

**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

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

1 **CHAIR:** We're going to end now, our proceedings for the day now – we're not, we're going to
2 have a little movie, aren't we? Off you go, have a cup of tea or whatever you need.

3 **MS ANDERSON:** Madam Chair, just to check how you wish to proceed given the hour, and of
4 course the stenographers and the signers. The next pre-recorded witness has been on stand-
5 by to watch it at this time, so it may be preferable if we could proceed, it is a significant
6 indulgence, but it's a 15-minute video.

7 **CHAIR:** I think – well, first of all, do the signers, I suppose the signers need to – are you all
8 right? **[Affirmative]** You never say no, do you. For that we're very grateful. And for you
9 at least it's recorded so that you can go back and check later. So no, I think we should do
10 that, because we don't want her waiting any longer.

11 **MS ANDERSON:** Look I appreciate that, Madam Chair. Yes, it will take us a little later sitting
12 than normal.

13 **CHAIR:** That's fine.

14 **MS ANDERSON:** But I think it will help us keep on track for next week.

15 **CHAIR:** No, no I think it's really important that our survivors get the chance to speak than
16 anybody else.

17 **MS ANDERSON:** This person is a person who worked at the school, so her evidence is relevant
18 to a lot of the contextual --

19 **CHAIR:** Yes.

20 **MS ANDERSON:** -- matters you've been exploring with some of the survivors who have also
21 spoken to that directly.

22 **CHAIR:** We're looking forward to that, so yes please.

23 **MS ANDERSON:** I'll hand it over to the technical side that will bring up, thank you very much.

24 **CHAIR:** Just for the audience, this witness will not be – her face will not be shown.

25 **[Video played of Ms AM's statement]**

26 **MS ANDERSON:** Madam Chair, that concludes the evidence for the day.

27 **CHAIR:** I think we'll just – Commissioner- Alofivae will thank the witness if she's watching and
28 if she's not she can see it later.

29 **MS ANDERSON:** Yes, she is watching (inaudible).

30 **CHAIR:** Excellent.

31 **COMMISSIONER ALOFIVAE:** Ms. AM, I am so grateful that you've waited until the end of
32 the day so that we can thank you in person. Thank you for the courage, because it could
33 not have been easy for you, you were so young back then. But what you've come forward
34 with in your evidence is so critically vital and important to our investigation, to our Hearing

1 that's going on right now. We could hear the passion and actually the love in your heart for
2 the five boys in particular that you were like a big sister to, and clearly, they felt that that
3 was reciprocated because they're still in contact with you today.

4 Take heart in knowing that actually you made a very, very big difference in their
5 life, and I say that with strength because of the context of the evidence that you've shared.
6 So once again, on behalf of the Commission, on behalf of our Chair, can we just thank you
7 with much gratitude and sincerity for coming forward, for helping us in our work. Malie.

8 **CHAIR:** Thank you. We will close the proceedings with a karakia, much needed karakia might
9 I say, so thank you. If we could all just stand thank you.

10 **[Karakia mutunga by Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei]**

11 **Hearing adjourned at 5.35 pm to Monday, 14 February 2022 at 9.45 am**