

**ABUSE IN CARE ROYAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY
STATE REDRESS INQUIRY HEARING**

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)
Dr Andrew Erueti
Ms Sandra Alofivae
Ms Julia Steenson

Counsel:
Mr Simon Mount, Ms Hanne Janes, Ms Kerryn Beaton, Ms Katherine Anderson, Mr Joss Opie, Ms Echo Haronga, Ms Tania Sharkey, Mr Michael Thomas, Ms Jane Glover and Ms Lorraine Macdonald appear for the Royal Commission

Ms Sonja Cooper for Survivor Mary Marshall

Ms Sally McKechnie, Mr Alex Winsley, Mr Harrison Cunningham and Ms Fiona Thorp appear for the Catholic Church

Mrs Guy-Kidd, Mr James Anson-Holland and Ms India Shores appear for the Anglican Church

Ms Jenny Stevens and Ms Helen Thompson appear for the Salvation Army

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

Date: 10 December 2020

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

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(Opening Waiata and mihi)

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6 **CHAIR:** "Tēnā rā koutou katoa, nau mai haere mai ano ki
7 tenei hui. Good morning, Ms Janes.

8 **MS JANES:** Good morning, Commissioners. We will first hear
9 from Jenny Stevens who will give a short opening statement
10 for the Salvation Army. The Commission will then hear
11 three witnesses, but I will go through those after
12 Ms Stevens' opening statement.

13 **CHAIR:** Thank you, Ms Janes. Good morning, Ms Stevens,
14 welcome back.

15 **MS STEVENS:** Thank you.

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2 **OPENING SUBMISSIONS ON BEHALF OF THE SALVATION ARMY BY MS**
3 **STEVENS**
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6 **MS STEVENS:** Tēnā koutou katoa. Ko Jenny Stevens tēnei. I
7 am counsel for Te Ope Whakaora o Aotearoa, the Salvation
8 Army of New Zealand. The Salvation Army thanks the
9 Commissioners for the opportunity this morning to make a
10 short opening statement in this first stage of the redress
11 hearing. This statement will be very short, as these
12 coming two days, as just as the last two weeks have been,
13 are about hearing from brave and courageous survivors.

14 These two days are about hearing from survivors of
15 abuse, abuse that occurred while they were children and in
16 the care of the Salvation Army. We will hear accounts of
17 terrible and unforgivable abuse in care.

18 It is to the Salvation Army's profound regret and shame
19 that children were abused whilst in its care, but abuse did
20 happen. The Salvation Army knows and acknowledges that and
21 the Salvation Army is very sorry that abuse occurred. It
22 wishes to unreservedly apologise to all survivors.

23 However, one of the lessons that we have already learned
24 from this Commission about the adequacy of redress is that
25 an apology needs to be meaningful for the survivors that
26 the Army wants to reach. And the Army welcomes the ongoing
27 discussion on how best to meet that need.

28 In the coming two days, we will hear accounts of the
29 Salvation Army's redress process. The Army is here to
30 listen and to learn from these survivors about their
31 experiences of that process. Representatives from the Army
32 are here today. They acknowledge that the Army's redress
33 process has not been perfect and wish to learn from
34 survivors' experiences to do better in the future.

1 It is very grateful for the survivors who have come
2 forward to help inform the necessary change to the
3 Salvation Army's processes and any recommendations that
4 this Royal Commission may make. You will hear further
5 evidence from the Salvation Army representatives at the
6 March hearing about the redress process it has engaged in
7 to date, including those witnesses' own reflections on
8 areas for improvement and change.

9 In closing I will read just a very short statement, also
10 very short, that has been prepared by Colonel Gerry Walker.
11 Colonel Walker is the Chief Secretary or essentially the
12 CEO of the Salvation Army and he will be one of the people
13 giving evidence in March. The statement reads:

14 **CHAIR:** Just before you do, be mindful we are being signed
15 and dictation is being taken, thank you.

16 **MS STEVENS:** "The Salvation Army is deeply sorry for the
17 abuse inflicted on vulnerable children who were housed in
18 Salvation Army children's homes. We recognise the courage
19 it takes for those testifying to revisit trauma that should
20 never have happened to them. What these survivors
21 experienced was unwarranted and horrific. This has caused
22 lasting damage to them and their wider circle of
23 relationships. There is no excuse for what happened. The
24 lives that these children deserved were stolen from them.
25 It is offensive that this was allowed to happen within an
26 organisation that exists to serve a God of love.

27 We recognise that words alone cannot heal what has been
28 broken. We therefore want to assure survivors that the
29 Salvation Army is fully committed to listening to them and
30 learning from this Royal Commission and any recommendations
31 it might make. This applies not only in relation to our
32 redress processes, which is the focus of this stage of the
33 hearing, but also any other recommendations made so that we
34 can best help those harmed while in our care in the past,

1 and to ensure safety for all vulnerable people accessing
2 our services today."

3 Thank you.

4 **CHAIR:** Thank you very much, Ms Stevens. I think it's
5 appropriate now we take a short break while we prepare for
6 our first witness, is that correct, Ms Janes?

7 **MS JANES:** We could either do that or there is a section 15
8 order that pertains to the first witness. It may be useful
9 to read that into the transcript now.

10 **CHAIR:** It is a good time to do that now.

MATTERS ARISING

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MS JANES: You will be hearing over the next two days from six witnesses, three today, Mr A is our first one, Janet Lowe and then Darrin Timpson. And tomorrow we will be hearing from Gloria White, Roy Takiaho and then Ms B. There is a section 15 order, as I mentioned, relating solely to witness A the first witness which I will read into the record now.

This is an order dated the 9th of December and with your permission I will read the actual nature of the order, rather than the whole order.

So that the Chair having reviewed the memorandum and considered the Orders required under the statute, issued an order pursuant to section 15(1)(a) and section 15(1)(b) of the inquiries act 2013 forbidding the publication and public access to the name or other particulars likely to lead to the identification of the witness, his family, his victims, his past or current prison locations and the nature of the convictions and any other rulings that the inquiry may make relating to this witness.

And just to advise, the evidence will be livestreamed anonymously. It will then be edited to ensure compliance with this order and then it will be made public on the website.

If there is nothing further, we will take that short adjournment and we will ring into the AVL.

CHAIR: Right, and you just advise us when the witness is ready. Can I just ask in terms of support for the survivor, I understand he has support. Where are they physically located, at arm's length from him?

MS JANES: There is support with him.

CHAIR: Where he is?

MS JANES: As he gives the evidence.

1 **CHAIR:** Excellent, that's good to hear. Thank you very
2 much.

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4 **Hearing adjourned from 9.56 a.m. until 10.02 a.m.**

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