

**ABUSE IN CARE ROYAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY
LAKE ALICE CHILD AND ADOLESCENT UNIT INQUIRY HEARING**

Under The Inquiries Act 2013

In the matter of The Royal Commission of Inquiry into Historical Abuse in State Care and in the Care of Faith-based Institutions

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Venue: Level 2
Abuse in Care Royal Commission of Inquiry
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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

INDEX

KEVIN BANKS	167
WALTON JAMES MATHIESON-NGATAI Questioning by Ms R Thomas	180
BRYON MALCOLM NICOL Questioning by Ms Joychild QC	202
BARRY SINCLAIR PARSONSON Questioning by Ms R Thomas	216
Questioning by Ms Feint	234
Questioning by Commissioners	240
BRUCE ROBERT GIBSON, VICTOR KENNETH BOYD, MICHAEL VICTOR FERRISS Questioning by Ms Green	244

- 1 **QUESTIONING BY MS R THOMAS:** Good afternoon, Walton, you've met me before. My
2 name is Ruth Thomas, I'm from the Royal Commission of Inquiry. We're here this
3 afternoon to talk about the Lake Alice Child and Adolescent Unit. Before we do that,
4 would you like to introduce yourself?
- 5 A. Walton James Mathieson-Ngatai. I'm from Ruatoria and this is Caroline and Jennifer.
- 6 **Q.** Caroline is your health coach?
- 7 A. Health coach.
- 8 **Q.** And your friend?
- 9 A. And Jennifer is my disability navigator.
- 10 **Q.** Thank you Walton. Do you solemnly, sincerely and truly declare and affirm that the
11 evidence you will give before this Commission will be the truth, the whole truth and
12 nothing but the truth?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 **Q.** Thank you. Whereabouts are you today, Walton, where are we?
- 15 A. I'm in a rest home, it's called (bleeped).
- 16 **Q.** Can you tell us where you were from, where were you born?
- 17 A. I was born in Ruatoria in 1959. I was born in Ruatoria in Te Puia Springs.
- 18 **Q.** And you're proud of your birth place, that's where you've come from?
- 19 A. Yes, I am proud of it.
- 20 **Q.** Yes, and can you tell us about your -- a bit about your family?
- 21 A. My mother and father passed away. My aunty (bleeped) she looked after me and she
22 looked after some kids in the Wairarapa.
- 23 **Q.** So she looked after you and some of your brothers and sisters?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 **Q.** In the Wairarapa?
- 26 A. Yes, that's right.
- 27 **Q.** When you were quite little?
- 28 A. Little, yes.
- 29 **Q.** So that was your aunty (bleeped)?
- 30 A. Yes.
- 31 **Q.** Did anyone else look after you?
- 32 A. My grandmother and grandfather in Ruatoria.
- 33 **Q.** In Ruatoria?
- 34 A. Yes.

- 1 **Q.** And what about your learning Te Reo and learning about your whakapapa, who --
- 2 **A.** My grandmother taught me that.
- 3 **Q.** Your grandma?
- 4 **A.** Yes.
- 5 **Q.** And when you were growing up as a child before you started school, who did you live with
- 6 the most at that time?
- 7 **A.** My grandmother and grandfather.
- 8 **Q.** Okay. And what was life like for you at that time?
- 9 **A.** It was all right, but I kept on having seizures all the time when I was a little boy.
- 10 **Q.** When you were quite little?
- 11 **A.** Yes.
- 12 **Q.** Okay, I'm going to ask you about something that you told us about happened when you
- 13 were around about 5 years old. Can you remember something that happened to you?
- 14 **A.** Yes, I got stung by a beehive in the eyes.
- 15 **Q.** Stung by a beehive?
- 16 **A.** Yes.
- 17 **Q.** So what happened to your eyes when you were stung?
- 18 **A.** They went all yellow and pussy. So I went to Napier Hospital for an operation on my eyes,
- 19 one of my eyes went blind and I'm partially blind in eye.
- 20 **Q.** Partially blind in the other eye?
- 21 **A.** Yes.
- 22 **Q.** Since you were aged 5 you've been blind in one eye and partially blind in the other eye?
- 23 **A.** Other eye, yes.
- 24 **Q.** What kind of impact has that had on your life in terms of your schooling and --
- 25 **A.** I think quite hard. I went to Manutahi Primary School, I was in a backwards class there.
- 26 **Q.** So you were put in a backwards class?
- 27 **A.** Yes, at Manutahi by a teacher.
- 28 **Q.** Is that Manutahi Primary School?
- 29 **A.** Yes, Manutahi Primary School and then I went from there to Homai College.
- 30 **Q.** Okay. Just going back to the primary school, why were you put in a backwards class?
- 31 **A.** Because I couldn't read or write.
- 32 **Q.** Right.
- 33 **A.** And I was slow.
- 34 **Q.** Okay.

- 1 A. Slow at reading and writing.
- 2 Q. So the teachers put you in that class because they said that you were slow?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. But actually what was the situation in learning, what was it more about to help you learn,
5 you needed help with?
- 6 A. Reading and writing.
- 7 Q. Reading and writing with your vision?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. Okay. And you've just said that you then went to Homai College For the Blind?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Whereabouts is that?
- 12 A. In Auckland, Parnell.
- 13 Q. And you went there when you were 9?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. So you left your grandparent's home?
- 16 A. Yes, I did.
- 17 Q. And who made the decision that you should go to Homai?
- 18 A. The school.
- 19 Q. To attend the school?
- 20 A. No, no, the school.
- 21 Q. The school made the decision?
- 22 A. Yes, yes.
- 23 Q. Why were you sent to Homai, what was the benefit of going there?
- 24 A. To learn braille.
- 25 Q. To learn braille?
- 26 A. Because doctor told me I was going blind.
- 27 Q. Right.
- 28 A. When I was aged 21.
- 29 Q. And so did you learn braille when you were at Homai?
- 30 A. Yes, I did.
- 31 Q. And how was that?
- 32 A. That was quite good.
- 33 Q. That was quite good?
- 34 A. Yes.

- 1 **Q.** When you were at Homai, you've mentioned already that you've had some seizures, did you
2 experience some epileptic seizure insures at Homai?
- 3 **A.** Yes, I did, I had some seizures there.
- 4 **Q.** Some seizures?
- 5 **A.** Yes.
- 6 **Q.** And did you then have to leave Homai and go back to live with your grandparents?
- 7 **A.** Yes.
- 8 **Q.** Where were they --
- 9 **A.** I left Homai to go back to my grandparents in Ruatoria.
- 10 **Q.** Right.
- 11 **A.** Yeah.
- 12 **Q.** And I think you were aged roughly 12 at this time?
- 13 **A.** Yeah, 12 I was.
- 14 **Q.** How were your seizures at that time in your life?
- 15 **A.** Still the same.
- 16 **Q.** Still the same?
- 17 **A.** Yes.
- 18 **Q.** How did your grandparents cope with the seizures?
- 19 **A.** My grandparents couldn't cope with me so I went to a psych hospital in Gisborne, it's called
20 Cook Hospital.
- 21 **Q.** The psychiatric hospital in Gisborne?
- 22 **A.** Yes.
- 23 **Q.** Why was that?
- 24 **A.** Because I was having seizures and they couldn't control me, so I went from Cook Hospital
25 to Lake Alice Hospital.
- 26 **Q.** Right. So you were put into Gisborne Hospital?
- 27 **A.** Yeah.
- 28 **Q.** And then from Gisborne Hospital to Lake Alice?
- 29 **A.** Lake Alice.
- 30 **Q.** Can you remember what happened before being put into Lake Alice, where did you try to
31 go? You were in the Gisborne Hospital.
- 32 **A.** Mmm.
- 33 **Q.** What did you want to do when you were in the Gisborne Hospital?
- 34 **A.** I couldn't do anything.

- 1 **Q.** But where did you want to be?
- 2 **A.** Back with my grandmother and grandfather.
- 3 **Q.** Back with your grandmother and grandfather?
- 4 **A.** Yeah.
- 5 **Q.** So what did you do to try and see them?
- 6 **A.** I just ran away from Gisborne Hospital.
- 7 **Q.** So you ran away?
- 8 **A.** Yeah.
- 9 **Q.** And instead of being put back at Gisborne Hospital, where did you end up being put?
- 10 **A.** They transferred me back from Gisborne to Lake Alice Hospital.
- 11 **Q.** Right, so then they transferred you to Lake Alice Hospital?
- 12 **A.** Yes.
- 13 **Q.** And this was in 1972?
- 14 **A.** Yeah.
- 15 **Q.** You were about 12?
- 16 **A.** 12 years old.
- 17 **Q.** Okay. What can you remember about going to Lake Alice Hospital, what was that journey
18 like?
- 19 **A.** The journey is, I arrived there and I got a fright.
- 20 **Q.** Was any family member with you, did your grandparents go?
- 21 **A.** No, they couldn't go with me because they were too old.
- 22 **Q.** So how were you feeling on your way to Lake Alice?
- 23 **A.** All right.
- 24 **Q.** Did anyone tell you what Lake Alice was?
- 25 **A.** No, no, no.
- 26 **Q.** Did you know anything about it?
- 27 **A.** No, I didn't.
- 28 **Q.** When you first got there, to Lake Alice Child and Adolescent Hospital.
- 29 **A.** Mmm.
- 30 **Q.** What were your first impression, how did you feel?
- 31 **A.** I was frightened, I kept on crying all the time.
- 32 **Q.** And can you tell us why you felt frightened?
- 33 **A.** Because I didn't know where I was, they didn't tell me where I was, they didn't tell me
34 anything.

- 1 **Q.** You didn't know what it was?
- 2 **A.** No.
- 3 **Q.** Can you tell us, can you remember what it looked like at all for you? Could you see
4 anyone or anything when you arrived?
- 5 **A.** I saw a few young boys there.
- 6 **Q.** Right.
- 7 **A.** Because of the, yeah, young boys there, I saw them and staff members.
- 8 **Q.** And when you got into the Lake Alice Child Adolescent Unit, what was your day like, what
9 was your routine?
- 10 **A.** It was all right, but you had to do what they tell you to do, we had schoolwork.
- 11 **Q.** Right.
- 12 **A.** And gardens and gardening work.
- 13 **Q.** So you did gardening work?
- 14 **A.** Yeah, gardening work, a woodwork place there, where we used to make boxes.
- 15 **Q.** Right, okay.
- 16 **A.** We used to do that.
- 17 **Q.** When you were in the adolescent unit, where did you sleep, did you have your own
18 bedroom?
- 19 **A.** Yes, I was in the laundry -- in the laundry.
- 20 **Q.** Not the laundry.
- 21 **A.** No, the ward.
- 22 **Q.** The dormitory?
- 23 **A.** Yes.
- 24 **Q.** Right, in the dormitory. And when you were in the dormitory at night time, were you free
25 to move around or --
- 26 **A.** No, you couldn't move around. You're locked in there, yes, and they come and check on
27 you now and then.
- 28 **Q.** To check you stayed where you are?
- 29 **A.** Yeah, if you got caught out of your bed you were locked up so you had to stay in your bed.
- 30 **Q.** Okay.
- 31 **A.** Because if they catch you walking around you get locked up.
- 32 **Q.** Okay.
- 33 **A.** And put you in a cell room down the hall.
- 34 **Q.** Right.

- 1 A. They'll come and lock you up.
- 2 Q. They'll put you in a cell room down the hall?
- 3 A. Yeah, yeah, with a strait jacket.
- 4 Q. With a strait jacket?
- 5 A. Strait jacket.
- 6 Q. Right.
- 7 A. A strait jacket, like a blanket something down the middle and put on you.
- 8 Q. Right, that's all you had?
- 9 A. And a mattress, that's all you had, and a bucket.
- 10 Q. And a bucket, so if you need to go to the toilet it was the bucket?
- 11 A. Bucket.
- 12 Q. Did you ever get put in a room like that?
- 13 A. Yes, I did.
- 14 Q. Okay. Why was that?
- 15 A. Fighting.
- 16 Q. For fighting?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. Okay.
- 19 A. Yeah.
- 20 Q. Okay. Can you recall you said you would get locked up if you tried to leave. Did you ever
21 try to leave Lake Alice?
- 22 A. Yes, I ran away from Lake Alice.
- 23 Q. You ran away?
- 24 A. Yes, the Police --
- 25 Q. The Police picked you up?
- 26 A. Picked me up and took me back to Lake Alice, I got locked up.
- 27 Q. And then you got locked up?
- 28 A. And got Paraldehyde.
- 29 Q. And Paraldehyde?
- 30 A. Paraldehyde.
- 31 Q. Can you tell us a little bit about Paraldehyde?
- 32 A. Yeah, it's like a stroke, you're paralysed on that side and you walk like this, you walk like
33 this.
- 34 Q. Right, so you walk lopsided because --

- 1 A. Yeah.
- 2 Q. Because you can't feel your legs?
- 3 A. Because you can't feel your legs and you can't feel your arm. It's like a stroke.
- 4 Q. Okay, it's like a stroke?
- 5 A. Yes, it's terrible, it's horrible.
- 6 Q. So when you ran away the Police picked you up, brought you back to Lake Alice?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. You'd be put up into the lock-up room?
- 9 A. Lock-up room.
- 10 Q. And get Paraldehyde?
- 11 A. Get Paraldehyde. The same when you fight, if you fight each other, you're locked up, get
12 Paraldehyde.
- 13 Q. Okay. Can I ask you a little bit about something you've talked about at Lake Alice, there
14 was a -- you called it a patient swap?
- 15 A. Yes, yes, one patient from Kimberley Hospital, Kimberley.
- 16 Q. Kimberley?
- 17 A. Yeah, Kimberley Hospital would come over and go to Lake Alice and some Lake Alice
18 patients would go to Kimberley and they would get shock treatments.
- 19 Q. Okay.
- 20 A. Shock treatments.
- 21 Q. So some patients would be bought over from Kimberley Hospital?
- 22 A. Yeah, to Lake Alice Hospital.
- 23 Q. To the Lake Alice child and adolescent unit?
- 24 A. Yes. Some patients would be taken from Lake Alice Hospital and taken back to
25 Kimberley.
- 26 Q. Okay. Why were the patients brought from Kimberley over to Lake Alice?
- 27 A. Because they had would get straight-up shock treatments.
- 28 Q. To get straight out shock treatments?
- 29 A. Yeah, shock treatments, yes.
- 30 Q. Can you remember any of the patients that this --
- 31 A. Yes, I can remember a 5 year old boy getting straight out shock treatment and a boy in a
32 wheelchair, they couldn't put him upstairs so they had him downstairs.
- 33 Q. Okay. So there was a 5 year old boy that came from Kimberley?
- 34 A. Yeah.

- 1 **Q.** And he got straight out shock treatment?
- 2 **A.** Yeah, and the boy in the wheelchair --
- 3 **Q.** From Kimberley?
- 4 **A.** Yeah, got straight out shock treatment.
- 5 **Q.** So a boy from Kimberley in a wheelchair came over and got shock treatment?
- 6 **A.** Yes.
- 7 **Q.** And these boys and these other kids from Kimberley, how long were they at the Lake Alice
8 Child Adolescent Unit, roughly?
- 9 **A.** Probably about two months I think.
- 10 **Q.** Okay.
- 11 **A.** Yeah. I'm sure it was two months.
- 12 **Q.** And the child who was in the wheelchair, you've talked about you slept in the dormitory,
13 did these patients sleep in the dormitory with you as well?
- 14 **A.** Yes, they slept in the dormitory, some stayed in the dormitories, some stayed -- there was
15 two dormitories.
- 16 **Q.** Was there one upstairs and one downstairs?
- 17 **A.** No, there's two upstairs and a bed downstairs for the boy in the wheelchair.
- 18 **Q.** Right.
- 19 **A.** Because he couldn't get upstairs.
- 20 **Q.** So he had to sleep downstairs?
- 21 **A.** Yes.
- 22 **Q.** Right. Can I ask you some questions now about some of the staff that you met at the Lake
23 Alice --
- 24 **A.** Yes.
- 25 **Q.** -- hospital. Can you recall any people by name or nickname, do you remember any of the
26 staff?
- 27 **A.** Yeah, Colonel Klink.
- 28 **Q.** Colonel?
- 29 **A.** Klink.
- 30 **Q.** Why was this person called Colonel Klink?
- 31 **A.** Because he gave us a hiding.
- 32 **Q.** Give you a hiding?
- 33 **A.** Yeah, across the head, across the back and all that carry on.
- 34 **Q.** Right.

- 1 A. Across the backside. If you play up.
- 2 Q. Okay.
- 3 A. Yeah, he's called Colonel Klink, he was called Colonel Klink.
- 4 Q. He was called Colonel Klink?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. Was there anything else distinguishing about this person as to why he was called Colonel
7 Klink?
- 8 A. No, but I'm sure he was the one that child molested us.
- 9 Q. He child molested you?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Do you know any --
- 12 A. I can't prove it but because they put a mask on your face so you can't see them.
- 13 Q. Okay.
- 14 A. But then the voice you can hear.
- 15 Q. So you've described this person as Colonel Klink. Did you use a name for this person just
16 before?
- 17 A. Howard Lawrence, Howard Lawrence.
- 18 Q. Howard Lawrence?
- 19 A. Yeah.
- 20 Q. Can you remember any other names of any other nurses?
- 21 A. No, Steve was all right.
- 22 Q. Steve?
- 23 A. Yeah, Steve Hunt.
- 24 Q. Right, so he was all right?
- 25 A. Yes, he was all right.
- 26 Q. When you were at the Child Adolescent Unit and you had experienced a seizure or an
27 epileptic seizure?
- 28 A. Yes.
- 29 Q. How you were treated at that point?
- 30 A. I was treated very rough.
- 31 Q. Very rough?
- 32 A. Yes.
- 33 Q. What happened to you?
- 34 A. You had to get upstairs in the shower and put in a room.

- 1 **Q.** And put in a room?
- 2 **A.** For a little while, yeah.
- 3 **Q.** Okay. Can you remember how any other children were treated if they had blackouts or
4 seizures, can you remember?
- 5 **A.** No, that's what they use to do to us.
- 6 **Q.** Right.
- 7 **A.** They sit us down and put us on in the room for a while.
- 8 **Q.** Put you in the room for a while?
- 9 **A.** A while, yes.
- 10 **Q.** In the lock up room?
- 11 **A.** Yes, in the sitting room they've got a lock-up room.
- 12 **Q.** Right.
- 13 **A.** In the sitting room.
- 14 **Q.** Walton, you've just talked to us about two staff members that you can remember.
- 15 **A.** Yeah.
- 16 **Q.** Can you remember the doctor or the psychiatrist who was at Lake Alice?
- 17 **A.** Yeah, I can't think of his name.
- 18 **Q.** Was it a Dr Leeks?
- 19 **A.** Yeah, Dr Leeks and there's another one.
- 20 **Q.** And another one as well?
- 21 **A.** Yeah, Dr Leeks was the bad doctor.
- 22 **Q.** He was the bad doctor?
- 23 **A.** He's the one who gave straight out shock treatments.
- 24 **Q.** He gave you the straight out shock treatment?
- 25 **A.** Yes.
- 26 **Q.** Can I ask you some questions about the straight out shock treatment?
- 27 **A.** Yes, yes.
- 28 **Q.** Can you remember the first time that you had that?
- 29 **A.** Yes, what happens is they lie you back and put a dummy in your mouth.
- 30 **Q.** Yeah.
- 31 **A.** Dummy in the mouth, and they go one, two, three, they push a button, you go like that, they
32 push it down, they push it, and, you know, it's terrible, it's like being hit by lightning, you
33 see lightning.
- 34 **Q.** So they put like a dummy in your mouth?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. And you're lying down?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. And do they press the button?
- 5 A. Yes, they did, yeah.
- 6 Q. And then you feel the shock?
- 7 A. Yeah, go like that, yeah.
- 8 Q. Are you awake at that time?
- 9 A. Yes, you are.
- 10 Q. Did you demonstrate that happened to you three times?
- 11 A. Yes, it did.
- 12 Q. How did it feel each time that that shock happened, was it --
- 13 A. It was horrible.
- 14 Q. -- the same or was it getting worse?
- 15 A. No, it was horrible, it was worse, by the third one.
- 16 Q. By the third one, right.
- 17 A. It's terrible.
- 18 Q. Okay. How did you feel after that treatment?
- 19 A. Terrible. My head was all wet.
- 20 Q. All sore?
- 21 A. Yeah, wet.
- 22 Q. Wet, and was that from the electrodes --
- 23 A. Yes, yes.
- 24 Q. -- that they put on your head?
- 25 A. Yes.
- 26 Q. Okay. When this happened to you, who was there?
- 27 A. I can't remember.
- 28 Q. Was Dr Leeks there?
- 29 A. Dr Leeks was there.
- 30 Q. Did he ever talk to you about what was happening or why he was doing this?
- 31 A. No, they call you up, they call you up and bring you down, they call you up. You wonder
- 32 why your mate goes up there, you know, but when they done my mate, he had shock
- 33 treatment, but he died.
- 34 Q. Right, so they call you up from downstairs upstairs to the shock treatment?

- 1 A. Yes, yeah.
- 2 Q. And you don't know why?
- 3 A. Yeah.
- 4 Q. But they called up one of your mates?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. What was his name?
- 7 A. I can't remember. But he had shock treatment and he died.
- 8 Q. And he died?
- 9 A. On the bed.
- 10 Q. How do you know he died?
- 11 A. Because they locked us up, they locked us up because they didn't want us seeing it was in
12 one of those cupboards.
- 13 Q. Okay. So, your mate was having the shock treatment?
- 14 A. Yeah.
- 15 Q. And he died and they locked you up?
- 16 A. They locked us up.
- 17 Q. All of the patients?
- 18 A. The patients.
- 19 Q. All of you?
- 20 A. All of ourselves up.
- 21 Q. And in the day room?
- 22 A. In the day room, they locked us all up.
- 23 Q. Okay.
- 24 A. And, you know.
- 25 Q. Was this in the year that you were there?
- 26 A. Yes.
- 27 Q. 1972?
- 28 A. Yes, that's the year I was there.
- 29 Q. Did you ever see what happened to your friend?
- 30 A. No, we were downstairs, it was like a body.
- 31 Q. Right. He was never there again.
- 32 A. But I knew what was going on, we overheard one of the staff talking.
- 33 Q. You overheard one of the staff?
- 34 A. We knew that he had died, yeah.

- 1 **Q.** You knew that he died?
- 2 **A.** Yeah. On the theatre table.
- 3 **Q.** On the table?
- 4 **A.** Yes.
- 5 **Q.** When you were given this shock treatment, you said you were called up from downstairs,
6 did you ever know why you were chosen to have the shock treatment, was there any
7 reason?
- 8 **A.** No, my epilepsy, they were trying to help my epilepsy.
- 9 **Q.** They were trying to help your epilepsy?
- 10 **A.** Yeah, they were trying to help my epilepsy.
- 11 **Q.** Right.
- 12 **A.** I can tell you that's what they said.
- 13 **Q.** Epilepsy?
- 14 **A.** Yes.
- 15 **Q.** Did it help your epilepsy?
- 16 **A.** No.
- 17 **Q.** Did anything ever help your epilepsy later on?
- 18 **A.** No.
- 19 **Q.** After Lake Alice?
- 20 **A.** No, no.
- 21 **Q.** Was there any medication, did that help later on?
- 22 **A.** No.
- 23 **Q.** Okay. When you were at the unit you've talked about getting the shock treatment or the
24 ECT and you've talked about Paraldehyde?
- 25 **A.** Mmm.
- 26 **Q.** Did you ever get any other type of medication?
- 27 **A.** It's called the kill cock, a little blue pill we were given as medication and Largactil.
- 28 **Q.** Okay.
- 29 **A.** Largactil kept me calm.
- 30 **Q.** Okay.
- 31 **A.** They reckon.
- 32 **Q.** Did you ever get any therapy or any counselling while you were at --
- 33 **A.** No.
- 34 **Q.** -- the unit?

- 1 A. No.
- 2 Q. Okay.
- 3 A. I got talked to by a doctor, that's all.
- 4 Q. Sorry, what was that?
- 5 A. Doctor came and talked to us.
- 6 Q. A doctor?
- 7 A. Yeah.
- 8 Q. Was that in a group or --
- 9 A. No.
- 10 Q. Okay. Can you remember who that doctor was?
- 11 A. Dr Leeks.
- 12 Q. Would talk to you?
- 13 A. Yeah, after, but the day after shock treatment.
- 14 Q. The day after your shock treatment?
- 15 A. Yeah.
- 16 Q. Can you recall what he said?
- 17 A. No, he said "How do you feel?" How do I feel? I said "Why did you do that to me for? He
18 said "Because we're trying to help your epilepsy", said "it will help your epilepsy". I said
19 "That won't help me".
- 20 Q. That won't help you, no.
- 21 A. Nothing helped me.
- 22 Q. Nothing.
- 23 A. Not until I was 16, 17.
- 24 Q. What did help your epilepsy when you were 16?
- 25 A. Nothing, I grew out of it.
- 26 Q. You grew out of it, okay.
- 27 A. Yes.
- 28 Q. Thank you. Walter, I'm going to ask you some questions about sexual abuse.
- 29 A. Yes.
- 30 Q. So were you ever sexually abused while you were at the Lake Alice --
- 31 A. Yes, I was.
- 32 Q. -- Child Adolescent Unit?
- 33 A. Yes, I was. Our face was covered up.
- 34 Q. Right, your face was covered up?

- 1 A. Yeah, so we couldn't see them.
- 2 Q. You couldn't see them?
- 3 A. Or we don't know who they are.
- 4 Q. When you say "they", was it more than one person?
- 5 A. More than one person. I'd say about four, about three. One during the day and one during
6 the night and one during the evening.
- 7 Q. Sorry, can you repeat that?
- 8 A. One during the day.
- 9 Q. One during the day?
- 10 A. One during the night.
- 11 Q. One during the night and one in the evening?
- 12 A. And one -- yes.
- 13 Q. Okay.
- 14 A. I couldn't see the abuse because I have covered up.
- 15 Q. When this happened, so you were 12 years old at this time?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. Did you have any idea what was happening to you?
- 18 A. No, I didn't.
- 19 Q. Was this at the -- in the hall at the Lake Alice Unit, is that where this happened?
- 20 A. Dormitories.
- 21 Q. The dormitories?
- 22 A. Dormitories.
- 23 Q. The dormitories, okay.
- 24 A. That's when it happened in the dormitories. They put you in a room.
- 25 Q. They put you in a room?
- 26 A. Room, you got covered, you don't know what's going on.
- 27 Q. You've said they covered up your --
- 28 A. Face, so you won't see the staff.
- 29 Q. So you couldn't see anything?
- 30 A. The staff member.
- 31 Q. Could you hear anything?
- 32 A. I could hear the staff, but I couldn't place who they are, it was quite hard. I'm sure, I can't
33 prove it, because I was covered up, but I'm sure it was Colonel bloody Klink.
- 34 Q. Right, so you can't prove it but you think it may have been Colonel Klink?

- 1 A. Yes. Because your face is all covered eh?
- 2 Q. Yeah. At that time when you were that age, and this happened to you, what were you
3 thinking, what were you able to do afterwards?
- 4 A. Couldn't do anything.
- 5 Q. Was there anyone you were able to talk to?
- 6 A. No, you had a strait jacket on you, you had nothing down below.
- 7 Q. Right, okay. Have you ever talked about this abuse, the sexual abuse to other people?
- 8 A. No, but I think my aunty I'm not sure. But no-one else, not in hospital no.
- 9 Q. So talking to the Commission, the Royal Commission, is this the first time you've talked
10 about this abuse at Lake Alice?
- 11 A. No, I think I talked to my aunty about it but that's about all.
- 12 Q. Okay. Your aunty and then us?
- 13 A. Yeah.
- 14 Q. Right.
- 15 A. Because I didn't know that you could get money for it.
- 16 Q. Right.
- 17 A. I don't want the money, I just want to tell my story and what happened to me.
- 18 Q. Yeah.
- 19 A. I want nothing from them, I just want them to know my story about Lake Alice Hospital.
- 20 Q. You don't want anything from them, you just want your story from Lake Alice to be
21 listened to?
- 22 A. Yeah, that's what I want, that's all I want.
- 23 Q. I'm going to ask you some questions now about the Lake Alice school while you were at
24 the unit.
- 25 A. Yes.
- 26 Q. Did you get to go to a school while you were there?
- 27 A. Yes, we had school there.
- 28 Q. And how was that school, how did you find that?
- 29 A. It was all right, because you went to school in the unit.
- 30 Q. In the unit, yeah?
- 31 A. And you had all the books there, they had schoolwork and books and you had a teacher
32 come in.
- 33 Q. How was it for you with your vision in terms of being able --
- 34 A. No good.

- 1 **Q.** No good?
- 2 **A.** No, no good.
- 3 **Q.** Were you given an opportunity to keep learning braille?
- 4 **A.** No, that was before -- after that.
- 5 **Q.** Right, so you're only able to learn Braille at Homai?
- 6 **A.** Homai, yes.
- 7 **Q.** Are you able to read braille now, did you ever get any opportunity to learn braille again,
8 later on?
- 9 **A.** Later on I did.
- 10 **Q.** Okay. After your time at Lake Alice, this is when you were 12, you were then -- was it
11 your aunty who helped you get out of Lake Alice?
- 12 **A.** Yes, it was aunty (bleeped). Yes.
- 13 **Q.** While you were in there, did you ever get visits from aunty (bleeped)?
- 14 **A.** Yes, I did.
- 15 **Q.** And from any other family members?
- 16 **A.** No, (bleeped).
- 17 **Q.** How were those visits?
- 18 **A.** Good, she used to take me out, take me down to town, have a cup of tea and then have
19 lunch, and take me back and say "I'll get you out boy, I'll get you out." She came and got
20 me out. That's how I got out of Lake Alice Hospital through her.
- 21 **Q.** Through her, that's how you got out of Lake Alice Hospital?
- 22 **A.** Yes.
- 23 **Q.** And then we won't go into too much detail about these other places, but after Lake Alice
24 Hospital you were put in a number of other institutions?
- 25 **A.** Yes, I was.
- 26 **Q.** And so I think for 14 years of your life you were put in a number of different psychiatric
27 institutions?
- 28 **A.** Yes, I was.
- 29 **Q.** All of your teenage --
- 30 **A.** Days.
- 31 **Q.** -- years and your early 20s?
- 32 **A.** Yes.
- 33 **Q.** And it was in around about 1984 you were actually put back into Lake Alice?
- 34 **A.** Yes.

- 1 **Q.** But not the Child Adolescent Unit?
- 2 **A.** No, no.
- 3 **Q.** In the other part of the hospital?
- 4 **A.** Yes.
- 5 **Q.** So when you went back into the main Lake Alice Hospital in the 1980s?
- 6 **A.** Yeah.
- 7 **Q.** What was that like, how did that --
- 8 **A.** That was good, that was good.
- 9 **Q.** It was good?
- 10 **A.** Yeah, we used to do garden work.
- 11 **Q.** Gardening work?
- 12 **A.** Woodwork. I used to be making boxes.
- 13 **Q.** Making boxes, is that where you were --
- 14 **A.** I used to look after the older people.
- 15 **Q.** And you used to look after the old people?
- 16 **A.** Yeah, because Steve Hunt, he was a charge nurse in one of the wards, and he used to get
- 17 me to come over and look after the -- help the staff, it was quite good, yeah, help look after
- 18 the old fellas.
- 19 **Q.** Okay, and when you were in the open side of the Lake Alice Unit in the 80s, did you ever
- 20 get any ECT?
- 21 **A.** No, no.
- 22 **Q.** Any Paraldehyde?
- 23 **A.** No.
- 24 **Q.** Any seclusion?
- 25 **A.** No. Because if you play up on the other side you get chucked back to ward 11, that's where
- 26 you get shock treatment, the Paraldehyde and --
- 27 **Q.** That was all at the Child Adolescent Unit ward 11?
- 28 **A.** Yeah, the big one, 80s and 90s. If you play up, right, you know, you go back.
- 29 **Q.** Okay. But that never happened to you?
- 30 **A.** No.
- 31 **Q.** When you were in there?
- 32 **A.** No, because I had work.
- 33 **Q.** Right.
- 34 **A.** I had to work in the cafeteria, canteen.

- 1 **Q.** In the canteen?
- 2 **A.** I had to do the hall.
- 3 **Q.** And working in the hall?
- 4 **A.** Clean the hall down there.
- 5 **Q.** Yeah?
- 6 **A.** So I had a lot of work then, it was quite good actually.
- 7 **Q.** Okay. I'm now going to ask you a little bit about your life coming out of these, once you're
8 out of the various institutions and the impact that that has had on your life, being in the
9 different psychiatric institutions.
- 10 **A.** Mmm.
- 11 **Q.** In terms of -- I think you've said that there were some significant impacts to your health,
12 you've had a number of strokes?
- 13 **A.** Yeah, I've had a brain tumour.
- 14 **Q.** And a brain tumour?
- 15 **A.** Brain tumour, I've three mild strokes.
- 16 **Q.** Three mild strokes?
- 17 **A.** Yeah, and my health hasn't been good. Now I'm in a rest home.
- 18 **Q.** Yeah, and now you're in a rest home?
- 19 **A.** Now I'm in a rest home.
- 20 **Q.** You would have dearly liked to come to Auckland to speak to the Commissioners?
- 21 **A.** Yes, I would. But I can't do it because I'm too sick.
- 22 **Q.** But you're here today letting them know your story?
- 23 **A.** Yeah, my story, yes.
- 24 **Q.** And after getting out of the Child and Adolescent Unit and the other psychiatric institutions
25 that you were in, did you ever get told about seeking compensation from anyone, were you
26 ever --
- 27 **A.** My aunty.
- 28 **Q.** Your aunty?
- 29 **A.** Yes.
- 30 **Q.** Can you remember what you did to try and seek some compensation or did your aunty help
31 you?
- 32 **A.** No, it was John Matheson, my lawyer in Gisborne.
- 33 **Q.** A lawyer in Gisborne?
- 34 **A.** Yeah, got \$900.

- 1 **Q.** Right.
- 2 **A.** 9,000, but 9,000, that wasn't enough.
- 3 **Q.** Okay.
- 4 **A.** Yeah.
- 5 **Q.** And did you --
- 6 **A.** I reckon it wasn't enough.
- 7 **Q.** Did your lawyer at that time ask you about Lake Alice Child and Adolescent Unit?
- 8 **A.** No.
- 9 **Q.** No?
- 10 **A.** He knew nothing about it.
- 11 **Q.** Right.
- 12 **A.** Only my aunty (bleeped). She told me.
- 13 **Q.** Okay.
- 14 **A.** John, I told John Matheson (inaudible).
- 15 **Q.** Sorry, I missed that.
- 16 **A.** That's when I told John Matheson, my lawyer.
- 17 **Q.** Okay.
- 18 **A.** That's (inaudible) he got money.
- 19 **Q.** So he got the money.
- 20 **A.** Yeah. Went through (inaudible) I think it was, and he signed the papers.
- 21 **Q.** Right, he had to sign the papers?
- 22 **A.** Yeah.
- 23 **Q.** And your aunty (bleeped) helped with you that?
- 24 **A.** Yes.
- 25 **Q.** Were you ever made aware you could have made a complaint to the Police about what
26 happened to you?
- 27 **A.** No. We had to keep quiet.
- 28 **Q.** Were you ever made aware that you could have asked for some help from ACC?
- 29 **A.** No.
- 30 **Q.** Were you ever made aware that you could have sought some compensation about what
31 happened at Porirua?
- 32 **A.** Yes, but no.
- 33 **Q.** But no. So no-one helped with you that?
- 34 **A.** No. I can't read or write so I don't know.

1 **Q.** Yeah. Walton, just coming to the end here. I just would like to know if there's anything
2 you would like to tell the Commissioners about Lake Alice and what you would like to
3 share with them about your hopes for the future?

4 **A.** My hopes for the future is hope other people don't get what I got and our kids, I just hope
5 they never go through it again, that's all I can say.

6 **Q.** Hope that it does not happen again?

7 **A.** Yes. Especially our kids eh, they're growing up, you know?

8 **Q.** Yeah.

9 **A.** I hope it never happens again.

10 **Q.** Hope it never happens again?

11 **A.** Yeah, hope it never happens again.

12 **Q.** Thank you, Walton, thank you for being courageous to come and speak with us today and
13 your energy to be here and share your account with us all.

14 **A.** That's all right.

15 **Q.** It's much appreciated, thank you.

16 **A.** It's all right.

17 **CHAIR:** Commissioner Gibson's going to thank Walton.

18 **COMMISSIONER GIBSON:** E hara te maunga e nekeneke, ko Hikurangi tērā Tēnā koe te
19 rangatira, Walton. Just acknowledging your mountain, Hikurangi, Walton. It doesn't
20 move, I think you've used those traditions to speak to us from a distance today,
21 acknowledging your mana, your tīpuna, your ancestors, everything that's brought you here
22 and brought you to the place where you can share your truth your story.

23 It's been a privilege to hear you in private session and hear some of your unique
24 perspectives of what went on there and your contribution to this kaupapa today and to
25 making a difference I believe for kids like yourself in the future. Kia ora, thank you
26 Walton, it's really, really appreciated.

27 **CHAIR:** Thank you.

28 **MS R THOMAS:** Now may be the appropriate time to take a morning adjournment.

29 **CHAIR:** I think we will take the morning adjournment. Just so that everybody knows, what time
30 do we expect or should we come back?

31 **MS R THOMAS:** I'll just check with Ms Joychild. 11.30.

32 **CHAIR:** 11.30, all right thank you very much, we'll take the adjournment.

33 **Adjournment from 11.00 am to 11.32 am**

34 **CHAIR:** Welcome back Ms Joychild.