



**QUEENSLAND CHILD PROTECTION
COMMISSION OF INQUIRY**

Statement of Witness

<i>Name of Witness</i>	Raymond Charles BENTLEY
<i>Date of Birth</i>	12/03/1953
<i>Address and contact details</i>	Known to Detective Senior Constable Denise PARER
<i>Occupation</i>	Senior Estimator
<i>Officer taking statement</i>	Detective Senior Constable Denise PARER
<i>Date taken</i>	19/09/2012

I, Raymond Charles BENTLEY state;

1. I am a former employee of the Department of Children's Services [herein referred to as the Department].
2. My initial contact with the department commenced in 1980 during which time I undertook a position as a youth worker at the Westbrook Training Centre. During my period of employment at Westbrook I commenced a tertiary degree in Behavioural Science and Personnel Management (1985). I continued duties as a youth worker at the Westbrook Training Centre up until May 1987 at which time I applied for, and was successfully awarded, a position as Principal Youth Worker at the John Oxley Youth Centre [herein referred to as JOYC].
3. Upon commencement of employment at JOYC, the Centre's manager was Terry McDermott. It was Terry himself who designated me the portfolio at JOYC as 'Personnel and Security officer'.

Signature of Witness:

R.C. Bentley

Signature of Officer:

D. Dynam

D. Dynam (Witness to Signature)

4. My position as 'Personnel and Security' involved me interviewing new staff, instigating security systems (internally), incident management and review, having a general presence at the centre and to ensure no security breaches occurred or if they did were resolved immediately.
5. At Terry's direction I essentially set up JOYC's security and personnel section from scratch. During the period of set up, I acknowledge we experienced infrequent incidents typical of those occurring within any facility of housing children in care, however overall I would describe JOYC as 'humming' and without issue. The centre functioned as well as any centre of that type could.
6. After a period of approximately 6 months Terry McDermott was promoted to Regional Director North external to JOYC. Peter Coyne, a then social worker from Inala, was awarded the position as JOYC's new manager.
7. I would describe Peter's management style and ethos as completely different to that of Terry McDermott. Peter came to JOYC with high aspirations to change the world and in doing so was what I would describe as being over zealous. No one could question the loyalty and caring approach Peter had for the children and I would be the first to defend that fact.
8. Peter did however have some strange management practices. He maintained a closed shop in that you had to make appointments to see him. Peter also had his 'confidants' and unless you were in that circle you got nothing. From my observation these primary confidants included Lyn Draper, Jenny Foote, Anne Dutney and Sarah Moynihan. I did not consider myself as part of this circle nor did Peter want me as part of this circle. Peter respected me however did not know me as I was an outsider. Peter had a lot of preconceived ideas about staff members such as those who had transferred over from Wilson Youth Detention Centre and their practices.

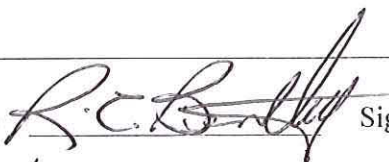
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D. Lyman (witness to signature)

9. During my time at JOYC, at no time did I ever witness a single incident of physical abuse by staff towards the children. By in large it was a caring and good environment, however it was doomed to fail because of Peter's management style. Peter made decisions of the heart and not systemic ones required in institutional care. This unwittingly placed children at risk. Peter's philosophy was 'give them a hug, show them love and everything will be fine'.
10. Peter's management style was threatening to the clients. By this I mean, given that the centre, by nature of its purpose, was an institution and required strict and standard procedures to protect children and operate smoothly. Peter would operate 'off the cuff'. He would do everything he could for the children, however in doing so, long term consequences of such actions would end up being detrimental to the children.
11. For example, I had participated in a meeting with other employees (including Peter's confidants and Col Venz {now deceased}) about the searching, not strip searching of youths at JOYC. I had brought up the issue about searching children being placed in to the 'time out room'. I had explained my thoughts as to the need for children to be searched prior to being placed in to time out to prevent any self harm occurring. I was informed by Peter that this would not occur and was shut down on my thoughts. I remember being very disappointed after leaving the meeting and thought such decision was fraught with danger.
12. One night, after that decision had been made a child [REDACTED] had been placed in to time out. During this shift I had checked on the child at several intervals without issue. I recall sometime around 9pm that evening I returned to the time out room where I observed all viewing windows to be smeared with blood. I immediately entered the cell and restrained the child and discovered he had self harmed with a glass shard from a deodorant bottle he had secreted on him prior to entry in to the time out room. A nurse and I attended to the child and secured his safety.

Signature of Witness:



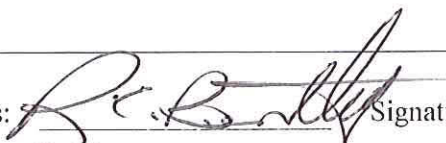
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D. Lynch (witness to signature)

13. The following morning I was called to explain my actions before Peter Coyne. I found this process humiliating and demeaning.
14. Another incident that had caused me concern whilst I was at the centre involved an excursion in which teachers had taken some of the detainees on an excursion out of the centre. Prior to the event I had never seen an application as centre personnel security officer with the intention of removing those children from the centre for an excursion.
15. I recall commencing a shift one afternoon around 2pm and that a call had been received at JOYC from a teacher on the excursion stating that some of the detainees had absconded from the picnic area. I remember at the time Rudi Pekelharing and Lyn Draper as being the Principal youth workers on shift. I received advice from those in the centre that people were looking for the absconders. I was later told that the children had turned up at the centre. As manger of personnel at no time was I provided briefing or debriefing of this incident. I have no recollection of seeing an associated incident report for this incident. I was deliberately not made privy to any details of this incident. I recall one of the male detainees on that excursion involved [REDACTED], another male detainee who had come from Thursday Island and an aboriginal female child [Possibly [REDACTED] however unsure]. All would have been around 14-15 years of age. From recollection this excursion had been a day trip to either Jimboomba or Boonah. The group had taken the centre's mini van that day. The teachers who had accompanied the children on that excursion had been 'Bob' and a female who were JOYC's permanent teachers.
16. Upon the return of the absconders it appeared to me as it was being informally hushed up. I was cut out of the loop and no children's names were ever supplied to me. Peter ended up taking over the entire incident.
17. Although the children who had gone on the excursion had a personal security rating as 'green', meaning that they could move throughout JOYC

Signature of Witness:


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Witness to signature

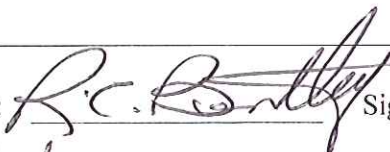
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unaccompanied under direction and could leave JOYC accompanied, given the risks, environment and supervision proposed for the said excursion, I would have declined it because of the combined factors as posing too greater risk.

18. Some time later after I resigned from JOYC [November/December 1988] I recall seeing an article in a newspaper which outlined rape allegations having been made by one of the female JOYC detainees whilst on an excursion. I immediately was able to recall the circumstances described as being one and the same to the incident that had involved the detainees absconding however was never made aware of any allegations of rape at the time the incident had occurred.
19. After I left JOYC I did not actively keep in contact with any employees from JOYC. I recall being visited on one occasion, a Carnival of Flowers weekend, by staff member Trevor Cox. Trevor called on me out of the blue. We had a nice chat and spoke about JOYC in general but never discussed any particular concern.
20. Since leaving JOYC I have never been asked or approached by any person to make any statement about management issues or other concerns relating to the JOYC.
21. I have never made any complaint to any person or professional body about management I observed or experienced during my period of employment at JOYC.
22. Some time after my resignation from JOYC I recall seeing items in the news about an inquiry being conducted in relation to the JOYC. I believe this inquiry was referred to as the Heiner Inquiry. At no time was I ever approached by Mr Heiner requesting information for this inquiry.
23. I do recall at some stage around the time of the inquiry receiving a telephone call to my home's phone number. The caller identified himself as a journalist for the Courier Mail. I believe his name was Bruce. I recall during this telephone call

Signature of Witness:



D. Lynch (witness to signature)

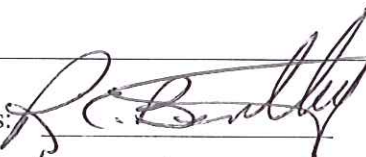
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speaking some disparaging remarks about Peter, and that as the call progressed, formed the belief that this person was acting on behalf of Peter Coyne in relation to some sort of litigation that was pending. Bruce seemed to be an advocate for Peter Coyne. I recall telling Bruce that I had left JOYC behind me and had nothing further to say on the matter.

24. At no time during my period of employment at JOYC did I see, was provided information or make any report of any sexual abuse allegations or incidents.
25. During my period of employment I can recall some names of fellow employees. These person include Principal Youth Worker – Lyn Draper, Senior Youth Workers – Trevor Cox, Bruce Cassidy, Col Bray, Fred Feige; and General youth workers – Michael Roch, Eileen Bisby, Jimmy Douglas, Mark Freemantle, Jan French, Goggins, Lyn Hayward, Marj Judd, ‘Connie’ Konnicanin, McAuly, Peter McNeven, Peter Palmer, Parfitt, Pearce, Dave Smith, Gordon Teasdale, Anthony Van-Vlmmiren, Chris Edwards (now deceased), Brian Cartledge, Jan West, Darryl Hood, ‘Archie’ Olde-Woblers, Jane Thirnbeck, Danny Lannen, and Loraine McGregor. I further recall persons Sara Moynihan (teacher), Jane Mumford (Kitchen), Jeffrey Manitzky (Social worker), ‘Gary’ (Social worker), Jody Preston (Admin officer), ‘Brian’ (admin officer), Agnus Hornery (House keeper) and two other teachers – Bob and a female teacher (name unknown)
26. On the 19th September 2012 Detectives Parer and Mison attended my home address during which time I provided them with my knowledge of this matter.

Signature of Witness:


D. Ryan (witness
to signature)

Signature of Officer:



27. During this conversation Detective Parer produced to me a photocopy of a hand written document dated 3rd October 1989 signed 'Very Concerned'. I am able to state that I am not the author of this document nor do I recognise the handwriting contained in the document.

Raymond Charles BENTLEY

Declaration

This written statement by me dated 19/9/2012 AB and contained in the pages numbered 21/11/2012 I to 7 is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

R. C. Bentley Signature

Signed at Towcester BA this 15th day of November 2012

D. Dynam (witness to signature)

Witnessed: [Signature] Signature

Name Denise Parer Rank DSC Reg. No. 10736

Signature of Witness:

R. C. Bentley
D. Dynam (witness to signature)

Signature of Officer:

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