

Witness Name: Edward Charles Marriott

Statement No: **WITN0442001**

Dated: 24 May 2021

ROYAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO ABUSE IN CARE

WITNESS STATEMENT OF EDWARD CHARLES MARRIOTT

I, **Edward Charles Marriott**, will say as follows: -

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 My full name is Edward Charles Marriott. I was born in Kaikohe on **GRO-C** 1969.
- 1.2 I am currently 51 years' old and live in Christchurch. I am not working and receive a benefit.
- 1.3 My evidence is about the abuse I suffered at the hands of the Hospitaller Brothers of the Order of St John of God (**St John of God**) while I was a student at Marylands School in Christchurch.
- 1.4 My evidence is also about the steps I took in 2003 including making a statement to the Police about my abuse and participating in redress with St John of God.

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- 1.5 While I gave a statement to the Police I did not get to give evidence in the criminal prosecutions back in the early 2000's and I am hopeful that talking with the Commission will help me find closure and assist in my recovery.
- 1.6 I wish to give evidence at the Marylands hearing and have my experiences heard.

My health

- 1.7 In my 30s I was diagnosed with Hodgkin Lymphoma and underwent chemotherapy as a result. I had become sick in my mid-thirties and went to my doctor. I was struggling to get up in the morning. I was working as a Sorter at Canterbury Wool Spinners at that time. I was referred to a specialist at Oncology. I underwent two biopsy operations to remove lumps in my neck. Six months of chemotherapy followed. Sixteen months later the cancer returned and had spread to under my armpits.
- 1.8 I have had radio therapy at various points as the cancer always came back and it is still being monitored. I have also had complications caused by Shingles. I also had negative reactions to the chemotherapy and radio therapy treatment.
- 1.9 My cancer could flare up again, but I am now officially in remission. I am not on any medication for cancer, but I am currently prescribed Mirtazapine for depression.
- 1.10 I have mild cardio myopathy which is damage to my heart that was caused by radio therapy and chemotherapy. I also have post-traumatic nerve damage, depression, and low blood pressure.
- 1.11 I am now in chronic pain much of the time. The medication only just takes the edge off the pain. I am now unable to work.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 My mother is GRO-B-1 and my late father was GRO-B-2 Marriot.

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- 2.2 When I was young, my father was an Electrician employed at Morrinsville Dairy Company. He died around 1999. My mother did not work as she was kept busy raising our family.
- 2.3 My elderly mother still lives in Hamilton.
- 2.4 I was the oldest child and had a brother GRO-B-3 who was two years younger than me and a sister GRO-B-4 who was seven years my junior. We lived in a house in residential Morrinsville in the early 1970s.
- 2.5 In my younger years I remember being held under water in the bathtub by my father. This was before I was taken into care. This happened in Morrinsville at our home. I was about 5 years old at the time. Every time I get water up my nose as an adult it brings back this memory. I don't know for certain, but I suspect I was screaming, and his response was to hold my head under the water to shut me up.
- 2.6 My father was violent. He used to physically punish GRO-B me. I can recall him throwing a ladder at me when I was a child. His style of discipline was aggressive and over the top.
- 2.7 I broke my leg when I was a three-year-old. My Aunt GRO-B-5 (my mother's sister) later told me that my leg was broken when I was young however I had not recalled this until she mentioned it to me.
- 2.8 Aunt GRO-B-5 recently told me that my mother stopped communication with the family after questions had been raised about how my leg was broken.
- 2.9 I still speak with my Aunt GRO-B-5 now and then. She lives in Queensland and is 3 years younger than my mother. I know from speaking with GRO-B-5 that my mother had me when she was 21 years old. My mother has confirmed this.
- 2.10 Aunt GRO-B-5 called the Department of Social Welfare (**DSW**) when I broke my leg as a young child. My mother later told me that I had slipped and fallen in the bath and that is how I broke my leg, but I now question whether a 3-year-old would be in the bath unsupervised.
- 2.11 In late April 2021 I made an application to Oranga Tamariki (OT) for my personal DSW file and on 7 May 2021 OT wrote to me in response to my

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information request and included ten double-sided A4 pages of DSW records of personal information about me as a child between the ages of 4 and 15 years.

- 2.12 Up until the time I received this DSW information about me I had not known why I had been taken into DSW care as a young child. The DSW records show that Psychologist David Welsh Simpson had strong reason to believe that I was chronically abused, as a pre-school aged child. [GRO-B] I had suffered a fractured skull, burns and broken bones.

3. BEING PLACED INTO CARE

- 3.1 After my leg was broken, I was temporarily admitted at a facility in Hamilton called Tower Hill. My family referred to it as Lake Tower. It was a State Care facility. It was near the Hamilton Lake – there was a huge tower, and the building was underneath on the side of it.
- 3.2 I remember being in a steel cot and I have flashbacks of it.
- 3.3 I also remember being around a lot of other kids at that time. I have tried talking to my mother about this, but she won't talk to me about it. She doesn't like anyone talking about it and doesn't even want [GRO-B-5] to talk to me about it.
- 3.4 [GRO-B-5] and I promised each other not to tell my mother that we talked about it. The last time I saw my mother was about 6 months before my sister [GRO-B-4] died in November 2018.

Getting sent to Marylands

- 3.5 Dr Roach from Morrinsville Medical Centre was our family doctor when I was a child. I remember him. We also had a family nurse, and she would come over to the house quite a lot. She was a nurse from Dr Roach's office. She was based in Morrinsville. Her name was Nurse Rodgers. I had kidney problems when I was very young. Nurse Rodgers visits to our home could have been related to this.
- 3.6 Dr Foot referred me to Marylands. He was a doctor in Hamilton somewhere.
- 3.7 I am not sure whether I was sent from my home or from State Care.

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- 3.8 I had no diagnosed disabilities. I was referred to Marylands Special School because I was considered a slow learner.
- 3.9 I remember the Cook Strait Ferry ride over and then travelling to Marylands by car. I remember that the car was white and that it was my father's car.
- 3.10 At Marylands I had to wear a uniform. It was grey trousers and shoes. The clothes were brand new and, because I had not worn them before, they felt weird.
- 3.11 My school shoes were black and because the floor was polished, I kept slipping. I was holding onto my father's hand, and he belted me on the backside because I was "apparently mucking around." But I wasn't. I was honestly slipping in my new shoes on the slippery floor.
- 3.12 My first teacher at Marylands was a lady named Mrs Palmer. She used to call me "puppet" because I was so small. I remember having my birthday there which makes me think I started at the beginning of the year when I was 5 years old because I turned 6 in August.
- 3.13 I remember the complex being quite old and observing glass windows and sitting on a big pew or bench inside the School.
- 3.14 I waited there while my parents went in and spoke with Brother Maloney. He had a black cloak on and wore glasses - I remember him very well.
- 3.15 I was taken to the dormitory with my parents and I had a brown suitcase with me. That is when we first met Miss Welch. I recall that she was quite a small woman.
- 3.16 On our way to the dormitory, I noticed that the building was made of brick and/or concrete and that it was two storeys.
- 3.17 There was a quadrangle and a playground on the sunny side. The complex was confronting because it was so big. I remember passing the Church to get to my dormitory.
- 3.18 I do not remember which dormitory I went into, but I know there was a lot of glass.

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- 3.19 I remember my parents leaving after dropping me off at Marylands. They told me they would come back in a few days and pick me up on their way home. I thought I would only be there for a brief period. They did not come back.

The dormitory

- 3.20 I remember my bed was beside an old pull-up window. As I was curled up sleeping, I would often dream of a Gorilla and once when I woke up there was a hairy soft toy on my arm. I don't know what it was. But since then, I have always curled up in a ball and kept my arms and legs tucked under me when I sleep.
- 3.21 There was an area near my bed where we used to watch TV. Miss Welch had us all sit still so she could watch Coronation Street every night.
- 3.22 I met the following boys when I arrived at Marylands; [GRO-B]
 [GRO-B] Danny Tindall, [GRO-B-1]
 [GRO-B] All these boys were quite a bit older than me.
- 3.23 I particularly remember [GRO-B-6] because he was [GRO-B]
 [GRO-B] as apparently, he had been in a railway accident before I met him.

4. EXPERIENCES AT MARYLANDS

- 4.1 The Marylands logo had a little boy curled up on it in a circle. It was on the letter head of things like school reports. As a kid I considered the little boy on the logo to be me.
- 4.2 Marylands was in Nash Road in Halswell and I recall that the Lang family owned the farmland around the Marylands complex.
- 4.3 In those days, you drove down Nash Road and it all was paddocks with sheep and horses. There was a bridge over a little creek as you drove in.
- 4.4 I can remember the St Joseph's orphanage nearby, but we did not have much interaction with them.
- 4.5 Some Brothers came and went between Marylands and Australia. Some visited for only short periods of time.

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- 4.6 There was a culture of bullying by children against other children and I remember that I was always afraid. The only time I felt safe as a kid was when I was on the plane flying to or from home in the school holidays.

Education

- 4.7 One teacher taught everything (all subjects) and we stayed with that class.
- 4.8 From memory we were placed in a class by age, but I felt like I never moved up into a new class. I may have been held back in one class, but I am not certain.
- 4.9 The desks were the old wooden style lid-lifting desks, and my classroom had a big blackboard. We had exercise pads/books for writing, and I recall doing maths and writing.
- 4.10 When I was younger, Mrs Palmers was always trying to help me with my handwriting because it was large, and she was always trying to teach me how to write smaller.
- 4.11 I also did music while at Marylands and had a tambourine. I was taught some guitar lessons. There was a piano, but I didn't like it. I did not sing but there was a choir, and we did concerts at the school. There was some Maori culture taught to us. We learned some Maori songs, a haka, and a Maori greeting.

Church attendance

- 4.12 I was not involved in activities with the Church when I first got there.
- 4.13 I remember being young and when all the other children went to Church, I was not allowed to go. I waited in the foyer for someone to pick me up and take me to the Salvation Army. I remember that another family (Salvation Army people) came to pick me up and take me, but I cannot recall their names.
- 4.14 This was because my parents did not want me to go to the Catholic Church. I think the only time I went there was Ash Wednesday.
- 4.15 I did however end up going with the boys to Church when I was a little older. I did not participate in holy communion even though everybody else did. This was because I was not allowed to.

Sexual activity between the boys

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- 4.16 I remember learning as a six-year-old, that many of the older Marylands boys were sexually active with each other.
- 4.17 One of my first experiences was when I went into a bathroom and saw two older students doing sexual things to each other.
- 4.18 They got hold of me as in entered the toilet. They took off my pants and rubbed themselves naked against me. They said that if I told anyone Brother McGrath would find out.
- 4.19 I remember who one of these boys was. GRO-B
- GRO-B
- 4.20 The boys that did this to me were much old than I was. Because of this encounter I was always scared of the brothers and the older boys.
- 4.21 The older boy had his penis on my penis. The other boy was just holding me and saying that Brother McGrath would find out if I said anything.
- 4.22 This happened in the dormitory toilets.
- 4.23 It happened to me on more than one occasion.
- 4.24 I remember another time that I walked into a room and disturbed two other older boys by accident.
- 4.25 One of the boys asked me to play with him sexually. I was very young when this happened. I would have been 7 or 8 years old. It was a boy called GRO-B-7
- 4.26 This type of behaviour became normal, and I remember forming strong feelings towards one of the older boys who had introduced me to this sexual activity at Marylands.
- 4.27 I can remember waiting at the glass doors outside a classroom that this student was in with Mrs Palmer. He was in there talking to Mrs Palmer and I was waiting and feeling very anxious, and I burst in and ran to the older boy and held his leg telling him that he loved him. Mrs Palmer looked down at me. I cannot remember what happened next, but I do remember that that boy was GRO-B-7
- GRO-B-7
- 4.28 My relationship with GRO-B-7 was on-going. He told me that he would protect me, and I felt safe in his company even though he was sexually abusing me. The sexual abuse included indecent touching and oral sex.

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- 4.29 Other older students also did the same things to me. One of them referred to me as "Parrot" which came from my surname Marriott. It was happening daily throughout the time I was at Marylands. It became normal behaviour. I even started initiating it on other boys when I got older. One younger than me and the other my age.
- 4.30 Some of the older boys did sexual acts on me in the pool changing rooms. When I was young, I was fearful of those changing sheds and the other boys and was always afraid of getting changed anywhere.
- 4.31 I remember being self-conscious of my body because the older boys were bigger than me and I was embarrassed.
- 4.32 The sexual indecencies did not involve anal penetration however the sexual abuse was always around the butt-cheeks.

Brother Ambrose

- 4.33 Brother Ambrose was at Marylands when I started there. He oversaw the juniors and was involved in the Hospital that was located on the complex.
- 4.34 Mrs Welch was a caregiver who looked after the boys after school.
- 4.35 Brother Ambrose would always put me on his knee when I was young because I apparently "screamed too much" for Mrs Welch as she was watching Coronation Street on TV.
- 4.36 I remember always having a sore back afterwards because Brother Ambrose would hold me on his lap in his arms, playing "Horse" and I could feel the hardness of his erect penis behind my back. I was about 6 or 7 years old when this was happening. Others were around when this was happening.
- 4.37 Brother Ambrose always suggested that I was fidgeting too much and that's why he was restraining me on his knee. It felt like he was rubbing himself up against my butt cheek. We were both fully clothed when this happened, and I remember that Brother Ambrose would be in his robe that he often wore to chapel after dinner. I was in my pyjamas.

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- 4.38 I didn't tell anyone about it, and it seemed to happen every night. I did not tell any other kids because I thought he was the one fidgeting around and that I was somehow responsible for it.
- 4.39 It was only when I was a bit older that I worked out that Brother Ambrose had been sexually abusing me in that way.

Brother Bernard McGrath

- 4.40 Brother McGrath was in charge of the senior boys.
- 4.41 There were rumours that he played with kids sexually, but he never sexually abused me.
- 4.42 He did however, have one favourite boy at the school and this boy was always in his company. This boy was GRO-B-8
- 4.43 Brother McGrath was aggressive, and he was feared by the Marylands boys.

Brother Maloney

- 4.44 Brother MALONEY was there when I first arrived. He was strict. I was sent to his office a couple of times, when I was young, for being distractive in class. He strapped me on the hands. He never did anything sexual to me. He was the Headmaster.

Brother Sebastian

- 4.45 Brother Sebastian was at Marylands when I first arrived.
- 4.46 He taught PE, swimming, and sports. He was "good and bad."
- 4.47 What I mean by that was that he was a friendly Brother. He taught us how to swim, gave us extra time in the pool but he would always put his hand under the water on your penis in the pool.
- 4.48 He would be standing up in the pool, holding you up and telling you to kick but he would have his hand on your groin.
- 4.49 When the kids were running, he would give the us extra time outside in the summer but sometimes after chapel service Brother Sebastian would come back to the villas (the newly built dormitories) and get another boy to join him. He would be super friendly and have interesting things to look at. For some

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- reason, I started collecting after-shave bottles around this time. On these occasions Brother Sebastian had the boys massage his body with Deep Heat.
- 4.50 This happened a little bit later in my time at Marylands. The Villas came in the 1980's and I was a little bit older by then.

Brother Ephrem Walsh

- 4.51 Brother Ephrem was a teacher at Marylands. If he was teaching you and anything was said behind his back when he was at the chalkboard, he would take the wooden block duster and throw it hard at your head.
- 4.52 He would also cane the boys. He pulled our pants and underwear down and caned us on the buttocks in front of the class.
- 4.53 There was no sexual abuse by Brother Ephrem, other than him making you be half-naked in front of the class.

Brother Garchow

- 4.54 Brother Garchow was the medic at Marylands.
- 4.55 He was very disciplined and violent. He came and went quite a lot during my time at Marylands. He was coming and going from overseas (Australia). Sometimes he stayed at the St John of God hospital on the complex.
- 4.56 When he would return to Marylands, I was so afraid I lost control of my bowels. It was embarrassing but I could not tell people why it had happened.
- 4.57 I was scared because he had been sexually abusing me.
- 4.58 When Brother Garchow returned, the sexual abuse would always continue in the same manner it had before he had gone away.
- 4.59 He was also sexually abusing another boy I knew at school. He always walked around with a big strap wherever he went, and he would hold it out. The other boy was James Tasker.
- 4.60 One night, I was playing up, being naughty. I had had a shower, and we were playing a game. I was naked and had just a towel around me. Another boy would not let me get changed. I was swearing at that kid, so the teacher told me off.

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- 4.61 Brother Garchow walked through the villa dividing doors and heard me swear. He grabbed me by the back of my neck and said, "my room".
- 4.62 I had to go all the way down through the hallway, through the lounge and I was not allowed to get dressed. I only had a towel on. I was made to sit outside his room.
- 4.63 I think that I was about 10 years old at the time.
- 4.64 Brother Garchow came out of his room and had the strap out. He asked for my hand, and I was belted all the way from his room to the laundry room.
- 4.65 I dropped the towel because I was having to hold my hands out to be strapped. I know that I got more than six beltings. I had to pick up my towel and then I got clipped on the buttocks, as he was leaving, with the strap.
- 4.66 I had to walk back naked because I could not hold the towel as my hands hurt so much from being strapped.
- 4.67 I was strapped by Brother Garchow on multiple occasions, and this would always occur away from the view of others.
- 4.68 After strapping me Brother Garchow came to my bedroom. He would always tell me that I was a disappointment and that I should know better because I had been at Marylands for so long.

5. SEXUAL ABUSE BY BROTHER GARCHOW

In the doms

- 5.1 I remember that Brother Garchow used to visit another boy who was only three beds down from me. That was James Tasker.
- 5.2 Then he started coming to my bed.
- 5.3 He touched my head and rubbed my shoulders at first. Then he took my hand and put it under his cloak. He made me rub his penis.
- 5.4 As this was happening, I was lying in my bed and he began fondling my penis.
- 5.5 He used to lean over me and kiss me and would smell like stale wine and cigarette smoke, but he did not appear drunk to me.

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- 5.6 Other boys in the dorm were in their beds sleeping when Brother Garchow was doing this to me.
- 5.7 Brother Garchow was sitting in his cloak on the side of my bed so no one else could see what was happening.
- 5.8 He sexually abused me in this way on many occasions.
- 5.9 It seemed to happen when he was not sexually abusing James Tasker who slept 3 beds down from me and who was slightly older and bigger.
- 5.10 **GRO-B** did the same thing to me and said to me "this is how Brother Garchow likes it." I told him that I already knew what Brother Garchow liked.
- 5.11 Brother Garchow sexually abused me in this way regularly. It was up to three times a week for about a year while I was in villa 3. It did not stop him strapping me when I got into trouble.
- 5.12 When Brother Garchow returned to Marylands from wherever he had been away to, he would come to my bed and tell me that I had gotten bigger, however he always resumed the sexual abuse in the same way.

Oral sex

- 5.13 Brother Garchow tried on one occasion to make me perform oral sex on him.
- 5.14 This was the time **GRO-B** (the nightshift supervisor) walked in unexpectedly. Brother Garchow quickly removed my hand from under his cloak and took his stethoscope from his shoulder and made out he was checking my temperature. He told Mr **GRO-B** that I had an elevated temperature. I never told anyone about this. Mr **GRO-B** never spoke with me about this.

In his room

- 5.15 Brother Garchow also sexually abused me in his room.
- 5.16 He caught another boy and I having sexual interactions and the other boy was sent on his way and told not to do it again. That was **GRO-B-10**
- 5.17 Brother Garchow made me go to his room and made me show him what the other boy and I had been doing. He started kissing me and he put his penis against my penis. This was the only time he did this. It was otherwise all mutual masturbation and indecent touching.

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5.18 On another occasion Brother Garchow caught me with two younger boys doing sexual acts in the sand dunes. I had earlier seen them playing hide and seek and kissing each other and I showed them how to do it properly. The sexual acts developed with these boys from that interaction. When Brother Garchow caught us, he beat the hell out of me.

6. NORMALISATION OF SEXUAL ABUSE

- 6.1 Because I had been exposed to sexual abuse by the brothers and older boys when I was young at Marylands it became normal behaviour to me, and I started doing it to other younger boys as I got older.
- 6.2 The physical and sexual abuse by the St John of God Brothers seemed normal for a lot of the Marylands children.
- 6.3 I was always told by the brothers that whatever happened at school stayed at school which meant we were not to tell anyone else about it. Likewise, we were told that whatever happened at the bach stayed at the bach.
- 6.4 St John of God owned a bach at Waikuku and 10-12 boys at a time were taken there in a minivan. I can remember going there with Brother Sebastian.
- 6.5 I was not sexually abused at the Waiuku bach.
- 6.6 I look back and think that the staff could have done a lot more to protect me from the physical and sexual abuse I was subjected to. One of the teachers Mrs Stokes caught another student and I in a sexually compromising position in the Sand Dunes at Marylands on one occasion and I felt shame every time I saw her after that.
- 6.7 On the front edge of the Sand Dunes there was a statute of Mary with a water fountain and a hedge behind it. Marylands boys would often go behind the hedge and do sexual acts there. The staff knew about it but never did anything to stop it. Brother Garchow, Mrs Stokes and GRO-B-11 all caught me and other boys in compromising positions there on various occasions. They should have noted this activity and done something to prevent it. To my knowledge did nothing about it.

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- 6.8 I remember a young teacher called GRO-A Ms AM. She caught some of the boys in compromising positions, and I felt very embarrassed because I had a crush on her.
- 6.9 When Marylands became Hogben School in 1984 the St John of God Brothers left and returned to Australia. There was a transition period before the brothers left and during this stage, they were dormitory masters only.

7. LIFE AFTER MARYLANDS

Substance abuse

- 7.1 I was 15 years old when I left Marylands. After leaving I had problems with alcohol and drugs. I was admitted to Queen Mary Hospital in Hanmer in 1988.
- 7.2 I was also sent to a rehabilitation centre in Riccarton Road, Christchurch.
- 7.3 I was diagnosed as a teenage alcoholic. I was also using Marijuana and sniffing glue, but I never used harder drugs.
- 7.4 I turned to drugs and alcohol because I felt powerless and rejected by society. I didn't know how to fit in, in society. I was not well-prepared by Marylands School for life outside the school.
- 7.5 Outside school life was not all about the type of sexual activity that I had been exposed to as a child in care at Marylands. It was different. People were different and had different standards. I tried to sexually approach a flatmate that I roomed with in a boarding house in Spreyton, Christchurch. I was rejected and physically assaulted for my inappropriate sexual approach.

No life skills

- 7.6 When I finished at Marylands I had been taught little. My maths was only up to the 5 times table.
- 7.7 Even when the government took over and it became Hogben School the curriculum did not change. I saw no evidence of special needs teaching.
- 7.8 If I was a slow learner Marylands did nothing to address that for me. I left the school, at that stage it was Hogben School, aged 15 in 1984.

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- 7.9 I had limited work experience and had no practical trade experience. I was referred to the SPCA for work experience. I cleaned-up after the animals.
- 7.10 The longest I have lasted in a job is about 5 years. I worked for Godfrey Hurst Carpets. I have worked in security and "rag bag collection."
- 7.11 The first job I got after leaving Marylands School was on a dairy farming between Morrinsville and Te Araha. My father made me attend an interview with the farm manager [GRO-B-12]. My father talked to [GRO-B-12] and I was asked to leave the room while they talked.
- 7.12 I was given a job as a farm hand, milking cows, fencing and hay making.
- 7.13 I started there a month after leaving school and I was 15 years old. I lived and worked there.
- 7.14 [GRO-B-12] was aggressive and physically punished me every time I made a mistake.
- 7.15 I recall him intentionally running over my foot with his tractor because I had earlier slipped off the clutch as I was reversing it. He used to physically beat me for doing minor things wrong.
- 7.16 I tried telling my parents about what [GRO-B-12] was like to me and my parents would not believe me.
- 7.17 [GRO-B-12] and his family were Christians and went to the same church as my parents. That was [GRO-B-12] Baptist Church. My father did the sound system in the church for them.
- 7.18 My parents' disbelief of what I was telling them about [GRO-B-12] physically abusing me just went towards reinforcing to me that they would not have believed me had I tried to tell them about the abuse I had been subjected to as a child in care at Marylands School.

Significant relationships

- 7.19 I did not lose my virginity to a woman until I was 20 years old, and it was to a person who was much older.
- 7.20 I thought that what I had been doing sexually with females, based on the behaviour I had learnt at Marylands School through Brother Garchow and the other students was normal, but later outside of Marylands School learnt that it

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was not normal. I did not understand the act of sexual penetration with a woman.

7.21 I was embarrassed by this, and it contributed to my turning to alcohol and drugs.

7.22 I later got married to **GRO-B-13** and we were married for 8 years.

7.23 During our marriage I disclosed the abuse to my wife because we were having trouble sexually. This was the first time I had ever told anyone about what had happened to me at Marylands.

7.24 I told her because I was having difficulty performing sexually and it was beginning to affect our marriage. My then wife **GRO-B-13** wanted a third baby but could not get pregnant. She blamed me for this, and the tension got too high. Eventually it all boiled over. We split up in 2000.

7.25 **GRO-B** I went to a Church, and we were sent to a parenting group. We were given a strap by the Church. **GRO-B**
GRO-B

7.26 **GRO-B-13** did not believe me about what had happened at Marylands School because she is Catholic. I told her the kids were never going to a Catholic school and that I would not get married in a Catholic church. We compromised and got married in a Baptist Church. Our kids went to **GRO-B** Primary School and **GRO-B** Intermediate. Then **GRO-B** and **GRO-B** **GRO-B**. Our son **GRO-B-14** later went on to University to **GRO-B** He now works in **GRO-B**. My daughter **GRO-B** still works and lives **GRO-B**.

8. TALKING TO THE POLICE

8.1 In 2003 I made a complaint to the Police about the sexual abuse I had been subjected to at Marylands.

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- 8.2 My complaint related to Brother Garchow's offending against me. Brother Garchow's case did not go ahead because he was deemed too unwell with cancel to face trial.
- 8.3 At that time, I was sick with cancer myself, but I was intending to give evidence regardless.
- 8.4 I still feel angry and disappointed about what happened to me and other boys at Marylands. We were young and innocent, and our innocence was taken from us by the brothers of St John of God. I now have a strong distrust towards authority. I feel resentment and shame.
- 8.5 I very strongly feel that justice has never been served for me. I believe that Brother Garchow should have faced a criminal trial for what he did to me and other boys at Marylands School. He got away scott-free.
- 8.6 When I was a pupil at Marylands I attended Brother Ambrose's funeral in Christchurch. He died in the hospital on the complex. I felt a sense of relief when he died.

9. IMPACT OF ABUSE AT MARYLANDS

- 9.1 The lack of proper education has meant I have been unsuccessful in my life. I look at my siblings who have educated professional jobs. I have never had that opportunity.
- 9.2 I think my mother might feel responsible for what happened to me and that is why she denies it. I believe mum was responsible for it for sending me to Marylands School. I have not told her the full series of events. I have told her that I was sexually abused there but she doesn't believe me. It is like talking to a brick wall.
- 9.3 My mother always insisted that the children were seen but not heard.
- 9.4 My mother's reaction has been that I should have told her about the abuse at Marylands when I was a child. I had been taught "what happens in school stays in school" and that "children are to be seen and not heard."

GRO-C

- 9.5 I can remember a boy at Marylands being caned and strapped for talking to his parents about things that happened at Marylands. The boy was **GRO-B-16** and he had run away from school and gone back to his home in Christchurch. That boy was punished in front of the school, and it was made clear to us all that we were not to make accusations about what was happening at Marylands. I remember being told "what happens at school stays at school." It was reaffirmed to us.
- 9.6 My DSW records show that as a child at Marylands I was terrified of being sent home in the school holidays. This was not because of a reluctance to leave Marylands School. It was because of the history of chronic physical abuse I had suffered **GRO-B**. Even if, as a child, I had the courage to disclose the sexual abuse that I had been subjected to at Marylands School, I would not have made such disclosure to my parents, because I feared them.

10. REDRESS

ACC

- 10.1 I have never received any ACC (Accident Compensation Corporation) payments relating to the abuse I suffered as a child in care at Marylands School.
- 10.2 During my attendance at the group counselling sessions of Male Survivors of Sexual Abuse I became aware of the possible provision for ACC cover of this nature. I also read about it in the Royal Commission information I have been provided.

SJOG redress

- 10.3 In 2003 I dealt with Brother Peter Burke who at the time, was the Provincial from St John of God
- 10.4 This occurred because I contacted St John of God for compensation. I heard about it through **GRO-B-17** another former Marylands resident.
- 10.5 **GRO-B-17** is the only one, other than **GRO-B-10** who I have seen outside of the school. I saw **GRO-B-10** when I was 15 years old after leaving school.

GRO-C

- 10.6 I dealt with Brother Burke through St John of God lawyers. I told Brother Burke a limited amount about what had happened.
- 10.7 I remember that the lawyers saw me at my home. The lawyers said that everyone else had "run the system dry" so they only had so much left. I was given \$40,000.
- 10.8 A cheque for this amount was given to me and I had to sign a confidentiality and final settlement document.
- 10.9 I made the claim for physical abuse but also disclosed some sexual abuse. I was then told by Brother Burke to go to the police to report the sexual abuse.
- 10.10 St John of God's compensation was inadequate to me. They paid some people a lot more than I was paid. I accept they may claim that they don't know the full extent of it however I do not feel that what they gave me was sufficient compensation for what I had been exposed to at Marylands.

11. DESIRED OUTCOME

- 11.1 I would love an apology from the Government. I considered St John of God to be under the blanket of the IHC (Intellectually Handicapped Children / DSW - Department of Social Welfare. I know how strict they are about what you can and cannot do with state children.
- 11.2 I also want St John of God to stand up and face me. When I went to Mahu Villa and Rehab for drugs, Brother Garchow saw me. This was about three years' after I left Marylands. He had heard that I was there, and he found me. It was not a good meeting. I was worried I was being watched by them. I was about 18 years old.
- 11.3 This was while I was an inpatient in rehabilitation. It was not a lengthy conversation. I asked how he had found me and then I walked outside for a smoke, and I kept walking.
- 11.4 I still want Brother Garchow to face justice for what he did to me and other Marylands boys in his care.

GRO-C

- 11.5 The Government should also check up on kids more often. If there was more oversight and someone who the children can trust, they would be more likely to disclose abuse in-care.
- 11.6 For the children at Marylands there was no one we could safely talk to about the abuse at the School. There needs to be trusted people who children can communicate with one on one, privately. That person should be a neutral person – not part of the institution.

STATEMENT OF TRUTH

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.

Signed: _____

GRO-C

Dated: _____

24/5/2021