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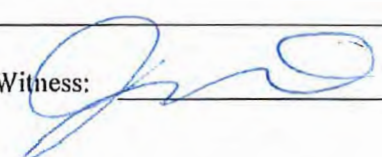
QUEENSLAND CHILD PROTECTION
COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

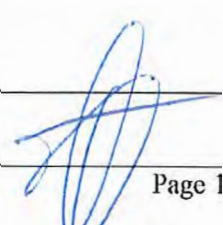
Statement of Witness

<i>Name of Witness</i>	[REDACTED]
<i>Date of Birth</i>	[REDACTED]
<i>Address and contact details</i>	Known to Detective Sergeant Colless
<i>Occupation</i>	Social Worker
<i>Officer taking statement</i>	Detective Sergeant Fabian Colless
<i>Date taken</i>	October 2012

I, [REDACTED] state;


1. My full and correct name is [REDACTED] and I am 48 years of age having been born on the [REDACTED]. I am currently employed as a social worker with Queensland Health in Bundaberg Community Mental Health Service.
2. On the 17 October 2012, I was interviewed by Detective Sergeant Colless, investigator from the Office of the Child Protection Commission of Inquiry, and provided the details contained with this statement.
3. I am a former employee of the John Oxley Youth Centre (JOYC) and the Sir Leslie Wilson Youth Centre. I started at Sir Leslie Wilson in June 1986 as what was called at the time an assistant. I can't recall when I transferred over from Sir Leslie Wilson to JOYC, but I know I didn't go over there with the first lot of staff. I came over at a later date. I remember that I left JOYC in November 1987, because I went overseas; however I returned to JOYC and was reemployed around June or July 1988.

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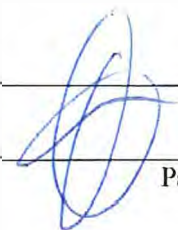
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4. I remember that I was employed as a full time temporary youth worker while at JOYC. For the last two or three months of my employment at JOYC I was put in the position as the acting Child Care Officer.
5. I left JOYC on or around the 22 October 1989 and went to work as a Child Care Officer at Bundaberg office of the Department of Child Safety.
6. I remember the manager of JOYC when I was there and when I left was Peter Coyne. I think the deputy manager was Anne Dutney. I also remember Jenny Foote who might have been in a manager's position sometime while I was at JOYC.
7. While at JOYC I worked in all the three wings of the centre which included Wentworth, Lawson and Blaxland.
8. I remember some of the people at JOYC were Danny Lannen who worked in the Wentworth wing of JOYC. I also remember Marjorie Judd, June West, Jan French, Brendan Collins, Mark Freemantle, Lorraine McGregor, Jim Douglas, Marianne Pearce, Sabina Konincannin, Brendan Collins, Eileen Bisby, Michael Roche, Lorraine Hayward, Colin Bray and Trevor Cox.
9. I mainly worked at Wentworth until I went overseas and then upon returning I worked at Lawson. I may have relieved at Blaxland once in a while but I never really worked in there.
10. While I was employed at JOYC I was not a member of the union. I'm pretty sure I did not join a union until I had left JOYC especially because I was temporary.

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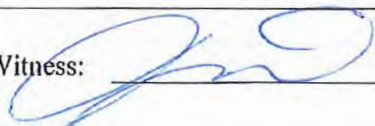


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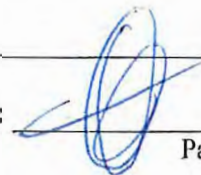


11. I remember when I was working at JOYC there were some problems in that it was in a real volatile and toxic state. When I came back from overseas, people were talking about the manager Peter Coyne. I recall it as being a difficult and poor relationship between many youth workers and Peter Coyne. My issues with Peter Coyne at that time were about his dishonestly and poor management.
12. I remember an incident with Peter Coyne and a child detainee [REDACTED], who was presenting with self harm, in relation to self inflicted cuts mostly on her forearms. Peter came in and spoke to me alone and told me that he was considering as a possible option, giving her a piece of glass or something that she could use so in order to take away the psychological challenge of allowing her to cut herself, with the belief that this may in stop her from doing it.
13. [REDACTED] would deliberately break stuff to harm herself, such as cups and things.
14. I recall that I had a conversation with Peter about this for ten to fifteen minutes. I quite clearly remember this conversation yet the next day, the senior of the wing, possibly Trevor Cox, came around to make an announcement that there was no truth in the rumour that they were not going to give [REDACTED] a piece of glass. That was the sort of things that were going on with Peter and his behaviour.
15. I recall another incident with Peter Coyne around the time I was leaving. Early on a Monday morning I had a discussion with some youth workers including I believe Lorraine Macgregor, I recall they were having a big discussion on how they got a phone call from Peter Coyne on the previous Friday, late at night telling them to get the place ready for an inspection. They then had to vacuum and clean the units that night early in the morning possibly 1am or 2am, when the kids were asleep. I believe that it was inappropriate to do that so early in the morning.

Signature of Witness:



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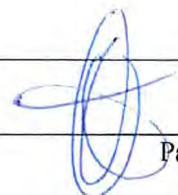


16. Later in the same morning, I was attending a meeting with child care officers and other managerial staff at JOYC at a normal Monday morning meeting. A number of the staff including Peter Coyne and many of the staff who were from Ipswich and who were friends were laughing about how drunk they were on the Friday night. So I then realised that when he had rung in on the Friday night to inform the youth workers of the inspection, he must have rung in when he was intoxicated.
17. I would agree that there were tensions between management and staff when Peter Coyne was the manager. I recall there were rumours about this including a rumour of a house being broken into by JOYC management. I recall as a result of this tension there was talk of staff going on strike, mostly due to lack of staff resources. I remember on one occasion, seven of us went in and spoke to Peter Coyne in his room about the lack of staff resourcing at the centre. It was also discussed during this meeting to take strike action. I recall Peter Coyne telling us during the meeting saying, 'If any of you ever repeat any of what I am saying, I will just deny I said it'.
18. I remember that was riot in 1989 at the centre and I was working that night of the riot. I was not present after this time as I had taken some leave, however I recall there was a debriefing and staff said the briefing was dreadful and were made to feel inadequate by the comments made by Peter Coyne-which included; "but they were only children."
19. As a result of the problems at JOYC I did give a statement in 1989. I remember while I was still at JOYC we were allowed to make submissions to Heiner. I remember that I gave an anonymous handwritten letter as I was too scared to put my name to this letter. I recall that I wrote the letter in relation to a girl they were medicating and the creating of chains to the beds of the children.

Signature of Witness:



Signature of Officer:

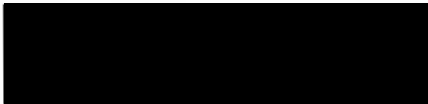


20. I cannot recall who I gave it to; I think they might have had a box that we could submit stuff. I remember that we were told that we could provide information anonymously of which I did. I wrote this letter for what is termed, the Heiner Inquiry'.
21. Around that time there was a culture of fear at JOYC and in June of 1989 I was advised that I had the job at Bundaberg and when I knew I had the job I then had a conversation with Peter Coyne and I let him know about the job. I recall the next day he called me into his office and just belittled me to the point of me leaving in tears telling me I would never be capable of doing that job. In that regard I had a great deal of fear and wanted to leave. So you felt you like you had some retribution if you spoke to Heiner.
22. I did not give evidence to Mr Heiner as I had already left JOYC and had gone to work at Bundaberg.
23. In relation to sexual abuse allegations at JOYC I am aware of an allegation of sexual abuse of a girl called [REDACTED] I had no direct involvement in this matter; I only heard hearsay that teachers had taken children out left them unsupervised and that she was left alone with the other male offenders.
24. The only person I have told about this was a journalist called Bruce Grundy. I think I rang him after reading his website as I could see that he was taking the focus away from the shredding incident and placing it back on the children at the centre. I think I suggested to him to keep digging at that as a lot of those things that he was talking about had happened. I wouldn't have given him any names of children due to confidentiality rules but I simply told him that what he was talking about happened.
25. I am also aware of an incident where a resident of JOYC, [REDACTED] had a relationship with a youth worker where they actually married and had children.

Signature of Witness: _____

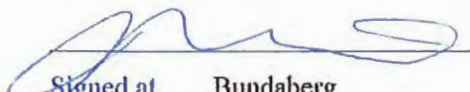
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26. I did not attend the Forde inquiry, nor did I give any evidence, statements or submissions to the Forde Inquiry.
27. I have not given any evidence or submit any statements or submissions to any parliamentary inquiries.
28. I have never been interviewed by any other persons, police or media in relation to the Inquiry at JOYC. I have only spoken to Bruce Grundy.
29. On the 17 October 2012, after I had told Detective Colless about when I provided an anonymous letter to Mr Heiner, Detective Colless emailed me a photocopy of a hand written document dated 3rd October 1989 signed 'Very Concerned'. I examined this document and I am able to say that this is the document I prepared to Mr Heiner in 1989.

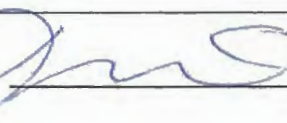


Declaration

This written statement by me dated 17 October 2012 and contained in the pages numbered 1 to 6 is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

 Signature
Signed at Bundaberg this 22 day of October 20 12

Witnessed:
 Signature
Name Alex Colless Rank D/Sgt Reg. No. 9632

Signature of Witness:  Signature of Officer: _____