.** Then you add anything in you might have.
- 17 **A.** Yeah.
- 18 **Q.** So "I received ECT when I was in there?"
- 19 **A.** Attempted EC, I fought it, so there was -- in my case I was fighting, I was, you know,
20 trying to figure out what's going on, why were they -- what's going on. So I did get some
21 sort of injection like Largactil or something like that, because I got knocked out mate, I was
22 out for, I don't know, maybe -- I haven't got a clue, two or three days I think, something like
23 that.
- 24 **Q.** So when you first arrived they took you into a small room?
- 25 **A.** Yeah, yeah.
- 26 **Q.** What was the room like, was it dark, was it light?
- 27 **A.** Yeah, it was in a -- it was like a cell.
- 28 **Q.** Any windows?
- 29 **A.** No.
- 30 **Q.** Who was in there?
- 31 **A.** Three or four staff members, there was, I don't know, I can't quite remember everything. In
32 fact, I was drugged mate, so I didn't even -- I can only remember little bits, you know.
- 33 **Q.** And that's what you say there in your statement and what you provided to me, is that they
34 tried to drug you with a needle?

- 1 A. Yeah.
- 2 Q. They ended up having to give you something to drink and, like you said, you think it was --
- 3 A. A sleeping pill, or something similar to that.
- 4 Q. Because of what you have heard about that drug is that it knocks you out and that's what
- 5 happened to you?
- 6 A. I believe so, yeah.
- 7 Q. And once you took the drugs they strapped you down?
- 8 A. Yeah.
- 9 Q. On a wooden table and "they" is the staff members that were there?
- 10 A. Yeah.
- 11 Q. And you blacked out?
- 12 A. Well, I don't think I blacked out, mate, I think whatever they gave me knocked me out.
- 13 Q. And sorry, I just want to go back to paragraph 14, Andrew. Do you mind if I read that
- 14 because I think that's important about you putting up that struggle and that fight at the time
- 15 that you were in the room, it was all dark, no windows, the staff and you were screaming
- 16 and yelling "'What the fuck are you doing, I'm only 12'. I was just trying to escape and get
- 17 away."
- 18 A. Yeah, I wasn't mental, well, you know, I got issues, but --
- 19 Q. So when you woke up, were you still in that room?
- 20 A. Yeah, yeah.
- 21 Q. And what did you see or feel when you had woken up?
- 22 A. I can't quite remember really. I was like you expect, Jesus, I was confused, not knowing
- 23 where I am, not knowing what's going on, why am I here, why is this happening? I actually
- 24 didn't even think that, I was just trying to fight to get out of there. Let me go home.
- 25 Q. And were you all by yourself at that time?
- 26 A. When?
- 27 Q. When you woke up, still in the room?
- 28 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah.
- 29 Q. You were by yourself?
- 30 A. I was in -- it's like -- it's the same as being in a digger cell, I guess, or something like that,
- 31 you know, in a, what do you call it -- do they understand it? It's like being in the pound all
- 32 locked up in a, you know, and punished, I don't know, fuck.
- 33 Q. You also said that you had bruises on your body?
- 34 A. Yeah.

- 1 **Q.** On your legs and arms, and so who knows what happened to you when you were knocked
2 out, that's what you said?
- 3 **A.** I don't know.
- 4 **Q.** So you've just woken up and you say that about four or five people came in once you had
5 woken up and you were yelling and screaming again?
- 6 **A.** Yes.
- 7 **Q.** Do you remember what happened after that, Andrew?
- 8 **A.** Not long after that I was again put in a van, I guess. In fact I don't even think it was a van,
9 it was one of their vans. I'm not sure which staff members, I don't know who they were. It
10 was either Lake Alice staff or a combined mixture of both staff members from Holdsworth,
11 fuck, as I said, I'm going to start again, how is it possible this even happened, you know,
12 you wouldn't read about it. So -- but I'm here, I'm alive.
- 13 **Q.** And you say it's actually hard to remember because the whole time you were drugged?
- 14 **A.** Yeah.
- 15 **Q.** And they must have given you injections to keep you so drugged?
- 16 **A.** I wasn't in a fit state, I wasn't in a comprehensible frame of mind at all, of course not, I'm
17 still not. No, whatever medication they called it I think, you know, that's what they tried to
18 say when my old man was trying to, you know, figure all this out, and "Oh he was
19 medicated", yeah right, no such thing happened. It was torture, okay? Attempted torture.
20 And they did it. That's just the beginning though. That was just the beginning of it.
- 21 **Q.** And I appreciate that it is hard for you to remember because of the drugs, but you think that
22 maybe you were there for a few days, at least a day and a night?
- 23 **A.** Yeah, absolutely, it was probably a week.
- 24 **Q.** Before being put in the van again and then taken back to Holdsworth?
- 25 **A.** Yeah. The food, I can't even remember food, there was trays and I don't even think I ate
26 anything, you know, I was thrown around and stuff like that. In actual fact it was like
27 similar to -- so my memory of the building was very similar to Pare, maxi, going in and
28 that, you know, all gated, all -- a big long road to go down there, massive long road and
29 then into the, I don't know, wherever, you know.
- 30 **Q.** Sorry, was that comparison with Paremoro and you've been there so you could draw the
31 comparisons?
- 32 **A.** The Lake Alice road itself, I can remember, you know this massive long road going down
33 there. And then going into the building it was like Paremoro, maximum security as you
34 go into the main section, it was very similar to that. And I got put in a holding cell or

1 whatever it was, or torture cell, you know, and that, you know, straps on your arms, what's
2 that for? So...

3 **Q.** And I think it's also important to talk about afterwards and you briefly spoke about it with
4 your dad, but before we go on to that, is there anything else about that time in Lake Alice
5 that you wanted to say before we move on?

6 **A.** Yeah, yeah, because I only had a -- it doesn't matter the level of what was attempted on me,
7 you know, the fact that missing -- that I experienced it, experienced, you know, that
8 situation, nah. That was worse than the next several years of my life, I guess. That put the
9 thing in my head, the memories of that, that time, you know, I don't want to, you know, as
10 I said, for me a lot of it's been blocked out, I've just lived, tried to live and I couldn't, yeah
11 nah.

12 **Q.** And being so young as well.

13 **A.** There was no such thing as telling people or nobody was around in the 70s, no-one -- you
14 didn't say anything. You know? You didn't -- and even -- it's only in the last five years
15 that -- and then I don't even want to think about it anyway because it screws me up even
16 more, so --

17 **Q.** Although you were very brave and you did tell your dad --

18 **A.** Yeah.

19 **Q.** -- about what happened and you say in your statement at paragraph 18 that you remember
20 going home for the following holiday and telling my dad what happened and he got angry
21 and your Holdsworth notes show that you went home in about August/September 1976, so
22 again, those notes generally follow the timeframe or the timeline that you're giving us. So
23 what happened after you told your dad about Lake Alice?

24 **A.** Well, first and foremost he came to Holdsworth and tried to speak to whoever was running
25 the show, you know, Dr Jeckyll or whatever, you know. But I don't know, I wasn't there,
26 I mean I didn't hear the conversation or nothing, but he attempted to get answers, why, you
27 know, why I was getting beaten up and abused sexually, physically from fuck'n staff
28 members and, you know, inmates. How is it possible that I even ended up in, you know,
29 Lake Alice for a very short period and all that, you know, attempted drugs and shit and
30 everything. It doesn't matter how long I was there for, mate, it's irrelevant, it's what they
31 tried to do. I could have been stuck in there for 50 years if I hadn't have been smart enough
32 to run away, or fight or whatever, and thank gosh I wasn't, you know, because this --
33 everyone that's been in that place, mate, a lot more than me, you know, I pat you on the
34 back if you're still around. But, yeah, the old man tried to get answers, he couldn't, it was

- 1 just palmed off, you know, "Nothing happened to Mr Jane, nothing", that's how it was.
- 2 **Q.** And you say that no-one else followed up with you again about what you had told your dad
3 and so you just never tried to tell anyone ever again?
- 4 **A.** It didn't enter my head, just none of that. So I was just back to Holdsworth and then
5 I escaped again trying to -- what's going on now, I'm not going to, you know? And then
6 into Epuni for Christ's sakes, and the same stuff happened there, technically, without the
7 Largactil or whatever it was. We didn't get that but we got everything else, every type of
8 abuse you could imagine happened in that joint, and someone -- Kohitere same, Hamilton.
- 9 **Q.** And so you were in Holdsworth and then Epuni Boys' Home, also in Kohitere?
- 10 **A.** Yeah, yeah, so after the Lake Alice attempt I ran away about four days later after that, when
11 I got back there, that time, so it would have been my second time, I think, or third or
12 second, and then I was in another van and shipped down to Wellington, and that's when
13 I got put in the exact same thing again, like a Pare maxi digger cell, you know, and that was
14 a similar thing, beatings, you know?
- 15 **Q.** And I think it's important to read out what you say here, Andrew, that you stopped telling
16 people because they wouldn't have believed you and you were just too busy trying to
17 survive the State ward care on a daily basis, night and day, night and day?
- 18 **A.** Yeah, yeah, of course those thoughts of belief again was never in my -- it's only now, you
19 know, and like that, but so there was no such thing as -- there was no person to, you know, I
20 was too young to even think like that, to even try and tell anyone, you know, it wasn't a
21 thought in my head, it was just, I suppose, trying to stop, why am I here? I mean I didn't do
22 anything wrong, I've done -- you know? I ran away from attempted abuse at home at 5 or 6
23 only to be abused in ways most people here could never comprehend for the next several
24 years of my life and I went on to borstal and on it goes, oh fuck, and on and on it goes.
- 25 **Q.** And I think it's important to note, and you've told me a few times, Andrew, that the abuse
26 you suffered at home, at Holdsworth, at Epuni, at Kohitere was all horrible, but the three
27 days that you spent with Lake Alice was the worst?
- 28 **A.** Of course, if I look at it now, I can sort of look at it now and go, you know? I only have to
29 look at a -- go to a hospital and someone in a uniform, you know, and I -- not every day,
30 but, you know, 20 times a year, I mean I have memories of, you know, I have shit like that.
31 It's not nice, I wake up sweating and oh, am I still tied up to a frick'n chair? Am I going to
32 get -- am I ever going to wake up? Not wake up, I mean, because --
- 33 **Q.** And I might actually take you there now, Andrew, just about the effects of Lake Alice and
34 State care on your life. Because what we heard from one of the witnesses yesterday is

- 1 similar to you that you have a heart defect?
- 2 A. I had a heart operation when I was a kid, yeah, my identical twin brother's dead. So, but
3 my technique of surviving all this shit, you know, I put it down to being an identical twin,
4 yeah, he passed when I was a kid. We both had heart operations and shit, but -- yeah, so...
- 5 Q. And you say that they -- this was before you were put into State care, that they knew this?
- 6 A. Yeah.
- 7 Q. And they should not have been shocking you full stop, but especially with a heart defect
8 and giving you drugs at Lake Alice, they should not have been doing this to any children,
9 let alone a kid with a heart problem?
- 10 A. Well, I've got a 14 inch scar on my back mate, we were half naked all the time anyway, you
11 know, and shit and the staff members that, you know, sexually, you know, all that crap,
12 they saw that there, no-one, you know, they didn't -- no, no-one cared, you know, no-one --
- 13 Q. Do you have ongoing heart issues now?
- 14 A. I had an issue in Australia in the 80s. Yeah, I don't know, I'm surprised, as I said, I can't
15 believe I'm still here, after going through all of this, I can't believe it.
- 16 Q. What about PTSD, you talk about that a bit in your statement?
- 17 A. I didn't know what that word was up until four years -- I had no idea what it was until four
18 or five years ago. But I've had it from -- obviously I realise now that that's the thing that
19 I've had since fuck'n -- since I first started, since I was 7, 8. But these psychiatrists, you
20 know, I was never diagnosed with anything. Obviously it's clearly that it should have been
21 done, you know, 50 years ago, I would have got help then, you know?
- 22 Q. And you say that PTSD that you know now to be PTSD --
- 23 A. Yeah.
- 24 Q. -- affects every part of your life?
- 25 A. Yeah.
- 26 Q. From your relationships you have, to how you deal and cope with situations, and one of the
27 major impacts has been employment. Can you tell us a bit about the effects -- has there,
28 I'm happy to keep reading the paragraph if you'd like me to?
- 29 A. Well, it's clear, you know, it's just clear that I've never been married, you know, I've never
30 had a job, you know, it's not because -- it's just my -- yeah, it's because of the level of abuse
31 that I went through is why I have the personality that I do today. And I can't -- you know,
32 I jump on a bus, anybody -- sorry to say this, but anybody that's fat and got a beard or
33 whatever, you know, I look at them and they remind me of, you know?
- 34 Q. A person who sexually abused you?

- 1 A. Yeah, sex offenders, yeah, kid fuckers, yeah. Fuck'n cunts. So yeah, I have those issues
2 big time. You wouldn't look at it if you, you know, if you sight me you wouldn't have a
3 clue, people don't, they don't, you know, they don't.
- 4 Q. And you say in your statement that -- and you're very aware as well too, that it was easier
5 just to turn to a life of crime because you didn't have to deal with relationships?
- 6 A. There was no premeditated crime, it wasn't like that at all, it was just running away from
7 the people that shouldn't have been doing stuff to you that were, you know? Physical for
8 years, ET, sexual, all of it. Give me some help.
- 9 Q. I just want to read one of your paragraphs, if that's okay Andrew, paragraph 36 about the
10 ongoing trauma that you have to deal with. You say, "I find it hard even now to talk about
11 what I went through. I tried to bury it but it's there every single day. That's the pain that
12 we have to live with. I can't even go on public transport" and that's what you just spoke
13 about just now, because you want to attack people that look like that. "I am a real person
14 and I just want to be treated like one. I don't want to be treated like I'm just another crazy
15 person who has gone through Lake Alice." That's right?
- 16 A. Yeah.
- 17 Q. And you go on in the last part of your statement to talk about what you want from the
18 Royal Commission. Would you like to speak to that and tell our Commissioners what
19 you'd like to see?
- 20 A. Yeah, well first and foremost I want an apology. Not for me, for all of us. How is it
21 possible people know, knew what was going on, how is it possible that they just buried it
22 for 100 million years, you know? How is that -- these guys are meant to be educated, we
23 weren't, I'm still not. How can a human being -- I look at it like this now, how is it you,
24 you know, so I just hope the Royal Commission of Inquiry gets -- sorts this out with the
25 people that, you know, us ladies and men and survivors, you know, do the right thing and, I
26 don't know, who's going to get accountable for this? The perpetrators? No, have they been
27 busted? No. I want to get my hands on them actually, but, you know, I'll get locked up,
28 again. I'm fuck'n over that.
- 29 Q. Who would you want to see the apology from, Andrew, have you thought about that? And
30 if you haven't that's fine.
- 31 A. Well, okay, so whoever was the management of institutions, of Lake Alice and all those
32 places, the Social Welfare system, they were controlling mostly all this, most of the kids
33 were in the boys' homes, Holdsworth, Kohitere, Epuni prior to go Lake Alice, I guess a lot
34 of them were subject to that prior. So you can't put kids in a mental institution and try and

1 do what they did and, you know, ECT and fuck'n all this crap they did and injections and
2 half of them are still dribbling today, half of them are dead. I should have been but, as
3 I say, I'm still here. Just sort this out, just communicate with each other, you know? I'm
4 never going to own a house, you know, I don't get those opportunity, I didn't get that
5 opportunity, I'm never going to get it. As I said, 11 years' time I'm 70, I'm lucky to be
6 alive, I'll be dead, you know? I haven't got much time left when you actually think about it.
7 So for everybody that's still alive of us, you know, sort us out please. Help us get ahead
8 maybe, compensate us. Give us an apology letter so I can put it on the wall, you know? It
9 might let me live a little bit longer. But at the moment, mate, I'm -- nah.

10 **Q.** And I see in the last, the last thing you say that you want from the Royal Commission is to
11 be heard and to be believed?

12 **A.** Absolutely.

13 **Q.** You're heard and believed today, Andrew, so I just wanted to say thank you very much for
14 sharing that korero with us. Unless there's anything else you wanted to add, the
15 Commissioners may have some questions for you about some of that that you just spoke
16 about, is it okay that they ask you some questions?

17 **A.** Yeah, sure.

18 **CHAIR:** Thank you.

19 **COMMISSIONER GIBSON:** Thanks Andrew, yes you are heard and believed. Do you know if
20 there were any or many others, or what's your guess how many others went from places like
21 Holdsworth without being formally admitted to Lake Alice?

22 **A.** I could imagine heaps, through the various different State care, you know, institutions.
23 Look, I bumped into a few guys that were there in adult prisons years later and they briefly
24 have said exactly the same sort of thing. So I don't know how many, of course I don't, but
25 yeah, there would have been hundreds, I guess, over the ten-year period that I was in that
26 situation from Holdsworth, Kohitere, Epuni. I didn't go to one, I ended up in the whole
27 frick'n lot, you know, some people only went to one place for five months, three months. I
28 was in all of these places. And all I was ever doing was running away, not because I was a
29 criminal or doing anything wrong, it was just running away from physical and mental and
30 sexual abuse. That's primarily what happened to me.

31 **Q.** Yeah, in all those places.

32 **A.** Remember I was the littlest guy in all these places, mate, I had to fight a bit harder than
33 most.

34 **Q.** And just checking again, both Holdsworth and Lake Alice would have been well aware of

- 1 your heart issues before they went to --
- 2 A. They had to have been, they had to have been. Like I said, I'm really strong on this,
3 I cannot believe that I'm still here. That should have -- I should have -- my heart should
4 have, you know, I cannot believe I'm still here. In actual fact people have died, so on little
5 shock treatments, even the injections I've heard stories that people have been very ill, you
6 know.
- 7 Q. Thanks Andrew.
- 8 **CHAIR:** I've got a question for you, if that's okay. First of all I'm glad you are alive and I'm glad
9 you've come today, really important for you to be heard and to tell others what you went
10 through. Just one question. In your brief of evidence here when you went to Lake Alice
11 you said you remembered somebody in a white coat.
- 12 A. I don't know if it's white, might have been similar to that. Might have been a similar
13 colour, might have been light green, I can't quite remember, yeah.
- 14 Q. Right, and was that person in the room where they were strapping you down?
- 15 A. Yeah, there was three or four people in the room, not one, yeah.
- 16 Q. And were they all wearing -- it sounds to me like a medical sort of outfit?
- 17 A. Oh, yeah, similar to that, yeah, all it was was, it was either light green or beige, green, it
18 was something like that, yeah, I was drugged at the time, I'm telling you now.
- 19 Q. Okay.
- 20 A. I was under some shit, something, something.
- 21 Q. And so you said that when you go to hospital now you think back to that time, is that right?
- 22 A. Yeah, I just got out of hospital in October and, yeah, yeah, so anybody in a uniform of that
23 type of thing, not Police or nothing, I'm talking like that.
- 24 Q. Yeah.
- 25 A. Yeah, nah.
- 26 Q. Does that bring back the bad memories does it?
- 27 A. Oh gosh yes. I don't walk around with them every second, but I try to hide it, you know,
28 I try to bury it, you know.
- 29 Q. But if you see something it triggers the memories in your mind?
- 30 A. Yeah, of course, especially, you know, the physical part of it, men, men. It wasn't women
31 but --
- 32 Q. Right.
- 33 A. Yeah, I've got a real issue with that. And that sort of thing with the -- yeah.
- 34 Q. It's always present in your mind, isn't it?

1 A. It's never going to leave me.

2 Q. Really sorry that you have to live with that, Andrew, really sorry.

3 A. This is not what I wanted -- I don't know, look, I could sit here for, you know, go into detail
4 more, this is just a little, little tiny thing.

5 Q. It's a snapshot, isn't it, of a very -- a long time of terrible things happening to you?

6 A. Especially when you're looking at several years, eight, nine years, you know, as I said,
7 I cannot believe I'm even comprehending what you're saying. I shouldn't be. And I say
8 that for all of us, all us survivors, ladies, women, you know, we went through, once you
9 experience a level and the timeframes that I did, not everyone did, as I said, but us guys that
10 did, you guys I take my hat off to you.

11 Q. Yeah, we take our hats off to them as well. Thank you. I'll just give to you Commissioner
12 Alofivae here.

13 **COMMISSIONER ALOFIVAE:** Andrew, I don't have any questions thank you. We've read
14 your brief and everything you've been able to share with us this morning really highlights
15 just the enormity of what you went through. Can I just say to you and to thank you that we
16 hear you and we actually see you as a real person. Thank you, it's a real privilege actually,
17 because you said to us today in your evidence that this is the first time that you've actually
18 ever spoke publicly about what happened to you in Lake Alice, and we're very, very
19 grateful for your courage and your boldness and you might not feel very strong right now,
20 but you've brought a big gift to us and we want to be able to honour that back.

21 So I know it's a difficult morning and I can see that you're struggling there a little
22 bit, but we just wanted to be able to say that we are very grateful for you coming this
23 morning. Thank you for being alive for us today to actually be able to formally bring your
24 testimony and to put it on our record, to add to our work. So we've got well-being there,
25 I'm hoping that you will be able to take that up and be able to get some support through all
26 of this.

27 **CHAIR:** Thank you. It's over now, we're going to take a break. Thank you. [Applause]

28 **Adjournment from 10.54 am to 11.25 am**

29 **PAUL ZENTVELD**

30 **CHAIR:** Just before we start, just a couple of technical matters, and nothing to do with you, Paul,
31 at all. The first thing is that I need to formally lift the embargo for the evidence of Victor
32 Soeterik, that's done now. And also I understand that when I took the affirmation from
33 Andrew Jane this morning that for some reason it wasn't recorded and I want to confirm
34 that I administered the affirmation and that he agreed to tell the truth, and that's for the