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MS B

EXAMINED BY MS MULLORD

CHAIR: Good afternoon, Ms Janes.

MS JANES: Good afternoon, Commissioners. Our next witness is Ms B and she will be led by Ms Mullord. If we could perhaps have the affirmation.

CHAIR: Good afternoon, Ms Mullord, welcome to the Commission.

MS MULLORD: Good afternoon.

CHAIR: We're going to call you Ms B or Mrs B, how would you like to be referred to?

A. Ms B.

CHAIR: Then, Ms B, just the affirmation before we start. (Witness affirmed). Just before we start, just to let you know, Ms B, we have your full brief of evidence here and all the exhibits and we have read them carefully already, so you are just going to add the human voice to it but just to let you know that we are already very familiar with your story.

A. It's not a story, please.

CHAIR: I beg your pardon.

A. It is a testimony.

CHAIR: I really apologise for that. I have not said story all week and I have suddenly said the wrong word and I really apologise for that. I prefer to call it your account.

A. It is a testimony. I am bearing witness and The Salvation Army know what that means.

CHAIR: Indeed, it is a very significant word, I understand that. I am sorry again for that.

A. That's okay.

CHAIR: Let's get started with your evidence, thank you.

1 **MS MULLORD:**

2 Q. Ms B, you're joined in your seat by your two support
3 people?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Would you like to introduce your support people?

6 A. Yes, on my right is Dr Murray Heasley and on my left is
7 Liz, I don't know her surname but I've known her for two
8 years.

9 **CHAIR:** We know them.

10 A. Liz Tonks.

11 **CHAIR:** We know them both well.

12 A. Yes, I thought you might.

13 **MS MULLORD:**

14 Q. Thank you. Ms B, as we've spoken about before and today,
15 if at any stage you would like to take a break, please just
16 let me or one of your support people know and we can take
17 5 minutes, 10 minutes, 15 minutes, however much time you
18 want.

19 Before we begin your evidence, I understand you would
20 like to briefly address the Commissioners on the reasons
21 why you want to be here today?

22 A. Yes. Why I'm here today is to represent thousands of
23 little girls like me who suffered egregious, brutal, savage
24 abuse in all its five forms, not just sexual, physical,
25 psychological, emotional, verbal, and all the time the
26 government was unwittingly paying them to abuse us. Okay?
27 And I'm representing thousands of little girls behind me.
28 I want you to be aware of that. And it also gives me in
29 recommendations to you some control how we're going to
30 sculpt that this never happens again.

31 There were two points raised by the SA, one was
32 holocaust. I have referred to holocaust. They objected to
33 that. What I'd like to say, if it is perfectly all right
34 for Tariana Turia to say that the Māori experience was a
35 holocaust, I think it's perfectly all right for me to say

1 that, of what people experienced at the hands of The
2 Salvation Army.

3 It won't offend Jews because they have their own word
4 for it, it's called the Shoah. Okay? I did refer to the
5 holocaust and they picked that up. No.

6 Q. Thank you, Ms B, and you are also, as I understand it, your
7 intention is you have a wish to speak for the members of
8 the SAAS group, what does SAAS stand for?

9 A. Yes, the SAAS group. We got together, this is when it
10 really sort of gained momentum, thanks to Jan Lowe, hello
11 Jan. We had this meeting, this is how this all happened,
12 this is why I'm here today, it's mainly down to Jan who
13 worked tirelessly and brought us together.

14 **CHAIR:** Ms B, we have a stenographer who is typing up every
15 word.

16 A. Am I going too fast for you?

17 **CHAIR:** She is a miracle worker, but just needs you to take
18 a breath occasionally.

19 A. Okay. We're getting round to SAAS.

20 **MS MULLORD:**

21 Q. Perhaps if you could tell us what SAAS stands for?

22 A. Well, yes, with the group, we were thinking of a name for
23 the group and, of course, the word that came up Salvation
24 Army Abuse Survivors, no, no, Salvation Army Victims, okay?
25 Abuse victims. I thought, no, we're not, somehow we've
26 survived. And then I realised, when I realised that, the
27 abbreviation SAS, now, I'm sure you would, people of a
28 certain generation, I burst out laughing because that was
29 short for saveloys which was this horrible concoction of
30 meat one hoped in sort of those red skins that made up,
31 they were a form of sausage, okay? So, I burst out
32 laughing and then I said, no, no, no, we can't have that.
33 So, I thought, why not SAAS because that was like the
34 Coronavirus and that fitted in well with The Salvation
35 Army, they were a virus, we thought, and it stood for

1 Salvation Army Abuse Survivors and that's how we got to be
2 SAAS.

3 Q. Thank you, Ms B. Now, it just occurred to me, I don't
4 think we've had you sworn in?

5 A. Yes, we have.

6 **CHAIR:** Yes, we've had the affirmation.

7 **MS MULLORD:** My apologies.

8 Q. Ms B, can you confirm you provided a written statement to
9 this Commission dated 21 October 2020?

10 A. Yes, I have it here.

11 Q. You do have that with you. Do you confirm to the best of
12 your knowledge that statement is true and correct?

13 A. Yes, yes.

14 Q. Thank you. And you were in the care of The Salvation Army
15 from the age of 7 to 13, is that correct?

16 A. (Shakes head). Care?

17 Q. What is not correct about that, Ms B? Can you explain your
18 thoughts about the use of the word "care".

19 A. Yes, there was no care. They were paid to care for us,
20 there was no care, no love, no warmth. The money the
21 government paid did not go, we didn't see it, we didn't
22 have things like toothbrushes or toothpaste. The only
23 dental care we had was a saucer with salt and they cheated
24 on the food.

25 Q. Ms B, we'll get to that.

26 A. Yeah. So, the word, yes, it wasn't care.

27 Q. It wasn't care?

28 A. No, the government effectively was paying The Salvation
29 Army because we were economic units, they were paying per
30 child. My mother was paying \$2 a week and nothing was
31 reflective, there was no care, no love, no comfort, there
32 was nothing.

33 Q. Let's get to how you came to be placed, you were placed at
34 The Grange?

1 A. Yes, that was the sort of show piece. That was, like you
2 have a show home, people go and visit.

3 Q. Where was that?

4 A. That was in Clifton Road in Herne Bay.

5 Q. And you've described it as a beautiful grand old villa?

6 A. Yes, it was gifted to The Salvation Army, I think it was
7 1903 by the Caughey family, of Smith & Caugheys. Their
8 physical building, village and farms were given to The
9 Salvation Army. They in no way had to pay for them. And
10 then on top of that, we had to do all the work, we had to
11 do all the cleaning, polishing floors and things like that.
12 It was effectively child labour.

13 Q. Okay. I'll bring you to talk more about that shortly. How
14 many children were living at The Grange?

15 A. There was between 31 and 33.

16 Q. And were they all girls or were there boys as well?

17 A. All girls.

18 Q. Do you know what the age range was?

19 A. Some of them had come from The Nest which was 0 to 5 and
20 then they farmed them out to the various orphanages, yes,
21 which they had from Whangarei to Dunedin.

22 Q. And you've given evidence that you believe there were about
23 13 orphanages around New Zealand, is that right?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Okay, thank you. So, were the children at the orphanage
26 orphans?

27 A. A lot of them weren't, no. Like, I had my mother and some
28 of them had fathers and obviously the mother had died or
29 something like that or because of circumstances, the men,
30 it wasn't the role then for the men, they had to go out and
31 work, you see. Like, my mother had to go out and work too
32 but, you know, suddenly they're landed with these young
33 children and they can't provide for them. So, a lot of
34 them had one parent. Some of them had no parents. I
35 think, like me, those who had no parents suffered too

1 because more or less they could do what they liked with
2 them.

3 Q. Okay. You had one parent, a mother?

4 A. (Nods).

5 Q. And you've provided as one of your exhibits to your
6 statement a copy of the contract that your mother signed?

7 A. Yes, I didn't realise, that really sort of took me back.

8 Q. If we could just refer to Exhibit 5, please?

9 A. Is it coming up.

10 Q. You've got that in front of you, Ms B?

11 A. Okay.

12 Q. Ms B, could you read out the title of this contract?

13 A. "As manager of the Auckland girls' home controlled by The
14 Salvation Army".

15 Q. And then it's an "agreement as to control and maintenance"?

16 A. "Control and maintenance", "to control and maintenance",
17 those words aren't associated in no shape or form with
18 care.

19 Q. If you go to the next page of that document?

20 A. Okay.

21 Q. The paragraph numbered (1)?

22 A. "The said child shall forthwith be placed under the
23 control", not the care "of the manager and shall so remain
24 (subject as hereinafter provided) under such control until
25 the said child attains the age of 17 years." Okay?
26 "Placed by the manager in the home or in such other
27 children's home controlled", it's all about control,
28 there's nothing about care here and they were being paid to
29 care for me.

30 Q. So, when you mentioned sums being paid to The Salvation
31 Army to care for you, what sums are those that you're
32 referring to?

33 A. They were paid per child and when we were looking through
34 the document there, they seemed to apply every December for
35 funds from the government. I know my mother was paying 2

1 pounds per week and they were getting money per child, so
2 there's 33 children in there. The staff, they worked in
3 the kitchen or they worked in the laundry. We did all the
4 work there, you know, polishing floors and scrubbing floors
5 and stuff like that.

6 Q. In terms of the payments that were received for your keep
7 by The Salvation Army, your evidence is your mother was
8 paying about 2 pounds a week?

9 A. Yeah, to Salvation Army, and they also got, my mother had
10 to sign over the family benefit.

11 Q. How much was that?

12 A. That could have been, I'm not sure 3 pounds, something like
13 that. That was a lot of money in those days. That could
14 buy you a decent winter coat or shoes but it didn't. It
15 was all channelled down to Aro Street to their
16 headquarters.

17 Q. You mother made payments to the headquarters?

18 A. No, when we found out where the money was being channelled
19 to because my mother got ill sometimes and fell behind in
20 the payments and they harried and harassed her. I've got
21 letters from the Brigadier about paying, catching up with
22 the payments. So, it was all going to their headquarters.
23 We've got the information there. I kept every bit of
24 paper.

25 Q. So, in terms of the payments, you have a concern about the
26 amounts that were paid for your care and the care you
27 received; is that correct?

28 A. Well, there's a vast discrepancy between the Army was
29 receiving and what was reflected. It wasn't reflected in
30 our care, in the food, we had this sort of uniform, the
31 clothes. My mother used to buy shoes. There was a
32 dressmaker in the same boarding house as she was, she used
33 to make up my dresses and things like that for me. The
34 Salvation Army didn't provide for my care or maintenance in
35 any shape or form.

1 Q. If I could take you to what was provided. Did The
2 Salvation Army provide you with clothing?

3 A. We had some, these little sort of print dresses with
4 collars but mostly my mother provided my clothes.

5 Q. Did they provide you with underwear or bras?

6 A. Oh certainly not bras, no, no. I got my first bra when I
7 was 12 and yet I was well developed by the age of 10 or 11.

8 Q. Did they provide you with sanitary supplies that young
9 girls might need?

10 A. No, no. We had to - we had rags, if we were lucky, or
11 toilet paper. No, no, there was nothing provided like that
12 in any shape or form.

13 Q. Were you ever taken to visit a doctor or a dentist in that
14 6 and a half years?

15 A. No, no, never. I never saw a doctor. The only time I saw
16 a doctor was when I had a haemorrhage of the nose and we
17 went across the road.

18 Q. Who took you?

19 A. My mother did. Okay? So, we came back, I was feeling
20 unwell, and she was going to, I remember she was giving me
21 a bottle of coke which was a real treat in those days, she
22 said, do you want a drink, sat up the drink and she
23 couldn't stop it. So, in those days, the doctor was just
24 across the road and it was Anand Satyanand's father,
25 Dr Satyanand. I remember there was blood everywhere and
26 bless him, he had yards and yards of gauze and had scissors
27 and was packing and packing and put something over. And
28 then that was the day I managed to go out. We went to the
29 Easter Show. And she rang up to say that I was - he said
30 Dr Satyanand said I was to be kept quiet and not to be
31 proved in case the blood came out of my nose. And she rang
32 and informed Harris, who wasn't too pleased. And then she
33 took me back and then Mum took me back on the Sunday
34 afternoon, still with these things here, and when she left
35 Harris took me into the office and she beat the crap out of

1 me. I had my nose stuffed up, I couldn't breathe, I was
2 choking, and I was terrified that the plug would come out
3 and my nose would start bleeding again and she was saying
4 to me that I was an evil little girl and I'd just done this
5 to get out of going to Church on that Sunday.

6 Now, that was the only visit I had. The dentist, it
7 only occurred when the last year when we were out in
8 Remuera and when I went to the dentist, well I think she
9 had to - we had to go to the dentist. He had a field day,
10 he filled up my teeth with amalgam and stuff like that.
11 Maybe I needed it, I don't know but I came away with most
12 of my teeth with fillings because -

13 Q. I think you've already said that you didn't have a
14 toothbrush?

15 A. No, no, no toothbrush, no, we didn't.

16 Q. Thank you. So, Ms B, you entered The Grange as a 7-year-
17 old girl?

18 A. Yep.

19 Q. And while you were at The Grange, you've given testimony
20 that you were quite badly abused by a person at The Grange?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. Are you able to say who that person was?

23 A. Maisie Harris.

24 Q. What was her role there?

25 A. Her name was, they used these funny little Army titles,
26 Major Harris or Matron.

27 Q. And your evidence is that she was your sole abuser at The
28 Grange?

29 A. Yes.

30 Q. Did any staff intervene?

31 A. God no, they were all, as Houston asked, he said, he tried
32 to lead me, these women were all single women, meaning they
33 were frustrated and they took it out on, you know they were
34 single women and that's why possibly, but I didn't go down
35 that path. I saw that trap. And a lot of them I felt, no,

1 they were terrified of her. When you think, they had a lot
2 to lose. You know, Maisie Harris was a product of The
3 Grange because I met somebody else and she was a product of
4 The Grange too and these people most probably, they were
5 relying on her for food, for a roof over their head, and
6 things like that. They were terrified of her.

7 Q. She was their boss?

8 A. Yes, in every sense of the word, yes, and she left them in
9 no doubt what could happen to them if they supported us or
10 they crossed her in any shape or form.

11 Q. Thank you. You have given evidence in your written
12 statement about the physical abuse that you suffered at The
13 Grange. Do you prefer to read those paragraphs to the
14 Commission today or would you like to go through them and
15 describe what's in them?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Page 13 of the statement in front of you.

18 A. Okay.

19 Q. Starting at the top, if you would like to read them, Ms B,
20 please do.

21 A. At the top?

22 Q. Yes.

23 A. Okay. Major Harris abused me physically, psychologically
24 and verbally throughout the years The Salvation Army was
25 responsible for my so-called care, from the ages of 7 to
26 13. She was present throughout the entire period I was in
27 The Salvation Army "control".

28 To this day seeing someone wearing a greenstone (as she
29 did) triggers a surge of rage in me. So does seeing people
30 in The Salvation Army uniform, which I liken to the Nazi
31 uniform in its appearance. Yes, yes.

32 Q. Can I take you down to paragraph 89, please.

33 A. Harris' abuse was systematic, and occurred several times a
34 week. It wasn't that Harris was having a bad day, no. She

1 used anything at hand to assault me. She broke several
2 brooms across my back.

3 I refused to cry, to cry - so I'd bite through my tongue
4 or lip or my arm, anything so as not to cry because I knew
5 the moment I cried she'd won, so I refused to cry. She
6 could not break my spirit. I believe this made her very,
7 even more vicious. She would beat me, stand over and beat
8 me to the state where she was gasping and exhausted. Sweat
9 was pouring on to me and she was over my back like a devil.
10 So, the effort of hitting me would end her beatings when
11 she was exhausted by physical exhaustion.

12 To this day, nearly 70 years later, I still wake up in
13 the night shouting, sweating and soaked in perspiration.
14 Her abuse has impacted on me throughout my life. Memories
15 of trauma will suddenly come back to me when I least expect
16 them. Particularly during the night, the worm of the
17 subconscious comes through. There has never been an end to
18 my suffering.

19 Throughout the 6 and a half years I was at The Grange, I
20 was beaten frequently by Harris with a broom, pieces of
21 wood, a rope, a razor strop. For those who don't know, the
22 young ones, what a razor strop was, it was a strip of
23 leather she had behind the door and it was used for those
24 cut-throat razors for people to shave. Now, tell me why
25 did a single woman have a razor strop there? Why did she
26 need to have that? How did she get her hands on one?
27 There was no men who shaved at The Grange, so she must have
28 sought that out.

29 She also used her bare hands.

30 Q. And what did she put on the razor strop?

31 A. Oh yes, yes, sometimes I got special treatment. This is
32 the only time I was special. What she'd do, she would go
33 and she'd go to the kitchen and get an onion and she would
34 cut it in half and she would rub it up and down the razor
35 strop to beat me with, just to make it more painful.

1 Q. And when Harris was beating you, where did that occur in
2 the premises?

3 A. Well, in the Clifton Road place, there was, at the front
4 there was the staff lounge. There was a small very tiny
5 office, there was a roll top desk, there was a fireplace
6 here, the razor strop was on the back of the door and then
7 over there, there was a dormitory and there's a sewing room
8 and on this other side here there was a bedroom. Okay?
9 So, nobody, none of the girls or even the staff should be
10 in that area, so if she was beating me during the day etc.,
11 etc. she would take me away where it wouldn't be overheard
12 or seen or anything at all.

13 Q. Right.

14 A. She would shut the door.

15 Q. Thank you. And you've also mentioned a bit further down at
16 paragraph 96 on the same page, that at times Harris engaged
17 other children in abusing you?

18 A. Yes. I remember I have this thing, for instance, where
19 I - I can't remember having a bath or a shower. I don't
20 remember. Perhaps we did smell, the other students used to
21 say we smelt at Bayfield, I don't know, I can't remember.
22 And I think what it was, that I was only 6 months in my
23 stay at The Grange, I don't know why but she punished me by
24 holding me in the bath and she got some of the older girls,
25 two of the older girls to hold my shoulders down, while she
26 got like that and she turned the cold tap. Once again, I
27 was suffocating, I was drowning, I really thought I was
28 going to die. I don't know what it was for. She didn't
29 need a reason.

30 Q. And you've referred to, if you could look at paragraph 97
31 and read out what you've referred to that incident as, it's
32 page 15.

33 A. Oh yes, looking back, I was waterboarded at the age of 8 in
34 every shape and form. She would have made a great asset to
35 the CIA.

1 Q. Thank you. The next paragraph, Ms B, could you read the
2 next paragraph?

3 A. When I was either 8 or 9 years old, Harris ran boiling
4 water over my hands and held them down in the sink. Okay?
5 Consequently, both my hands were covered in blisters, which
6 became badly infected and took at least about six weeks to
7 heal. I didn't see a doctor. I wasn't taken to a doctor.
8 I was not taken to a doctor and the outing with my mother
9 which would have occurred in those six weeks was cancelled.

10 Q. Could we talk a little bit more about the outings with your
11 mother?

12 A. The outings, on a Saturday, for instance, they'd come in
13 the afternoon or midday and we could go out with a parent
14 or whoever. And Mum and I would go to the pictures or, you
15 know, a treat, and then we'd go out to the Golden Dragon in
16 Greys Avenue and have Chinese or something, but this was
17 special time. It only occurred 12 times, it was the first
18 Saturday of the month.

19 Q. 12 times a year?

20 A. 12 times a year. I made a correlation between when I
21 received the worse beatings or, you know, and I was due for
22 an outing and there could be a possibility of my mother
23 sort of seeing the welts or the bruises on me, Harris would
24 ring up and cancel. So, she concealed that, you know,
25 deliberately concealed the brutality of what she'd done.

26 Q. Were any other staff involved in the visit cancellations or
27 was it just -

28 A. No, no. No, she was also very vicious too and devious.
29 What she used to do, and I didn't know this, she would ring
30 my mother, there was a phone at the Boarding house, and
31 advise her not to come. I didn't know this. So, I'd be
32 round the corner and I'd be watching all that afternoon for
33 my mother to come. I resent that she prevented my mother
34 or access to my mother and it happened again and again.
35 She'd be watching out the staff window and enjoying, I

1 found out later, and actually enjoying watching me waiting
2 for my mother to come, knowing that she had cancelled the
3 visit, whether it was for the outing, the first Saturday,
4 or it was just to sort of come and spend an hour or two
5 with me at the home, the orphanage, sorry.

6 Q. So, you've also spoken about other psychological abuse that
7 you suffered while you were at The Grange, including you've
8 mentioned at paragraph 132 on page 20, you've talked about
9 being locked in a cupboard?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Can you talk a bit about that?

12 A. Yes, I can. Upstairs in the sort of medium dormitory, the
13 big girls were down below, there was a medium dormitory and
14 there could have been about 12 girls there, okay? But
15 there was a section, it was about as big as this, down to
16 here and down to here, it was laundry, it had no windows,
17 and it was for the linen and the sheets and things like
18 that. What she'd do, she'd come up and she'd accuse me of
19 talking and she'd shut me in there. And sometimes at
20 wintertime it was really cold because there was only lino
21 on the floor, so what I'd take the sheets and things like
22 that and I'd make myself a makeshift bed. And after a
23 while, Harris got, she became aware of this, so I got a
24 thrashing, okay, so that was okay. But what was worse,
25 there was a home, there was big girls downstairs, most
26 bedrooms and everybody was upstairs, I'd be dragged down by
27 my plaits 11 stairs, landing, 13 stairs, and what she'd do,
28 the rest of it, it seemed huge, really huge. There would
29 be nobody there and she'd put me, she'd take me and she'd
30 lock me down in the west wing away from everybody where the
31 bathrooms were. So, nobody could hear a cry, you know, and
32 it was in pitch blackness, there was nobody near me, the
33 dormitories and everything were gone but that was because
34 she found me, you know, upstairs in the linen closet. And
35 that for me, that was terrifying.

1 Q. How long were you left in that isolated area?

2 A. Well, I was left until 6.00 a.m. or 7.00 a.m. or when
3 someone let me out.

4 Q. Was there anybody at The Salvation Army Grange that you
5 tried to tell?

6 A. Sorry?

7 Q. Was there anybody at The Salvation Army Grange that you
8 tried to tell about your abuse?

9 A. No because, as I said, the staff were dependent on her for
10 everything and what happened, three times I ran away.

11 Q. Where did you run?

12 A. I ran, it could have been about 3 K, to the top of Franklin
13 Road, Clifton Road, I ran crying all the way to my mother.
14 My mother didn't believe me, and I thought by the third
15 time I'd be third time lucky. So, if my own mother didn't
16 believe me, who else was going to believe me? This is why
17 it's taken me 70 years to get to this point. I've never
18 spoken about it.

19 Q. This is the first time you've spoken in public about this?

20 A. Oh yes, in public, yes. And it has to be out there.

21 Q. All right, thank you. You've also referred to seeing other
22 children at The Grange abused?

23 A. Yes, yes. There was -

24 Q. Maybe without their names, if we could just talk about what
25 you saw?

26 A. Okay. There was one girl, for instance, when I was washing
27 out the rags or whatever I was, I was working in the
28 laundry, you know with bangles and things like that, there
29 was another girl and she was younger than me, she could
30 have been about 3 or 4 years younger than me, and she had a
31 medical clinically diagnosed problem with her bowel. She
32 had incontinence. That's most probably why she was in The
33 Grange because the parent couldn't cope with it. And while
34 I was washing out, Harris would come in and just look
35 around and then she'd see this girl washing her sheets or

1 washing her knickers or whatever they were where she had
2 soiled them, and she'd say, "You do that again and I'll rub
3 your nose in them" and I saw her rub that child's nose in
4 her soiled knickers.

5 Q. Did any other staff see?

6 A. Yes, there was the so-called Lieutenant. She was really
7 tall, dark haired, and I was there washing things like that
8 and I looked wildly at her and she just turned her face
9 away and turned her back and did nothing.

10 Q. So, the evidence that you've given is you were physically
11 abused in places where other people weren't around. Did
12 you see any physical abuse of other children, such as that
13 that you suffered?

14 A. Yes. I'm trying to think of it. You were always out
15 hypervigilant, you were always looking out for yourself
16 and, to this day, I saw, you know, for instance there was
17 another girl who wet the bed and what she'd do is she'd get
18 the other - she'd put her wet knickers or wet things on her
19 or just wrap her in the wet sheet and it could be
20 wintertime, hopefully during a weekday, but if it was a
21 Saturday or a Sunday weekend, that child would have to wear
22 that wet linen or sheet for the whole day.

23 Q. When you say she would, who are you referring to?

24 A. Harris.

25 Q. Right.

26 A. Then she'd get the younger children to do a ring a ring a
27 rosie round her saying "N" or whatever she was "is a dirty
28 girl. N wets the bed, dirty stinky N".

29 Q. And you've also given evidence about the emphatic religious
30 instruction you received?

31 A. Yes.

32 Q. And the messages you got?

33 A. This was another form of abuse. The orphanage, those were
34 the gates, our whole world was circumscribed within that
35 orphanage. Okay? Where we went up the road to Bayfield

1 School and we came home. It never occurred to us, the fact
2 I ran away meant that I was trouble. It never occurred to
3 us, you know, that it needn't be our world and this
4 isolation, you know, from society, we had no social skills
5 and things like that. All we were there is to be, you
6 know, shouted at. It was just within The Salvation Army.
7 We got religion morning, noon and night and it was a
8 twisted version of religion. It was patriarchal and
9 referred just to us as little girls.

10 Q. When you say just to us, do you mean the children at The
11 Grange?

12 A. As females.

13 Q. Right.

14 A. Do you want me to go there?

15 Q. You go where you like, Ms B.

16 A. Okay. Everything, whether it was at the Newton, you know,
17 they'd be giving the sermons and things like that,
18 everything was construed that, and at the home, that we
19 were dirty, evil little girls, we will born in sin, we were
20 responsible for all evils in the world because we were
21 female and Eve had given Adam the apple and I know it
22 sounds little, but for little girls it really impacts on
23 you. And, therefore, this is why they left the Garden of
24 Eden. We got it at Church. We got it there. We got it
25 from Harris.

26 Q. When you refer to Church, do you mean The Salvation Army
27 Citadel Church?

28 A. The one in Newton Road. The Citadel is where Mayoral Drive
29 is, but it's no longer there. That was the big one. There
30 was one in Ponsonby Road towards the end opposite the
31 reservoir. The whole Sunday was taken, you know, just sort
32 of, just with religion and didacticism and inculcation. It
33 was skewed that we were responsible as females for all the
34 evil in the world. For all the evil that men did it was
35 down to us as women. Menstruation, which you can't avoid,

1 was a curse and it was meant as a curse. Then we were told
2 about the travails of child birth, which can be a very
3 painful process, that was God's punishment. It wasn't the
4 beautiful experience of creating something or bringing
5 something into this world, this was God's punishment.

6 Q. These were teachings you received at The Salvation Army
7 Church?

8 A. Oh yes and we'd go to Church in the morning and then it
9 might be a lovely day, sunshine, and then Harris would have
10 another go at us. In the morning, she always had, there
11 was always a passage of scripture, you know, had to learn
12 it, you know, sort of verse, we had to learn it. Because I
13 had a good memory, she never picked me. She'd pick
14 somebody else who perhaps, you know, memory was not so good
15 and they would be punished.

16 Q. So, your evidence is it was a fairly or a strongly
17 religious environment that you were in?

18 A. Well, I would say that what I - the religious instruction I
19 got in the orphanage, I would feel that if I had a
20 preference, I would prefer Islamic fundamentalism to
21 Christian fundamentalism. It was fundamentalist Christian.

22 Q. Can I ask you to refer to Exhibit 8, you have it in front
23 of you.

24 A. Okay.

25 Q. Now, is it correct that in the early 2000s when you became
26 involved with the SAAS group, which you've spoken about,
27 you requested your records from The Salvation Army?

28 A. Oh yes, yes.

29 Q. Is that right?

30 A. Yes.

31 Q. And if I can refer you to this document. You received this
32 at that time?

33 A. Yep.

34 Q. And what is this document, Ms B?

1 A. This is my life, 6 and a half years, this is all it is.
2 Look.

3 **CHAIR:** One page?

4 A. One page. This is all the accountability. This is all the
5 monitoring that the government did of the conditions at
6 their orphanage. This is 6 and a half years of my life.

7 **MS MULLORD:**

8 Q. To your knowledge, were any other records kept about your
9 health, education and development?

10 A. No, this is it.

11 Q. That's it. And it looks like one line is added each year
12 in December?

13 A. If you're lucky. And we notice that they, we notice that
14 30/12, 30/12, 31/12, 30/12, 28/12, I think these are
15 significant, 31/12. I think these are significant dates
16 because that's when she applied or The Salvation Army
17 applied to the government for funding.

18 Q. Ms B, how do you feel when you look at this as six years
19 records of your childhood?

20 A. I feel betrayed that they weren't monitored. If CYFS
21 presented this document in a Court, they'd be hung, you
22 know. The amounts of money they got were great and this is
23 all, this is all. And they're usually negative. I take
24 quite a pride in these, "Disobedient child. Been left to
25 go her own sweet way, so does not take kindly to
26 discipline. During period and home as pertaining to
27 spiritual development, education health", never saw a
28 doctor "conduct and punishments". You wouldn't get away
29 with it with government these days. If CYFS, as I said,
30 CYFS would have been strung up if they presented this, just
31 one sheet of a child's life.

32 Q. Thank you, Ms B. So, Ms B, you've also mentioned in your
33 evidence that you were sexually abused at The Grange by an
34 older child?

1 A. Older girl, yeah. Okay. Now, yes, in the home I couldn't
2 even call my bed my own and I've got this theory about the
3 herd. If you have a predator, if the herd sticks together
4 you've got safety in numbers, but the old and the sick and
5 they picked up very quickly, other girls picked up very
6 quickly that I, that Harris could do what she liked with
7 me, you know. In fact, I think they actively curried
8 favour with Harris by reporting things that I had done. I
9 can see now in hindsight perhaps they were deflecting, you
10 know, the brutality and the savage beatings by me. I do
11 remember what other girls, and to this day my great shame
12 is that all I could feel was relief that it wasn't me being
13 abused. I'm very ashamed of that. That's the only thing
14 I'm ashamed of.

15 Q. Can you tell the Commissioners, did you ever feel safe?

16 A. Never felt safe, 6.00 a.m. in the morning until we went to
17 bed at night I was never safe. The only safe, the only
18 refuge was up the road at school. I was about the only
19 child I think in New Zealand that dreaded the holidays
20 because then I was at her mercy 24/7.

21 Q. Thank you. Ms B, would this be a good time to take
22 5 minutes?

23 A. Yep.

24 **MS MULLORD:** Madam Chair.

25 **CHAIR:** Yes, we will take a 5 minute break.

26

27 **Hearing adjourned from 3.52 p.m. until 4.00 p.m.**

28

29 **CHAIR:** Are you all right there, Ms B?

30 A. Yes, I'm fine.

31 **MS MULLORD:**

32 Q. Ms B, your evidence is that towards the end of your time in
33 The Salvation Army Grange, it moved premises to a new
34 house?

1 A. Yes, in the last year in 1957 they were gifted another
2 property. It was in Remuera Road and it was a smaller, it
3 had huge grounds, lawns and tennis courts and things like
4 that, it went right back there, and it was, there was a
5 dairy and there was Bassett Road, that's where the Bassett
6 Road murders occurred, remember? And things changed.

7 Q. You went to a new school?

8 A. New school, Remuera Intermediate, form 2.

9 Q. You have talked in your evidence about a teacher,
10 Mrs White?

11 A. Yes, things really looked up for me when we moved there. I
12 really don't think I'd be here today if I'd stayed at the
13 Clifton Road address because I went to Bayfield Primary
14 School and there was a stigma of being an orphan and also
15 the other children used to call us grangies, "don't lend
16 your pens to the grangies or you won't see it again", or
17 the homies, we were dirty, smelly, the underclass because
18 we were orphans and there was a stigma there.

19 But when we went to, changed premises at Remuera, we had
20 different teachers, there was no stigmatisation because
21 there was no history. In fact, the whole attitude towards
22 us changed. The good nature of Remuera, more or less we
23 were a novelty. They took us to their hearts in every
24 sense of the word, you know.

25 **CHAIR:** You won't take the stenographer to her heart if you
26 go so fast.

27 A. Hello, we've got to have something worked out between us.

28 **CHAIR:** I am the traffic officer here, I will put my hand
29 up. Is that all right?

30 A. Okay. Yes, when I get in full flow, I can't -

31 **CHAIR:** I've noticed, it's wonderful, we don't want to hold
32 you back, we just want to keep you under control.

33 A. So, we were a novelty, so we weren't stigmatised, like we
34 were in the Clifton, the history of the Grange being there.

35 **MS MULLORD:**

1 Q. Sorry, Ms B, I need to interrupt, you can you tell us about
2 Mrs White?

3 A. Mrs White was an older woman. In fact, Madam Chair reminds
4 me of her, she looked, you know, she was a teacher there
5 and she had glasses and things like that and about the same
6 age, experienced teacher, you know what I mean. Suddenly
7 for some reason, as I said, school was a refuge and for
8 some reason, you know, she brought the best out of me,
9 insofar as I won an ASB contest for writing an essay. I
10 didn't even know I had it in me and she was very proud of
11 that, but I remember once when another girl from the home
12 and I were trying, trialling out for the swimming sports,
13 and I was rubbish but she noticed the bruises and the welts
14 on me and she said to me, "Who did that?" and still there
15 was that thing she won't believe me. So, I just hung my
16 head. She said, "Who did that?" and I just hung my head
17 and didn't say anything. And from that time onwards, she
18 was the first person who thought I was worthy of keeping
19 safe. I was worth something. She would invent, I could
20 see it now, I think instinctively I knew what she was doing
21 but she would keep me behind after school, things like the
22 chairs hadn't been put properly on the desks and line them
23 up, the dusters, clean the board. Arrange for me, yes,
24 also record, played the tenor recorder which I was rubbish
25 at too but, you know, she kept me on and then athletics,
26 you know, afterwards, the shotput and discus, she took
27 every opportunity to keep me safe for that period of time,
28 extend that period of time before dinner. As I said, they
29 were the most dangerous time. I don't know whether Harris'
30 sugar levels fell or anything, I don't know what, but
31 that's when she was her most dangerous.

32 Q. You don't know whether Mrs White ever raised it with
33 anybody, but not long after that Harris told your mother to
34 come and get you, is that right?

1 A. Yes, I think Mrs White as a responsible teacher would have
2 raised the abuse, you know. They might have been talking
3 in the staffroom, saying, "Look here, I have this child in
4 my class and I've seen the welts on her, I've seen the
5 bruises". I know, I was formerly a teacher, so I know how
6 we talk about things like that, and somehow they might have
7 got onto Harris because my mother, at the end of that year
8 my mother was asked to come and get me.

9 Q. And you went back to live with her in the boarding house?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. I think you said in your evidence it was the happiest time
12 of your life?

13 A. It was the happiest time of my life. The room, we just had
14 one room, we ate, we slept, and we, I did my homework and
15 everything like that, and that was my world because I was
16 very agoraphobic by then and I still had the notion in the
17 back of my head that out there, there was danger, it was
18 evil and things. It had been inculcated about going out.
19 I had no social skills, I was agoraphobic. But, you know,
20 that's fine, nobody beat me, nobody shouted at me, nobody
21 punished me, you know, and my mother certainly didn't.

22 Q. Speaking about the agoraphobia and other impacts you've
23 suffered from the abuse you suffered at The Grange, at
24 paragraph 194 on page 31, you've set out the lasting impact
25 of that abuse you suffered as a small child from 6 and a
26 half years. Would you like to read out those paragraphs?

27 A. The abuse I suffered while under the control of The
28 Salvation Army has had a severe and lasting impact on me.

29 I would be standing up and she'd come from nowhere and
30 she'd whack me over the head, so hearing loss. So, that's
31 a physiological thing.

32 Q. You have permanent?

33 A. I have hearing loss in the right ear. I have suffered
34 panic attacks throughout my life, and have been diagnosed
35 with anxiety and depression, and recently PTSD. Okay? But

1 I've only been able to access care for that in the last 2
2 years and that took a suicide attempt and it came through
3 the Hospital Board.

4 Q. We'll talk to that shortly.

5 A. Okay, right. I have had a number of breakdowns and
6 depressive episodes throughout my life. I have attempted
7 suicide a number of times, most recently just over a year
8 ago.

9 Throughout my teenage years, I was suicidal, but I think
10 it was just the love and proximity of my mother that
11 prevented me from doing that. As a teenager I was
12 frequently suicidal. For most of my life I have been
13 trying to function under a huge shadow. I have never
14 trusted people and I feel that's kept me safe but I had
15 worked out in my own head, this thing about trust and a lot
16 of survivors say, "I distrust everybody" but I worked out
17 at a very early age that I wasn't going to be a victim, I
18 wasn't going to distrust everybody. I saw trust as a very,
19 almost precious and sacred thing and you controlled it. It
20 was under your control to give your trust or withhold it
21 and distrust people. But I think during those teenage
22 years and things like that, I kept, my world was this room
23 and school, Auckland Girls Grammar, that's when I started
24 blossoming.

25 Q. Your evidence is you told no-one? You said you were born
26 in Norway?

27 A. If my own mother didn't believe me, who else was going to
28 believe me? I never told my children. My daughter was 21
29 years of age when I told her. When I told her about it,
30 she just nodded her head and said, "Mum, that explains
31 everything". I was absolutely gob smacked and I told my
32 younger daughter, she overheard some conversation about the
33 meeting in Hamilton, the formation of the SAAS group, she
34 overheard that, and she knew something was going on. I

1 didn't tell her because she was having problems in her own
2 life and only later did I tell her.

3 Q. So, the formation of the SAAS group was really the first
4 time you'd talked with anyone about this?

5 A. Yeah, yes, you were talking to people, you know, they were
6 like your brothers and sisters. You didn't have to say
7 things, you all instinctively knew that this had happened
8 to them.

9 Q. And we heard Jan Lowe yesterday giving her evidence and she
10 said that she put ads in newspapers, is that how you found
11 them?

12 A. I was going through a very acrimonious divorce at the time.
13 I was in the waiting room with a so-called therapist.
14 There was a Herald there and I like reading the letters to
15 the editor because there's no party line or politics and
16 things like that. I couldn't believe my eyes. There was
17 this thing in The Herald, letters to the editor, and there
18 was Jan Lowe, it was out there and I couldn't believe my
19 eyes. So, I had to find out who that Jan Lowe was, I
20 thought she was a lawyer or barrister or solicitor. I
21 didn't know that she was just an ordinary human being. So,
22 I got my solicitor to hunt through all the solicitors and
23 barristers in New Zealand for a Jan Lowe. Of course, we
24 didn't turn anything up. And none how I managed, I think
25 the actual lawyer managed to track her down and say this is
26 the woman and then I started talking to Jan and that's how
27 it took off.

28 Q. So, SAAS began to form?

29 A. Yes.

30 Q. And in 2004, the law firm in Christchurch, Grant Cameron &
31 Associates, started representing the SAAS group, is that
32 right?

33 A. Yes, took a class action against them, yes.

1 Q. At paragraph 219 of your evidence, you don't need to read
2 this, but it states that The Salvation Army invited you to
3 attend an interview in late 2005?

4 A. Where is it?

5 Q. 219 on page 34.

6 A. Okay. It wasn't - the SAAS group wanted in bringing this
7 action an acknowledgment of the abuse and compensation, is
8 that the one?

9 Q. No, I apologise, it's 223 over the page, The Salvation Army
10 requested interviews?

11 A. On 30 November 2005 as requested by The Salvation Army I
12 sat down for what I thought was an interview with Murray
13 Houston of The Salvation Army. Murray Houston, they had
14 rented out the top floor of the Bruce Mason, there was one
15 table and Ben Walker, who was the actual lawyer
16 representing the group, Cameron & Associates, he had been
17 allocated to me and I had a lovely lady, Shirley, violence
18 and things like that, victim support. He was looking out
19 the window like this. It was just a table in the room and
20 I immediately thought, you know, this is not going to
21 intimidate me. It got my back up. He came striding
22 across, hand thrust out, and said, "Hi, I'm Murray
23 Houston". Well, I just said to him, "You better put that
24 hand away before I spit on it". He felt he had to justify
25 himself. He said, "I do not belong to The Salvation Army.
26 I am not a sworn officer of The Salvation Army". "I don't
27 care if you're a sworn, forsworn, a forsworn officer", I
28 said "You've taken that 30 pieces of silver, you're
29 representing them".

30 Q. So, the interview itself?

31 A. It was confrontational. I mean, he was - he set it up, he
32 had Ben Walker, he was so young. He had Ben Walker the
33 lawyer for Cameron & Associates, he was there, Shirley was
34 next to him, I was there, and I said to Ben, "Are you
35 representing me" and he said "Yes". I said, "You get round

1 here". He had aligned himself with the lawyer, so I made
2 very, very clear that Ben was representing me.

3 Q. And the interview itself, I understand you asked many times
4 for a transcript, but it didn't ever come?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Is that right?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Do you have it to this day?

9 A. No. Do you have one? Do you have a transcript of the
10 interview?

11 Q. No.

12 A. Well, this is where Murray came in and he put the interview
13 on a USB.

14 Q. That's right. So, you have an audio recording of it?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. Not a transcript. Did the interview give you confidence
17 that The Salvation Army would hear what had happened to
18 you?

19 A. No, no. I have it on very good authority that Houston,
20 first of all Houston and Clifton had raced around the
21 country and we know this because these people in the SAAS
22 group putting out forest fires. They'd give \$2,000 to one
23 woman in Ngāruawāhia, you know, and then they gave someone
24 who had been in The Grange with Maisie Harris, they gave
25 her about \$24,000 to build a shower facility for her
26 terminally ill parent. Also, I went up north with my
27 daughter and stayed with another one who was in the SAAS
28 group and Clifton and Houston walked into her house, she
29 had been in Florence Booth. In her house she loved
30 antiques, she wanted beautiful things in her house, that
31 was her. He walked in and said, "Oh, I hope you're not
32 wanting any compensation". He said, "You're not short of a
33 bob or two", and he paid her \$20,000.

34 Q. Could I just ask you, Ms B, to just clarify, is this what
35 this person has told you directly herself?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And at the interview that we've referred to on the 30th of
3 November 2005, were you promised a letter of apology?

4 A. Yes, we were all promised a letter of apology.

5 Q. And you were offered a financial settlement in February
6 2006?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And you accepted that offer?

9 A. Oh, of course, yes, because if you settle out of Court,
10 particularly with a financial settlement, that's tantamount
11 to a confession of guilt. I mean, we had the Winebox with
12 the Fays, they paid \$2,000 and said we're not responsible
13 and things like that. There was a case in Britain too,
14 where this guy went for damages and they granted him a
15 farthing. So, I saw that, there needn't be any settlement,
16 but I saw that admission that this abuse did happen, they
17 were recognising it and I couldn't be bought off.

18 Q. That was the basis on which you accepted their offer, is
19 that right, that you saw it as an admission?

20 A. Yes, yes. I state that I don't know what other survivors
21 want, if they want financial settlement, I don't think they
22 should have an ex gratia payment of \$5,000 or \$2,000 thrown
23 at them. But I can assure them that the financial
24 settlement in no way gets rid of the pain, the hurt, the
25 sadness. It's no closure.

26 Q. And I think your evidence is that you never touched and
27 will never touch?

28 A. No, I put it in a special, I never touched that. I put it
29 in a special account for my daughters and they know it's in
30 there. I call that blood money. I mean lawyers and people
31 and my friends have said, "Why don't you go over to Europe?
32 Why don't you get your house painted? Why don't you do
33 this and why don't you do that?". No, I will not touch
34 that money. It's not mine to spend. I see that for, I had
35 no parenting. I don't know, there was always a part of me

1 that wasn't there for my children, for my girls, and in
2 some way, they can do that, what they like with it, you
3 know. That's not part of my role but they can do what they
4 like with it. This is me trying to say, look, I'm sorry, I
5 didn't know that I was holding, there was some part of me
6 that you couldn't reach or I'm sorry because we had no
7 parenting skills. I mean, nothing is a perfect parent, but
8 I was an only child. I didn't, you know, as far as I was
9 concerned, adults only abused you. You didn't trust
10 adults. Adults only abused you, they hit you, they lied to
11 you, they betrayed you, you know. This is to say to my
12 girls, I know it's not much, but this Mum acknowledges that
13 she fell down in certain areas, in emotional areas, you
14 know, and for any harm I may have unwittingly caused.

15 Q. Thank you. And then a full two years after that
16 settlement, you got a letter of apology?

17 A. Well, we got a Clayton's letter of apology. Are we going
18 to bring that up on the screen?

19 Q. Yes, if it I could refer you to witness statement Exhibit
20 21. I will just ask that that paragraph is highlighted.

21 A. "I find it deplorable to know that the shameful actions and
22 uncaring attitudes of a very few people overwhelmed the
23 good and just work of so many others".

24 This abuse right throughout the orphanage. It was
25 systemic, it was endemic, and it reached almost epidemic
26 proportions. This, as we found out in the SAAS group
27 because we all talked amongst ourselves, you know.

28 Q. As a member of the group of 45, how did you feel reading
29 that, that it's the actions of a few?

30 A. Well, I wasn't holding my breath but some people, for
31 instance, one of the guys that was horrifically abused at
32 Hodderville, he had his framed and as soon as you walked
33 into his house you saw the letter of apology. That's what
34 it meant to him. I wasn't sort of - to me, it was a
35 Clayton's. He said, he's still trying to tell us - no,

1 there were many psychopaths, there were many sadists, there
2 were many rapists, there were many paedophiles throughout
3 The Salvation Army. They had about 13 homes from Whangārei
4 to Dunedin, sometimes they had two abusers in the same
5 facility. One, a small child couldn't avoid; two, they
6 could cover up for each other. And what's more, after I
7 think Harris stayed on until '62, 1962, that was four years
8 after I left, and then suddenly she pops up in another
9 facility. She had another 45 years. I heard, we could
10 trace people, that she went to The Nest, they send them to
11 The Nest where they could do the least damage. They
12 certainly couldn't rape babies, well I hope they couldn't
13 anyway, but this is how she geographically relocated. They
14 knew about it, they just moved them around within the
15 various orphanages. Is that what you?

16 Q. And is that something that rung true in your discussions
17 with other SAAS survivors?

18 A. Oh yes, yes, yes.

19 Q. I understand that you've learned that Maisie Harris is
20 deceased, when did she pass away?

21 A. 2007. That really upset me.

22 Q. When you had your interview with The Salvation Army in
23 2005, were you made aware that she was still alive?

24 A. No, no, Houston knew. When I was listening to the CD that
25 I had the interview on, I don't know, the way Houston asked
26 it, he said, "And what do you think about, you know, Maisie
27 Harris now?" and I just said, I just bounced something, I
28 said, "She's an evil cow". Listening back, I thought, you
29 know, that is, how ineffectual is that? But I could see
30 that he was trying to get me in full flight. You know one
31 of those pregnant silences? I didn't fill it. I just
32 said, "she's an evil cow". This is the whole thing. This
33 is about the institution of The Salvation Army, not so much
34 about Maisie Harris and the abuser in The Salvation Army

1 because The Salvation Army will throw anybody under the bus
2 as long as it can continue as an institution.

3 Q. All right. So, let's look to the suggestions that you've
4 made for redress and suggestions of change. Am I correct
5 in saying that this is one of the main reasons you want to
6 speak today, is to get these ideas out there?

7 A. Yes, yes. With the class action, the legal term was that
8 they had a fiduciary, what is it, fiduciary care to us and
9 they failed that on all counts. Yes.

10 So, I can't change what's in the past, but I thank the
11 Commission for giving me the opportunity to somehow
12 formulate the future.

13 Q. So, one of your proposals was that The Salvation Army puts
14 sums of money into a trust run independently?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Which survivors can request -

17 A. Yes. What I would like is for The Salvation Army, let me
18 first of all tell you that they are very wealthy. In 2003,
19 the website, Peter, Jan and I went and they had 100
20 missions and their net wealth was \$360 million. Now, they
21 could do their good works etc., etc., no donations from the
22 public, no funds from the government for the next 5 years
23 with that. So, it's an asset, it's in land, it is in
24 actual money because I know that money my mother was paying
25 was going directly to Aro St to their headquarters. The
26 government money presumably was going there. It is an
27 international global organisation. It is a corporation.

28 Q. So, your view is it wouldn't be a stretch to setup a
29 significant trust?

30 A. No, a significant trust. So, for those few, those few who
31 can come forward and if they need dental care, if they need
32 hearing aids, if they need sort of mobility scooters,
33 whatever they may need to live the best life they can. I
34 want that trust set up. And they don't have to - I mean,

1 look at me, 76 years of age, it's taken me this long and
2 it's like fighting, fighting, fighting, all the time.

3 Q. You don't want people to have to fight?

4 A. No, I don't want them to have to go through what I, Jan and
5 the SAAS group went through.

6 Q. How would you see this working? Would people make an
7 approach, say I was in a Salvation Army orphanage for these
8 years?

9 A. Yes, they wouldn't have to sign any papers and things like
10 that. They could look it up that they were in this
11 particular orphanage or whatever and they don't have to
12 fill out all the paperwork, they don't have to fight the
13 bureaucracy, they don't have to struggle most of their life
14 to get to the point where I am.

15 Q. You see this as running on a goodwill basis by The
16 Salvation Army?

17 A. Yes, one truth about The Salvation Army, The Salvation Army
18 should not investigate itself, which they've been doing all
19 this time through Houston and things like that. Okay?
20 This is independent in person and this trust will be run
21 with an escrow or whatever it is by an independent person
22 with no links to The Salvation Army.

23 Q. Right.

24 A. Whatsoever. They're not in control. They just put the
25 money there and how the monies are allocated and for what
26 needs of survivors, then that's how it's going to be
27 managed.

28 Q. Thank you. Another proposal which you put forward is
29 potentially amendment to the ACC legislation?

30 A. Yeah.

31 Q. And what you've proposed is schedule 21, which relates to
32 sensitive claims and getting help for psychological
33 injuries or difficulties, is extended to include childhood
34 assaults?

35 A. Yes, historic abuse claims, yes.

1 Q. Can you explain how you came to that way of thinking?

2 A. Because of my own experience, I was told all the time that
3 because - even Cameron & Associates said because it was an
4 historic abuse claim, they were very uncertain whether they
5 could make it stick, you know, be successful. They made no
6 promises. Okay? Salvation Army settled out of Court.
7 They knew, you know, that they couldn't win against us and
8 they managed to hush it up, you know, hush it up.

9 Now, I think I approached ACC several times, but they
10 don't recognise historic abuse. They seem to - there has
11 to be an element of sexual abuse.

12 Q. Under that particular schedule?

13 A. Yes, yes. And now, that's not right because the abuse, as
14 I said, came in five or six forms. It came in
15 psychological, emotional, verbal, physical, you know, and
16 they were being paid by the government to do it.

17 Now, I want the same thing as for the children, I want
18 the same sort of legislation that they are afforded with
19 ACC. They're don't have to have this sexual element, they
20 can access care.

21 Q. Your evidence at page 41, paragraph 255, says and I will
22 read this paragraph, the sexual abuse at The Grange was
23 only a small part of my trauma. But it was not until after
24 a suicide attempt and subsequent discussions about my abuse
25 history, revealing this aspect of the harm suffered, that
26 ACC would meet the cost of psychological support under
27 schedule 21.

28 So, your wish is that it does not -

29 A. It be extended to historical abuse.

30 Q. Thank you.

31 A. That's what I'd like the Commission to do, urge legislation
32 that it be extended. If it's good enough for the children
33 etc, etc, I think it should be for historic abuse victims
34 or survivors.

1 **CHAIR:** Do you mind if I clarify that? From what you're
2 saying, it wouldn't just be physical abuse, it would be the
3 five types of abuse that you are referring to; is that what
4 you are saying?

5 A. Any abuse. There seems to be only a sexual abuse.

6 **CHAIR:** That's really what I'm getting at.

7 A. No, no, no, this is ACC, if it's not a sexual abuse
8 element, it seems or apparent, I am not saying it is, that
9 you can't access, you're less successful in your claim.

10 **CHAIR:** Yes.

11 A. And I want the legislation to protect those who are coming
12 forward from historic abuse.

13 **CHAIR:** And with all the various forms of abuse that you
14 have referred to?

15 A. Oh yes.

16 **CHAIR:** That is what you're talking about? Thank you for
17 that.

18 A. They don't have to go through the flaming hoops that the
19 SAAS group and Jan and I had to go through just to get to
20 today, essentially.

21 **MS MULLORD:**

22 Q. I think part of your evidence is that you struggled to
23 maintain employment because of the trauma you'd suffered,
24 even though you achieved incredibly highly academically, it
25 was difficult for you to maintain your teaching job and you
26 did not have funds to pay for a private psychiatrist or
27 psychologist much of the time?

28 A. No.

29 Q. In that sense, would that have been helpful to you to be
30 able to access that support earlier?

31 A. It would have been helpful to me, but it hasn't happened.
32 But I want that to be offered to survivors. And any
33 legislation or any way we can facilitate that would be a
34 good idea.

1 Q. Thank you. As I understand it, you would also like to see
2 a public apology and that could be broadcast on a very
3 readily available platform?

4 A. A public apology, yes. It wasn't quite this, but
5 essentially, the public apology was 10 o'clock on a Sunday
6 night on Gore radio, country and western hour. They buried
7 it. What I want, I want the Head of The Salvation Army now
8 to 6 o'clock news on 1 and on 3 and the 5.30 news, for him
9 to get up and publicly apologise.

10 Q. Would you like to see it in The Herald as well?

11 A. I would like to see it in all the media. But I want that
12 public apology in the visual form, like television and
13 things like that.

14 Q. I understand, thank you. Ms B, we've almost come to the
15 end of my questions for you. If we could turn to the very
16 end of your witness statement.

17 A. Page?

18 Q. Page 41.

19 A. Page 41.

20 Q. I wonder if you might like to read those paragraphs
21 starting with 256?

22 A. 256, okay. The Salvation Army stole everything from me,
23 everything I had - everything I ever had they took from me.
24 For instance, the impact is that anything I had there's a
25 siege mentality, it's not mine, it would be taken from me,
26 it was a temporary, I never owned anything, you know. And
27 also, yes, they stole everything from me.

28 Q. Could you read paragraphs 256?

29 A. Except for my mind. They couldn't get inside my mind and
30 this is where the academic, with the school and things
31 like, I had my own little world in my mind and that's where
32 I lived.

33 Q. Can you tell the Commission what your academic achievements
34 are?

35 A. I've got a Masters in English and German.

1 Q. And you're fluent in how many languages?

2 A. Four or five, yeah. But that's only because that was part
3 of my world. The Salvation Army had no contribution to
4 that whatsoever. Yes. So, I had my own little world. I
5 was abused, betrayed, silenced, but not destroyed. I am
6 still here today. I am the exception, unfortunately,
7 rather than the rule. I want you to note that. I am the
8 exception.

9 Q. The exception, in that you are here today?

10 A. That I am here today, that I haven't suicided through drugs
11 or alcohol or anything like that, GRO-B

12 GRO-B

13 GRO-B

14 Also, it's a really, it's a pain, it's a very physical
15 pain and a lot of them actually turned to alcohol but you
16 can never get rid of that pain, no matter what drugs etc.,
17 etc.

18 Okay? I am the exception rather than the rule. I have
19 not continued the abuse into the next generation. Now,
20 Madam Chair, there was something about intergenerational
21 damage referenced to Māori. There wasn't one Māori girl in
22 that. As I said, we were a show house. Okay?

23 **CHAIR:** Yes.

24 A. Now, I think there could be five or six generations and it
25 doesn't matter whether you're black, brown, white or
26 brindle, the abuse is intergenerational. Unwitting, as I
27 said, I kept that money for my daughters, I wasn't there
28 for them, there was a part of me that was locked away. So,
29 it doesn't matter what your creed or colour is, this abuse
30 has continued throughout the next generations. I want to
31 make a very strong point about this intergenerational -

32 **CHAIR:** Thank you, I've heard that strongly, thank you.

33 **MS MULLORD:**

34 Q. Thank you, Ms B. And you're also saying at paragraph 258,
35 that you want to - you hope that other people who have

1 remained silent and who may be listening to you today or
2 may read your evidence will come forward?

3 A. Will come forward, yes. The SAAS group and, particularly,
4 Jan and I by being here today which is hard, it's bloody
5 hard, we have paved the way for you to come forward. For
6 instance, we had the benefit of a tertiary education but,
7 as I read in the Commission, if you're deaf, if you have
8 sort of, you didn't have a very good education for
9 instance, or you're fearful of appearing, you know, to a
10 Commission, it's quite daunting, you know, I want to assure
11 them there's a package of care out there that people can
12 wraparound, that even if you're illiterate, that you can
13 access help. This is why I'm doing this today.

14 Q. And you've said these people need to know they are entitled
15 to live the best life they can?

16 A. Yes, they are entitled. That is their right. That is
17 their human right.

18 Q. You are encouraging people to come forward?

19 A. I said I urge them to come forward and seek help. The hard
20 work has been done in opening this matter up to the public
21 inquiry. These people need to know they are entitled to
22 lead the best life ever.

23 Q. Thank you. You've said at paragraph 262, if you can feel
24 you've helped shape the future for survivors of abuse by
25 The Salvation Army?

26 A. That mean a great deal of consolation and relief and make
27 all this worthwhile. This is why I'm putting my - every
28 time I do this I am a little girl of 7, I relive the trauma
29 and it's day, day, day, getting the evidence ready. At the
30 start, I thought it was finished with the class action with
31 Houston, but it wasn't. It will go on and it will go on
32 and I will not go quietly into that goodnight. I'll be
33 kicking and screaming and shouting from my grave, yes.

34 Q. Ms B, would you like to close perhaps with your statement
35 at paragraph 264?

1 A. I am not quite closing. I close this statement by noting
2 Stalin is reported to have said "one death is a tragedy,
3 but one million deaths is a statistic". I will not be a
4 statistic. Nor will those other thousand little girls
5 behind me be a statistic and that's why I'm here today.
6 Okay?

7 Q. Was there anything further you'd like to add, Ms B?

8 A. Yes, yes. I'd just like to thank the people who got me
9 here. I would like to thank you my brilliant legal-legal.

10 Q. You are very welcome.

11 A. Those people might have known, I had this archive, I kept
12 every piece of paper in this archival box. I didn't want
13 to bring that evil into the house I'm living with, so it
14 lived underneath the house in a plastic bag. When Claire
15 came in under the - Josh recommended, Hanne etc and I got
16 in contact with Claire, I had this big archival box full,
17 it was everywhere, it was the class action, full of papers,
18 everything had been chucked in there, and I just went and
19 said "here take it". She spent many, many hours, she put a
20 lot of work into it, as well as doing her day job as a
21 barrister and I would like to thank you very, very much.

22 Q. You are welcome, thank you.

23 A. Another person I would like to thank, Jan. It wouldn't
24 have been possible unless your terror mentality formed the
25 SAAS group and I would like to thank you. Okay?

26 Another person, you two, you see I don't have a
27 computer, I'm not computer literate, I will not have it in
28 my house and these people, they sort of printed hard copies
29 and put things on USB. So, Liz and Murray, many, many
30 thanks, I owe the fact that I am here today because of you
31 two.

32 Lastly, but not least, I'd like to thank the Commission
33 for offering me this opportunity to bring this out into the
34 public, into the light of day. This is all about
35 shattering the silence, abuse can only happened under the

1 cloak or a code of silence. So, it is about shattering the
2 silence and I feel this has been worthwhile coming today.
3 Okay?

4 **CHAIR:** Thank you.

5 A. I'd like to thank you.

6 **MS MULLORD:** Thank you very much. Madam Chair?

7 **CHAIR:** Ms B, on behalf of the Commissioners, we also want
8 to thank you. I want to thank you for your tenacity and
9 your testimony and particularly for your suggestions which
10 we will consider very carefully. It's so helpful to us to
11 have a survivor's clear-eyed view of what will work and
12 what won't, and I think we regard survivors as almost
13 experts in this area because you've lived the life.

14 A. Unfortunately.

15 **CHAIR:** Unfortunately, you have, but I am hoping that as a
16 positive you will accept that we will take those
17 suggestions very seriously. We also want to thank you for
18 being the voice of all those girls behind you. Now I'm
19 getting slightly emotional, but that's fine.

20 A. Please don't, I don't want you to be upset.

21 **CHAIR:** I am easily upset, but it's in a good way. And I
22 want to acknowledge the SAAS people who have passed on.

23 A. Jan and I are the only ones left.

24 **CHAIR:** I want to acknowledge that they were part of the
25 battle, part of that, I think you called it a wheel of
26 fire. You fought the fight altogether and we must remember
27 them as we thank you.

28 And you said that you find it very difficult to trust
29 and I think your coming today, with all the help you've
30 had, demonstrates that you might just have a little bit of
31 trust in the Commission to take your story and use it.

32 A. Oh yes, and to anybody in this room.

33 **CHAIR:** Thank you for that and we really want to thank you
34 for doing that because I think we all understand whatever

1 it takes for somebody in your position to bestow that
2 trust, we want to acknowledge that and thank you for that.

3 A. Thank you, Madam Chair.

4 **CHAIR:** On that thank you, slightly emotional note.

5 A. I am the one that's supposed to get emotional, not you.

6 **CHAIR:** That's all right. It's Friday afternoon after all.

7 A. I am sorry I upset you, that wasn't my idea.

8 **CHAIR:** No, no, you're not upsetting me at all - I'm just
9 quite moved. Thank you for your evidence and to Murray and
10 Liz, thank you for being there.

11 A. Claire.

12 **CHAIR:** It's all right we will get to them later, I'm more
13 interested in you and of course, Ms Mullord, you have done
14 a great job. So, you can now leave. (Witness leaves the
15 hearing room).

16 **MS JANES:** And that concludes the evidence for this
17 particular hearing.

18 **CHAIR:** Wonderful. Just a quick and hopefully unemotional
19 thank you to everybody. I am going to get emotional, it's
20 ridiculous. And I shouldn't single anybody out, but I do
21 want to thank our stenographer and our signers who they've
22 worked extremely long and they have adapted to our strange
23 schedule. We've taken gaps at odd times, we've spread the
24 sessions beyond the humane, and I think it's important that
25 we acknowledge that because they are our way into the world
26 and without them the public doesn't get to hear what we're
27 saying, so thank you to those people but of course to
28 everybody else, counsel alike.

29 And the last thing is for our kaumātua, tēnā koe. Oh
30 Tēnā koe ki ngā tokorua.

31

32 (Closing mihi and waiata)

33

34 **Hearing adjourned at 4.53 p.m.**