

**ABUSE IN CARE ROYAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY
TULOOU – OUR PACIFIC VOICES: TATALA E PULONGA**

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
Mr Paul Gibson
Dr Anaru Erueti
Ms Julia Steenson

Counsel: Mr Simon Mount QC, Ms Kerryn Beaton QC,
Ms Tania Sharkey, Mr Semisi Pohiva, Ms Reina Va'ai, Ms Nicole Copeland, Ms Sonja Cooper, Ms Amanda Hill for the Royal Commission
Ms Rachael Schmidt-McCleave, Ms Julia White and Ms Alana Ruakere for the Crown

Venue: Fale o Samoa
141 Bader Drive
Māngere
AUCKLAND

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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

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1 **[10.02 am]**

2 **REVEREND HOPE:** To explain Tokelauan protocol, in order to begin our ceremony we begin
3 with one of our elders who will do a greeting in Tokelauan, then he will pass over to the
4 clergy, which is myself. My name is Reverend Linda-Teleo Hope. I'm reluctant to say my
5 name because really I should introduce our elders who represent all of us in Aotearoa
6 New Zealand. So please thank you so much for your graciousness in allowing us this small
7 acknowledgment.

8 **MALE SPEAKER: [Greeting in Tokelauan]**

9 **REVEREND HOPE:** I will ask you to be seated. As those of you who are Pacific are aware, it is
10 very difficult for someone to stand with their back in this way, which is why I've chosen to
11 come here. Probably not very popular with the camera crew, but preferably popular with
12 my God. Let us pray. **[Prayer in Tokelauan]**

13 Our hymn is going to be -- we're just going to sing for this morning verse 1 and the
14 chorus, the second verse we'll sing at the end of the day if you're privileged to remain with
15 us. For this hymn which is also our ending, I would just ask us to stand, thank you.

16 **[Tokelauan song]**

17 **CHAIR:** Thank you Reverend and thank you to the Tokelauan community who have graced us
18 with their presence today. That was a very beautiful hymn and I look forward to the end of
19 the day when we will hear the last part of it, so thank you.

20 Welcome, nau mai haere mai ki a koutou katoa to everybody who is attending
21 today, whether you are in person in the room here in this wonderful fale or if you're
22 watching on the livestream, you are most welcome. Can I particularly welcome, apart from
23 our Tokelauan community, the survivors who are in the room and the survivors who are
24 watching. This hearing, in fact this whole Royal Commission is about you and we
25 acknowledge the bravery of those survivors who are able to come and speak to us and to
26 the nation. So I just want to acknowledge those people. Some of them I know are in the
27 room and getting excited about giving their evidence already. So here we start the day.

28 The last thing I want to say is that you will notice that we are no longer four, we are
29 now five Commissioners, and we're very happy to finally welcome Commissioner Paul
30 Gibson. If you weren't here on the first day I explained that Paul was always going to be
31 part of our hearing panel, but unfortunately in the week before, weekend before the hearing
32 he fell and broke a bone in his foot and was unable to travel. He has now travelled, he's
33 still on crutches, he's still got a moon boot, but I don't think he could bare to stay away for
34 another moment longer. He's been watching on livestream, so welcome Paul. Did you

1 want to say anything at all before we -- everybody else got a chance to.

2 **COMMISSIONER GIBSON:** Fa'afetai, thank you, Coral, for your words and thank you
3 everybody for the contribution which has been brought so far. It's the been amazing to
4 listen from a distance, both gruelling in terms of the content but inspiring in terms of the
5 courage that people have brought forward. It's a learning experience for many of us. I
6 think because of what has been shared by survivors, by experts, we will be able to make a
7 difference and it is a privilege to sit here and to whakamana the Pacific community, the
8 people of all the places, ethnicities around Moana Nui a Kiwa. Thank you, thank you for
9 having me here.

10 **CHAIR:** Wonderful, so now we are whole. So I'm now going to invite Ms Copeland, our counsel
11 who is going to be leading our first and very special witness, Antony Dalton.

12 **MS COPELAND:** Talofa lava, mālō e lelei, fakaalofa atu, good morning Commissioners. The
13 first witness this morning is Antony Dalton-Wilson who is with us today. I invite him now,
14 together with his family, to come up to the front please.

15 **ANTONY ROBERT DALTON-WILSON**

16 **CHAIR:** Before we commence, I wonder, Ms Copeland, if you'd like to introduce the members of
17 Antony's family, all of whom are a very important part of today's work.

18 **MS COPELAND:** I will, thank you Madam Chair. If we start with Antony and by way of
19 introduction, Antony is half Samoan on his father's side, and he is English German, Jewish
20 and Roma on his mother's side and Antony is supported in -- at the table this morning by
21 his mother Christine, his sister [GRO-B], and his brother [GRO-B] and he's also supported by
22 other whānau and friends who are sitting in the first few rows of the public gallery this
23 morning.

24 Antony has also asked me if I would acknowledge his wife, his other brother
25 [GRO-B] and his fathers who are with him here today in spirit and to acknowledge his
26 whānau and friends, many of who are watching on the livestream this morning.

27 I thought I would first start by just telling the people here today just a little bit about
28 Antony. Antony loves travelling, he's travelled to more than 30 countries. He absolutely
29 loves Lego and he is incredibly witty with an almost encyclopaedic knowledge of joke
30 books, many of which he's shared with me and which I really appreciate.

31 Antony is going to give evidence this morning by way of a pre-recorded interview
32 and he's going to talk about when he was crushed by a truck at aged 7 and how he learned
33 to walk and talk again. And he then will go on to talk about various care settings that he

1 was in as a child, including two residential schools.

2 Antony has completed a full statement and that statement will be available online
3 later today. Antony's brother, [GRO-B], and his sister, [GRO-B], have indicated that at the
4 conclusion of his evidence today that they would like to say a few words to the
5 Commissioners.

6 **CHAIR:** They would be very welcome.

7 **MS COPELAND:** Thank you. And lastly, by way of formalities, and before getting into the
8 video evidence is just the affirmation that needs to be given and I've talked about that with
9 Antony and what that means, so I'll leave it to you, Madam Chair.

10 **CHAIR:** Hello Antony. Do you remember me?

11 A. No.

12 **Q.** I'm over here. Antony, all I want to ask you is do you agree to tell the truth today?

13 A. Hello Coral.

14 **Q.** Good thank you.

15 A. Yeah I am.

16 **Q.** Thank you very much Antony.

17 **MS COPELAND:** Thank you, I'll invite the video to now be played, thank you.

18 **[Video played]**

19 A. "Early life". My name is Antony. I was born in 1967, I was born in National Women's
20 Greenlane hospital, where I'm half Samoan, half English.

21 "Siblings." I've got stepsisters and stepbrothers and real brothers and real sisters.
22 And my bloodlines is on my mum's side is four children, me [GRO-B] and my stepsisters
23 and stepbrothers are [GRO-B].

24 "Biological dad." My dad was the first person to set up the basketball team in
25 Ponsonby church. That's why I like him. But other cases I don't like him, like when we
26 came home -- he was a Seventh Day Adventist. When we came back from church one day
27 he said "Lie on the floor naked", so I did, well I had to because he's my father. And then he
28 stood on my back and he got the belt with a buckle and he thrashed me one.

29 "Step dad." He was a good friend. He took us all around the world. We usually
30 just called him dad. Because he was a good lawyer, so good at law and that. One day
31 someone asked him if he'd like to be judge. He was -- he flown in the Royal Air Force.
32 The plane that he flew was a Kitty Hawke, a tiger moth and Corsiar. You know what he
33 did? He did acrobatics in the plane. He was one of the first pilots in Whakatane, as well as

1 he was a Māori chief.

2 "Accident 7 years old." That was sad. I was at Westfield freezing works, that's
3 where dad was, his work was, and I was on this really high ramp, but I wanted to -- because
4 that was the day, for the next day's (inaudible). I went on this ramp and the men was
5 parking this articulated truck on to the ramp, and that was when I got my brain crushed and
6 the boy was saying "The boy dad, dad the boy!" And the driver wasn't listening to him,
7 because he was trying to park his truck.

8 And that was the time when my brain got crushed and someone rang the
9 ambulance. So here comes the ambulance from Middlemore Hospital. Now what they
10 were doing is, they went to this field, jumping fences and skidding around the corners all
11 for me. Now the ambulance came. Now they got their stethoscope, felt my heart, but in
12 those cases they used to strip off your top half so they could listen to your heart. And dad
13 finished work and he came down. He was nauseated. And now this ambulance took me to
14 Middlemore Hospital, but Middlemore Hospital said they haven't got enough beds, so they
15 referred me to Auckland Hospital critical care. Well, it's not there anymore and so I was
16 there for about seven months and I put in another ward called head injury. And that was
17 the day when mum took me for a walk and she had an ice cream in one hand and she said
18 "Now Antony I'm just going to tie my hair back", but this hand was speeding and went for
19 that ice cream and I ate it all, yeah. [Laughs]. And then I went to Dr Dimson's clinic was
20 in the ward then but it's not anymore and it's called Princess Mary Hospital.

21 "Rehabilitation." I had to learn to walk, talk and I had to learn to see. Now that
22 comes into Zanadoo. Her real name was Mrs McDonald, she taught me how to walk and
23 that. And I went into the old physiotherapist building and then Zanadoo taught me how to
24 see and then Henry was just a physiotherapist, she taught me how to walk. And then it was
25 at the Wilson Home which I met and I saw all these patients learning to walk with holding
26 on bars and that. Well, I said no, I'm not going to do that, so I got off my wheelchair and
27 I tried to stand up, plonked on the floor, four times and the fifth time I made it.

28 "What was Wilson Home like?" It was scary, I thought I'd never see my mum and
29 dad again.

30 "Ward 12, Auckland Hospital." That was no good.

31 "Did you think about running away?" Yeah, but I couldn't. There are no
32 windows, no doors only the one they locked. All the ladies used to always ask if he could
33 put me in time-out. The ladies never did it in those days, only in Mt Wellington residential
34 school the ladies did that.

1 "Mangere hospital - school holidays." It was a sad story, I went to Mangere
2 Hospital, really that hospital was only for those who had disabilities, right. Now they
3 locked me in this room where I didn't feel comfortable and they said we're going to have to
4 go to GRO-B Home where it was just like a jail. Like they sent me out in their courtroom.
5 Well, I don't know if it's a courtroom but it was an outside gathering where it was all fenced
6 off, and I thought now, now is the time I can escape. So I climbed the fence and jumped
7 down and I ran away and I think that was -- that was a good thing which I did. Can I tell
8 you more about Mt Wellington?

9 "Mt Wellington residential school." When I reached Mt Wellington residential
10 school, mum said to the staff "I want to know how you're going to treat my son" and they
11 said "Oh everything's going to be all right, yeah, yeah." So when mum and dad drove
12 away, they just put me in time-out. I was in Mt Wellington Residential School and I'll tell
13 you, that was a bloody school, it was shopping day, Tuesday and we went to St Lukes and
14 I met GRO-B which was one of the physiotherapists. Well, I went to shake her hand, who
15 was it GRO-B he pulled me away and said "Now we're going to send you back to the van
16 and put you in time-out", which was a room with no food, no bed, they just left me there all
17 night and I wasn't happy with that.

18 "Waimokoia Residential School." At Mt Wellington school there was a fire.
19 I went home for the weekend and next time I came back they had another boarding school
20 which they put me in, named Waimokoia. That was at Pigeon Mountain, that's where
21 Waimokoia was built. Now when there was a fire at the Mt Wellington school and the
22 holidays had gone, I can remember them setting up Waimokoia and while they were doing
23 that, the staff, do you know what they said? "You'll have to wander the streets."

24 "Treatment from staff and students." I didn't like it there, because all the children
25 were copying off the staff, giving the fingers, saying rude names to me like bung eye or --
26 and I wasn't going to put up with it. So she's another bloody woman. She just sat there in
27 the -- on the couch there laughing and then there was supposed to be a sergeant. Well, all
28 of these people copied him and they -- and they sent me to school and GRO-B she was a
29 good teacher, and she said to us when we got in the classroom, "Why are you late?" And
30 I said, I actually wet the bed, which was not my fault, it was my medication. And GRO-B
31 came and he said "Now, because you're late we will punish you." So again they put me in
32 time-out and going back to Mt Wellington School, GRO-B she was a nice staff and there
33 again it was activity night, that was Tuesday, and they all gathered together and said "What

1 activities would you like to do?" Well, who was it, [GRO-B] he said he was going to take up
2 boxing. Well, he said "Come down to the gym room." So I did, where they were practising
3 boxing. I didn't like it.

4 And on the way down there I skinned my head because the stairs which I had to go
5 to were made of wood, but they were filled with mud and I fell over. Well, who was on
6 duty? [GRO-B] and he said "Right come on, up to the van", so I went and they took me to
7 the doctors. But he didn't let me get in the van, he got me by my collar, threw me in the
8 van, which I didn't deserve. So he said "We're going to take you to the doctors in
9 Panmure." So we did.

10 Now what happened is when I got out of the van he wouldn't let me get out. He
11 got me by the collar and threw me out. When we got to the doctor's surgery he said "Now,
12 stand there", so I did. Now, he talked to the receptionist and the receptionist said he's busy
13 with another client, and he said "Wait in the waiting room." Well, it was that [GRO-B]
14 again. He went into the waiting room and "Now sit there". I was going to sit down but no,
15 he got me by my collar and threw me on the seat and then I went to the doctors surgery.
16 They fixed me up and then it was time to go back and he threw me in the van and then he
17 said to the others when we got back, "Now what shall we do with him?" And he said --
18 they all said "Throw him in time-out." So they did.

19 "Discipline." One day I was having my shower when [GRO-B] asked for some
20 paper, she was in the toilet. So I got myself dressed, went to the staff room and asked for
21 some shit paper -- oh-oh, toilet paper, sorry. And I had to go and stand in line up by the
22 classroom. It was letter writing day, and I was invited to -- into class and expected me to
23 write down what was on the blackboard but it was too late, he had rubbed the writing off
24 the blackboard. And so [GRO-B] well, I tell you he lived in [GRO-B] and so the teacher
25 says I'm going to have to [GRO-B] to I waited and waited, and [GRO-B] have to put on
26 these seats here and he went to talk to [GRO-B] the headmaster, and then [GRO-B]
27 came and said now is the time you can go and see [GRO-B]. Now it was letter writing day
28 and [GRO-B] said this is the day that I got the strap. "You've been naughty for" [GRO-B]
29 and I wasn't, they could say that I was always learning, never lazy. So [GRO-B] said "Now
30 I must punish you." So he said pull my pants down, he took his belt off with the buckle,
31 thrashed me on the legs, which I'm not going to take, and that's why I think that school was
32 not a good school.

33 "Being defended." [GRO-B] she was a lovely teacher.

1 "What happened to Mrs M when she stood up for you?" [GRO-B] I tell you he's a
 2 blimmen arsehole and, you know, he [GRO-B] by the collar and ran with them, threw her
 3 across the room and he said "Now, do you want us to put you in time-out?" And then
 4 [GRO-B] returned to her car and drove away.

5 "Seclusion/time-out." I was invited into his classroom and he probably had my
 6 hand down like this dancing on the stairs. And he wasn't going to put up with that, and so
 7 he got my chair, tipped it back and I fell down and then he said "Now what will we do with
 8 him?" What did they say? "Put him in time-out", which was a room with no bedding, no
 9 food, locked there all night. I was scared because I hopped in the time-out room, yes, but I
 10 was scared because [GRO-B] the way that they treated me there, I was scared [GRO-B]
 11 would just throw me in.

12 "Needing to go to the toilet." Pulled my pants down and I went to the toilet,
 13 because there was no toilet, was there, by the cell. Well, I thought good because that
 14 teaches them a lesson.

15 "Wetting the bed." They'd say "Go down to the laundry and wash yourself", and
 16 then I was late for school and I got in trouble.

17 "Cold water punishment." [GRO-B] did that. That was damn [GRO-B] she just sat
 18 in the corner of the room on the sofa and laughed.

19 "Other forms of punishment." "Cigarette burns." When the weekend was over
 20 and we stayed in the staff room and at that time I was feeling not all there and, yeah, that's
 21 what they did.

22 **Q.** What did they do?

23 **A.** Put their cigarette butts on me, like when they finished a smoke and then they used to get
 24 my leg and press it on the smoke.

25 "Setting the dining room." I was sent up to the dining room and I had to set the
 26 table for all the school. If I didn't do it how they wanted it, then they'd get very angry.

27 "Naps." I asked them but what did they say? No, no, no. If I don't I can go blind.

28 "Lego." Mum was doing a project with [GRO-B] Australia. She sent me some
 29 Lego and [GRO-B] he said "Look at this, we'll put it up in the staff room on the desk." Well,
 30 they did that, yes, but when it come the weekend time to go home, I asked "Can I have my
 31 present please off mum?" And they denied it and so I went home. The next morning when
 32 I came back they wouldn't let me have it. Very, very sad. That's my favourite thing, see all
 33 these Lego, I built them.

1 "Carrington Hospital." Then the Police station referred me to Carrington Hospital
2 and they locked me in the room all night again and then one day my dad came along and he
3 collected me.

4 "Time-out/seclusion." I yelled for help and I got on my back and was banging the
5 door with my feet. No-one came, but I knew that I could hear them, they were discussing
6 something and they wouldn't let me out, and the next morning I was free.

7 "Love and marriage." We were on the way to a meeting in Canada. We stopped
8 off at Fiji and she had a brain injury and [GRO-B] her father rang up the hospital and said
9 "My daughter needs a boyfriend." So here was my wife in an institution where she wasn't
10 going to meet her mother and father again. And so nurse [GRO-B] unlocked the door and all
11 the patients ran out. Some had their tongues split open and [GRO-B] was the last one out.
12 She put her case on the stool and when she ran out of St Giles, that's the hospital, she ran
13 with her arms open and she hugged me and she said "You're my husband."

14 So we went and had a little time with her [GRO-B] who lived in Fiji and she was
15 good and then it was time for us to reach the airport, which was not in Suva, it was called
16 Nadi International Airport. So we hopped on that airline with [GRO-B] and away we went
17 to Auckland. And -- oh yeah, one of -- one of [GRO-B] brother-in-law he said "Would you
18 like to have a wedding?" So we did.

19 Now the cake was cheesecake and that's what we had instead of a proper wedding
20 cake. And it happened in our front yard. We had the marquees up there and [GRO-B]
21 wedding, we saw her walk in the front door, in each hand she had a child and [GRO-B]
22 said she must be the patron of children and so we had that and that was -- years later the
23 [GRO-B] had arthritis in her legs. And she was a Muslim who belonged to a Muslim family.
24 And one day she felt it hard to reach her walker, so that was when she had trouble reaching
25 her walker, her legs, the pain in her legs just made her flop down on the floor. And, you
26 know, since she had -- she couldn't just be lifted up by one person, it took two Polynesians
27 to lift her up, and, who was it, mum called the ambulance which took her to Auckland
28 Hospital, and she -- this is magic, because when I walked in the room, you know what
29 happened? Her body shone like an angel and she sat up and she said "Hello Antony", then
30 she lay back and died, I tell you, when we went to Fiji, I tell you, bloody [GRO-B] he said
31 that people who have brain injuries may never marry, and I think that's just a scam. I knew
32 that it wasn't right and mum and dad [GRO-C].

33 "Impact of abuse." "Why did you share your story." Because of the wicked things

1 that the **GRO-B** of Mt Wellington school did to me. Lots of people in my case have had
2 many other cases just like it.

3 "Nightmares." About Mt Wellington, but I didn't want to share them with mum
4 because sometimes I think now is mum busy or not, but I think that just like mum, they all
5 have pain in them. I don't see anything but I just hear the words.

6 **Q.** What words do you hear?

7 **A.** I hear of **GRO-B** saying "I'm sorry, please forgive me."

8 **MS COPELAND:** Thank you Commissioners. I have talked to Antony about the fact that the
9 Commissioners may have a few questions for him, so I'll leave it with you.

10 **CHAIR:** So shall we ask our questions and leave it for the family to make their comment?

11 **MS COPELAND:** I think so.

12 **CHAIR:** Let's find out who would like to ask some questions.

13 **COMMISSIONER ERUETI:** Fa'afetai Antony, kia ora, tēnā koe, it's Anaru here, one of the
14 Commissioners, we met earlier this morning upstairs. I just wanted to ask you a question
15 about, I know -- I wanted to thank you first of all for being very brave in coming with your
16 whānau to speak with us today. Nga mihi, ngā mihi nui ki a koe i te rangatira. I know that
17 you are bringing a claim to the Ministry of Social Development and the Ministry of
18 Education and I know it's tough for you, it's really hard for you, and I just wanted to ask
19 you what do you think would make it better for you in bringing those claims against the
20 Government for the abuse you had.

21 **A.** Money.

22 **Q.** Money makes a difference, yeah.

23 **A.** **[Laughs].**

24 **Q.** Are people looking after you when you bring your claim, do you feel like you're being
25 supported in making your claim?

26 **A.** Yes.

27 **Q.** Good, that's good to hear.

28 **A.** But I want more.

29 **Q.** Yes. Ka pai.

30 **A.** Anymore things you want to ask me?

31 **Q.** Yes. I'm thinking about what we should do with those time-out rooms, what would you
32 like to do to those time-out rooms?

33 **A.** Well, I'd like to smash them down.

- 1 **Q.** And Antony, I know you had lots of good teachers but you also had a lot of bad teachers,
2 particularly at Waimokoia and I wanted to ask you, how do we keep the bad teachers out of
3 these schools?
- 4 **A.** By giving them a punch.
- 5 **Q.** Ka pai e hoa, ka pai.
- 6 **A.** **[Laughs].** Anything else you'd like to ask me.
- 7 **CHAIR:** Yes, that was from Andrew, I'm now going to ask Julia if she'd like to ask you any
8 questions.
- 9 **COMMISSIONER STEENSON:** Thank you. Tēnā koe Antony. Thank you so much for
10 coming and telling, sharing your experiences, they're very, very important for us to hear. I
11 have just one question. What do you think, what is something that could make a difference
12 to the care that is needed?
- 13 **A.** Well, the person who set up those schools was a top psychiatrist Dr **[GRO-B]**, and one day
14 when we were having a game of volleyball I could see all the teachers running away. Then
15 I knew at that moment it must be Dr **[GRO-B]**. He ordered me to go to those schools.
- 16 **Q.** Okay, so better people in charge?
- 17 **A.** Yes.
- 18 **Q.** Thank you, thank you so much.
- 19 **CHAIR:** Now I'm going to ask Ali'imua Sandra.
- 20 **COMMISSIONER ALOFIVAE:** Talofa Antony, fa'afetai mo lou talanoa i lenei taeao. Thank
21 you for your rich thoughts, for your sharing for us this morning. And how amazing that
22 you found love in Fiji of all places. **[GRO-B]** was a very, very lucky woman to have you,
23 Antony.
- 24 **A.** Why is that?
- 25 **Q.** Because you're incredibly amazing by the sounds of things. You were a good husband to
26 her too? I think so.
- 27 **A.** Well, I don't know, I believe in ghosts.
- 28 **Q.** My question, Antony, for you is if you could say something directly to our Prime Minister,
29 Jacinda Ardern --
- 30 **A.** Yes, where is she? Man I'd love to give her a hug.
- 31 **Q.** Yeah, if you could give her a direct message through your talanoa this morning, what
32 would you like to say to her about what happened to you and what really needs to change?
- 33 **A.** Just as I say, I'd like more money. Yeah, and I wish her a happy birthday.

- 1 **Q.** Is it the Prime Minister's birthday?
- 2 **A.** That's right.
- 3 **Q.** We could all wish her a happy birthday then.
- 4 **A.** But we can't do that because she's not here right at this moment.
- 5 **Q.** We can make sure she gets this message from you, Antony.
- 6 **A.** Hope so.
- 7 **Q.** Thank you very much.
- 8 **CHAIR:** Antony --
- 9 **A.** What time is it?
- 10 **Q.** It's 5 to 11 and we're nearly finished.
- 11 **A.** And I thought we were getting into that island buffet.
- 12 **Q.** Yeah, that's coming very soon. Everybody's waiting for the island buffet. **[Laughter]**
- 13 **A.** I'm glad that you gave that a laugh.
- 14 **Q.** You make us laugh, Antony, and we love laughing with you, it's wonderful. Antony, I've
- 15 got one question that I want --
- 16 **A.** That's good.
- 17 **Q.** Good. So you have told us about what happened to you, but you said something that I think
- 18 is pretty important, and that is that it just didn't happen to you, that there were other people,
- 19 other people with disabilities who also had a bad time in these schools, like Mt Wellington,
- 20 like Waimokoia. Is that right?
- 21 **A.** Now can you tell me, I know but I'm afraid you don't, where is Waimokoia?
- 22 **Q.** That's the thing, that's what I'm asking you. You don't have to tell me the names, but do
- 23 you think lots of children were treated badly and lots of people were treated badly in those
- 24 schools as well as --
- 25 **A.** Not like me.
- 26 **Q.** Not like you. So do you think you got special bad treatment?
- 27 **A.** Yes.
- 28 **Q.** Do you have an idea why that was the case?
- 29 **A.** Because the teachers at Waimokoia, they didn't like the things that I was doing.
- 30 **Q.** So they punished you by putting you in time-out?
- 31 **A.** Yes.
- 32 **Q.** It seems that they were also very rough to you, they threw you into vans and threw you out,
- 33 is that right?
- 34 **A.** Yes that's right.

- 1 **Q.** Do you think they did that to other people as well or just to you?
- 2 **A.** Well, when I went to Mt Wellington school, no, I didn't see any person being punished like
3 I did.
- 4 **Q.** Okay. Thank you for answering my questions, we've got one more person to talk to you
5 and that's Paul who you met before.
- 6 **A.** And why Jacinda?
- 7 **Q.** I'm sorry I'm not Jacinda, but we're going to -- as Sandra says, we're going to pass the
8 message, your message on to her, is that all right? She can't be here today. I'm going to ask
9 Paul now, he's going to say something to you, okay, before we have the buffet lunch.
- 10 **COMMISSIONER GIBSON:** I'm looking forward to the buffet lunch too, Antony.
- 11 **A.** I thought so.
- 12 **Q.** A couple of questions first. You've had some bad teachers, you've had some good teachers.
13 What makes a good teacher?
- 14 **A.** One who believes in God.
- 15 **Q.** Anything else, that they believe in you?
- 16 **A.** They didn't believe in me, they were hell to me.
- 17 **Q.** And you've had some bad schools?
- 18 **A.** Yes.
- 19 **Q.** What would a good school be like, how would a good school treat somebody like you?
- 20 **A.** Well, I don't know, although Mr **GRO-B** the **GRO-B** of Mt Wellington, we gave my
21 doctor's file, but do you know he just burned them.
- 22 **Q.** So schools shouldn't be run by doctors, it shouldn't be doctors sending people to -- choosing
23 what school they do go to?
- 24 **A.** Yes.
- 25 **Q.** Another question, you said some people tried to stop you from getting married. There
26 might still be some people who think that some people with disability shouldn't be allowed
27 to get married. What do you want to say to them?
- 28 **A.** Say that again?
- 29 **Q.** Some people didn't want you to get married. I think you had to take them to court. I think
30 there's still some people who believe that not all disabled people should be allowed to get
31 married.
- 32 **A.** Yes, that is right.
- 33 **Q.** Do you think all disabled people should be allowed to get married?

- 1 A. No.
- 2 Q. Not all?
- 3 A. Say that again?
- 4 Q. You should be allowed to get married, shouldn't you?
- 5 A. Yeah.
- 6 Q. And should people like you be allowed to get married?
- 7 A. Yes, they should.
- 8 Q. And do you think people should understand more that you had a great time, a loving
9 relationship with your wife who is now in the spirit world?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. And wouldn't it be great if more people could understand that and not try and stop people,
12 disabled people like yourself from getting married?
- 13 A. They can't. I'd give them a punch.
- 14 Q. I think you might be teaching people a lot as you talk Antony.
- 15 A. I talk, I'm talking now and nothing happened.
- 16 Q. I think what's going to happen is things will change because of what you've shared. I bet
17 that Jacinda hears about what you've said today and it will make a difference. We hope so.
- 18 A. That's good.
- 19 Q. And now --
- 20 A. I'll say to Jacinda I want to marry her. **[Laughter]** I knew that would give all you'se a
21 laugh.
- 22 **COMMISSIONER ALOFIVAE:** We'll make sure she gets that message too, Antony.
- 23 **COMMISSIONER GIBSON:** I don't think she could get a better birthday present than that.
- 24 A. **[Laughs].**
- 25 Q. I think now it's time for me to thank --
- 26 A. My brother, he has something to say.
- 27 **CHAIR:** Yes, he's going to say something very soon.
- 28 **COMMISSIONER GIBSON:** Fa'afetai Antony. It's a privilege to hear you speak, to hear your
29 courage, to hear the great range of experiences you've had in your life, some of them really
30 hard. The range of abuse, all the time-out at so many different places. Some of us call that
31 seclusion, solitary confinement, that shouldn't happen.
- 32 A. What do you call that? Do you call that child abuse?
- 33 Q. Yes, we do, we call it wrong and we think that needs to change. But also you've
34 experienced so many great things, you've experienced the love of your family, the love of

1 your wife, you've experienced marriage, and you've travelled the world, and you and I are
2 about to experience this great buffet coming up I understand.

3 A. I'm waiting to get stuck into it.

4 **Q.** We might have to let your brother speak first, but thank you so much for the courage that
5 you've shared with us today, your story and all the experiences you've had over your wife.
6 We do believe it will make a difference, manuia.

7 A. Now, please pass that on to Nicole, she's got all the knowledge.

8 **CHAIR:** Yes, we have to thank Nicole for helping you come forward and helping us understand
9 your whole story. Which of your family would like to speak?

10 A. **GRO-B Brother**, he's coming up, now he's gone I don't know why.

11 **Q.** I think your mother Christine wants to say something, is that right? Who's going to speak?

12 **GRO-B Brother:** Kia ora, talofa lava and greetings to you all on behalf of our older brother,
13 Antony. We stand here this morning in solidarity with you all and as his younger siblings
14 to acknowledge and give thanks. We wish to thank all those who were involved in the
15 initial investigation of abuse in care by the Royal Commission of Inquiry, particularly those
16 who are a part of this Pacific investigation, Tulou - Our Pacific Voices.

17 We extend our embrace of aroha to all the victims of abuse and thank them for
18 sharing their painful and dramatic stories to assist others. Peace be with you. We are
19 grateful and thankful for the experience and the skills that the Commissioners bring, all you
20 fellas up there, thank you very much. We would like to thank Commissioner Sandra
21 Alofivae who came to our home with her warm and friendly team. We also thank Helenā
22 Kaho and Nicole Copeland and the team who have patiently, with deep understanding,
23 listened to and felt Antony's deeply painful memories and helped them present them to you.

24 **GRO-B Sister:** We remember those in our family no longer with us physically, but who we know
25 remain with us in spirit on this important day for Antony. We remember our youngest
26 brother, **GRO-B**, also a victim of abuse in State care and as a result tragically lost his life in
27 2012 while on holiday in Samoa, our father's birth place and for whom we continue as a
28 family to seek resolution, truth and justice from the Samoan Government.

29 We acknowledge and give thanks for our parents who came to this land, albeit by
30 differing circumstances, but who made this land our home. We, as their children, realise
31 that while we have been blessed and fortunate in many ways, life has not always been easy
32 for them or at times for us. A life-changing event such as an accident or illness or
33 impairment to a family member can change the dynamics of any family immensely, as it

1 did ours.

2 While we experienced love and care, our parents ended up divorcing with domestic
3 violence being one but not the only factor. And then the challenge of caring for a son,
4 brother who had received such a significant head trauma and brain injury meant that
5 sometimes Antony ended up in circumstances and situations that were beyond his control.
6 As siblings, we were not fully aware of what Antony was experiencing and going through
7 as we were only children ourselves and we also know our parents were trying to do their
8 best for us too in what way they could at the time.

9 As a family we have grown to have a better understanding of how intricate,
10 complex and fragile the human brain is and how any damage and trauma to a person's brain
11 can have a huge affect on their personality and behaviour and well-being. This can mean
12 people with head injuries like Antony become vulnerable and more likely to experience
13 forms of abuse while in care.

14 While a person with a head injury can present with many challenging behaviours,
15 families need to know our vulnerable loved ones will still be treated with the respect, care,
16 dignity and protection they deserve wherever they may be.

17 **GRO-B Brother:** We are thankful to all those that have had and continue to have a positive,
18 helpful supportive impact and role in Antony's life and his care, particularly our mum
19 Christine, whose years of dedication and self-less service to this day are an immeasurable
20 and important contribution to his and our life.

21 Most importantly we are thankful for our brother Antony, a son, an uncle, a nephew,
22 a husband. We are thankful his life was saved and we thank him for his courage and
23 bravery in telling his story and reliving these memories. We thank him for his energetic,
24 loving soul and being someone who continues to teach and help us all. May we all learn
25 from his experiences so that others do not have to go through the unnecessary trauma and
26 pain that Antony did. We live in hope that as a nation we can all learn from Antony's
27 experience so we can do better for Pacific people, for all people.

28 Solo i tua ni ao taulia. When the clouds pass, they will leave behind a sense of
29 healing and well-being. Clouds that are spent are retreating. Thank you.

30 **CHAIR:** Thank you very much, I don't think we can say another word. But thank you for your
31 support to Antony that brought him here today. And please, the last thing, enjoy your
32 lunch.

33 **[Samoan song].**

34 **CHAIR:** We will adjourn.

Adjournment from 11.10 am to 11.33 am

1
2 **CHAIR:** Good morning Mr Pohiva.

3 **MR POHIVA:** Good morning Commissioners and a special mālō e lelei to Commissioner
4 Gibson. Our second witness for today, Commissioners, is Rachael Umaga who is of
5 Samoan descent. She will be giving evidence about her experiences as a patient in
6 psychiatric units in Wellington. She will also be describing the lack of care she received
7 and the ongoing practice of over-medicating patients, her concerns about the current model
8 as well. Before we begin, Madam Chair, I wonder if this is the appropriate time for the
9 affirmation.

RACHAEL LEMALIE UMAGA

10
11 **CHAIR:** Yes. Rachael, if I can just ask you to take the affirmation please. Do you solemnly,
12 sincerely and truly declare and affirm that the evidence you give today will be the truth, the
13 whole truth and nothing but the truth?

14 A. I do.

15 **Q.** Thank you.

16 **MR POHIVA:** And before we get into her evidence, ma'am, I anticipate that 12.30 will be a short
17 break and I also anticipate that lunch will be slightly later at approximately 1.30, which still
18 allows us to get the full one hour lunch.

19 **CHAIR:** That's fine. As long as we have a full hour of lunch, that's the most important thing.

20 **QUESTIONING BY MR POHIVA:** Yes. Malo le soifua oute fa'atalofa atu ia te oe Rachael ma
21 lou aiga ua afio mai i lenei aso. Rachael, thank you for your courage in being here today
22 and I also acknowledge your family members who are here in support. For the benefit of
23 our Commissioners and everyone here, you have your daughter here in support and your
24 good friend Lorraine. To begin with, Rachael, can I please ask you to introduce yourself to
25 the Commissioners and all of us here.

26 A. Talofa, my name is Rachael Lemalie Umaga. I was born in 1964. I am 57 years old.

27 **Q.** Thank you Rachael. I'm just going to ask if you could please put the mic, speak closer to
28 the mic if you can. Apologies. And I'll just get you to ask if you can take us through your
29 statement, starting at paragraph 2.

30 A. My parents are Samoan and they are both deceased. I have four siblings and we were all
31 born in Wellington. I am the middle child. My parents migrated to New Zealand from
32 Samoa separately in the 1950s. My dad settled in Newtown in Wellington, and my mum
33 initially worked in Auckland but then moved to Wellington. My parents then met in
34 Wellington, returned to Samoa to get married and then returned to Wellington to settle.