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**ROBERT OAKLY - AFFIRMED**  
**QUESTIONED BY MS BEATON**

**CHAIR:** Good afternoon, Ms Beaton.

**MS BEATON:** Good afternoon, Madam Chair. Tēnā koutou katoa, Commissioners, Madam Chair. Our next witness is Robert Oakly.

**CHAIR:** Just pull the microphone a little bit closer to you. Hello.

A. Hello. How are you?

**CHAIR:** I'm fine and how are you?

A. I'm fine that I'm here, thank you.

**CHAIR:** Great, well it's wonderful that you are here and we welcome you. How would you like to be referred to?

A. Robert is fine.

**CHAIR:** Okay. Robert, if I can just get you to take the affirmation. (Witness affirmed). I am going to let Ms Beaton ask you the questions.

**MS BEATON:**

1 Q. Thank you, Robert. You can confirm for me that your  
2 full name is Robert Alan Dundas Oakly?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. You made a statement to one of the Commissioners  
5 investigators which I think you have in front of you, a  
6 copy of it?

7 A. I do have a copy of the statement, yes.

8 Q. My version of it is signed on 4 October 2020, is that  
9 right? I am sorry, it's on the last page.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Can you confirm for us before you start your evidence  
12 that the information you have given in your witness  
13 statement is true and correct?

14 A. It is true and correct.

15 Q. Thank you, Robert. Commissioners, we have Amy Prentice  
16 as Robert's support person sitting beside him in the  
17 witness box.

18 Just a preliminary thing, you and I both have the  
19 tendency to talk a bit fast, so we are not going to be  
20 a winning combination for our stenographer or sign  
21 language interpreters. If we do go too fast we will be  
22 told off and I might put my hand up to slow you down a  
23 bit, okay?

24 A. I can do the same to you.

25 Q. That would be very helpful, thank you. Commissioners,  
26 Robert doesn't want to read his statement today, so I'm  
27 going to ask him some questions and dip in and out of  
28 it.

29 Robert, can we start with you, a little bit about  
30 you. You currently live here in Auckland?

31 A. Yes, I do.

32 Q. And where were you born?

33 A. I was born in Nelson, Rai Valley.

34 Q. You were living in Rai Valley with your family?

- 1 A. I was living in Rai Valley, yes, for the first couple  
2 of years of my life.
- 3 Q. You have described in your witness statement as a  
4 broken family, your parents separated when you were  
5 little?
- 6 A. My mother separated when I was about two and took me  
7 and my younger brother with her and lived in Murchison,  
8 the Tutaki Valley, under my stepfather's name.
- 9 Q. And you had other siblings as well, is that right?
- 10 A. Yes, there were four younger brothers and three other  
11 older children that stayed with my father.
- 12 Q. And in your early years, before we get on to talking  
13 about what happened to you in relation to a member of  
14 the Anglican Church, in your early years you also  
15 suffered some abuse, physical abuse from your parents?
- 16 A. That I did, at the age of four and 11.
- 17 Q. And those are incidents that you remember quite clearly  
18 now?
- 19 A. I remember very clearly.
- 20 Q. When you were four, I think it was an assault on you by  
21 your Mum?
- 22 A. Correct.
- 23 Q. And when you were 11, an assault on you by your  
24 stepfather?
- 25 A. Yes.
- 26 Q. And that one you particularly remember, I think, do  
27 you, the one where you were 11?
- 28 A. It's with me every day.
- 29 Q. Why does it have that significance for you?
- 30 A. It never goes away.
- 31 Q. Were you injured?
- 32 A. Not—well, mentally. I think that's where my mental  
33 impairment, one may say, started. I spent a lot of  
34 time in bed crying.
- 35 Q. Okay. Do you remember any physical injuries from that?

- 1 A. Nah, I don't know, maybe—
- 2 Q. That's fine.
- 3 A. I have physical things now that hurt that I could  
4 attribute to what happened then.
- 5 Q. And this wasn't a situation where the abuse on you from  
6 your family members involved the State getting involved  
7 or anything like that?
- 8 A. Nothing. I was taken to a different doctor to what we  
9 normally went to.
- 10 Q. Okay.
- 11 A. And was told that it was for an extra beat in my heart.
- 12 Q. Right.
- 13 A. Which wasn't the truth.
- 14 Q. You've come today to give evidence about abuse that you  
15 suffered from a man called or Archdeacon Jameson who  
16 you knew as Archie?
- 17 A. Correct.
- 18 Q. Can you tell us how you first met Archie?
- 19 A. We moved around a lot when I was younger. We moved to  
20 Brightwater. I was working in the local dairy and one  
21 of the local boys had come down to Uncle Tom's which is  
22 where the local boys hung out and Archie used to help,  
23 Tom was a cripple, Archie used to come and bathe Tom  
24 once a week or however many times it was a week. And  
25 that's where I met him then, but I also met him when I  
26 was 11 as the Scout Commissioner.
- 27 Q. Okay. Let's talk first then about when you were 11 in  
28 the Scouts. You were a member of Scouts, were you?
- 29 A. Cubs to Scouts, yes.
- 30 Q. Archie was involved in Scouts?
- 31 A. He was the Nelson Commissioner.
- 32 Q. Did you know when you first met Archie at Scouts that  
33 he was also an Archdeacon in the Anglican Church?

1 A. No, I can't actually remember that. That was like we  
2 were in a different area to—we were living at Hope then  
3 when I was in the Scouts.

4 Q. For those who aren't familiar with the Nelson region,  
5 Brightwater and Hope are close to Nelson, aren't they,  
6 they're towns?

7 A. Yeah, they're in the Tasman District.

8 Q. Yes. Can you tell us about the time you talk about in  
9 your witness statement when you went I think on a Scout  
10 trip one weekend and Archie was there?

11 A. Yeah, it was up Mt Arthur Flora Hut region, we'd gone  
12 for a day walk and, I don't know, there was probably 20  
13 of us there and we were told to take off our clothes  
14 and jump into this creek. You know, I was up for a  
15 dare and I did it and jumped in and there was only me  
16 and one other and the rest were all just looking. It  
17 was horrible. It was freezing. It was cold. Jumped  
18 in and couldn't move. You know, it's like where you  
19 just can't move for a second and the top seems miles  
20 and years away. I got out and there was me and just  
21 one other kid had done it. I thought everybody else  
22 would have done it but, thinking back now, it must have  
23 been, it must have happened to them all at one stage.  
24 Even my younger brother said it happened to him, yeah.  
25 Got out and Archie had the towel ready and waiting.

26 Q. And that incident has had an effect on you, hasn't it?

27 A. Oh, I can't handle the cold. I never allow myself to  
28 get cold ever. Like, I'd rather be hot than cold,  
29 yeah. Just got to take a jumper, got to — I tried  
30 skiing, you know, but it was cold and wet and horrible.

31 Q. In your statement, Robert, you talk about having  
32 counselling and realising that that incident, you see  
33 it as a form of cruelty?

- 1 A. Yeah, I just thought it was a dare sort of  
2 military-type scouting thing to do but now looking back  
3 it was macabre, it was evil.
- 4 Q. In your statement, you say that you went on other Scout  
5 camps or outings and that Archie would appear at those  
6 as well. Did anything else happen with him at those  
7 camps?
- 8 A. Not with me but, yeah, he would always turn up at some  
9 stage or another, but the Scout camps were where I had  
10 my first sexual experiences. Knowing what I know now,  
11 I bet they came from, yeah, a cultural thing.
- 12 Q. Okay. In your statement, you've tried to date how old  
13 you were for the jumping in the water incident which  
14 you think was around about 11; would that be right?
- 15 A. Yeah, 11.
- 16 Q. And it was around the same time that your stepfather  
17 assaulted you?
- 18 A. Yep cause, yeah, that happened before because the  
19 school, other holidays after my stepfather assaulted  
20 me, I was sent, I used to go back to Murchison for the  
21 school holidays.
- 22 Q. I see. So, just to clarify that, the incident of being  
23 made to jump in the water happened before the incident  
24 with your stepfather?
- 25 A. Yep.
- 26 Q. Okay.
- 27 A. It would be round about the same time.
- 28 Q. In your statement, Robert, you talk about when you  
29 think you were about 15 years old you were at Waimea  
30 College, I think, at that stage?
- 31 A. Yes.
- 32 Q. You'd moved to Brightwater and this is what you told us  
33 before, you were working in the local dairy?
- 34 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. And there was this man called Tom who was known to  
2 Brightwater as Uncle Tom who had a disability?
- 3 A. Correct.
- 4 Q. Uncle Tom's place was a place kids would hang out?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. Teenage boys?
- 7 A. Teenage boys, yes, there was sort of a group of us,  
8 family, several from each family, yeah.
- 9 Q. And Uncle Tom was someone who had previously worked at  
10 a boys' home and that's how he had known some of the  
11 boys; is that how it happened?
- 12 A. No, that's how, I think, Archie and Tom knew each  
13 other, from the boys' home in Motueka.
- 14 Q. Archie used to come and help out Uncle Tom?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. Do some care for him?
- 17 A. Yeah, deliver Meals on Wheels and care, yeah.
- 18 Q. How often do you remember you would go and hang out in  
19 Uncle Tom's place?
- 20 A. Every day after school, after work, after dinner.
- 21 Q. How many other teenage boys would do the same?
- 22 A. Probably at least half a dozen of us. I could name  
23 them, yeah.
- 24 Q. In your statement, you've wanted to make clear there  
25 was nothing sexual about the boys hanging out at Uncle  
26 Tom's?
- 27 A. No, never.
- 28 Q. But that changed for you, is that right, with Archie?
- 29 A. Yeah, it was—I don't know how long I'd been going there  
30 for. It wasn't that long but Archie was there and two  
31 or three said, "Go for a ride with Archie, go on, go  
32 for a drive with Archie" and they were—they sort of  
33 smiled and I was like, oh well, okay.
- 34 Q. So, Archie had a car, I take it?
- 35 A. Yep, a white Cortina.

- 1 Q. Tell us about the rides that you took with Archie?
- 2 A. The first, I can't remember how many but the first one  
3 was like, yeah, hands touching on the knee, "Don't go  
4 so fast", sort of thing, you know. I'd been for rides  
5 with the other boys as well and they used to thrash the  
6 shit out of his car, wheelies and donuts and things,  
7 and were really disrespectful to him but after going  
8 for a few rides, I understand why, the hands moved  
9 further from knees to unzipping pants and playing with  
10 my penis. I can't handle anybody touching my stomach  
11 and after counselling it's come to the fore that it's  
12 because of me pushing my stomach against my pants to  
13 stop him from getting there. And this is like over  
14 several drives.
- 15 Q. Okay. Did you ever talk about, with your friends,  
16 about what had happened?
- 17 A. No, never.
- 18 Q. In your statement at paragraph 30, you talk about a  
19 time when Archie told you to sneak out of the house at  
20 night?
- 21 A. Yep.
- 22 Q. And you climbed out the bedroom window and I think he  
23 picked you up in the car?
- 24 A. He was waiting. He told me, it was pre-organised that  
25 he would meet me and I snuck out the window so that the  
26 door didn't - it was an old house with a big clucky  
27 door and it was right by my Mum's bedroom so I didn't  
28 want them to know I was sneaking out and I was at  
29 school then.
- 30 Q. Did Archie tell you why he wanted you to sneak out?
- 31 A. No.
- 32 Q. You went down a back road by the sounds of it, that you  
33 hadn't been before?
- 34 A. Yep.
- 35 Q. And parked?



1 A. Yep.

2 Q. And what happened then?

3 A. He pulled the keys out the car.

4 Q. And then what happened?

5 A. He sodomised me and he wouldn't stop. I was screaming  
6 and yelling. He got angry when I screamed and yelled  
7 and then stopped. I got out the car. I felt bad that  
8 he'd got angry and he did it again and I put up with  
9 it.

10 Q. Once that finished, what happened then?

11 A. He dropped me off at home.

12 Q. Do you remember if he said anything to you?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Did you tell anyone about what happened to you at the  
15 time?

16 A. No. I held it in for years until another family member  
17 told another family member the same, similar thing had  
18 happened to them.

19 Q. With the same person?

20 A. Yep.

21 Q. Looking back now as an adult, why do you think you  
22 weren't able to tell anyone at the time, like your Mum  
23 or—

24 A. Well, I felt dirty, horrible.

25 Q. What was your relationship like with your mother at  
26 that stage?

27 A. My mother used to treat me as a friend, I suppose. I  
28 used to hear all her problems. I couldn't tell anybody  
29 that.

30 Q. You say in your statement at paragraph 34, "I think the  
31 boys must have known what was happening to each other"?

32 A. Yeah, when I went for the first drive and then came  
33 back, they were all standing on the veranda at Uncle  
34 Tom's there laughing and smiling, they knew what was  
35 going to happen and yeah.

1 Q. Thank you, Robert, for sharing that with us. I am now  
2 going to ask you some questions about the impacts that  
3 that abuse when you were 15 or so has had on you, okay?

4 I'll let you tell us in your own words but, as an  
5 introduction to that, in your statement you say that it  
6 has affected every aspect of your life?

7 A. It's been the last few years and the counselling that  
8 I've understood why I am the way I am. I can't handle  
9 anybody that looks like Archie. I am unable to have -  
10 I've had numerous amounts of jobs. Anybody that cheats  
11 or lies or is bad to anybody else does my head in and I  
12 just leave. I can't - yeah, it's just better to walk  
13 away from these people. Yeah, if there's abuser, they  
14 seem to find me.

15 Q. What do you mean by that?

16 A. A bully.

17 Q. What about impact on relationships?

18 A. I'm openly gay. I believe older men are just dirty old  
19 sleaze bags and younger men think I'm a dirty old  
20 sleaze bag. There's no winning. I can go into the  
21 nitty-gritty if you want.

22 Q. No, that's okay, Robert. What about in terms of being  
23 able to make friends and have supports around you,  
24 friends and family?

25 A. Family, my family are my skydiving friends and, yeah,  
26 my skydiving friends.

27 Q. Tell the Commissioners about that and skydiving?

28 A. Skydiving.

29 Q. Why did you get into that, Robert?

30 A. Because it's a rush, it's adrenaline, I suppose. It's  
31 better off than being a robber robbing a bank and  
32 getting a high off-well, my belief is there doesn't  
33 need to be prisoners. Abuse is a road to jail. Yeah,  
34 I mean, I get drunk and you can be my best friend but  
35 when I'm drunk you're my worst enemy.

1 Q. You have had issues with drinking as a younger man?

2 A. Yep. And after talking to a survivor from the same  
3 man, who led the same, well, was a drunk, and I know of  
4 one or two others that are and lives have been screwed,  
5 it's every day. The whole self-esteem. Physical, I  
6 have a cranial aneurysm, I've been beat up several  
7 times in my life and it's after listening to this same  
8 survivor and him talking about others, that's where  
9 it's come from. The Church owes the world.

10 Q. When this happened to you as a teenager, was your  
11 family a Church-going family, were you religious?

12 A. No, not at all.

13 Q. Has the abuse that you suffered had any effect on your  
14 views of God and religion?

15 A. Personally, God to me is a paedophile and fucks young  
16 boys up the arse basically. That's how I feel. And  
17 God is for hypocrites to hide behind.

18 Q. You talk in your statement, Robert, about being  
19 diagnosed with PTSD and you also talk at various points  
20 about your anxiety and depression and suicide attempts.  
21 Are those factors – do you think that they're impacts  
22 of what happened to you when you were a teenager?

23 A. Definitely, the first attempt was more or less after  
24 the rape.

25 Q. As a teenager?

26 A. As a teenager.

27 Q. I know I'm jumping around a bit because I should have  
28 asked you this before but in terms of alcohol for which  
29 I know has been a problem for you previously, what is  
30 the current situation for you with that now?

31 A. I don't touch it or try not to. I might have a social  
32 wine. If I find myself drinking more than one or two,  
33 I ask for somebody to be a helper or look after me.

34 Yeah, about the rape and the impact, there's one thing  
35 I always remember, and I feel really for this guy. It

- 1 was after school or whatever, went to Uncle Tom's and  
2 there's this young fella absolutely shocked, horrified,  
3 and it's like, I said, "What happened to him?", "He's  
4 been for his first ride with Archie" and say no more.  
5 Sorry, am I jumping around?
- 6 Q. No, you're not at all, that's fine. Sticking with the  
7 impacts on you, what about in terms of your education  
8 and ability to have a career?
- 9 A. I don't think I'm silly but I'm a construction worker,  
10 you know. I never had a proper education at the  
11 beginning.
- 12 Q. Yep.
- 13 A. You know, I even had a teacher say, yeah, "I can save  
14 the other boys, but I can't save Robert" when we moved  
15 from Tutaki.
- 16 Q. So, that's in primary school level you are talking  
17 about?
- 18 A. Yeah.
- 19 Q. Right from the very beginning?
- 20 A. Yeah.
- 21 Q. So, before the incident with Archie, you were—
- 22 A. Any incidents, yeah.
- 23 Q. Okay.
- 24 A. Well, yeah.
- 25 Q. I described yourself as being someone who can't stay  
26 still, can you explain what you mean by that to us?
- 27 A. Can't stay still? I don't know how to. It does my  
28 head in, you know. I have to be doing something, even  
29 at work I do the work of four or five and I'm good at  
30 working out, working out problems under stress, you  
31 know. I can see it, like people stand there and go  
32 "drr" and it's like gosh do that, do that and get  
33 sorted.
- 34 Q. Okay.
- 35 A. Overworked.

1 Q. Overworked?

2 A. Yeah. Well, it's – the guilt if you're not doing  
3 anything, you've got to be doing something. Or if you  
4 do it, that's the other thing, like, afraid of doing  
5 something wrong. I wake up lots of times in the middle  
6 of the night and stress about, well, stuff. I get to  
7 work and it's fine. Afraid of making mistakes and  
8 being told off.

9 Q. In your statement, Robert, at paragraph 47, you say  
10 this, "I am thinking all the time. I never stop  
11 thinking. I analyse every single thing. My mind never  
12 stops. I can't rest, that's why I go skydiving. It's  
13 a coping mechanism for me".

14 A. Well, it is, yeah, you know.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. Yeah, and bombies off the Murray's Bay jetty.

17 Q. Say that again?

18 A. Bombies off the Murray's Bay jetty, doing that  
19 yesterday on my days off after 70 hours of work.

20 Q. That sounds like an excellent way to spend your day.  
21 You talk in your statement, Robert, about the last time  
22 you had a suicide attempt which was about three years  
23 ago I think and I won't ask you to go into the details  
24 of that because you told the Commissioners about that  
25 experience. But I mention it because it's still very  
26 live and relevant for you, the effects of the abuse  
27 when you were 15?

28 A. Yep.

29 Q. And it's recently, I think within the last three or  
30 four years, that you've started to have counselling; is  
31 that right?

32 A. It's since then.

33 Q. Since that attempt?

34 A. Yeah.

35 Q. And how have you found counselling?

1 A. Counselling, I found it hard work. I found it  
2 traumatic. But no pain, no gain, and I now understand  
3 why and the things that have troubled me, why and how  
4 they've come about. The counsellor got me to go and  
5 report the historic abuse and that was a major to  
6 actually do that.

7 Q. And I think was that your first counsellor who  
8 suggested to you that you should go to the Police?

9 A. Yep.

10 Q. In your statement you talk about, we will go through  
11 them all, you talk about the redress processes that  
12 you've tried?

13 A. Yep.

14 Q. Which includes ACC, the Police, an organisation called  
15 CLAN NZ, the Church itself, so we will get to all of  
16 those but if we perhaps, and I am not sure what  
17 happened first. Did you go to ACC, in terms of  
18 engaging with them first, or to the Police or all at  
19 once?

20 A. I was at the doctor having a wound dressed every two to  
21 three times a week as a result of the suicide attempt.

22 Q. I see.

23 A. And I'd been a few times and the nurse said to me,  
24 "You're not so well today, Robert", "Yes, no, I'm fine"  
25 and she said, "You can wait, I'll make you a cup of tea  
26 and you can see somebody that - you can see the right  
27 doctor". And I waited and waited, and I walked into  
28 the doctor's room and I was asked, "Have you ever been  
29 sexually abused?" and I said, "Yes". And so, that's  
30 why I got the three counselling sessions to see if it  
31 was for real. What was the question again? I do  
32 divert, I know.

33 Q. No, you're not diverting at all. I asked you about  
34 whether you started counselling first or went to the  
35 Police first or they happened at the same time?

- 1 A. That was, yeah, then I went to the counselling and then  
2 he said to go to the Police.
- 3 Q. So, the counsellor has encouraged you to go to the  
4 Police?
- 5 A. Yeah.
- 6 Q. I see, yep.
- 7 A. And ACC gave more counselling and it carried on from  
8 there.
- 9 Q. Let's talk about the Police first and then I'll come  
10 back to some questions about your experience with ACC.
- 11 A. Okay.
- 12 Q. So, you went to the Police?
- 13 A. Yep.
- 14 Q. You went into a Police Station, did you?
- 15 A. At Helensville, yes.
- 16 Q. How did you feel about that?
- 17 A. How did I feel? I felt like doing it. It was a huge  
18 thing. I was umm'ing and argh'ing, like are they going  
19 to believe me? Am I going on about things rah-de-rah.  
20 And I muscled up. Yeah, I stayed out, contemplated in  
21 the car, then I muscled up and went in and it was at  
22 Helensville and she said this is really important,  
23 important, you'll probably need to see somebody else  
24 and they sent up a meeting with a Detective in Orewa.  
25 I went and made a statement.
- 26 Q. I think you can probably sit back a little bit because  
27 if you're that close-
- 28 A. Nothing like being tactile.
- 29 Q. Indeed. Okay. So, you spoke to a Detective I think  
30 called Shane Pyke at Orewa Police Station?
- 31 A. Yes.
- 32 Q. How did you find that process of talking to a  
33 Detective?
- 34 A. Well, it was all new to - is that better? Can you  
35 actually hear? I can't hear myself.

1 Q. I can hear you.

2 A. That was the beginning of opening up and it was – he  
3 was a really nice guy but I couldn't talk about the  
4 nitty-gritty.

5 Q. Of what had happened?

6 A. Yeah, I got to where the keys were pulled out the car  
7 and that was it.

8 Q. Okay. But you must have made it clear to the Detective  
9 that you were making an allegation of sexual abuse?

10 A. Yep.

11 Q. About Archie?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. And I think you gave the Police a list of names of  
14 other people you thought may have also been abused by  
15 Archie?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. I don't know how much time passed but eventually you  
18 were told by the Detective that Archie had died, is  
19 that right?

20 A. Yep.

21 Q. And effectively, that therefore there wasn't anything  
22 that the Police could do, in terms of your allegation?

23 A. Yeah, something like that.

24 Q. Can we go back then and talk about your experiences  
25 with ACC because in your statement you talk about this  
26 at some length, okay?

27 Would you consider that ACC have been helpful, in  
28 the sense that they have paid for counselling for you  
29 which you have found to be useful?

30 A. I thank ACC for the counselling that I have received.

31 Q. What do you not thank them for?

32 A. The way that they go about things.

33 Q. Tell us about that, Robert?

34 A. Well, I don't think they take into consideration that  
35 some people do have mental disabilities and the way



1 that they work makes them worse. Well, yeah, I've been  
2 dealing with them for the last two/three years, one  
3 would think that they would help. They send little  
4 flyers out with their thing saying they're here to  
5 help. Yeah, they don't, they make it difficult.  
6 They've called the cops on me twice.

7 Q. When you were at an office, do you mean, or when you  
8 were at home?

9 A. At home.

10 Q. Okay. Why was that?

11 A. Well, because I told them I'd rather be dead than talk  
12 to them.

13 Q. I see.

14 A. I gave them some suggestions, I thought they would look  
15 into people and – first of all, they come across as  
16 though they're going to help you and the next minute  
17 they slam you.

18 Q. How many times do you think you had to tell your – give  
19 your account of what had happened to you to ACC staff?

20 A. Psychiatrists and psychologists.

21 Q. Okay. And others as well, like case managers?

22 A. No, they just read the reports.

23 Q. I see.

24 A. But you end up getting a rapport with a case manager  
25 and the next minute you're onto somebody else.

26 Q. How many case managers have you had, do you think?

27 A. Three or four.

28 Q. Okay.

29 A. And yeah.

30 Q. It is through the assessment process by ACC that a  
31 formal diagnosis of PTSD was made for you, is that  
32 right?

33 A. The doctor that sent me to ACC, the GP, said it's PTSD.

34 Q. I see, okay.

1 A. She diagnosed it, but I had finished work, like I quit  
2 work. I don't know how many jobs I've had in the last  
3 three years because the PTSD I run away from, I quit  
4 work and usually go into my savings or get back on the  
5 dole or whatever. And so, she said, she told me to do  
6 the ACC, claim compensation.

7 Q. Right.

8 A. But the end result is that because I've sought  
9 treatment before not knowing what it was, and ACC's  
10 decision at a review was that they don't pay out on  
11 undiagnosed PTSD. Yeah, it's because of the PTSD I  
12 haven't been able to work. Because I wasn't working, I  
13 haven't been able to claim ACC. And then you go on to  
14 MSD who make you feel like a real heel anyway and give  
15 you \$250 a week to live on.

16 **CHAIR:** A small breath would be a really good idea,  
17 Robert.

18 **MS BEATON:**

19 Q. It's all right.

20 A. Stop eating the mikes.

21 Q. You talk in your statement, Robert, about taking a  
22 review of decisions not to give you weekly compensation  
23 at one point and you say you did your own review  
24 because you couldn't afford a lawyer. How did you find  
25 accessing the that review process? Was it difficult?

26 A. To actually—

27 Q. To participate in that.

28 A. I was told my review was very good but the actual,  
29 yeah, the process is, well, it's FairWay, isn't it,  
30 they're paid by ACC to review their own cases.

31 Q. And did you have a lawyer or?

32 A. No.

33 Q. Or an advocate representing you?

34 A. No, my first advocate was my landlady. I didn't know  
35 what an advocate was for ACC. I thought an advocate is

1 somebody that can speak for you and I had an 85-year-  
2 old landlady and she didn't know nothing about the ACC  
3 thing, so there was a few months of that. And then I  
4 changed-

5 Q. Just take it slower a little bit.

6 A. Then when I moved back down to Hokitika, I got somebody  
7 else and they said they didn't know. Yeah, I just did  
8 it on my own in the end.

9 Q. How easy or difficult did you find getting information  
10 as to what you might be entitled to from ACC?

11 A. You don't, you know, it's like you learn it afterwards.  
12 If it was now, I would ask the doctor at Wellington  
13 instead of putting me on a medical, let's go to ACC.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. And I would have been fine.

16 Q. So, it says in your statement that you would do things  
17 differently if you-

18 A. Oh, definitely now I know the system.

19 Q. If you knew what you know now?

20 A. Yeah, it's a very unfair playing field.

21 Q. ACC do pay you I think \$20 a week or the equivalent of  
22 that for the rest of your life for a mental impairment  
23 that they assessed at being 15 per cent; is that right?

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. And, so the Commissioners are aware, you have provided  
26 the Commission with copies of these really fulsome  
27 psychiatric and psychological assessment reports that  
28 are part of that assessment of you at 15 per cent?

29 A. Yep.

30 Q. Can you confirm that?

31 A. Yep.

32 Q. Just give us some context for those assessments because  
33 you would have had to meet with I think the  
34 psychologist first and then with the psychiatrist; is  
35 that how it happened?

- 1 A. Psychologist first, yes.
- 2 Q. And how long were these meetings, do you remember?
- 3 A. The psychologist one was a while. It was like hours,  
4 three, six, three.
- 5 Q. All in one meeting or split over days?
- 6 A. No, that was in – there was two meetings with the  
7 psychologist. One to check me out, I suppose, that was  
8 three hours. It was a long time.
- 9 Q. Yeah.
- 10 A. And then the second one was to make sure that what she  
11 had written was correct.
- 12 Q. Okay. So, how did you find the process of going  
13 through those long assessments?
- 14 A. I don't know really.
- 15 Q. Okay. Was it easy for you?
- 16 A. No.
- 17 Q. Or difficult, somewhere in-between?
- 18 A. No, you've got to bring it all up again, don't you?  
19 And then also, what is written about you sometimes is  
20 not quite correct and I haven't got the – I don't even  
21 read them, you know, I just send them off to my brother  
22 or somebody else. I just brief through it or read the  
23 summary because it's hard work.
- 24 Q. They are long documents, I've seen them.
- 25 A. Yeah, and to actually take it all in and by yourself  
26 with no help from anybody else, family or whatever, you  
27 sometimes have to weigh up the, is it worth it?
- 28 Q. Are you currently doing counselling under ACC?
- 29 A. No.
- 30 Q. Okay. That stopped I think when you moved to Auckland,  
31 did it?
- 32 A. Yeah, I just – I moved away from a counsellor that I  
33 had a really good rapport and I was okay and I started  
34 work and I started back skydiving and putting my life,  
35 well, restarting my life.

- 1 Q. Yeah. All right. I want to ask you some questions now  
2 about CLAN NZ and also about the contact that you made  
3 with the Anglican Church. I am grouping them together  
4 because I think it all happened within a couple of days  
5 of each other, right? Which we know was the middle of  
6 September 2017. So, you contacted both CLAN NZ? I  
7 think them first, did you?
- 8 A. I contacted—
- 9 Q. They are an advocacy group for survivors of abuse in  
10 State care I think, is that right?
- 11 A. Yeah, something like that.
- 12 Q. Something like that?
- 13 A. There is an Australian one that's bigger than the  
14 New Zealand one.
- 15 Q. Okay. So, you sent them an email via their website?
- 16 A. Yep.
- 17 Q. And explaining what had happened to you with Archie?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. And you heard back from them?
- 20 A. Straight away.
- 21 Q. Yeah, okay. And they suggested that you should get  
22 some legal advice?
- 23 A. Correct.
- 24 Q. And they referred you to Cooper Legal in Wellington?
- 25 A. Yep.
- 26 Q. About the same time, you also contacted the Anglican  
27 Church. Can you remember how you did that? Was that  
28 also through a website or an email?
- 29 A. I think that was through the Brightwater website and  
30 that was actually first because how I know that is  
31 because Cooper Legal or CLAN had written not to go  
32 direct to the Church first. I thought, oh God, I've  
33 done that already.
- 34 Q. According to your statement, you posted a message on a  
35 parish website saying that you'd been abused by

1 Archdeacon Jameson and that you were getting  
2 counselling and that you'd made a Police complaint.  
3 And then you go a reply, is it that right, in an email?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. I will bring that up on the screen in front of you,  
6 it's Exhibit 0055002. We're going to pull out the  
7 paragraph which starts with, "Dear Robert", can you see  
8 that in front of you?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. I am just going to read that out just so we have a  
11 record of it, "The Waimea parish has passed on your  
12 email posted on its website to the Nelson Diocese  
13 office for response because of the seriousness of the  
14 conduct described. I am very saddened to hear of your  
15 treatment by Archdeacon Jameson. The Church is aware  
16 this man was prosecuted for similar offences in 1978  
17 and is appalled at his behaviour. I am very pleased to  
18 hear you are now receiving specialist counselling  
19 through ACC and that you have reported this matter to  
20 the Police. I hope these positive actions will help  
21 further your healing which we will continue to support  
22 in our prayers."

23 How did you feel when you received that email from  
24 the Church?

25 A. Well, I don't believe in God, so prayers don't do  
26 anything, you know. They admitted that Archie had a  
27 record.

28 Q. And did you know that already?

29 A. Yeah.

30 Q. Yes, you did?

31 A. Yep. I didn't know when though.

32 Q. Okay. So, they told you 1978?

33 A. Yep.

34 Q. That was something new?

35 A. Yep.

1 Q. Information for you?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Other than that email, and I know that once you went to  
4 Cooper Legal things changed, but did you ever hear  
5 anything else directly yourself from any representative  
6 of the Church?

7 A. No.

8 Q. What do you think now, looking back, would have been a  
9 more useful response to you?

10 A. I don't know. Maybe, yeah, I wasn't looking - I don't  
11 know. It's acknowledgment, you know. It was a day of  
12 where I had to occupy, I had to do something.

13 Q. You mean the day that you got the letter, sorry the  
14 email?

15 A. The day I sent the email.

16 Q. I see.

17 A. Am I going off track again?

18 Q. No, I'm not?

19 A. Come back to your question.

20 Q. No, no, no. My question was, what would a good  
21 response have been? If telling you that they would  
22 pray for you was not something that you found useful-

23 A. I really don't know what I expected, you know. Like, I  
24 had to let - I had to let them know that that happened  
25 and what are you going to do about it, what are your  
26 thoughts? And that is, basically, what they think.  
27 You know, they don't really care. They think a few  
28 prayers might heal. I didn't feel good, that's why I  
29 went to the CLAN, I wanted more.

30 Q. And, as we said before, they then recommended that you  
31 should get a lawyer?

32 A. Yes.

33 Q. And you did?

34 A. Yes.

35 Q. You contacted Cooper Legal?

1 A. Correct.

2 Q. And you applied for Legal Aid through Cooper Legal?

3 A. They asked me why I hadn't contacted them and was  
4 asked, is it money? And I said, yeah, you know. Well,  
5 we can do the Legal Aid thing and it won't cost you  
6 anything. So, then I pursued it.

7 Q. I see. Sorry, just to make that clear for everyone,  
8 Cooper Legal, one of the lawyers asked you why you  
9 hadn't done it before and you said because it would  
10 cost too much for you?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Okay, right. So, then you applied for Legal Aid?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. Through them, they helped?

15 A. Through them, yeah.

16 Q. And you were given Civil Legal Aid?

17 A. Yep.

18 Q. Right. But you were told that because you owned a  
19 block of land on the coast, that there would need to be  
20 a statutory land charge?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. Over your property?

23 A. Yep.

24 Q. And I think you also—

25 A. That actually came a little later when things were in  
26 progress.

27 Q. Okay, sure. Did you also get notification from Legal  
28 Aid about a figure for your legal costs? Can you tell  
29 us about that?

30 A. I remember a figure of \$91,000.

31 Q. And what did you think, how did that make you—

32 A. That stressed, maxed me right out. Like, that's all  
33 I've got. It's like if I'm fighting for justice and I  
34 was told that the Anglican Church were crap at getting



1 anything out of, and that it might just cover costs,  
2 yeah.

3 Q. So, how did that affect your thinking about taking or  
4 making some kind of legal claim against the Church?

5 A. Well, it made my head stir. I couldn't think.

6 Actually, at some stage, stopped, put it on hold, I  
7 couldn't handle the thought. You know, it's like am I  
8 going to go and spend all my money and everything that  
9 I own for justice, come out with nothing, worse off at  
10 the end?

11 Q. You've gone into a bit of detail in your written  
12 statement about your experience of having legal  
13 representation and we don't need to go, I know you  
14 don't want to go into all the details about that now  
15 but a couple of things.

16 The delays were and are a concern for you, is that  
17 right?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. If we jump ahead though, your claim to the Anglican  
20 Church has now been accepted by them?

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. And you have been offered financial compensation or a  
23 payment to you which you've told your lawyers you will  
24 accept; is that the situation?

25 A. Yes.

26 Q. And that's pretty recent, right, in the last couple of  
27 weeks?

28 A. Not even a week.

29 Q. Okay.

30 A. Well, a week, yeah. I was offered it three or four  
31 weeks ago and just finally said yes.

32 Q. And getting to this point has taken just a wee bit over  
33 three years from the time you first contacted Cooper  
34 Legal?

35 A. Yes.

1 Q. Because their records show that was in October 2017?

2 A. (Nods). That's when I made a statement to Cooper Legal  
3 but I contacted them in September.

4 Q. Okay, all right.

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. So, that's say three years or thereabouts, how do you  
7 feel about that period of time? How have you found  
8 that process?

9 A. I found it very stressful and not very helpful, in that  
10 it's all been, at the same time, fighting ACC. They're  
11 not sympathetic at all. They're very, yeah, cold.

12 Q. ACC you mean?

13 A. Well, the whole thing.

14 Q. Okay, sure.

15 A. And, yeah, put it on hold.

16 Q. So, the Commission has received a short statement from  
17 Cooper Legal, Amanda Hill and Sonja Cooper, responding  
18 to some of your concerns in your statement and we have  
19 that as part of the evidence. We don't need to go into  
20 that, but they say that three years is a very long time  
21 but actually, compared to others, sadly it's actually  
22 quite quick. How do you feel about that?

23 A. Well, I wouldn't want it to be any longer than three  
24 years. And the people that are going on seven years,  
25 whatever, it's, yeah, I feel for them.

26 Q. Yeah.

27 A. Even my doctor did say you've got to think is it worth  
28 it for your own health to actually go through, and it  
29 has taken its toll.

30 Q. In your statement, you talk about being quite stressed  
31 and anxious about the process?

32 A. Yep.

33 Q. And you've told us just now that you did ask your  
34 lawyers to pause the proceedings at one point?

35 A. Yep.

1 Q. Because you were finding it too difficult?

2 A. Yep.

3 Q. You did strike up a good relationship with one of the  
4 lawyers though, Sam, is that right?

5 A. Yes, yes.

6 Q. And you found that a positive experience, dealing with  
7 him?

8 A. I felt nothing had happened until Sam came on the  
9 scene.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. Yeah. And there was sympathy, there was, yeah. I  
12 didn't realise there were so many cases.

13 Q. You didn't, sorry, what was that?

14 A. Realise that they had so much work.

15 Q. Okay. You mean the law firm?

16 A. The law firm, yeah.

17 Q. Sure. He was saying to me earlier, I think it's  
18 important to let the Commissioners know this too, that  
19 for lots of reasons you have a bit of insomnia from  
20 time to time and you would send emails at 3.00 in the  
21 morning to your lawyer?

22 A. Yep, yep.

23 Q. As a lawyer myself, I get some of them sometimes, so I  
24 understand. But how did you feel that your lawyer  
25 responded to those? Was that positive or—

26 A. Sam always came back with an answer, always, yeah, and  
27 that made me feel better, yep.

28 Q. Okay.

29 A. But I think if I hadn't of sent what I'd sent, the  
30 process wouldn't be where it is today.

31 Q. Okay.

32 A. Okay? It's like the squeaky wheel gets the oil.

33 Q. And, in terms of — in fact, I'll read something that  
34 you've said in your statement. It's at paragraph 89.

35 "The process to get redress is almost actually worse

1 than the event itself, and I wonder if it is even worth  
2 it." Can you expand on that for us?

3 A. Financially, it's not.

4 Q. Do you mean in relation to the Legal Aid debt?

5 A. The compensation that's offered.

6 Q. Oh, I'm sorry, the amount of compensation?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. Yep. If it wasn't for Cooper Legal, I wouldn't be here  
10 today saying and telling the public what happened. I  
11 didn't realise that what happened is actually as big as  
12 it is and how many people it would affect. And even  
13 the people that I have abused verbally in the past,  
14 that's all part of the initial abuse. I feel this here  
15 is – it's making me feel like a real person, that I  
16 haven't felt in a long time.

17 Q. Do you mean being able to give evidence?

18 A. Give my story.

19 Q. Okay. I want to move, Robert, we're nearly, I think  
20 we're nearly at the end of my questions for you anyway.  
21 Part of the Anglican Church's approach to redress with  
22 you has been a meeting or an apology or something or a  
23 combination of those things. Tell me what you want  
24 from an apology from the Church?

25 A. In the way of an apology, would be a public apology to  
26 the whole country and to the people that could have  
27 been or the people that have been. It doesn't have to  
28 name names but, you know–

29 Q. The people that have been, what, abused?

30 A. Abused, you know, like a public apology in the Nelson  
31 Evening Mail.

32 Q. To the victims of your–

33 A. Any victims that are from Archie, yeah.

34 Q. I see.

35 A. It's a region and a generation.

1 Q. You also say in your statement that you'd like to know  
2 what the Church actually knew about Archie: "I would  
3 like to know any information about his practices. I  
4 would like answers from the Scouts as well, anything to  
5 bring justice". How would that help you?

6 A. Just it's acknowledgment of, like, have they held this  
7 and known it? I'm sure there must be more complaints.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. I know of a dozen boys that I'm 99 per cent, and that's  
10 only the ones I can name off the top of my head. There  
11 would be a lot of - I was told of three, told that  
12 there were three GRO-C that were directly connected  
13 to Archie, and that's when it clicked in my head that,  
14 you know, up until a year ago I was suicidal every day.

15 Q. At the end of your witness statement, you talk about a  
16 need for more public awareness?

17 A. Yep, definitely.

18 Q. What do you mean by that?

19 A. A friend of mine once said "boys don't talk about  
20 what's happened to them". I believe we don't need  
21 prisons, you know. There isn't bad children, it's bad  
22 parenting or bad hierarchy. Abuses attract prison and  
23 as a society we're all responsible for everybody, you  
24 know, share the love, stop raping people.

25 Q. Thank you, Robert, for answering my questions and  
26 coming today.

27 A. That's okay.

28 Q. I will hand you over to Madam Chair and the  
29 Commissioners to see if they have any questions for  
30 you.

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**ROBERT OAKLY**

**QUESTIONED BY THE COMMISSIONERS**

**CHAIR:** I will find out if the Commissioners would like to ask anything.

**COMMISSIONER ERUETI:** Kia ora, Robert.

A. Kia ora.

**COMMISSIONER ERUETI:** Just a quick question. I am curious about the meetings, not the meetings but a process of getting a settlement from the Anglican Church. It sounds like from your brief and your evidence today that it was largely a process done by the lawyers flicking paper about?

A. That's about it and me hounding the lawyer.

**COMMISSIONER ERUETI:** Okay. What would you have preferred though?

A. I don't know if – well, yeah, I would have liked to have suddenly become a real person without all this shit, you know. I'm not stupid. I'm 63, I'm having to work really hard to get a little bit of money for my retirement. I feel it's screwed my life up, you know. Somewhere to live, a decent hospitalisation, a bit of heart. Not this, oh well, treated like a druggie or palm him off with a bit of this. If I hadn't of sent the how I felt emails to Sam, I wouldn't have even got as far as I am today, and I'd still be not wanting to be in this world. I'm here for the hundreds of other people that are like me and, yeah, that are hiding. A lot of them don't even know why. It's lies, lying, I haven't lied since I found out that I wasn't who I thought I was at 11.

**COMMISSIONER ERUETI:** Okay, tēnā koe. I was also struck by the theme that's come up before about the

1 lack of someone needs to support you through the  
2 redress process, an advocate. It seemed like when you  
3 approached CLAN NZ, that that at least provided you  
4 with some guidance, you know, it led to the lawyers and  
5 so on and settlement. But without that sort of  
6 service, survivors, I'm wondering where do you start?  
7 And lawyers cost money and—

8 A. Where do you start? Was that a question, where do you  
9 start? I don't know where you start.

10 **CHAIR:** I think it's called a hypothetical question and  
11 a very good one. It demonstrates the loneliness of the  
12 abused and trying to find some redress.

13 A. Society as a whole actually punishes you for being  
14 abused. I was, after that last attempt of suicide, I  
15 was sectioned for five days. I wasn't, "Why did you do  
16 this? Where did this happen?", it wasn't until a  
17 couple of months, that was in May, August, September.  
18 It was like the doctor that actually asked me, "Have  
19 you been abused?" and I was there for another thing,  
20 you know. I had a compassionate doctor. If I hadn't  
21 of had that compassionate doctor or compassionate nurse  
22 that knew the right doctor to send me to I would still  
23 be suicidal, you know. At least now I know I've been  
24 abused, whatever, but at least now I know why my head  
25 has been the way that it's been. And to tell others,  
26 you know, it's okay to be like that, it's not really  
27 your fault. And the biggest thing was the counsellor  
28 said to me, "It's not bad children, it's bad  
29 parenting". And the hardest thing to do is to tell the  
30 parents that. And it's the same, bad — I mean, you're  
31 in somebody's care and they don't look after you,  
32 they're supposed to be teaching you how to drive.  
33 They're grooming you to stick their dick in you, you  
34 know.

35 **COMMISSIONER ERUETI:** Kia ora, thank you.

1 **COMMISSIONER ALOFIVAE:** Afternoon, Robert. Thank you  
2 for clarifying for us that the redress process with the  
3 Anglican Church was mainly just done with  
4 correspondence with the lawyers. We've heard from  
5 other survivors that mediation was a process that was  
6 used. Would that have been something you might have  
7 been interested in if it was offered?

8 A. Mediation with the Church?

9 **COMMISSIONER ALOFIVAE:** Yeah.

10 A. Yeah, probably. I think the Church really do need to  
11 know what has happened to a lot of people.

12 **COMMISSIONER ALOFIVAE:** So, do you think then, looking  
13 forward, that rather than just settling things on the  
14 paper, there should be offers like that and you can  
15 turn it down of course if you want to but to bring a  
16 bit of closure?

17 A. I've got to think. I'm a bit slow at thinking. There  
18 will never be closure. I think it's acceptance. It's  
19 a hard one.

20 **COMMISSIONER ALOFIVAE:** Yeah. But it's a process worth  
21 considering?

22 A. Mediation would definitely help.

23 **COMMISSIONER ALOFIVAE:** Thank you.

24 A. Mediation is a relationship, whether it's good or bad,  
25 and relationships and dialogue are some of the best  
26 things, aren't they? Yeah.

27 **COMMISSIONER ALOFIVAE:** Thank you for that.

28 **CHAIR:** Robert, I don't have any questions for you. I  
29 think you've more than answered a lot of questions in  
30 my mind and I'm just going to leave you with  
31 Commissioner Steenson.

32 **COMMISSIONER STEENSON:** Kia ora, Robert, good  
33 afternoon. I don't have any questions for you, but I  
34 just want to thank you for being brave and frank with  
35 your recount and coming forward to give evidence.



1 We're glad that you have come forward for those, as you  
2 say, that are hiding. And we're absolutely, we  
3 absolutely appreciate it, so thank you very much. Tēnā  
4 koe.

5 A. Thank you for having me.

6 **CHAIR:** You're most welcome. We'll take the break now  
7 before our next witness. Thank you, Robert.

8

9 **Hearing adjourned from 2.48 p.m. until 3.05 p.m.**

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