

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

**Under** The Inquiries Act 2013

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

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

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

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

**Date:** 11 February 2022

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**TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS**

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1           **Adjournment from 10.54 am to 11.27 am**

2           **CHAIR:** Good morning, Mr. Thomas.

3           **MR THOMAS:** Good morning, Madam Chair, Commissioners.

4           **CHAIR:** Good morning to you.

5                         Do you like to be called Hanz?

6           A.     Sure, you can call me Hanz.

7           **Q.**     Happy with that?

8           A.     Yeah, good morning.

9           **Q.**     Good morning. Do I start with the affirmation, unless you'd like to say anything before we  
10           start?

11          **MR THOMAS:** No, that's fine, Madam Chair.

12          **CHAIR:** Okay, Hanz, you'll have had explained I'm just going to talk about telling the truth.  
13                 Okay for you?

14          A.     100%.

15                                 **HANZ JOSEF ERWIN FRELLER (Affirmed)**

16          **QUESTIONING BY MR THOMAS:** Thank you, Madam Chair. Hanz is here today to give  
17                 evidence about the sexual abuse he suffered as a teenager at the Hebron Trust in  
18                 Christchurch. The perpetrator of his abuse was Bernard McGrath, then a Brother of the St  
19                 John of God Brothers. I wanted to let the Commissioners know that Hanz is very happy to  
20                 take questions at any time during his evidence.

21                         Hanz, I'm going to ask you some questions to lead you through your evidence  
22                 today. First off, do you want to just tell us about yourself.

23          A.     Sure. I can do that. I am 47 years old, and I have – my parents are – I'm an unusual mix,  
24                 so part Māori and part Austrian, thanks to mum whose part Māori and my father who is  
25                 obviously Austrian, so it's always an interesting mix or conversation starter when I am  
26                 talking about my heritage. I have a couple of kids, I – yeah, I think, you know, as far as I –  
27                 who I am, it's, you know, this part of my journey is a part of my life, it will always be a part  
28                 of my life, you know. And as hard as it is sometimes, I think to stand up and be strong for  
29                 those who haven't had the strength to do so is why I do it, yeah. I mean, that's just part of  
30                 life, I think, for me, and who I am is, you know – I'm a survivor, and that's – at the end of  
31                 the day that's – it is what it is, and I'm more than happy enough to talk to the Royal  
32                 Commission about my story.

33          **CHAIR:** It's so appreciated, Hanz. Thank you for that very brave statement. So, you are

1 speaking for others as well, aren't you?

2 A. [Nods].

3 Q. Others who can't speak?

4 A. Absolutely.

5 Q. That's wonderful. Thank you.

6 **QUESTIONING BY MR THOMAS CONTINUED:** Thanks, Hanz. Can I just ask you to tell  
7 us a bit about your early life and what your childhood was like?

8 A. Yeah. I don't remember much of my early life; I think like most people. From – my  
9 earliest memory starts at five. Between, you know, day dot and five, I have really no  
10 recollection other than what family have told me. I was in foster care up until about five  
11 years old. My mother left when I was very young, from what I've been told, I was two  
12 when Mum just up and left. My father left around the same time, I would imagine, because  
13 I ended up in foster care, as I mentioned, and he came and picked us up, myself, from foster  
14 care when I was around five.

15 So had no mother in my life for a long, long time, and my – basically my journey  
16 sort of started really young, having, you know, been abandoned by my parents, lived with  
17 my father and my brother. When he came back we were living in parts of Christchurch –  
18 I'm from Christchurch, I'm born and raised and proud to be a Cantabrian and you know, life  
19 seemed pretty normal after Dad got back, it was, you know, just life as it was, you know,  
20 you sort of don't really sort of connect with those feelings of abandonment at such a young  
21 age, and as life went on and Dad remarried and the family grew from a family of three to a  
22 family of six, life just seemed, you know – you kind of have this dream of life being what  
23 you see on the TV, rosy, white picket fences and a house and carry on.

24 Life sort of got turned around or turned upside down when I was around 14 – 13,  
25 14. The family dynamics had changed after my brother left home and I got home from  
26 school to find a letter – or family members, extended family members around the table and  
27 there was a letter on the table, a piece of paper, I should say, because I didn't know it was a  
28 letter, and my stepmother and her side of the family were all sitting around the table with a  
29 piece of paper in the middle and I walk into the – after school, into the kitchen and they sat  
30 me down and they asked me if I knew what that piece of paper was.

31 Really had no idea and it was, you know, a letter from my father that basically – I  
32 don't remember the guts of it, it was, you know, basic – it was – all that I remember from it  
33 was, "I'm sorry, love Dad." And, you know, the first time I found out that dad had up and

1 left, so, you know, abandoned again at 14.

2 That was the early part of life.

3 **Q.** Thanks for sharing that, Hanz. So yeah, as you said, that was around age 14 when your  
4 father left and without notice, if you like, and he moved to Australia, is that right?

5 **A.** He did, indeed. I found out years later that he'd moved to Australia. There was a  
6 conversation in the lead-up to all that, that Dad was going to take me to Australia – my  
7 brother had already moved out of home – take me to Australia and, you know, just live  
8 happily ever after or whatever that is, and – so I was quite excited, only to be heartbroken  
9 and left behind.

10 **Q.** Is it fair to say that you felt abandoned at that time?

11 **A.** 100%, I think, you know. Having this, you know – sort of no one abandonment issues  
12 from my mother, you know, Dad never talked about Mum, growing up, and it was just part  
13 of who he was. And then all of a sudden to arrive home and have really no one there. My  
14 brother had gone – Mum, my brother and now my father, it was just like complete, you  
15 know, what have I done? So, you kind of take that on your shoulders and try and bear the  
16 weight of being abandoned, is pretty heavy at that age, you know, when you're trying to  
17 figure out who you are.

18 **Q.** Can you tell us when it was that you first remember meeting your mother?

19 **A.** I can actually. It was some years later, I was 28 or 29, so a good part of my life had flown  
20 by and back in the day when they post – pre-Internet, there was something called the *White*  
21 *Pages*, and when I went flatting I – kind of just blasé about life and the telephone company  
22 said, "Hey, do you want to put your name in the phone book?" I'm, like, "Oh, yeah, cool,  
23 that sounds really cool, my name in a book", and yeah, they ended up putting my phone  
24 number in the book and my mother found my phone number through the *White Pages* and  
25 reached out and I ended up answering the phone randomly and – you hear this voice on the  
26 other end of the phone and I was very much, like – it was like an instant connection but  
27 I didn't know who it was, talking to a stranger, there was something familiar about the  
28 voice.

29 I continued to entertain the thought of talking to a stranger because it's always fun  
30 when you're talking to random people on the phone, and she started waffling off all these  
31 facts, "Were you born on this date, is your brother named blah, blah, blah, blah", and I'm  
32 like that's really weird because – this is obviously before the internet, there was no – how  
33 did they get this information? And then all of a sudden, she burst out and says, "This is

1 your mum." I was like, "Whoa, that's a bit heavy." I tried to talk to her as long as possible,  
 2 then it's like, "Yeah, I've got to go to play hacky sack", at the time, that was a bit more  
 3 important than meeting my mother.

4 She said, "Yeah, I'll call you back", and – that was the first interaction I'd had with  
 5 my mother, you know, years afterwards. We did finally meet up and it was, you know, a  
 6 bit weird, so yeah.

7 **Q.** I was just going to ask you about – so yeah, you mentioned that you went flatting for a  
 8 while and – yeah, can you tell us about, yeah, where you stayed after that; was it right that  
 9 you stayed with your step grandparents for a time?

10 **A.** Yeah, so after my father left, I was at school, I was, you know, 14 years old and going into  
 11 fourth form or in fourth form, or whatever it is – I don't know what year that is, something,  
 12 the new upgrade of educational systems – too old-school for that. I just really tried to find  
 13 myself, and you know, at 14 you don't really know where you're going, you know, you try  
 14 and fit in at school and all these peer pressures of life, as you know, as a 14-year-old,  
 15 I started kind of acting out, I did, and getting into trouble at school and not caring because,  
 16 you know, "Look, if your parents don't care then why should I?"

17 So, I got into a bit of trouble at school and, you know, frequent visitor to the  
 18 guidance counsellor at school, to the principal, deputy principal and it just became a cycle.  
 19 But I didn't care, I was just like, I thought it was hilarious.

20 And then one day I just kind of woke up and I'd had enough, you know, got home  
 21 from school, this is after my father had left and I just, you know, wanted to take my own  
 22 life at the time, and that was a bit of a fail.

23 And because I had attempted and I just – as soon as I GRO-C, I was –  
 24 this is not what I wanted, I GRO-C, and I just needed to be  
 25 around someone where I felt loved. And my stepmother's relationship, my relationship  
 26 with the stepmother was quite strange – strained, I should say. So, my next best thing was  
 27 to go on a mission and try and find my brother in town. You know, here's this 14-year-old  
 28 living out in the country with step-parent and her kids and not really feeling loved, and so I  
 29 thought if I could find my brother in Christchurch, I'd be good.

30 So, I jumped on the bus one Saturday and tried all the local spots, as you do, the  
 31 arcades.

32 And I made my way into town and you know, after trying all these familiar place  
 33 that I remember as a kid that we'd visited, I couldn't find him, and I ended – the only place

1 I knew of in Christchurch at the time were my stepmother's pseudo grandparents and so  
2 I beat the feet, I walked to – from the centre of town out to where they lived, out in the  
3 suburbs, you know, at night time, and when I got there I was – I don't know what I was  
4 doing. You know, as a youngster, abandoned and all that sort of stuff, I wanted to make  
5 sure that what I was doing was right and – but I was so lost, I decided just to, maybe  
6 I should just leave. So, I walked up the footpath and I decided, look, I'll just go.

7 And at the time, we'll call him granddad – he wasn't my grandfather – but granddad  
8 opened the door to come out for a pipe, tobacco pipe, and he saw me there and, you know,  
9 basically took me inside and we spoke and he said, "Look, your step-mum's been looking  
10 for you and wondering where you are, we need to call her and – just to – look, you'll stay  
11 here tonight and decide what we're going to do", and so we did that.

12 And, you know, the conversation that night was what were you thinking, you know.  
13 Obviously, I wasn't opening up about how I felt at being left behind, it was more about, you  
14 know, "You shouldn't be running away, the world's dangerous out there", and all that. And  
15 I was like, okay, yeah. "So, you can stay here tonight, and we'll decide in the morning."

16 The following morning, we got a phone call, got off the phone from stepmother  
17 and – they got off the phone and they said that, you know, or she said that, you know, she  
18 didn't want me. I was like, oh, awesome, you know. That was another hard pill to  
19 swallow, you know. Now really nobody wants me, you know.

20 And step-grandparents were very caring people, and they said, "Look, stay with us  
21 and we will, you know, we'll figure something out." I ended up staying there for I think  
22 around six months or so, yeah. That was a long story.

23 **Q.** Before we move on to talk about the Hebron Trust, is there anything else you wanted to  
24 mention about the earlier stages of your life?

25 **A.** I think, you know, I was, you know, I think as a 14-year-old I was very much in my own  
26 space, you know, looking forward to high school, you know, I excelled. I'd like to say  
27 I excelled at everything I did at school. You know, there was – I wasn't really – I was one  
28 of these kids that would – needed a task to do. So if I was at school and the teacher gave  
29 me something to do, I would sit down and try and nut it out and get on to the next task, or if  
30 it was sports, I excelled at sports, you know, played football, tried my hand at rugby but  
31 athletics was my thing as well, so very active and very, I guess – I'd like to say I was well  
32 liked at school, but you know, I was never one to fit into a group. I had pockets of friends  
33 that were all part of different groups, so I would sort of jump from group to group and, you

1 know, had a few really close friends at school and some of them are still friends today.

2 **Q.** Thanks, Hanz. If you're okay with it, we'll move on to talk about the Hebron Trust next.

3 Yeah, do you want to – I guess, yeah, tell us how you came to be there as best you know.

4 **A.** Yeah, absolutely. It's kind of a – like it's something – there's two parts of my life I have  
5 really no real understanding of how I came to be there. Obviously the earlier part of how  
6 I came in foster care and how I ended up in the Hebron Trust, obviously grandparents were  
7 very accommodating and they looked after me and put food on the table, but as time went  
8 on I started acting out and, you know, ended up stealing money because I needed escape,  
9 you know, I was growing up, my father was always pointing the finger, drugs are bad,  
10 alcohol's bad, all that sort of generic fatherly advice that the parents love to give their  
11 children.

12 And – I was very much, you know, dad was very authoritarian, I would say,  
13 being from Austria back in the day, growing up post-war. I was very much, "Okay, yeah,  
14 that's fine by me." So, I never took part in any of those vices. But my escapism was video  
15 games, so don't knock video games, as a way of escape, it was harmless in my opinion, and  
16 I would go across to the chippie shop and play spaces and you know, I'd take 20 cent  
17 pieces from the – I guess the cookie jar at my grandparents and you know, I think it came  
18 to a head after it sort of got out of control where I was spending four or five hours a day  
19 down – across the road playing video games as a way to escape, but, you know, what  
20 else? I didn't know anybody else.

21 And they sat me down and they were, like, okay, so this isn't working, we're going  
22 to try and find you a place to live. And I was a bit taken back but I could – I understood  
23 why, because I was one of those kids that sort of, you know, I understood if I did something  
24 bad there was going to be a repercussion, obviously I was stealing from them, so, you  
25 know, I understood all that. I was very aware of my actions.

26 And there were a couple of meetings along the way, two meetings. The first one  
27 some guy came around and, you know, it felt like an interview, and just talking that  
28 generic, you know, "Look, we do have space, but we can't have you at the moment because  
29 there's no room in this facility", I guess it was called, or I don't know what it was; I don't  
30 recall.

31 And then the second meeting was with Brother Bernard McGrath. And he came in  
32 and he – this kind of gaunt man, brown jersey and corduroy pants or whatever it was, and  
33 my first impression was like, okay, I'm just kind of, you know, keen to sort of not be where

1 I am and he offered – he basically spoke of this Hebron Trust that he was running as the  
2 Chief Wiggum and, you know, said that it was a home for at-risk youth and street kids, and  
3 being a naive 14-something, 15-year-old at the time, I didn't know what that meant – I'd  
4 seen movies and stuff.

5 And I asked, I remember – I recall asking him what that meant, you know, and he  
6 basically said it's a place where young teenagers who have either been referred to by the  
7 courts as coming out of prison or whatever it was – not going to prison, I should say, or  
8 kids who have been on the street, and I asked him what do you mean by being on the street?  
9 He goes, "Oh, kids that live on the streets like street kids, that's where they live." And I  
10 was blown away, I was like, I don't need to be going there because I don't live on the street.  
11 You know, my mind's starting to sort of tick, why is this person asking me to live in this  
12 house because I'm not a street kid, I haven't been naughty enough to go to court.

13 And then he mentioned that, you know – after some dialogue he mentioned that  
14 there was some names of some people living in this house and one of them was familiar to  
15 me and I was, like, okay, at least I know somebody there, so I will – I was keen as, I was,  
16 "Okay, yeah, I'm in."

17 **Q.** Yeah, so someone that you knew that was living there and that was a reason for you that  
18 you may be felt more comfortable to go there?

19 **A.** Absolutely. I think, you know, when you – you know of someone in that – any place, it  
20 makes you feel a bit more comfortable about going there, yeah.

21 **Q.** Can you tell us I guess about like what the place was that you were going to?

22 **A.** Yeah, so, you know, basically moving day was a bit weird, it was kind of like a so-long,  
23 farewell, and it – you know, I always sort of remember the *Sound of Music* where you get  
24 all the kids lining up and it's time for bed, it's "so-long, farewell", and you have, you know,  
25 your grandparents saying goodbye. That was what it was like, it was like see you later, I'm  
26 not going to see you again, not that I was going to bed, but that's what it felt like.

27 The house, I got picked up by Bernard that day, Brother Bernard, and he took me  
28 to the Hebron Trust office on, I think it was – yeah, it was in the centre of town, and  
29 basically he sort of said, "Hey, look, I've got someone who's going to be I guess your case  
30 worker that will sort of oversee your introduction into the house, they were going to meet  
31 here", sign some papers and he was very keen to get me on to the independent youth  
32 benefit, which is I think at the time – basically it was giving a 15-year-old some money; I  
33 was like, "Okay, all right." As an income, to sort of pay my way, a portion of that would



1 go to the Hebron Trust as rent for – or board or whatever it was, to live at this house.

2           Yeah, that was kind of how it all sort of came about. And when I got picked up by  
3 the staff member, she drove me out to where the house was, which is called Pampuri and,  
4 you know, that was the name of the house that they gave it, and getting to the house, it was  
5 like it was an old wooden house and you walked inside, there was this massive red door,  
6 entrance, sliding door into the house, corridor into the kitchen, there's the lounge and then a  
7 couple – there was about four bedrooms in the house itself. Outside there was a triple  
8 garage with a games room that had pool tables and table tennis and all those sort of  
9 entertaining parts, TV, bean bags, cushions, that sort of thing. Not much of a yard. It was  
10 kind of – you know, there was a couple of caravans at the time.

11           Further down, you know, further down the track, they were putting in a couple of  
12 buildings, you know, shower block being one of them and another double bedroom.

13           Yeah, like, I kind of felt that it was going to be home; this seemed like it was  
14 going to be home for the next however long. I didn't know how long I was going to be  
15 there. And you know, I was kind of getting ready for this is home, you know. And while I  
16 was there the – Bernard, Brother Bernard turned up and basically sort of said, "Hey, look,  
17 this is where you will be, this is your home for the next foreseeable future", and it was just  
18 kind of coming to grips with that.

19           And then, as we were sort of discussing, you know, I wanted to know where  
20 I would be sleeping, he showed me the bedroom and I was like fair enough, and yeah, at  
21 that time the day programme van for the residential house turned up and so that was kind of  
22 like my introduction to where I was going to be living, and basically the fellow residents  
23 sort of turned up.

24 **Q.** What was your first impression of that, how many residents were there already?

25 **A.** Out of the van probably jumped five or six other teenagers. They were a wee bit older than  
26 me; I was still young. They would have been anywhere up to sort of five or so years older  
27 than me. And they definitely street-looking kids, yeah, they were raggedy and yeah, they  
28 were – it was definitely an eye opener for a sort of 14, 15-year-old kid who'd only ever  
29 seen the harsh realities of life on the TV. They were very intimidating, and I was just like  
30 sort of stood quite closely to Bernard, Brother Bernard and I – it was very much – I was  
31 like, yeah. I didn't feel safe at all.

32 **Q.** So, you were a bit apprehensive upon meeting the other residents?

33 **A.** 100%, yeah, absolutely. I was somewhat intimidated and it's not – wasn't a very nice

1 feeling, that's for sure, something way out of my comfort zone. And yeah, then obviously  
2 I saw a familiar face that I remember from way back, and didn't really sort of connect  
3 straight away, it was kind of like an, oh, kind of "do I remember you?" sort of moment.  
4 But, you know, further down the track we sort of got on.

5 **Q.** That was one of the other residents?

6 **A.** Yeah.

7 **Q.** You were staying at that Pampuri full-time, is that right?

8 **A.** Yeah, I was. It was like, you know, the structure for the house was set up in a way where  
9 during the week the residents would stay overnight, they had different, you know, curfews  
10 and whatnot for everybody. I think – it seemed like the longer you'd been here, the later  
11 your curfew was. But you had to be back at the house by a certain time.

12 They had a day programme running, which is basically just to get the residents out  
13 of the house, and you know, they would take us to the parks around the city or various –  
14 you know, there was a Cookie Time tours, you know, the beach, whatever it might have  
15 been. So those types of programmes, day programmes running. And it was very much,  
16 you know, this is what's happening.

17 So, I you know, tried to sort of fit in as much as possible without sort of extending  
18 my, you know, bubble too much. I was very wary of what was going on, you know, as far  
19 as, you know – it almost felt like them and me, you know. I was very uncomfortable at the  
20 time.

21 **CHAIR:** Hanz, can I just interrupt and ask a question, were you still going to school at this stage?

22 **A.** No, when I left home, I'd left school, yeah.

23 **Q.** Right, okay. So, you stopped going to school when you went to your step-grandparents, is  
24 that right?

25 **A.** Yes, correct.

26 **Q.** That's all I needed to check. Thank you.

27 **QUESTIONING BY MR THOMAS CONTINUED:** Thanks, Madam Chair.

28 Is it right though that – so you were attending the day programme at Hebron and  
29 then you did re-enrol at a school later, is that right?

30 **A.** I did. I was, you know – there was a couple of houses, so it was Pampuri which was in the  
31 Halswell area, and there was another house called Waipuna which was in Linwood, and  
32 during the day programme we would – you know, the van would pick us up from Pampuri  
33 and we'd shoot over to Linwood and pick up whoever was over there. I didn't like Waipuna

1 at all, it was very – the kids that were staying there were very, very street, I would say, and  
2 I felt – like, I felt unsafe at Pampuri for a while but as I sort of became familiar with those  
3 who were turning up, I felt – it turned to be my safe place for a while.

4 However, Waipuna was – I never, ever, felt safe at Waipuna because, you know,  
5 streets – kids that are out there for their own. I understand all that. We would go there.  
6 And so, I ended up saying to Brother Bernard, "Hey, look, can I" – the only way I could not  
7 be on the day programme was if I re-enrolled in school or if we enrolled in some sort of life  
8 skills course through whoever was running those, Christchurch Academy or whoever. And  
9 I opted to go back to school.

10 Like I enjoyed school as a kid, you know. I think when you're good at something,  
11 you want to stick at it, and it was at that stage where I was 15 at the time now and I wanted  
12 to hopefully, you know, get my school cert or school – you know, the next one up, sixth  
13 form certificate – so I could hopefully become a PE teacher or something, because in my  
14 eyes PE teacher was the ultimate job, other than being a police officer, and I didn't see that  
15 happening having been in a home, a street kid home, so next best option was being a PE  
16 teacher and, you know, you get paid to play sport. I was, like, sweet, sounds good to me.

17 **Q.** And so that was – so you ended up enrolling at Hillmorton High School, local high school?

18 **A.** [Nods].

19 **Q.** You were around 15 at that time?

20 **A.** Yes, yes, I was in my 15th year, I was well into my 15th year. Hillmorton High School,  
21 you know, Brother Bernard took us down, after that conversation, he made plans to  
22 approach the school, and I remember going for I guess a tour of the school with the  
23 Chancellor or the inductee of the school, and he showing us around the school, saying this  
24 is what you'd be doing, these are the classrooms, you know, we'll just have to get your  
25 information from my previous high school. And I was quite excited to be going back to  
26 school because I knew that would be a lot safer than, you know, going to any of those  
27 places where I didn't want to be. And I was looking forward to it, that's for sure.

28 **Q.** Was there anything else I guess you wanted to mention about that stage, or we'll move on  
29 next to talk about the abuse you suffered at Pampuri.

30 **A.** Yeah, no, I think, you know, it sort of gives a basis of I guess where, you know, what life  
31 was like before the abuse happened at Hebron, you know. Not an ideal start to life, but  
32 what do you – what do I do? You know, I don't have anyone to turn to, so best – the best I  
33 can do is make what I have, and it seemed like the best option to me was to go back to

1 school.

2 **Q.** So, I'm going to ask you about the abuse itself now, Hanz. I guess, yeah, do you want to  
3 start off with explaining like I guess how it started off, how it started out?

4 **A.** Sure, I can do that. So, I had enrolled in school and, you know, Brother Bernard was really  
5 proud of me and the fact that I decided to re-enrol in school. All the other residents were  
6 like, "What are you doing? School sucks. What's the point? You should stay on the day  
7 programme where you can do fun things, go to the beach and hang out", all those things.  
8 Some of them were enjoyable but I'd rather be at school doing stuff, playing sport. And so  
9 Bernard was pretty proud and he said, "Look, let's go and get some lunch and we'll go and  
10 get all the stationery items that you need, and we'll go and do that. So" – and while we  
11 were out and about, he was just really friendly, I guess, you know, saying that he would  
12 take me to school in the mornings, but because he had a busy day for most of the time, I'd  
13 have to make my own way back. It was only a, you know, four or five K walk to school, so  
14 it wasn't, you know – it was okay for a young 15-year-old, not too far and it was – you  
15 know, I felt relatively safe being able to walk home. But, you know, I was getting a ride to  
16 school so I was, like, sweet, or I could catch the bus if he had earlier meetings.

17 And so, he suggested that "How about I wake you up for the first wee while, we'll  
18 get you an alarm clock, but I'll wake you up in the morning and go from, you know, go  
19 from there and every day you can get sorted and we'll go." And that went on, you know, he  
20 would knock on my door say, "It's time to get up", this would be about 7 o'clock in the  
21 morning and I was, like, yeah, no worries getting up, I'd get up and have a shower every  
22 day and do all the bits and pieces that I needed to do, jump in the car and he'd drop me off  
23 to school.

24 And that went on, you know, for a while, and then it would be – the next part  
25 would be knock on the door and he'd open the door and pop his head in the door, pop his  
26 head around the corner, saying, Hey, it's the time to get up: And that went on for another  
27 period of time, you know, over the course of, I don't know, a month or whatever, I don't  
28 know the timeframes, but it seemed like a long time.

29 And, you know, and then the next part of, you know, this whole coercion,  
30 whatever you want to call it, was coming in, into my bedroom. And generally, the  
31 bedrooms were – nobody was allowed in your bedroom, that was one of the rules. There  
32 were a few rules at these houses, at Pampuri, and one in particular was stay out of other  
33 people's bedrooms, no gang paraphernalia, no drugs and alcohol, you know, the generic

1 rules that would come with any sort of establishment like that. And, you know, staying out  
2 of people's bedrooms was one of the big ones.

3 But he would come in. And because I felt safe in my own room and he was Chief  
4 Wiggum of the place, you're kind of like, okay, yeah, and he used to wake me up, and he  
5 would come in and he would stand at the end of the bed and talk about, you know, how  
6 school was going and, you know, what am I enjoying about school.

7 So, there was this whole process of tapping on the door, putting your head inside  
8 the door and then coming to the stage where it was coming in my room and, you know, at  
9 the end of the bed, just talking about what I had planned for the day, what was school like,  
10 what was happening, if I had PE or science or whatever subject I was taking for the day.

11 That went on for another period of time. And then the next sort of part of it, he  
12 would sit on the end of the bed and, you know, during the time he'd walk in with his, you  
13 know, clothes on or his pyjamas on, and then – and this was – it was during winter, and so  
14 it was – it seemed okay, you know, just to sort of hear him come in and sort of have a quick  
15 chat, catch up and then head away, and then allow me to get up and do what I was doing.

16 And then he would sit on the end of bed and, you know, and then – so that was the  
17 next part, and then we would continue talking, so there's this whole process of walking in  
18 the door, popping your head in the door, standing at the end of the bed, and now he's sitting  
19 on the end of my bed. And I'm still feeling comfortable because there's this whole familiar  
20 part of what's happening for the morning, like a morning routine of catching up.

21 And then there was – you know, I remember the first time he – he came in in his  
22 underwear and he says, "It's very cold, can I jump in?" And I was like kind of  
23 dumbfounded as to what's happening, you know, why would he ask that, why would you  
24 sort of walk in here? He goes, "Oh, I was just in the shower", or whatever, because it was  
25 right next door to my bedroom. And I'm, like, "Er, yeah", and he would sit there, and he'd  
26 jump in the covers and in between, like, there was the top sheet and then the duvet cover, so  
27 he was in between, in there.

28 And it was that same routine of talking about the day, what are you up to, what's  
29 happening, how are you getting on, how are you finding everything? And it was, still, it  
30 was still very much the same repetitive process for a time.

31 And then the first time it was – he got to that stage where he would "accidentally"  
32 pull back the top sheet when he was jumping in and then he was like, oh, and then jump in  
33 between the top sheet and the duvet, and the first time he pulled back the top sheet and the

1 duvet and jumped in I was just like, whoa, this — what's — you know. And of course, I'm  
2 at this stage where it's all okay because, you know, I've seen this da, da, da, da, da from  
3 walking in the door, being at the end of the bed, sitting on the bed, being in between the top  
4 cover and the duvet, and now he's under the top — sorry, the top sheet, and I'm not — I  
5 don't know what's happening. My mind's just going, oh, daily routine, yeah, talking about  
6 this, and then ...

7 I think I was just slowly, unbeknownst to me, you know — obviously further down  
8 the track, years later, I can look back and that was all part of the plan, you know, all part of  
9 the process of manipulating me into feeling safe, feeling, I guess, loved, feeling  
10 comfortable with what was happening. You know, I think we all grow up and at some  
11 stage we want to, you know, we're all about being loved and making sure that we're okay,  
12 and you know, his actions were very much hidden to a 15-year-old kid with nobody to turn  
13 to, who very naive in the ways of the world, it soon became prevalent that something else  
14 was about to happen.

15 **Q.** Just on that point that you said, you know, he made you feel loved, on that point you  
16 mentioned in your statement some other ways that he showed you favouritism, if you like.  
17 Do you want to mention that?

18 **A.** Yeah. Look, you know and through all that time of coming in in the morning, and, you  
19 know, sometimes it would be a little bit after 7 or — you know, it was getting later in the  
20 morning where he was in a rush and I was in a rush, and so there — like, I would normally  
21 get up and I would shower and go through my routine, but because it was getting later and  
22 he had to be in the office by a certain time, it was just like I don't have time to make my  
23 lunch.

24 So, he would just give me money, and say, "Hey, look, don't worry about it, here's  
25 10 bucks, 5 bucks, grab yourself some lunch from the cafeteria." And obviously that sort of  
26 went along and then there were other times where he would drive me down to the local fish  
27 and chip shop to grab a scoop of chips for dinner or if I was feeling hungry, or lollies, you  
28 know, he would drive me down and I'd pay for lollies or he would pay for lollies, you  
29 know, those types of — where I felt that I was his favourite, you know, I was definitely — I  
30 was, like, oh, he's allowing me to have extra money, you know. And there were times  
31 where I could stay out later than curfew — the curfew was 9 o'clock and I was — I'd go into  
32 town after school with friends or whatever I was doing, and I wouldn't have to come back  
33 until later, you know, I'd say, "I'm going to go with friends after school, can I come back

1 later on, the last bus", which was 10 o'clock or whatever it was, "Yeah, no problems."

2 So, I felt as if I was receiving a lot more favouritism. I would get back from my  
3 day out and you know, the other residents were, like, "Where have you been? You're  
4 supposed to be back", I'm like, "Oh, I talked to Brother Bernard and he said it was okay."

5 So, I guess in the eyes of some of the other residents, it was like, why is he getting  
6 favourites, or being a favourite for being able to stay out later? You know, and there was a  
7 couple of times where he would allow me to drive the car, his car down to the shop, you  
8 know, under his – learning to drive, which was – which makes, you know, any 15, maybe  
9 16 at the time, feel special, like, "I'm learning to drive a car, like, whoa, this is sick."

10 **Q.** Yeah, thanks for explaining those aspects. If you're comfortable going back to I guess the  
11 progression of the abuse, if you like. So, he was by this stage coming into – hopping into  
12 your bed. Are you happy to keep talking about the progression from there?

13 **A.** Absolutely. I'll have a sip.

14 **Q.** Of course.

15 **A.** Good.

16 **Q.** Yeah. I guess, Hanz. So, once he started coming into your bed, yeah, what happened next,  
17 I guess?

18 **A.** Yeah, like – it was almost like a blur, it's like, you know, remember it like it was, you  
19 know, yesterday. But it – you know, hindsight's a great thing of course, but, you know,  
20 looking back, you know, I didn't know what was happening. All I knew was this guy that  
21 I supposedly trusted and had built a relationship with, who, you know, I guess for lack of a  
22 better term from my understanding, he loved me because I was, you know, made to feel  
23 special and cared for, and all of those things, you know. He'd invited me into this place of  
24 residence, so I felt comfortable.

25 But on the inside – on the outside I felt comfortable, but on the inside, I was like  
26 sort of what's going on here, hello, trying to – this young kid inside me is going, "Is this  
27 right? I'm not sure." I'm having this battle on the inside.

28 And then he would – you know, I'd be in my boxers and he would be in his  
29 underwear and he would, you know, start sort of massage me, he was just touching the side  
30 of my torso and down my legs and saying, "It's okay, you know, tell me more about your  
31 day", so there was this whole – on one side of what was happening he was touching me,  
32 but on this other side we're still talking about what the day was going to bring. And so –  
33 and that went on for a wee while.

1           And then the next sort of stage, it was like he would sort of brush ‘accidentally’,  
2 inverted commas, my penis, or my balls, and I was – at this stage like, I don't know, like  
3 you feel – it feels weird to have the sensation of being touched by someone where you  
4 think that it's wrong but your body's telling you it's okay because you're excited, you know,  
5 at this stage I'm erect, and I'm like, "I'm torn here. What's going on?" And then he would,  
6 you know, obviously when I was erect, he would grab my penis, and would start to  
7 masturbate me, and then he would grab my hand and put it on his penis and he was – under  
8 his underwear, and then he would slide his underwear off and he would say, "Masturbate  
9 me", and I would, and we would masturbate each other.

10           And there was never a moment where I ejaculated, although he ejaculated, and as  
11 soon as he had ejaculated, it was like, right, he'd finished, and he would jump out of bed  
12 and he'd put his underwear on and say, "I'm leaving in 10 minutes." And I'm just numb,  
13 you know. You know, I'm numb on the inside, like, "I don't know what's going on, I'm so  
14 confused right now. What has just happened?"

15           And for me as a 15-, 16-year-old, I'm just like – I feel like I'm way over my head,  
16 I don't know what the hell's gone on here. All I know is that I felt good because I had an  
17 erection and I'm, you know, and he has up and left and there's this wet patch in my bed and  
18 I had rolled over and I touched it and I felt sick. Like so sick, it was just like I – as soon as  
19 I touched it, I moved to the side of, you know, to the side – the other side of my single bed,  
20 hugging close to the wall and curled up into this ball, into a foetal position and just went,  
21 you know, screaming into my pillow, knowing that I've got to go to school soon. And my  
22 ride is, you know – Brother Bernard said he's going to leave soon, so I need to get up and  
23 get ready.

24           And so, I jumped out of bed, you know, manoeuvring myself over this wet patch  
25 in my bed and as I pulled the bed – top sheet and the duvet off – I see this patch there and I  
26 was just not impressed at all. I was just like – felt disgusted, you know, in myself, in  
27 everything that had just been going on. And so, I grabbed the sheets and piled it into a pile  
28 and took them off the bed, mattress, and popped them on the floor, and I had to get ready,  
29 you know, and I felt so disgusting, I was like I need to have a shower, I need to have a  
30 shower, which was part of my morning routine.

31           And so, I jumped in the shower. And I scrubbed myself, like, to almost, like I was  
32 raw, like red, you know, trying to clean myself in some way. It was a little bit surreal.  
33 There was a 10-minute time limit on your showers, and I was very much trying to get clean



1 from what had happened and I just felt I couldn't and there's this bang on the door by other  
2 residents who have gotten up and had come inside the house, because they were all outside  
3 in the other caravans and whatnot, saying, "Get out of the shower, you're using all the hot  
4 water." And I just didn't care, I was still trying to get clean, you know. No matter how  
5 much soap I was using or how harsh I was scrubbing my skin, I couldn't. And I, you  
6 know – obviously I had to get out of the shower.

7 I remember getting out of the shower and getting dressed and stuff and as I looked  
8 at myself in the mirror, I was just, like, what is going on, you know, trying to look myself  
9 in the eye in the mirror and I knew I had to get to school, but I didn't want to be in the car  
10 with Bernard, Brother Bernard because I felt disgusting and I thought I'll just wait.

11 And then I went to my bedroom and on my way to the bedroom there one of the  
12 other residents was just abusing me for taking so long in the shower, but I didn't care at this  
13 stage. I started to really sort of get into this mindset of 'I don't give a toss, I don't give a  
14 shit', you know.

15 And I got my stuff ready and, you know, the other staff member had sort of turned  
16 up, the day staff, ready for the day, and as I was getting ready, I saw Brother Bernard's car  
17 down the driveway and off, and I was like okay, I'll just make my own way to school, I'll  
18 just beat the feet and walk. And I went out the back door of the house, because I didn't  
19 want to walk through where everyone else was. I just left, no lunch, no nothing, just my  
20 money card and my school bag, and I got to the end of the driveway and was hoping to  
21 catch the bus and the bus went past the house and I was, like, looks like I'm actually really  
22 having to walk to school.

23 I get to school and I'm just, you know, I'm still numb – I use the term "numb" as  
24 just, like, I don't know what's happening, I don't know, you know, trying to make sense of  
25 what's going on, but I really don't know what's going on, and I have to report to the school  
26 counsellor because, you know, if you're late for school – I get late to school and they give  
27 me a pass to get to the class and stuff. And, yeah, trying to face school is not cool at all.

28 **Q.** And this was – started happening, this abuse, from your statement, once or twice a week  
29 after that, and also it did escalate from there. Do you want to talk about that?

30 **A.** Yes, yeah, absolutely. You know, I think after that initial, you know, from my first day at  
31 school, after the incident, I would start coming home late and then, during the following  
32 weeks, it became a regular occurrence. Brother Bernard would come into my room and  
33 straight into bed in the morning, where he would repeat this cycle of masturbation,

1 ejaculate and leave. So that left me, you know – whatever strength I thought I had, I didn't  
2 have any anymore. And, you know, that went on for some time. And then the more  
3 frequent it became, there were incidents where we would all have catch-ups with Brother  
4 Bernard and we would all go to his room, individually. His room was off the kitchen.

5 I remember one night it was like, it was quite late, you know, it was a school  
6 night, and he would – he called me into his bedroom and say, "Hey, look, let's have a  
7 catch-up", and, you know, it was in front of all the other residents and no one thought  
8 anything of it, it was just like catch-up with Brother Bernard and I was the last to have a  
9 catch-up for that night.

10 And it was around every time – everyone's bedtime – lights out sort of deal, and  
11 they would all head away and out to the caravan because there was very few people staying  
12 in the house. There was only – there were four bedrooms within the house and obviously  
13 Bernard, Brother Bernard was in one of them, I was in another one and everyone else was  
14 outside.

15 So, I was very much by myself, you know, in the bedroom with him and he would  
16 lie on his back and ask me to give him a massage and I did, you know. It got to the stage  
17 where he became erect and I would have to massage him and masturbate him, and then he  
18 put a condom on and some lubricant and he asked me to sit on top of him, and I did, and  
19 yeah. One thing led to another, he sodomised me. There's no easy way of saying that.

20 **Q.** You've talked about some of the impact of the abuse on you at the time, like the –  
21 obviously difficulty going to school with this all going on. There came a point at which  
22 you told Bernard to stop the abuse. Do you want to mention that?

23 **A.** Yeah. I mean, that was sometime later. It wasn't like, you know – you hear, as I speak  
24 now, it's not like it happened within the space of a month or so. This was over a period, the  
25 entire period that I was there. I was there for two, maybe three years or so. And towards  
26 the end I was, you know – during that time, prior to turning around and saying stop, I didn't  
27 care. I didn't care who tried to tell me anything. I was my own person, I just didn't give a  
28 toss about what – whoever, whatever authority figure tried to tell me something to do, I  
29 would do the opposite just to spite them. Like nobody could tell me what to do because,  
30 you know, clearly, in my mind everybody who had authority over my life had either left,  
31 okay, the parents, or had abused me, AKA Brother Bernard.

32 And so, in my mind I was like, I wasn't listening to anybody, I was going to live  
33 how I felt and I would do what I felt I wanted to do and that was it. School became, you

1 know, a by-product of that, and listening to teachers I was just like, I wasn't having a bar of  
2 it, and so I ended up just not turning up to school and leaving.

3 And I was very much finding my solace in arcade games. I would leave the house  
4 and I would go down to the arcade places in town, Wizards and Penny Arcade and the Dog  
5 House, all – they're no longer there – but those were my safe places, or if they were closed,  
6 I'd hang out and learn to play chess in the Square.

7 It got to that stage where I was – had been so long at the Hebron Trust at this – at  
8 Pampuri where I became, I guess, one of the older ones there, you know, I was I guess a  
9 senior resident, you know, like, you know, I'd been there fulltime, you know, there's no  
10 weekends to go and hang out with your parents because – no one – knows where they are,  
11 in the weekends.

12 So, I was just there, and it got to the stage where I was falling to pieces and one  
13 day it was just like I just couldn't take it anymore, yeah.

14 And I, you know, Brother Bernard would come out and he would knock on the  
15 caravan doors and wake people up, time to get up, and he would be – generally he would  
16 come in, knock and then he'd go inside and do his own thing. And I remember one time,  
17 you know, I think the last time it ever happened – at this stage I tied strings to my finger,  
18 because he was coming – at this time he was still coming into my caravan and masturbating  
19 me and I, you know, was teetering on that verge of – I didn't know what was going on,  
20 teetering on that verge of sanity versus, you know, is this normal, I don't know what was  
21 happening. I just knew I didn't feel safe and I had this piece of string attached to the inside  
22 of the caravan door that I was sleeping in and as soon as he tried to open the door it would  
23 yank on my finger, a wee MacGyver trick I mustered up somehow. As soon as it tugged on  
24 my finger it was, like, get out of bed, rather than him sneakily coming into the caravan to  
25 lay in my bed with me.

26 And I would get up and he was like – he could see I was getting up and away he  
27 went. I got up and I went into the house to shower – this is before we had a shower block  
28 outside, and I went into the shower just still in this state of numbness – if "numbity" was a  
29 word I think that should be slotted in there.

30 And I was just having – I was getting ready for my day and like any normal day,  
31 trying to figure out what I was going to do, what arcade games I was going to play, how  
32 long I'd be there, what I'd have for lunch, trying to mentally prepare myself for the day and  
33 as I was doing that Brother Bernard came into the shower and locked – I never locked the

1 door, it was just – I didn't feel safe that I could. It's kind of a strange, you know, there's a  
2 lock on the door, why don't you lock the door, it was – no one – ever invaded – the  
3 residents, we never invaded each other's privacy. It was like an unspoken rule. Just  
4 something we never did. We never went into each other's rooms. If we wanted to  
5 commune with one another it was out in the rec area outside. So, I was never even aware to  
6 think about locking the door.

7 And he came in and he – I could see him undressing himself outside the window  
8 of the shower and he opened the door and stepped in the shower, and I was just like, oh,  
9 you know, at my wits' end, I guess. Well, I was. And I was, you know, had enough and  
10 I – as he tried to, you know, sodomise me and – prior to that he tried to put my penis in his  
11 mouth, I was just – I just said such a simple word now, you know, 'Stop', that's all I said, is  
12 'Stop'. And he stopped and he got out straight away and left, and that was the last time it  
13 ever happened. And you know, I look back and I'm like, damn, why didn't I say that  
14 earlier. I didn't have the strength to say that.

15 **Q.** After that, you started – I guess, were you still fearful of Bernard after that?

16 **A.** Oh 100%. Like I thought in my mind it was like if I say stop, you know, during this whole  
17 time I thought if I had ever said stay away from me, stop, blah, blah, blah, I'd get kicked out  
18 of the house, you know. Like okay this is how my mind's working, if I say stop and he  
19 says, "Right, you have to find somewhere to live", where am I going to live? I don't have  
20 any parents to go to, I have no relations.

21 You know, that was probably my biggest fear; Where would I go? I didn't want to  
22 be a street kid. You know, I'd seen so many street kids come through the residential house,  
23 you know, at Pampuri and over at Waipuna, I didn't want to be in their shoes. You know, it  
24 looked pretty rough out there.

25 So, I just kind of gritted my teeth and tried to figure out if I could just block it out  
26 and numb myself, and you know, and escape from the thoughts that I would have  
27 afterwards, the only escape that I was going to do was play video games and immerse  
28 myself in this world of fantasy and you know.

29 **Q.** And there came a point when the – Bernard was away from the Hebron Trust more, can  
30 you tell us about – and, sorry, other staff members from the Trust talked to the residents  
31 about that. Can you, yeah, summarise that?

32 **A.** Yeah. Like after the – after I'd said stop, you know, it all – all the behaviour, all the  
33 favouritism, all the, you know, extra money and by this stage I was allowed to drive the car

1 down to the local chippie shop or candy store or wherever, it was only one or two K's down  
2 the road so there was no big deal. I'd have my licence at this stage.

3 So, all those privileges left, I didn't have anything. And there was – he would say,  
4 okay – he would give me all these – I would have to clean up after everybody, I was – it  
5 was almost I was given all these extra chores to do around the house, which I felt, I was  
6 like, hang on, you've just – I've just had all these privileges taken away from me and now I  
7 have to do extra chores to sort of pay my way, and then at this stage the – my board went  
8 up as well, so I was now paying \$50, I think it was, at the time, \$60 or whatever, of the  
9 money that I was receiving from independent youth benefit.

10 And I – all those privileges left, and I was soon made to feel, you know, he  
11 would – it was like he would belittle me in front of the other residents, and he would say,  
12 "Don't worry, Hanz will do that. No, you don't have to do it, Hanz will clean up", or "Hanz,  
13 can you go and put the rubbish out, can you do this, can you do that." And it was just like,  
14 it was like the flick of a switch, you know. I had gone from being the favourite, for obvious  
15 reasons, to like a nobody, you know.

16 **Q.** Did you feel like you were being punished?

17 **A.** Yeah, of course, you know, when you're given all these privileges, then all of a sudden,  
18 they're taken away you feel like you're being punished. It's not – it wasn't a very nice  
19 feeling, you know, you have this person that's showing you all this, you know, I guess, you  
20 know, being nice, all these niceties and then to all of a sudden not have anything is not  
21 overly welcoming for anybody, you know, to be taken away.

22 And you know, the whole – it all kind of – it happened really fast, so after the  
23 whole – the final incident, there was probably about a period of maybe one to two months  
24 of me trying to figure out what I was doing and stuff, and then all of a sudden and I would  
25 see Bernard less and less. And I thought it was because of me, it was like he didn't want to  
26 be around me, and he knew that I'd said stop, so that's what I thought.

27 But there was a strange incident where we had this house meeting – we would  
28 have house meetings all the time at Pampuri, where all the residents would come together,  
29 staff would come and say we'll talk about the week, whatever day it was, at the weekend or  
30 end of the week, we'd talk about all the stuff that was going on, and Brother Bernard would  
31 generally be there. And we had this meeting, and I'd been there long enough to know what  
32 the meetings were about, I was like, oh, yeah, we're just having another one.

33 And sure enough, Brother Bernard wasn't there, I hadn't seen him in a long time,

1 I just kind of figured he was avoiding me. He wasn't there but then all these other senior  
2 staff members within the Hebron Trust were turning up. They used to never turn up to  
3 these meetings, this was just a house meeting, a general catch-up of what was going on,  
4 what we're doing for the day programme – for the week. They started turning up. I was,  
5 like, hang on, what's going on here, why are these people here, they're never here for these  
6 meetings; it's just a normal meeting.

7 And then at this stage there was some obviously newer residents there and I was –  
8 you know, we were sitting on the couch and stuff and they were, like, who's this person, I'd  
9 say that's so and so from – he's one of the Chief Wiggums, he's on the Board or whatever  
10 they were, this is what they do. You know, I was explaining to these new cats, new kids,  
11 who was who. And then once everybody sort of turned up, and it was a whole array of the  
12 – whole, you know – all the day staff were there, all the residents that were there, some of  
13 the older ones that were there who had come and gone. This wasn't an emergency meeting;  
14 it was just like a meeting everyone sort of turned up to.

15 And, you know, one of the guys, one of the staff members, senior staff members,  
16 he's like, "Okay, so we just want to have this meeting, you know, we've got a few people  
17 here", introduced everybody, he said, "Look, there have been some allegations brought  
18 forward by the Police and they do involve Brother Bernard, and we, you know, we're  
19 looking into it. However, I can assure you none of this is factual or true. You haven't seen  
20 Brother Bernard around for a while because he's actually really sick in hospital, so, you  
21 know, we're looking into it further. All I can say is, you know, there have been allegations  
22 by the Police but I can assure you none of this is going on because he's in hospital, he's not  
23 well."

24 And I'm thinking, I'm trying to put 3 and 3 together and going he – I know what's  
25 going on, I haven't told anybody at this stage and I'm thinking, hang on, he's not here, but  
26 you're telling me there's some sort of investigation going on but he's sick in hospital?  
27 I went to school twice, I'm pretty smart, I'm like piecing this together in my mind, going  
28 there's something going on here. And the next staff member sort of stood up and said,  
29 "Look, we have heard that the allegations from the Police are – that have been brought  
30 forward are of a sexual nature", and if you've ever seen a dog really ready to pounce or  
31 ready to chase a ball, their ears go ding and my ears were, like, hold on, what's going on  
32 here? I'm piecing pieces together and all of a sudden, I'm listening now; what's going on?

33 And that's all they mentioned, they said, "Look, there's been allegations of a sexual

1 nature that we are cooperating with the Police and are looking into." And of course, I'm all  
2 ears. And the staff member turns around and says, "Look, if anybody has anything they  
3 want to say, if you guys would like to talk to myself or any of the staff members, we are  
4 open to have a discussion or dialogue." And I am like, at this stage I'm still – I'm not  
5 telling anybody anything, because I'm still trying to figure out me, still trying to figure out  
6 what's going on, I'm still lost in my own psyche, my own mind, my own head. And so, I'm  
7 not saying anything.

8 And anyway, one of the older residents who just happened to be visiting that day,  
9 he'd come through the house and moved on, he just happened to be there. He stood up and  
10 says, "Hey, look, I've known Brother Bernard for X amount of years, stand-up guy, does  
11 this in the – does this in the community and, you know, really honourable person who  
12 helps, he's helped me", him, "He's helped many, many at-risk youth. Anybody who –  
13 anybody who says otherwise that these allegations are true is going to have to deal with  
14 me."

15 **CHAIR:** Just take a breath. If you want to take a break, feel free.

16 A. I'm good.

17 **Q.** You are good, aren't you? Okay.

18 A. "... is going to have to deal with me." I lost my shit. Yeah, I got so angry. I got so angry  
19 at him. Like, he's just a guy, his experiences were obviously genuine and you know, and  
20 I just lost it and I, I was sitting on the couch and I leapt over these two younger residents  
21 and just I grabbed him, tackled him to the ground and proceeded to hurt him.

22 And everyone's just like, whoa, and you know, one of the staff members, he –  
23 basically he picked me up, he was – this solid-unit staff member – just picked me up and  
24 dragged me out of the staff room – sorry, dragged me out of the lounge that we were in,  
25 and took me to the staff room and sat me down and told me to "Don't move", and I heard a  
26 voice and it was, you know, I think all indicators sort of went 'ooh.'

27 You know, I think the staff kind of figured something has happened, something's  
28 happened to Hanz. And that was kind of the first time I'd ever spoken up about – I didn't  
29 even say to anybody that, you know, this had happened to me, but all indicators sort of  
30 pointed to the fact that something had because I lost it and attacked this guy. That's how it  
31 all came out.

32 **QUESTIONING BY MR THOMAS CONTINUED:** And then, Hanz, you spoke to some of  
33 the – you ended up speaking to some of the staff about that and that led to you in 1993

1 making a complaint to Police, but at that stage you couldn't tell them the full extent of the  
2 abuse, is that right?

3 A. Yeah, that's correct. You know, after that incident I sat down in the staff room and you  
4 know, a staff member came in, the soothing one, the one who had mentioned, "Hey, look,  
5 come and speak to us, myself or whoever, if something has gone on." She came into the  
6 office and said, "Hey, look has something happened to you?" And, you know, that's when  
7 I first told someone – of course it was very secretive at the time, and I said 'Yes', and she  
8 gave me a hug and said, "Look, we will report this" and, you know, supported me in the  
9 fact of been able to do so.

10 And in the sort of coming days before we sort of headed to the Police, there was a  
11 lot of chatter amongst the residents and some of the staff members that, you know,  
12 something had gone on, and I remember I was in one of the vehicles and this staff member  
13 was – you know, everyone was sort of talking about parts of it and not sure and I turned to  
14 this other staff member and I said, 'Yeah, it happened because it happened to me, you  
15 know.'

16 And you know, the first two times I ever sort of spoke about it I – it was just like a  
17 sense of relief had being lifted off my shoulders and this – the other staff member, you  
18 know, we went and filed a report with the Police at the Sydenham Police department  
19 branch, or wherever it was.

20 Sharing my story back then was a lot easier, it was so much easier to miss out on  
21 all this shameful, guilt-filled happenings. I don't want to talk about being sodomised, you  
22 know, I kind of gave them a brief, I'd been abused by Brother Bernard. I never gave her the  
23 full detail – why would you? No one would, it's too shameful, there's so much shame  
24 attached to, you know, having been abused. And, you know, being a 16-, 17-year-old at the  
25 time, there was no way I was going to tell anybody the full extent because I'm still trying to  
26 figure out who I am – know, whether or not – I'm, you know, have the strength to do so.  
27 And you know, I'm not going to, you know, on my third account of actually talking to  
28 someone there's no way I'm going to talk to the Police about all the intricacies of what had  
29 happened.

30 Q. And then moving on a little bit in time, you made your complaint and so did others, and  
31 ultimately Bernard McGrath was convicted of criminal charges in relation to those  
32 complaints. Yeah, I guess there is anything you want to mention about that before we  
33 move on to talk about some of the impacts?



1 A. Yeah, a bit later in – further down the track when the whole court case came about, you  
2 know, I was, you know, trying to figure out who I was and trying to find my own strength  
3 again, you know, and I sort of re-enrolled in school again, third time lucky they say. You  
4 know, trying to pursue the dream of becoming a PE teacher still, enrolled at Hagley High  
5 School to fifth, sixth and seventh form PE to sort of fast track my way to get into university  
6 and that was kind of my goal and that was kind of around the time the whole court case was  
7 about to sort of happen.

8 Really excited about, you know, the next step for myself as a potential teacher to  
9 be. But it was, you know, still really, really hard, and you know, going you know, at this  
10 stage I'd sort of gone through seven therapists to try and find the right one. I always say  
11 finding a therapist is like trying to find a new pair of shoes, you know. When they fit, you  
12 know. And it took a long time to find that someone that I could talk to openly about my  
13 experiences.

14 And you know, all the while there's media going on and, you know, people talking  
15 about the case that's about to happen and all of that and here I am, you know, trying to, you  
16 know, move forward in life. But, yeah, struggling.

17 **Q.** And you were trying to go to complete your schooling at the time and I guess, yeah, what  
18 was the impact of the abuse on that?

19 A. Yeah, I was going through therapy and on and off there were times where I would go once  
20 a week, twice a week at this stage and it got so hard with all the media and with what I'm  
21 sort of trying to talk about at therapy, you know, the abuse side of things, the real hard stuff  
22 that I've mentioned today. And that became too much. I couldn't – I just couldn't, you  
23 know, I didn't have the strength in me to maintain my grades or appearance at  
24 school/university probably at this stage and I just – I packed it in and went to what I knew  
25 and at this stage it was, you know, drugs, mainly marijuana, and arcade games, so I just –  
26 I'd just shoot down to the arcade stoned and play spaces.

27 I didn't have any, you know – there was, you know, very few people around me  
28 supporting me, at this stage I was flatting, so it was life of a flatter. There was a stage  
29 where I, you know, ended up staying on the streets a while because I didn't have anywhere  
30 to go and no one to turn to and you know ... I had long left the Hebron Trust – when  
31 you're 18, it's "See you later, good luck."

32 I still tried to remain in contact with some of the staff members, but that was hard,  
33 you know, there was no social media back then, I didn't have a phone. You know, you kind

1 of lose contact and all I wanted to do was try and find something for me, you know, and  
2 I thought, yeah, going back to school would do that. But when the court cases came back,  
3 sort of those insecurities reared their ugly head again. I couldn't continue.

4 **Q.** In your statement you talk about some of the other, like, long-term impacts the abuse has  
5 had on you. Do you want to mention the like trust issues that you've had?

6 **A.** Yeah, yeah, like, you know, they say, whoever they are, you know, trust is earned and not  
7 given, and it was definitely the case for myself, you know. I trusted very few people, and  
8 you know, I guess rightfully so, it was a very – I became very aware of people's actions.  
9 You know, there was – it was like a heightened sense of, you know, it was like hang on,  
10 what are you trying to do here, what's your motive in being nice to me, you know. There  
11 were genuine people, there were people who were just trying to friend me for the sake of –  
12 because I had a bit of money coming in with the benefit and you know, all those things.

13 So my trust issues were heightened, I guess and you know, further down the track,  
14 you know, relationships failed because there was no trust, I couldn't see why someone  
15 would want to be nice to me and – because in my mind every person that I ever trusted had  
16 hurt me or abandoned me in some way, shape or form, so if I was to trust someone that I  
17 was seeing then I would go, oh, you know, what are you trying – what are you working at  
18 here? So, there was those trust issues.

19 I had this – I failed – basically I failed at trying to keep a girlfriend. I didn't know  
20 what I was doing. You know, I think, you know, as you grow in – as you grow you sort of  
21 learn how to interact in a relationship, whether that be with friends or boyfriend or  
22 girlfriend or whatever that is. And I struggled, because I didn't trust anyone, so you know  
23 ... I think the foundation of a relationship should be trust, and I never had that, because it  
24 hadn't been modelled to me and I struggled with it.

25 **Q.** I know you wanted to mention another important event that affected you greatly and that  
26 was the loss of a close friend of yours to a self-inflicted death. Is there anything you  
27 wanted to say about that?

28 **A.** Yeah, that took its toll, you know and he, you know, my best mate, you know, he chose a  
29 different path and as much as, you know, we were in the same place and you know, it was  
30 heart-breaking to know that we were under the same roof and he, you know, chose his path  
31 and I, you know – and that's, that's a big reason of why I'm here, because –

32 **CHAIR:** Hanz, had your friend been abused by Brother McGrath?

33 **A.** Yes, yeah.

1 **Q.** I don't think you have to say anything more about that unless you really want to.

2 **QUESTIONING BY MR THOMAS CONTINUED:** Do you want to take a break, Hanz, or just  
3 take a moment?

4 **A.** No, I'm good. He had been — and you know, we'd spoken about this and you know and  
5 there was a mutual — he knew my story and we'd shared my story and we'd both shared  
6 each other's. We'd both shared each other's story and I think — I don't think, I know why  
7 I do it.

8 **CHAIR:** Hanz, you probably want to get this over and done with, but would you like — we will  
9 keep going if you want to, if you feel up to it, we could take the lunch adjournment so you  
10 can just actually pull yourself and hold yourself together, if you want to, but it's up to you.  
11 It's completely up to you whether you want to carry on now or would you like to take short  
12 lunch break and then come back?

13 **A.** No, it's okay, thank you. For me, losing a best friend —

14 **Q.** You who had lost so much already.

15 **A.** Exactly. You know, we'd journeyed the same path, this is why I do this, because being a  
16 voice to those who don't have a voice is important to me, you know, and I know what it's  
17 like to lose someone given the circumstances because of in this case, Brother Bernard's  
18 actions. And that's why I stand up, that's why I'm here, you know, for those who can't, who  
19 never had the strength to carry on. So — but — you know, as hard as it is to talk about it,  
20 part of the reason I do it is to give strength to those who have been in the same situation, so  
21 yeah.

22 **QUESTIONING BY MR THOMAS CONTINUED:** Thanks, Hanz. Do you mind if we  
23 quickly cover your dealings with Brother Peter Burke and then we're just about at the end if  
24 you're happy to finish off?

25 **A.** Yeah, yeah, cool.

26 **MR THOMAS:** Is that all right, Madam Chair?

27 **CHAIR:** Of course.

28 **MR THOMAS:** Thank you, Madam Chair.

29 **QUESTIONING BY MR THOMAS CONTINUED:** Hanz, so in 2003 you met with Brother  
30 Peter Burke and Michelle Mulvihill from the St John of God Order. You did receive a  
31 pastoral gesture from the Order. I guess what I wanted to ask you about is like, yeah, how  
32 you found the process, your sort of key thoughts on that.

33 **A.** Yeah, that came as a surprise. I was — at the time I was living in Australia as, you know,

1 one of my favourite sports at the time had sort of taken me there and I was, you know,  
2 living the dream, playing hacky sack, and kind of moved on from, I guess, you know, from  
3 my past and sort of working to sort of create a life for myself and an old friend reached out  
4 to me by my email and said, "Hey, look, the Catholic Church are in the news because of  
5 what's going on, maybe you should look into it." I did, I had an 0800 so I gave that a call.  
6 Long-story short, I ended up being contacted or coming into contact with Brother Peter  
7 Burke and he was like, "Hey, look, you know, we're really keen, this is what we're doing.  
8 We're going around listening to people sharing their stories of what had happened, you  
9 know, in this case at the Hebron Trust under St John of God", and I said, "Hey, look, I'm all  
10 for it, you know, tell me where I need to be." And at this stage I was, you know, in  
11 Australia and it was – for me it was time to come home, you know, let's sort of get this part  
12 of my life and sort of figure this out and come home and do this.

13 So I made my way back home, went back to Christchurch and ended up meeting  
14 Brother Peter Burke and Michelle, and took along my friend and shared my story, my  
15 experiences with having been in Hebron Trust and I remember, you know, Brother Peter  
16 Burke, he was so, like he came across as so genuine and you could – you get a sense of  
17 when people are genuine and not and I really felt that he was, he was such a good dude.

18 And after having shared my story he said, "Look, here's my number, if you have  
19 any questions let's – let me know and we can talk further and you know, what we'll do is  
20 we'll look to sort of " – what do you call it? I can't remember what you call it, you know,  
21 "... look at getting you some compensation for, you know, the hurt that you've been  
22 through", and I was like, oh, okay. It wasn't even about that, for me it was just about  
23 sharing my story and saying, "Hey, you know, I was abused under the care of the St John of  
24 God. That's not cool, you know, far from not cool, you know. It's wrong, and I'm going to  
25 share my story."

26 And time went on and there was dialogue between Brother Peter Burke and  
27 Michelle and myself and you know and he sent – there were a couple of letters sent  
28 saying, "Hey, look, we're looking at sending you some compensation of this amount", and  
29 you know, I was just like, whoa, all I did was tell my truth, my story and why, you know,  
30 why would you do this, why would you give me money to help, you know, move on in life.  
31 To me it seemed like a foreign, why would this happen? You know, in my mind I was like,  
32 is this to shut me up? So I don't say anything or is this just as a, like, a, let's sweep this  
33 under the carpet and hopefully forget about it?

1           The letter came, I still have the letter. "Hey, look" – paraphrasing of course –  
 2 "Hey, look, thanks for sharing your story. Here's a cheque." And I, you know, informed the  
 3 banks that this amount, there's certain amounts of cheques or money would be coming into  
 4 people's accounts, so be aware with all the banks and I was like – so I went to the bank,  
 5 I got the money on a Tuesday and I was just like blown away at the amount, and I went  
 6 straight to the travel agency and said, "I want to go on a trip, I'm out of here."

7           For me I needed to sort of get out, I needed to leave the country and just kind of  
 8 find, do – some soul searching and find out who I am. And I left on the Thursday, and –  
 9 but I always felt that it was like a kick in the face, because I never heard from them again,  
 10 I never heard from Brother Peter Burke or Michelle ever again. And there was no financial  
 11 assistance to sort of say, "Hey, look, this is what you could do, you could put it in this and  
 12 invest in a house or whatever", you know, I never had any of that.

13           And so, I didn't know, I didn't know what I was doing, I was just like all I knew I  
 14 was heading away thanks to, you know, I guess the Catholic Church, and saying, hey, look,  
 15 cheers for, you know, cheers for nothing, but now you can just carry on and live your life,  
 16 here's some money. See you later. I'm like, oh, okay.

17           So, I went on a trip and tried to find out who I was, you know. But it really felt  
 18 like a kick in the teeth, like it really felt like it was being swept under the carpet and of  
 19 course there was – no, I – think what really hurt was like there was no correspondence  
 20 after that cheque had come in the mail, you know. It's like giving a kid \$10 and saying,  
 21 "Go to the lolly shop". I'm like the kid's just going to go to town, he's not going to know  
 22 you can go next door and buy a box of chocolates or something's going to be far more  
 23 beneficial for them. They're just going to see the \$1 lollies and scoop them all up.

24           And that's what it felt like, you know, it was like, it's not like – there was no, there  
 25 – was nothing, and it was – I thought it was real shit, to put it frank.

26 **Q.** So, no like financial advice like you mentioned and no on-going support after that?

27 **A.** No, none at all.

28 **Q.** Hanz, I think we're like pretty much like at the end of your statement. Did you want us –  
 29 just I think you probably already covered it, but I just wanted to ask you if you wanted to  
 30 say anything else about why you've given evidence today?

31 **A.** Look, I tell my story because it's important for others to hear that standing up is okay, you  
 32 know, there's nothing – like, as hard as it is and you see me crying and shedding a tear, it's  
 33 not because I'm still hurting, it's because I remember those times where it was hard to get

1 through, and surrounding yourself with the right people is important and you know,  
 2 thankfully there were people along the way, not always there, but there were people in my  
 3 life that I was able to – and I completely understand that, you know, you're not always  
 4 going to have people around you to support you. It's a harsh reality, but I think if we can  
 5 all stand up as one, together, in this Royal Commission, we will be able to be heard, you  
 6 know, we can be the voice to the voiceless.

7 And that's, you know, and that's important, you know. There are so many people  
 8 out there that don't have their strength yet to speak up, but I would encourage them to stand  
 9 up and you know. It is certainly freeing when you're able to and empowering when you're  
 10 able to be able to share your story so that others might be able to come forward.

11 If it's only one person, I've done my job; if one person comes forward from all of  
 12 this and is able to share their story, I'm good. But I would encourage those who have yet to  
 13 share their story to do so and I, you know, I have yeah –

14 **QUESTIONING BY MR THOMAS CONTINUED:** Thanks for doing that today with your story  
 15 and I just wanted to finish on the last thing that you wanted to mention, which you've –  
 16 written a book yourself and yeah, I can recommend it, it's a good book.

17 **CHAIR:** We've got to give that a proper plug. I believe it's called *Walking on Broken Glass*?

18 A. It's called –

19 **Q.** Sorry, *Walking on Glass*.

20 A. *Walking on Glass*. I actually have a couple of books for yourself and Sandra, if you would  
 21 like to accept them, if that's cool.

22 **Q.** We would be grateful to receive them, if you wish to give them and for the benefit of the  
 23 whole Commission, we would be delighted if you wish to do that.

24 A. Okay, can I just –

25 **Q.** Do you have them now?

26 A. Of course, I do.

27 **Q.** We'll ask the Registrar to go over and take them.

28 A. Thank you.

29 **Q.** Thank you very much indeed. I'm going to hold it up like an advertisement.

30 A. Yeah, *Walking on Glass: Finding Strength in a Broken World*.

31 **Q.** It's a beautiful cover, apart from anything else. Gratefully received.

32 **QUESTIONING BY MR THOMAS CONTINUED:** Yes, and also, Madam Chair, I'll just  
 33 mention that the book covers like, as well as the difficult parts you've talked about, this is

1 the first time you've talked about the full extent of your abuse in a public way.

2 A. Absolutely.

3 Q. Not even in the book, it's not covered, or not to that extent. But it also covers other parts  
4 like the travelling that you did and yeah – it's a good read.

5 A. Thank you.

6 **MR THOMAS:** I'll just ask Madam Chair and the Commissioners if they've got any final  
7 questions.

8 **CHAIR:** I think we might have one or two. We won't take too much more of your time, but  
9 Sandra would like to ask you a question or two.

10 **COMMISSIONER ALOFIVAE:** Talofa, Hanz, thank you very, very much for just the courage,  
11 the absolute raw courage that you've shown us by coming forward. And we have a saying,  
12 'No doesn't equal 1' when we're looking at numbers, and you're a wonderful example of  
13 that, there are many that you represent.

14 Two questions, Hanz. When you got that letter around with the cheque, did it have  
15 a breakdown, did it explain how they got to the figure?

16 A. No, it didn't, like the letter didn't, it just said hey, basically, here's some money –  
17 paraphrasing of course – and I always wondered why, or how that number was – how – do  
18 you put a value on someone's pain and hurt, you know?

19 Q. Thank you for that. And the second question was, right at the beginning you referred to a  
20 social worker. So, when you were first picked up you were taken back to the Hebron office  
21 in town, you were introduced to a social worker. What was your understanding of her role?

22 A. My understanding at the time was someone who was going to show me the house, you  
23 know. I'm there, you know, her words were, "I'm there to take care of and sort of monitor  
24 your wellbeing within the house", and that's what I thought, you know, as far as I was  
25 concerned, I was, like, okay, someone who's going to be --

26 Q. Someone to talk to, someone to help you?

27 A. Yeah.

28 Q. Did she ever check up on you like that?

29 A. She did. Yeah, she was really good. Unfortunately, I never opened up to her, you know,  
30 regarding 'it'-- too much shame and guilt, you know.

31 Q. There's no judgment there. Thank you, Hanz, I really appreciate that.

32 **CHAIR:** I only have one question and that I – think I know the answer, but it's important. When  
33 the first – your first – disclosure was made at that terrible meeting when you lost the plot  
34 for very good reason, did anybody from the Catholic Church approach you at all during

1 then or during the trial that you went through?

2 A. No, not at all. The first time I had contact with the Catholic Church was Brother Peter  
3 Burke 10 years later or whatever it was.

4 Q. So, it was a good 10 years, a good decade later?

5 A. Yeah. At that 2003 or whatever it was. Yeah, so that was a wee while.

6 Q. Does it, what – do you think about that?

7 A. I think it's disgusting, you know, it's like, come on, own up, you know? Things happen,  
8 you know, you need to take responsibility for what's gone on. And I think, you know,  
9 when you have someone like Brother Bernard McGrath who's, you know, doing the work  
10 in the community as, you know, as he was supposedly doing, but behind closed doors he's  
11 abusing people, abusing kids, you need to stand up. Don't throw him under the bus and say  
12 oh, well, he didn't – wasn't – we weren't aware. I think that's a crock, you know, to be  
13 honest. Don't try and hide it; own up.

14 Q. Well, you've owned up, and I don't mean that in the sense of taking responsibility, but in  
15 the sense of manning up, standing up and speaking, and I think you've said it all and I can't  
16 say any more than to thank you so much and to thank you on behalf of all those people who  
17 will be watching, listening and cheering you on, and saying "Somebody's speaking for us",  
18 and I think that's so important. So, thank you.

19 You deserve a break, and you deserve some lunch, and you deserve to be looked  
20 after and I hope you will take advantage of whatever wellbeing and support we can give  
21 you today. But just heartfelt thanks from both of us and from the whole Commission for  
22 adding a vital piece of this awful picture and doing it so well. So – thank you so much,  
23 Hanz.

24 A. Thank you.

25 Q. We really appreciate it.

26 A. I'd like to hope that, you know, further down the track, when this is presented to the higher-  
27 ups, the Government, that, you know, something is done.

28 Q. That's why we're here, that's why we're here, and that's why it's so important to hear from  
29 you. Thank you so much.

30 A. Thank you.

31 **CHAIR:** All right. We will take a break and, Ms. Anderson, what time do you suggest we come  
32 back?

33 **MS ANDERSON:** I think 2.15.

34 **CHAIR:** 2.15, we'll do that. Thank you very much.