

Under the Inquiries Act 2013
In the matter of the Royal Commission into Historical Abuse in State Care and in
the Care of Faith-based Institutions

Oranga Tamariki: Brief of Evidence of Paula Attrill for Institutional Response Hearing

8 August 2022

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Brief of evidence of Paula Attrill

I, **Paula Attrill** of Wellington, Public Servant, state:

Introduction

- 1 My full name is Paula Maree Attrill. I am a fourth generation Pākehā with links to England, Scotland and Poland. In Aotearoa I call Taranaki home with strong ties to Huinga, a small rural place east of Stratford.
- 2 I am the General Manager, International Casework and Adoption at Oranga Tamariki-Ministry for Children.
- 3 I hold a Bachelor of Social Work and a Masters of Social Work, both from Massey University. I have worked for Oranga Tamariki and its predecessors for almost 30 years. All my career has been focussed on issues relating to care and protection, adoption and youth justice, both domestic and international.
- 4 Over the years I have had a number of roles within the care and protection, youth justice and adoption statutory system. I began as a supervisor of a care and protection team in New Plymouth. I have held a wide range of roles, including practice leader, site manager, regional manager/director and general manager roles. I was the General Manager of Operations for two years. This role included responsibility for all front-line social work services in care and protection, youth justice and adoption.
- 5 The majority of my career with Oranga Tamariki has involved front-line services. Up until 2017 I was either working in a site/region or in a role responsible for overseeing front-line services.
- 6 In 2017, I was asked to join the Secretariat which supported the Expert Advisory Panel convened by the then Minister, Anne Tolley. The purpose of the Expert Advisory Panel was to assist the Minister in undertaking a system wide review of Child, Youth and Family. I was in this role for approximately 6 months and following the final report being delivered I became part of the Investing in Children Programme, which was responsible for implementing the recommendations of the Expert Advisory Panel Report (EAP Report). This included being involved in the 2019 changes to the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989.
- 7 Since 2018, I have been in the role of General Manager International Casework and Adoption. Additional to this role I was also the Senior Responsible Officer for the implementation of the National Care Standards.
- 8 My evidence is primarily based on my experience with Oranga Tamariki and its predecessors as set out above, rather than from the perspective of my current role in the International Casework and Adoption area.

Scope of evidence

- 9 I understand that the Commission is interested in the following matters:
 - (a) Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the guarantee of tino rangatiratanga over kāinga (te Tiriti);

- (b) Priority groups: tāngata whenua, Pacific peoples, disabled people (Priority Groups);
- (c) System and organisational monitoring, oversight and safeguarding (Monitoring, Oversight, Safeguarding);
- (d) The relationship between the state and faith in the care system (State and Faith);
- (e) Entry into care;
- (f) Staff and caregivers;
- (g) Provision of care;
- (h) Complaints, Referrals and Criminal Justice;
- (i) Funding and resources; and
- (j) Lessons learned.

10 I have read, and am familiar with, the brief of evidence filed by our Chief Executive, Chappie Te Kani. I am appearing in the Commission with Mr Te Kani to give evidence as needed to supplement his evidence.

11 In particular, I am able to answer questions in relation to the following aspects of Mr Te Kani's brief of evidence:

- (a) Historical matters relating to entry into care;
- (b) Matters regarding caregivers;
- (c) Provision of care;
- (d) Lessons learned; and
- (e) Adoption services.

Signed:
Paula Maree Attrill

Date: 08 August 2022
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