

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

Under The Inquiries Act 2013

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

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

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

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

Date: 10 February 2022

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

1 **Adjournment from 11.29 am to 11.50 am**

2 **CHAIR:** Ms Anderson.

3 **MS ANDERSON:** Thank you Madam Chair, it's another one of handing over to Christchurch,
4 we're going to hear from Mr DG who's giving evidence via AVL from Christchurch.

5 **CHAIR:** Thank you. Hello Mr DG. Are you okay? It's tough, I appreciate that. And you've got
6 Ms Toohey, good morning Ms Toohey.

7 **MS TOOHEY:** Good morning.

8 **CHAIR:** Thank you for appearing, does Mr DG understand about the affirmation, about having to
9 take that?

10 **MS TOOHEY:** Yes, we'll just... --

11 **CHAIR:** This is just a formality that we have to go through then I'll hand you back to Anne so she
12 can ask you the questions, okay.

13 **MR DG (Affirmed)**

14 **QUESTIONING BY MS TOOHEY:** Mōrena ngā Kōmihana, tēnā kōrua. Ko Anne Toohey tōku
15 ingoa. This is Mr DG who you've just been introduced to. Mr DG, you were born in 1962?

16 A. Yeah.

17 **Q.** And you grew up in Dunedin?

18 A. Yeah.

19 **Q.** I want to ask you first about those early years in Dunedin?

20 A. Yeah.

21 **Q.** I think when you were young did your parents separate?

22 A. Yes.

23 **Q.** And do you want to tell the Commissioners about your experiences of going into care after
24 then, how that came to be?

25 A. Yeah. My mother couldn't control us. I got put into Social Welfare.

26 **Q.** So you ended up going into Social Welfare here?

27 A. Yeah.

28 **Q.** And was that initially foster care for you?

29 A. Yeah.

30 **Q.** And the Commissioners have your statement with some more of the detail around that.

31 A. Yeah.

32 **Q.** But you talked in your statement that you were sexually abused regularly in one of the
33 foster care homes that you went to --

34 A. Yeah.

- 1 Q. -- ...to begin with.
- 2 A. Yeah.
- 3 Q. Okay. And I think after that there were some other foster care homes where you had some
4 similar experiences?
- 5 A. Yeah. The first one was on a woman and a man done (inaudible).
- 6 Q. So the first one you were sexually abused by both the mother and the father in the family?
- 7 A. Yeah, in a relationship like that, I think they said they were married but I don't know but
8 they were living together.
- 9 Q. At school, did you have some learning difficulties and some behavioural issues when you
10 were at school when you were in foster care?
- 11 A. Yes. I couldn't write. I couldn't read.
- 12 Q. And did you end up going to Marylands School?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. Do you remember how old you were when you first went there?
- 15 A. I think I was about 9 I think, might be -- I think about 9 roughly, it's in there.
- 16 Q. And you've got the dates in your statement that that was 31 January 1972. Did you end up
17 staying there until you were 17?
- 18 A. Yeah.
- 19 Q. In December 1979?
- 20 A. Yeah.
- 21 Q. Were you told why you were going there by Social Welfare?
- 22 A. I was told that I could read and write and spell. I still have problems today.
- 23 Q. And were there dormitories at the school?
- 24 A. Yes, red, green and one down the far end of the field.
- 25 Q. Was that organised by age?
- 26 A. I think so, I can't recall, I can't- yeah, I don't- know, we got swapped around, the boys got
27 swapped around at the school.
- 28 Q. You've talked in your statement about a brother who was good to you there, was that
29 Brother Sebastian?
- 30 A. Yes, yeah.
- 31 Q. And what about contact with your family in those years that you were at Marylands, did
32 you get to see them in Dunedin?
- 33 A. I think maybe once or twice.
- 34 Q. What would happen in the school holidays?

1 A. I might have been sent somewhere else.

2 Q. All right. I just ask that we have shown a photograph of Mr DG which is reference
3 NZP0012577.

4 **CHAIR:** Here it comes.

5 **QUESTIONING BY MS TOOHEY CONTINUED:** That was a photograph taken by a
6 professional photographer who was visiting Marylands and the photo was taken in 1974.
7 So, were you about 11 or 12 at that time?

8 A. Yes, it was definitely me.

9 Q. Thank you. I just want to ask you now about -- the photograph can go down thank you.
10 I want to ask you now about Brother Bernard McGrath.

11 A. That name again?

12 Q. Bernard McGrath.

13 A. That name again?

14 Q. Brother Bernard McGrath.

15 A. Yeah, I know him.

16 Q. All right. Do you want to tell the Commissioners about the abuse from Brother McGrath
17 that you talk about in your statement?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. Do you remember how old you were when it first started?

20 A. I was only about three weeks, two or three weeks when I was there roughly.

21 Q. Do you mean you'd been there two or three weeks?

22 A. Yeah, roughly, I don't know the date, roughly.

23 Q. So when you were aged about 9?

24 A. Something like that, yeah.

25 Q. And do you want to tell us what happened in the beginning with him?

26 A. It's very, -- he started playing with me. I had to touch his penis and play with it and then
27 he'll come in, -he had to come in my mouth. It's not the only time it's happened. It
28 happened hundreds of times. He used to give me lollies, stuff like that and if I didn't do
29 anything like that- he'd give me a hiding. I had many hidings and then one day I told Social
30 Welfare that.

31 Q. How did that come about that you told Social Welfare?

32 A. She was in the main foyer at St John of God (inaudible).

33 Q. Was this the social worker?

34 A. Yeah. It was a lady and she asked me what are the bruises on my leg.

- 1 **Q.** What did you say?
- 2 **A.** Beaten.
- 3 **Q.** You told her you'd been beaten?
- 4 **A.** Yeah, it's not the only time.
- 5 **Q.** Did you tell her who had been doing that to you?
- 6 **A.** Yeah.
- 7 **Q.** Who was it?
- 8 **A.** Brother McGrath and Moloney.
- 9 **Q.** And what did she say to you?
- 10 **A.** Said there's something about(?).
- 11 **Q.** Then what happened after that?
- 12 **A.** They finished and then late at night before it sort of got dark, I'm quite sure I was talking to
13 one of the boys and McGrath called me over in the sewing room and McGrath told the
14 other boy to go away, he got me in the sewing room and bashed the shit out of me. My
15 face, I've got a bump on my head there, it's always there.
- 16 **Q.** Is it still there now?
- 17 **A.** Have a look. There. I'll never forget it. And then he locked me, -he locked in a cupboard
18 like a wardrobe and told me to shut up and stop crying. I was crying in there for quite a
19 wee while, I remember I didn't have tea that night, you're gonna- lock me, I was shaking, I
20 was really, -my body was curled up in the wardrobe and that's not the only hiding I got-.
- 21 **Q.** That time did he say why this was happening, why he was beating you?
- 22 **A.** Yeah.
- 23 **Q.** What did he say?
- 24 **A.** He said "You told that social worker."
- 25 **Q.** Did anything happen with the social worker or Social Welfare after that?
- 26 **A.** You're joking eh, that's what the Social, -that's why the Social Welfare was crap, they're
27 shit to be honest, didn't- do anything.
- 28 **Q.** Did the social worker come back and see you?
- 29 **A.** I can't recall, I don't think so.
- 30 **Q.** How often did you see a social worker when you were at Marylands?
- 31 **A.** To be honest it could be once or twice, but that's it. They didn't care, they just swept it
32 under the carpet, like all Government departments do.
- 33 **Q.** Before or after that had happened, had Brother McGrath talked to you about what would
34 happen if you told people about what was going on?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. What kinds of things did he say to you about that?

3 A. I'd get a hiding, a real hiding and I'd never get up, plus I wouldn't be able to see my parents
4 at holiday times, you'd go somewhere else that I know of or something like that along the
5 lines.

6 Q. You'd go somewhere else, sorry, what was that?

7 A. Some other place.

8 Q. Okay, you mentioned a boys' home?

9 A. Yeah, he said something like some other place like Marylands or something like that, I can't
10 remember the name of it, but something like that.

11 Q. Okay. You talked about some of the kinds of abuse that happened with Brother McGrath,
12 was there also anal intercourse?

13 A. Yes, it was. It happened hundreds of times when I was there, he made me play with his
14 penis and he came into my arse and then I had blood coming out and his whatsaname
15 coming out, his sperm coming out. And when I sat there on the floor I saw the blood on the
16 floor and if I didn't stop crying, he would bash me. If I didn't stop crying, he'd bash the hell
17 out of me.

18 Q. Do you mean during the abuse, while the abuse was happening?

19 A. Yes, pulled my hair, bruises on my body, my back.

20 Q. How many -- you said this happened hundreds of times?

21 A. It was a lot, yeah.

22 Q. Over the whole time you were there?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. From 9 to 17, how much of that time was this going on?

25 A. A lot, heaps, (inaudible). Even in the sewing room, other places, the bird aviary, the church
26 where they, the- black thing they put on, in there many a times, his bedroom, went to
27 Waikuku- or something like that, done it there.

28 Q. Was that where the school had the bach?

29 A. Yes.

30 Q. Waikuku.

31 A. And then another time, I took off, I tried to run away.

32 Q. When was that do you think?

33 A. That was at the school sometime, I don't know, I must have been about 12. I didn't know if
34 it was a van or not, I see a van coming up from Nash Road in Christchurch and I didn't

1 know if it was a van or not, and then I,- and it was McGrath. But I tried to ignore and go
2 away, but he grabbed me by the hair and slammed me into the van and when I got back
3 around the back of the school where the swimming pool was he gave it to me up the
4 backside and beat the hell out of me, up the bottom, bleeding, I was bruised, I was in pain,
5 no treatment no nothing. It's a shit of a life I've- been through.

6 **Q.** Was there any medical treatment at Marylands for you?

7 **A.** What do you call that? Treatment, I never got no treatment, nor did the other boys, got no
8 treatment. The treatment that I got was the bash and sexual stuff.

9 **Q.** Mr DG, I also want to ask you about Brother Moloney?

10 **A.** Yeah.

11 **Q.** Was he the principal?

12 **A.** Yes.

13 **Q.** Do you feel able to talk about what happened with him?

14 **A.** Yeah, I want to speak up. I know it's hard but I don't want anyone else, like a young child
15 to be through what I've been through because they'll kill you, especially when you get
16 older. Yeah. Yeah, he done bad things too.

17 **Q.** When did that start?

18 **A.** That started just after Moloney started.

19 **Q.** Just after McGrath started you mean?

20 **A.** Yeah, just after McGrath started I mean. He let me play with him. I had to suck his penis
21 until he comes in my mouth. He pulled my hair, gave me a bashing. So hard. This is why
22 I can't defend myself in a fight or anything, I just have to put up with it. It happened a lot
23 over the period of time I was there too. Even in the Brothers dining room, gave me stuff,
24 like lollies, suck his penis for lollies, had to come in my mouth, had to come -- he came in
25 my mouth because I was getting lollies, getting special treats.

26 I was laying in bed one night in my dorm, it was where Brother Sebastian was, the
27 middle one, and I was awake and there's another guy next to our, I'll not mention the name
28 but another guy, boy, next to me, he was awake and McGrath come in at night and shone
29 the torch, the others must have been asleep except for two of us, McGrath come in and told
30 the other guy to go to sleep and McGrath called me out of bed, oh--- sorry, Moloney called
31 me out of bed and took me to his dorm way over near the other side where one or two other
32 Brothers lived and then he took me to his room and had sexual intercourse up the bum, had
33 to suck his penis, everything, come in my mouth and he come in my arse, I was bleeding
34 and then he, -- there was a towel, I remember this, there was a towel there like St John of

1 God towel whatever it was, there was a towel like from the hospital, that was on a chair and
2 he told me this, I remember the exact words, "You stay there, I'm going to the bathroom."
3 And he come back with a damp towel to wipe up my, --to wipe up the blood coming from
4 my backside and then he rubbed the towel with the blood my face, and then really hard and
5 then he got the other towel, the dirty one with the blood and that on it, and he got a dry one,
6 wiped my face with it, and he says "You tell anyone I'll really damage you completely."

7 So that's what he done. And as we're going out of the Brothers', -his room there's
8 another Brother who lived there, and the other Brother might have been going to the toilet, I
9 don't know, and Moloney grabbed me and pulled me back as soon as he saw the other
10 Brother. Because there was tears and that rolling down my eyes, he pulled me back into his
11 room until the other Brother went and then took me back to the dorm. And he must have
12 noticed there was blood coming out of my arse, so he got a whole lot of paper and rammed
13 it up my backside to stop the bleeding -and -it's- not the only time it happened.

14 **Q.** How many times do you think that kind of abuse happened?

15 **A.** It happened lots of times, yeah, the day I left.

16 **Q.** The day you left when you were 17, the day you left school altogether?

17 **A.** The day I left school. I remember the very last night I was there, both of them done it to
18 me, McGrath, Moloney bashed me. They put their penis, -one first, it was Brother
19 McGrath put his penis up my arse, he came in my arse, and then it was Moloney's turn, he
20 done the same thing. And then I didn't stop crying, so McGrath gave me a real bashing and
21 shut me in the wardrobe, this was in the sewing machine(sic), shut me in the wardrobe, he
22 told me to shut up or I'd get another hiding and another one. And left me there for, I don't
23 know, could be, roughly, about a few hours or whatever. I (inaudible) I was squeezed up in
24 the wardrobe really small, crying and I was still sniffing and that and as soon as they
25 opened the wardrobe I had my hand up to protect myself from being hit again and they
26 said- "No one will ever going to believe what happened here, no one, no one will ever
27 believe you." That's what happened, that's the truth, I swear on- my heart that's the truth.

28 **Q.** Was that on that last night?

29 **A.** That was that last night. I couldn't sleep, I had a bleeding arse.

30 **Q.** Had there been any other time when Brothers Moloney and McGrath sexually abused you
31 at the same time?

32 **A.** Yes, there's quite a few, in the church at the back wearing gowns where you put on the
33 black thing. I don't know what it's called some building when you walk out of the church
34 out the back where they put on the black robe or whatever you call it. It's happened there

1 quite a number of times. But the mainly time was in the sewing room where they can shut
2 me up and no one will know. I told Brother Sebastian about it, yeah.

3 **Q.** Did you, -how old do you think you were when it first happened that it was both of them-
4 together?

5 **A.** I think when I was about, about maybe 12, 13, around about there, can't be exact, but
6 roughly around about there, roughly, I can't...--

7 **Q.** Without mentioning names, did you ever see sexual abuse happening to other boys?

8 **A.** Yes, a lot. I won't mention names. I won't mention names. I know who the boys are, but
9 I won't mention names. That happened quite a lot there.

10 **Q.** You've also talked about abuse that the Brothers would make you do on each other with the
11 boys, do you want to talk about that?

12 **A.** Yeah. We had dorms and that and we each had so far apart our beds in each dorm, so many
13 in each dorm, and we had to do it on other boys. I had to do it on other boys and other boys
14 would have to do it on me. And if we didn't do it we'd get a hiding, such a hiding. We
15 didn't go there to learn. We got learned to be abused, it's taken me all my life to wake up,
16 to get it out.

17 **Q.** Do you recall in the months before you went to leave Marylands --

18 **A.** A month.

19 **Q.** In the months before.

20 **A.** Yeah.

21 **Q.** You talked about threats that the Brothers made if you told anyone.

22 **A.** Yes.

23 **Q.** As it was coming time for you to leave the school permanently when you were 17...--

24 **A.** Yes.

25 **Q.** ---...were there any threats made, specific threats made by Brothers McGrath, Moloney that
26 time?

27 **A.** Yes, there was.

28 **Q.** What did they say to you?

29 **A.** They said that "We'll get you, we'll find out where you are, we know you're from Dunedin,
30 we'll get you, we'll bash the shit out of you." That's the exact words.

31 **Q.** And how did you take that, did you take that seriously?

32 **A.** Yeah. Everything was drummed into my head right from the start. I'm not the only one,
33 other boys as well, drummed into their head, "No one will believe you."

34 **Q.** You know you said a moment ago that you weren't there for school, that you felt you were

1 there for abuse, can you tell us anything you remember about schooling at Marylands?

2 A. I tried to learn but it was so frustrating for me. I couldn't write, couldn't spell, couldn't read,
3 I didn't get there to learn, I got there to be abused, physically and mentally and it's killing
4 me. I get flashbacks from all this.

5 Q. Okay. Let's talk about that in a minute. But I know you talked about telling the social
6 worker when you were at the school.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Did you feel like you could tell any of the teachers, any of the teachers who weren't
9 Brothers?

10 A. It was so hard, I might have told one, I can't remember.

11 Q. What about Brother Sebastian who was good to you, were you ever able to talk to him
12 about what happened?

13 A. I told Brother Sebastian what was happening.

14 Q. And what happened after you told him?

15 A. He must have told Brother McGrath and Brother McGrath must have found out through
16 him and I got such a hiding, beaten severely.

17 Q. Who from?

18 A. Brother McGrath.

19 Q. Did Brother Sebastian ever offer you any kind of help?

20 A. I can't remember, I can't be sure, might of, I can't...--(inaudible).

21 Q. Do you want a break?

22 CHAIR: Yes, we'd be very happy for you to take a break. You just let us know when you're
23 ready to come back, so we will just take a few moments and you tell us when you're ready.

24 MS TOOHEY: Thank you.

25 CHAIR: We'll just take a short adjournment.

26 **Adjournment from 12.25 pm to 12.36 pm**

27 CHAIR: Hello Mr DG, we've come back again. Are you okay?

28 A. Not really.

29 Q. No, I understand that. Are you sure you want to carry on?

30 A. Yeah. I want people to know the truth.

31 Q. Thank you for that. You're being very brave and we really respect the courage that it's
32 taking you to tell us this, so thank you very much and I'll just leave with Anne to carry on
33 asking you questions.

34 QUESTIONING BY MS TOOHEY CONTINUED: Thank you Madam Chair. Mr DG, do you

1 remember talking to the Police in 2002 and 2003 about what had happened at Marylands?

2 A. Yes, in Dunedin, with a psychiatrist.

3 Q. And talking to the Police about it?

4 A. Yes, I know their names, but I won't give it to them.

5 Q. No. And do you recall that you, with the Police, you got the chance to look at some
6 photographs, some old photos of Marylands and the Brothers and the students and you were
7 able to point people out to the Police?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And also you were able to point out the places at Marylands where the abuse had
10 happened?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And I think later you gave evidence for the prosecution against Brother McGrath when he
13 was tried in Christchurch, is that right?

14 A. Yes, it was heart-breaking, almost killed me.

15 Q. What was difficult about giving evidence for you?

16 A. That no-one would believe me and still don't today, what happened to me.

17 Q. Do you want to tell the Commissioners about the flashbacks that you've had since the time
18 you left Marylands and what that's like for you?

19 A. It's been so hard, I get flashbacks very badly, some are very small, some are really medium
20 and the big ones are really painful. It's like -- it's like a washing machine when it's on spin.

21 Q. And when they happen?

22 A. Fast.

23 Q. When it's on spin fast, okay. All right. Have you been diagnosed with PTSD as a result of
24 this abuse?

25 A. Yes.

26 Q. At the moment are you able to access any help with this, any counselling from an ACC
27 counsellor or anybody?

28 A. I used to have one three years ago, but she had surgery twice, I see her now and again, she
29 comes and sees me and she's trying to get it but there's no-one there. It's a joke, the
30 Government's a joke. They always have been to me. A failure, a real failure.

31 Q. So you haven't been able to find a counsellor who will be ACC-funded in the last three
32 years?

33 A. No.

34 Q. And Mr DG, when you have these flashbacks, and I don't want to talk about it if you don't

- 1 want to, but what's the longest kind of time that they last for?
- 2 A. Lasts up to five or six hours and they're heavy.
- 3 Q. And --
- 4 A. It's like a washing machine when it's on spin, it goes and I've got to sit there, I can't do
5 anything, get frustrated, I can't do anything.
- 6 Q. And do you have any warning when these are going to happen?
- 7 A. Yeah, sometimes, I - sometimes -I start it and it's like when it spins, it... --
- 8 Q. Speeds up?
- 9 A. Yeah.
- 10 Q. And just so the Commissioners understand what that's like for you, are the flashbacks you
11 seeing, remembering what happened to you when you were being abused?
- 12 A. Yes, definitely.
- 13 Q. Okay.
- 14 A. I've had them all my life.
- 15 Q. You've worked for yourself doing --
- 16 A. I don't do much, I have problems.
- 17 Q. And when these flashbacks happen, can you keep working or what happens?
- 18 A. I've got to stop, that's why they kill me, I've got to stop until they disappear.
- 19 Q. What kind of impact does that have on your ability to earn money and work?
- 20 A. Hard, but I've got a claim, because the State don't give a shit about me. Never have, never
21 will. I get a letter from them or if I think it's from there, I open it up and it's from them,
22 I chuck it in the bin. If it's from them I put back to sender, because they talk a load of shit,
23 they may as well use it for toilet paper to wipe their arse with because that's all it's good for.
24 That's my point of view, I don't think about everyone else.
- 25 Q. Have you been able to have a relationship, like a kind of a partner or a relationship like that
26 in your life?
- 27 A. I've been, --yes, I've been married but it didn't last long.
- 28 Q. Was it about a year and a half?
- 29 A. About that, maybe less, maybe that roughly, maybe less.
- 30 Q. And why do you think that?
- 31 A. I got pushed into it.
- 32 Q. Why do you think that it didn't work and the other relationships haven't?
- 33 A. Because what happened to me when I was young.
- 34 Q. Because of the abuse?

- 1 A. Yeah.
- 2 Q. What has that meant for you in terms of having relationships?
- 3 A. Hard, struggle.
- 4 Q. Have you ever had any children Mr DG?
- 5 A. No, I can't.
- 6 Q. Do you mean you can't because you've chosen not to, because of what?
- 7 A. It's because what happened to me in my life when I was young, physically, mentally.
- 8 Q. Now how do you feel about not having had children?
- 9 A. Heart-breaking. Some people are lucky eh, some people lucky. I'm not.
- 10 Q. What do you think would have happened if you hadn't gone to Marylands, if you hadn't
11 suffered the abuse there?
- 12 A. I wouldn't be in the state I am today and most of my life, because as you get older it's
13 killing me.
- 14 Q. How do you feel now about what happened to you at Marylands and before in the foster
15 homes?
- 16 A. I feel crap. I feel rubbish. I feel like my life's not worth living. I've almost committed
17 suicide once or twice, GRO-C. And one day it will happen because I can see the
18 strain that I face.
- 19 Q. How often do you feel that you're under this strain?
- 20 A. A lot, it's always in my head. It's hard to talk about it to people. Very hard. Even some
21 (inaudible), like family, I don't like to talk about it. They know, they know what happened
22 to me. They're gutted, they're frustrated, the Government, they don't give a shit about
23 people like me.
- 24 Q. Did you get into some trouble with some criminal convictions back between 1980 and
25 2003?
- 26 A. Yes, I'm not going to deny it, I'm very, extremely remorseful for what I've done, it eats me
27 inside all the time. I've hurt people like that and one day it's going to kill me.
- 28 Q. You didn't go to prison as a result of these things. How much of the, --what do you think
29 was the reason for you committing some offences?
- 30 A. The way I was treated when I was young in my life, what happened to me. I regret what
31 I've done, I'm extremely remorseful. It's always in my head.
- 32 Q. All these impacts that you've talked about that the abuse has had on you, do you think that
33 there's anything that can be done to make it better, for you in your life?

- 1 A. I haven't got a wife.
- 2 Q. No, in your life.
- 3 A. Oh yeah, help, but where is it? I was promised that, I was promised I'd get help for the rest
4 of my life by a psychiatrist -- psychologist.
- 5 Q. Who promised that to you?
- 6 A. ACC.
- 7 Q. I want to talk to you now about what happened with St John of God from about 2002 when
8 this all came to light. Do you remember talking to Brother Burke in Dunedin?
- 9 A. That idiot. That idiot?
- 10 Q. Did you talk to him about what had happened at Marylands?
- 11 A. Yeah.
- 12 Q. Okay, and did he advise you to make a complaint to the Police?
- 13 A. No, a psychologist in Dunedin mentioned it first, before, yes, before he did.
- 14 Q. Did you receive any money from St John of God for the abuse that happened?
- 15 A. Yeah, (inaudible). What, to wipe my arse with?
- 16 Q. Right.
- 17 A. To wipe my arse with? That piece of shit. Excuse my French, but they are.
- 18 Q. Do you remember how much you got?
- 19 A. No.
- 20 Q. I think in your statement you've said it was about 300,000?
- 21 A. No, no, I don't know, I can't -- I don't know.
- 22 Q. Have you gone to the Ministry of Social Development to make a claim to the historic
23 claims about the abuse that you suffered?
- 24 A. I was told to, and I did.
- 25 Q. How long ago was that do you remember, just roughly?
- 26 A. About 17 months ago.
- 27 Q. What's happening with that claim?
- 28 A. It's like every Government department, it's better talking to a brick wall, you get a better
29 answer. Because I wasn't in State care, only went to Marylands.
- 30 Q. What about the foster care?
- 31 A. I told them that, they said no, you only went to Marylands.
- 32 Q. When was the last time you heard from MSD?
- 33 A. 17, about 17 months ago rough, yeah, longer.
- 34 Q. Do you know what's happening with that claim or not?

1 A. No.

2 Q. I want to talk to you now about looking forward, what you want to say to the
3 Commissioners about what you think needs to happen. Do you want to talk about that?

4 A. Help, need help, mentally help, psychologically help, psychologist.

5 Q. What about... --

6 A. Knowing that it's going to be another failure, like it always has been in my life, like other
7 people have gone through.

8 Q. What about for children now who might be going into care, do you have anything that you
9 would like to recommend would happen for other children in future?

10 A. I'd say don't send your kids into any Government department, foster care. I don't want, -to
11 be honest I don't want them to be ended up like me and other boys while we were at-
12 Marylands. Just don't trust them if they're Government care, they're a load of rubbish. They
13 wouldn't believe you anyway, so you're wasting your time. Just protect your kids.

14 Q. What about your experiences when you were -- when you tried to report the abuse to the
15 social worker and Brother Sebastian and others, do you have anything you want to say
16 about how children, how complaints should be handled for children who might be in care
17 now?

18 A. They've got to be open and honest and reported.

19 Q. How do you think they should be handled if they are reported?

20 A. There should be more than one person going to see, one person, should be a couple, like
21 two people instead of just one, and it should be recorded, to be honest, like a phone and it's
22 got to be, --and it's got to go to the management and the management deals with it there,
23 something like that, recorded what's happening instead of just talk, mouth, like what
24 happened to me.

25 Q. Is there anything else, Mr DG, that you want to tell the Commissioners before I ask them if
26 they have any questions for you?

27 A. Is the Government going to listen or are they going to talk a load of rubbish like they have
28 for years? Like Social Welfare. And it's put me through hell, trauma, anxiety, flashbacks,
29 my mental state. I don't want anyone to go through like I've been, hell and back. It's hard
30 to trust people. You're scarred for life like I have, and I don't want to see any young
31 people, kids going through like I've been through, that's all.

32 Q. Thank you. Commissioners, do you have any questions for Mr DG?

33 **CHAIR:** No, I'll just check. Yes, Commissioner Alofivae would like to ask you a question.

34 **COMMISSIONER ALOFIVAE:** Mr DG, I'm just in awe of your courage to want to keep giving

1 evidence in spite of your very, very visible pain. Thank you very, very much.

2 Can I just ask you a couple of questions if I can. You referred to a locked room, a
3 cupboard and a wardrobe as part of the punishment where the Brothers would put you.

4 Were these special rooms, were they like time-out rooms do you remember or were they
5 just any room?

6 A. School, sorry, I forgot to mention it to be honest, it was a sewing room.

7 Q. A sewing room?

8 A. Just where they sew, sew clothes. There used to be cupboards there on the lefthand side as
9 you walk in the door. -And they always kept one, -they alw-ays kept one empty, like
10 nothing in there so they can shut the door and turn it so you can't get out. They call it the
11 sewing room, madam.

12 Q. And do you recall, was it the same room every time that they would use to put you in, the
13 sewing room, or were they different rooms?

14 A. Different rooms.

15 Q. And you mentioned that actually it was DSW that placed you there. Did they provide you
16 with clothes the whole time you were there over those years? Did they buy you clothes?

17 A. Not many.

18 Q. Not many?

19 A. No, hardly any.

20 Q. So what happened then when you would grow out of your clothes, who would provide
21 those?

22 A. Oh Brothers, I don't know where they come from, Brothers used to give them to me.

23 Q. Were they brand new clothes or second-hand clothes?

24 A. It was like some were already worn as far as I know.

25 Q. And you also mentioned that you're always in a lot of pain and there was never any medical
26 treatment for you. What about... --

27 A. No medical records.

28 Q. What about your oral hygiene, were they taking you to the dentist regularly, as they're
29 supposed to in schools?

30 A. Are you joking me? No, none of that, no health, no health, no hospital. They dealt with
31 people in the first aid room, there's a first aid room there.

32 Q. And you also... --

33 A. That was called (inaudible) room, and there's no, -I've been- trying to,- I even pushed the
34 Police a long time ago-, where's the medical records? Where are they? I kept on asking,

1 where are they? None.

2 **Q.** Yeah. And in the holidays they wouldn't send you home, were you asking to go home to
3 visit your mother?

4 **A.** I wanted to go, I wanted to go home, but I only seen them, --they put me somewhere else.
5 It's heart-breaking when I look back, but what can I do?

6 **Q.** Yeah. And was your family ever allowed to visit you at the school, did you ever have any
7 visits with them actually at the school?

8 **A.** No, not for, --my father might have, -my father might have come in I think once, I'm not
9 quite sure, I think so, but I can't r-eally, -I can't really remember that, he might of but I
10 can't, over that period of time-.

11 **Q.** Okay. And you'd already mentioned that the social worker only ever visited you a couple
12 of times, is that over the whole six years that you were there?

13 **A.** Yes. Yes.

14 **Q.** Thank you Mr DG, thank you very much for your brutal honesty, much appreciated.

15 **CHAIR:** Mr DG just a little more from me if you don't mind. It's quite plain to everybody who's
16 listening and watching the pain that you're in. I want to know are you currently receiving
17 any counselling, any psychological help at all?

18 **A.** To be honest no, it's a joke. It's a joke. I've got to do it all myself, there's no one, no.

19 **Q.** Yeah, when was the last time you received some assistance?

20 **A.** Three years, three years ago when my psychologist had health issues, had to have an
21 operation and she might come right but she didn't come right, and she was trying her best to
22 get me someone and she couldn't get anyone. She was gutted. The system's another failure
23 to me.

24 **Q.** Yeah.

25 **A.** The Government don't give a shit about me, I've had that all my life. **GRO-B**'s gutted too,
26 she was,- to be honest she even swore about the system again,- again. I said to her, -I said
27 to her you're wasting your time,- it's happened to me all my life.

28 **Q.** And just on the ACC issue, did you ever get any payment from ACC?

29 **A.** I can't recall, I can't remember.

30 **Q.** No, okay. And finally on...--

31 **A.** They're a joke as well to be honest, they're a joke as well.

32 **Q.** Yeah, okay.

33 **A.** They're a joke.

1 **Q.** I want to be quite clear that are you getting some assistance to help you through this
2 process? Have you been speaking to some people to help you with your well-being while
3 you've been doing this?

4 **A.** Yes, they're honestly been remarkable, he's an ex-detective, he's been really helping me,
5 that I know for a long time, who I can trust.

6 **Q.** Good.

7 **A.** His name's Earle and another I talk to is a guy up in Auckland who rings me and talks to
8 me.

9 **Q.** Good, and does it help you?

10 **A.** A detective, yeah, they know what I've been through.

11 **Q.** Good, good.

12 **A.** Especially one down here, he knows my life, he knows what's happened to me.

13 **Q.** Yes.

14 **A.** Anne.

15 **Q.** Anne?

16 **A.** Yeah, Anne, yeah. She knows what I've been through, it's appalling.

17 **Q.** It's completely appalling.

18 **A.** But if everything had been done, that's the problem (inaudible) life.

19 **Q.** Okay, and I truly understand why you wouldn't want to trust anybody at all, but what I want
20 to make sure is that you are taking help that we can offer you through the Commission to
21 help you through this process, it's very important to us that we don't add to the harm that
22 you've already suffered. I just want you to know that, all right?

23 **A.** Yeah, this is killing, this is killing me.

24 **Q.** Yes, I know. So I'm not going to prolong this process, because it's so painful. But I just
25 want to say some important things to you and I hope -you mightn't believe them but I want
26 you to listen to them carefully. We do care. We do believe you. And I want you to know
27 that you are valued. -You are valued for your..--

28 **A.** Why?

29 **Q.** You are, you are valued for your courage, and I want you to know this too; you said you
30 didn't think your voice was recorded in the past and it probably wasn't, but let me tell you
31 now it is being recorded now and it is part of our important record of the abuse that you and
32 others suffered at Marylands and it's a very vital and important part of the
33 recommendations that we are going to make. So please know that everything you've said,
34 the sacrifices, the pain that it's taken you to speak to us today is worth it. And incredibly

1 important, we cannot do our job unless brave people like you speak to us, so please know
2 how much we care for you and how much we value the evidence and the account that
3 you've given us.

4 A. You're the probably first time I heard that in my life to be honest, because I haven't had it.

5 **Q.** Well, I hope you believe me. You mightn't believe me now but please think about that,
6 because everything I say I mean sincerely. So you're an important part of the work we're
7 doing so that we can change the future lives of children, lives of future children, so that
8 they don't have to go through what you've gone through.

9 A. I really hope.

10 **Q.** So I just want to end by thanking you sincerely, and I want you to go away now and take
11 whatever well-being support and assistance you can get to make you feel a bit better. So
12 many thanks indeed for your work and your effort today. Goodbye.

13 A. Thanks, thank you.

14 **MS ANDERSON:** Thank you Madam Chair, adjournment until 2.15.

15 **CHAIR:** 2.15 it is, thank you.

16