

Witness Name: Andrew Morris Jane

Statement No.: WITN0319001

Exhibits: WITN319002 – WITN319004

Dated: 23 April 2021

ROYAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO ABUSE IN CARE

WITNESS STATEMENT OF ANDREW MORRIS JANE

I, Andrew Morris Jane, will say as follows: –

- 1 My name is Andrew Morris Jane, and I was born on [GRO-C] 1963. I am 57 years old. I currently live in Whangarei. I am a survivor of Lake Alice; I am a survivor of a number of boys' homes; I am a survivor of the abusive state system that I was forced into when I was a child.

Early life

- 2 My mother is [GRO-B], my father is [GRO-B]. I have three siblings. [GRO-B] and [GRO-B] are twins – they are five years older than me. Then there is [GRO-B] and myself. I was a twin, but my twin died when I was three.
- 3 My parents split up when I was five to six years old. I lived with my father and my brothers in Napier. My sister lived with my mother. [GRO-B] sexually abused [GRO-B] and his friends. I didn't want this to happen to me so I

ran away a lot from home, but the police would find me and take me back. **GRO-B**

GRO-B I became fairly well known to the Police.

- 4 At the same time, I was struggling at School and so the Principal referred me to a psychiatrist. The Report says that I was struggling from an unsettled home environment and needed stability and reasonable supervision (Psychologist Report, J A Foote, dated 11 January 1974 **[WITN0319002]**)
- 5 On 6 August 1975, at age 12, I was taken on a warrant by the Police for a number of theft charges and was placed in a family home. (Department of Social Welfare, Filenote, dated 11 August 1975 **[WITN0319003]**). I was returned back to my Dads care on 22 August 1975, on a trial basis, but it was found that my dad couldn't provide me with sufficient supervision. (Department of Social Welfare, Filenote dated 5 December 1975 **[WITN0319004]**).
- 6 On 7 October 1975, my Dad requested to enter in a section 11 agreement for the State to take responsibility for my care. (Formal Written Request by **GRO-B** dated 7 October 1975 **[WITN0319005]**). The Department of Social Welfare supported my Dad's request and recommended that I be put in Holdsworth as it could give me the opportunity to have security and supervision. (Department of Social Welfare Report and Recommendation dated 5 December 1975 **[WITN0319006]**).
- 7 The section 11 recommendation was made, and agreement entered into, on 29 January 1976. (Department of Social Welfare Report and Recommendation dated 29 January 1976 **[WITN0319007]**). I was admitted to Holdsworth straightaway, on 30 January 1976, I was 12 years old. (Department of Social Welfare Report with Holdsworth Admission details dated 8 March 1976 **[WITN0319008]**).
- 8 As soon as I arrived at Holdsworth, I hated it. I was always thinking about running away. In the very first week I tried to run away, but after about 3 hours they found me and took me back to Holdsworth (**[WITN0319008]**). I tried again in February and one more time in March. Each time, they found me and took me back. (Department of Social Welfare Filenote dated 10 February 1976 **[WITN0319009]**).

How I came to be in Lake Alice

- 9 After the second time I ran away, they sent me to Lake Alice as punishment and to try and deter me, I guess, from running away again. I don't know when this was but if I look at my Holdsworth notes above, it must have been between me running away the second time in February 1976 and running away the third time in March 1976.
- 10 You will not see any notes for my admission to Lake Alice because I was never formally admitted there as a patient. It was like something out of a movie or a covert operation. I was one of a few boys who were taken there in the Holdsworth van. Holdsworth was close to Lake Alice, so it was easy for them to just take me over there to get shocked.
- 11 I can't remember the name of the person who drove the van, but it was one of the Holdsworth staff. I don't remember if it was just me in the van or whether there were other children.
- 12 What I saw and remember from the outside was that the building was like a prison – all fenced up. Everyone was locked up, and you couldn't get out. It was like going into maximum security. When I was taken inside the buildings, I remember lots of doors.

ECT

- 13 I received ECT when I was there. I remember it was the daytime. They took me into this small room. It was dark, not much light at all, with no windows. There was just a long wooden table with an electric shock device beside it. There were a few chairs and about four staff to hold me down. All the people that were in the room were dressed in white. There may have been someone else with a different coloured shirt on, he was one of the staff, he could have been a doctor, I'm not sure. But he looked like a sicko.
- 14 I was screaming and yelling, "What the fuck are you doing? I'm only 12" I was just trying to escape and get away. I can't remember the person who actually gave me the shocks or operated the machine. I just remember fighting it.

- 15 When I fought getting the ECT, they tried to drug me with a needle, and they ended up having to give me something to drink. I think now it was largactil, because what I have heard about that drug is that it knocks you out – that's what happened to me. Once I took the drugs, they strapped me down on the wooden table and I blacked out. I was out for maybe a few hours. When I woke up, I was still in the room, but it was dark. I had bruises on my body, on my legs and arms, so who knows what happened to me when I was knocked out.
- 16 I didn't know anything when I woke. I was all by myself. It was like I was in a cell. I was in a daze; I didn't know what was happening or why I was there. I was so confused. About four or five people came in once I woke up. I was yelling and screaming again.
- 17 I think they kept me there for a few days, at least a day and a night. I was then taken back to Holdsworth in the van. The whole time I was drugged. They must have kept given me injections to keep me so drugged up, but I don't remember receiving more.
- 18 This was my experience in Lake Alice – I was just taken there, drugged and shocked, and then taken back to Holdsworth. I was only 12 years old. I remember going home for the following holiday and telling my dad what happened, and he got angry. My Holdsworth notes show this must have been in about Aug/Sep 1976. (Holdsworth Admission Filenote dated 6 September 1976 [WITN0319010]). He ended up going over to Lake Alice to try and smash it up. I don't know what happened after that.
- 19 No one else followed up with me about what I told Dad, so I never tried to tell anyone again. They wouldn't have believed me anyway. I was too busy trying to survive the state ward care on a daily basis. Night and day, night and day.

Staff

- 20 I don't remember particular staff members. I was only 12 and everyone looked the same except for one man who had a medical coat on.

After Holdsworth and Lake Alice

- 21 I was finally discharged from Holdsworth on 5 May 1977 and went back to live with my Dad in Palmerston North. Unfortunately, I struggled with fitting in and trying to deal with the abuse I had suffered at Holdsworth and Lake Alice. I continued my life of crime, doing what I already knew how to do. I appeared in front of Court many times on theft and motor vehicle charges.
- 22 On 13 July 1978, I was admitted to the Epuni Boys Home to see if I would respond to “short term institutional life”. (Department of Social Welfare Report on Epuni Boys Home dated 14 August 1978 [WITN0319011]). I would run away while I was there, steal money for food and cars for transport. Reports say I was emotionally disturbed, tense and would detach and withdraw myself from other people. [WITN0319011]. I agree with that assessment, at the very least, that was how I was feeling. I didn't know how to cope after being in Holdsworth and being subject to the abuse I received at Lake Alice.
- 23 I was admitted to Kohitere on 17 August 1978 and was eventually discharged on 20 April 1979. (Department of Social Welfare Report and Recommendation for Discharge dated 3 October 1979 [WITN0319012]). After my time in Kohitere, I really did try to make a good go of moving on, getting stable and finding myself a job. But that didn't last, and I returned back to crime.
- 24 I was finally released from state care on 3 October 1979 [WITN0319012])

Complaints and compensation

- 25 I went through a claim proceeding with Cooper Legal years ago regarding my time in state care but not specifically about Lake Alice. I talked to someone once when I was in jail but that's it. I don't really remember much more about the process and what happened. All I know was that the claim was not completed, and I have not received any money. I certainly don't feel like I have ever received any justice or closure for what I went through.
- 26 I am in the process of making an ACC claim for Loss of Earnings and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder I suffered because of sexual abuse in the homes I

was put in but it's very confusing and there are so many hurdles I need to jump through for someone to take responsibility and give us proper compensation. We shouldn't have to apply for some form of justice and then also prove that we are suffering.

Effects of Lake Alice and state care on my life

27 Lake Alice was just one place in a string of institutions that has caused me to suffer in a number of ways throughout my life. In Lake Alice, I was drugged, shocked and mentally and physically abused. You do not simply just get over that type of treatment. It haunts you forever. I was just a boy, and they definitely should not have been allowed to take me over to Lake Alice to get drugged and shocked as a form of punishment.

Heart Problems

28 What was made clear in my files, before I was put into state care, was that I had a heart defect. (Department of Social Welfare Information Sheet dated 1975 [WITN0319013]) They knew this, they should not have been shocking me and giving me the drugs that they did at Lake Alice. They should not have been doing this to any of the children, let alone a kid with a heart problem.

29 I am very lucky that nothing more serious happened during that time, like a heart attack. I am lucky that I did not die.

PTSD

30 As you can imagine, I have suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder because of what I went through in all these institutions. PTSD effects every part of my life, from my relationships I have, to how I deal and cope with situations and a one of the major impacts, has been employment. I have always found it hard to keep a job because I struggle with authority, trust, time management because of my memory issues etc. So, it was easier for me to keep with my life of crime. The longest time I remember actually keeping a job was when I was in Australia doing labouring work and that was for only about 6 months.

- 31 I have been in and out of jail all of my life, mainly for theft and motor vehicle offences. But I'm happy to say, I have been out of prison for over 2 years now and am currently on the invalid benefit. I have also previously been on the sickness benefit. I have just recently got my license back, something I have not had for over 15 years and I am so proud of that. I want to stay out of jail and make some money in legitimate ways.
- 32 I have had a bad memory ever since I got shock treatment. I started really noticing my memory issues about 2 years after getting the shock treatment. Some of it I know is from the abuse, and I think some of it is me purposefully trying to forget the terrible things that have happened to me. Since I have started this process of claims and this inquiry, it has opened up my memory again to just how horrible it all was. My short-term memory is not great. I forget a lot, and this is another reason why it has been hard to keep full-time employment.
- 33 I don't sleep well and wake up feeling like I have had fits in my dreams.

Effect on my Relationships

- 34 I haven't been able to hold down relationships because I simply don't trust anyone. I have problems with my emotions and opening up to people. I don't want to be hurt or hurt others because of how messed up I am. I'm not married. If I was balanced enough, I think I would have been in a long-term relationship.
- 35 I have issues with authority and anyone who is wearing a white coat. I don't trust people. This means I don't go to doctors. Despite this, I will never complain about things that have happened to me that are wrong. Because I know if I do, I will get punished.

Ongoing Trauma

- 36 I find it hard even now to talk about what I went through; I try to bury it, but it's there every single day. That's the pain that we have to live with. I can't even go on public transport because, if I see anyone with a beard, I just want to attack them. (A man with a beard sexually and physically abused me in state care.)

37 I am a real person, and I just want to be treated like one. I don't want to be treated like I am just another crazy person who has gone through Lake Alice.

What I want from the Royal Commission

38 I really hope something comes from this Commission and change is made. This is what I want from the Commission:

- a. an apology;
- b. compensation for me and all the kids who went through these institutions. I can't hold down a job, but if I was given some money, then I think I could make a life for myself out of my passion for woodwork;
- c. someone to take responsibility and be accountable for what happened;
- d. proper vetting for any adults who are involved in childcare;
- e. most of all, I don't want these boys homes to exist any more;
- f. I want to be heard and believed.

Statement of Truth

39 This statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and was made by me knowing that it may be used as evidence by the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care.

GRO-C

Signed:

Dated: 23 April 2021

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**INDEX OF DOCUMENTS FOR STATEMENT OF ANDREW JANE
DATED 8 APRIL 2021**

Doc ID	Document Description	Date	Para
WITN0316002	Psychologist Report, J A Foote,	11 January 1974	
WITN0316003	Department of Social Welfare, Filenote,	11 August 1975	
WITN0316004	Department of Social Welfare, Filenote	5 December 1975	
WITN0316005	Formal Written Request by GRO-B	7 October 1975	
WITN0316006	Department of Social Welfare Report and Recommendation	5 December 1975	
WITN0316007	Department of Social Welfare Report and Recommendation	29 January 1976	
WITN0316008	Department of Social Welfare Report with Holdsworth Admission details	8 March 1976	
WITN0316009	Department of Social Welfare Filenote	10 February 1976	
WITN0316010	Holdsworth Admission Filenote	6 September 1976	
WITN0316011	Department of Social Welfare Report on Epuni Boys Home	14 August 1978	
WITN0316012	Department of Social Welfare Report and Recommendation for Discharge	3 October 1979	
WITN0316013	Department of Social Welfare Information Sheet	1975	