

3 E
QCPCI

QCPCI Reference: Authors initials / eDocs document number

Date: 26.11.2012

Exhibit number: 18



QUEENSLAND CHILD PROTECTION
COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

Statement of Witness

<i>Name of Witness</i>	Barbara Joan FLYNN
<i>Date of Birth</i>	
<i>Address and contact details</i>	Known to Det. Senior Sergeant Brett Barber
<i>Occupation</i>	Retired
<i>Officer taking statement</i>	Detective Senior Sergeant Bret Barber
<i>Date taken</i>	10/09/2012

I, Barbara Joan Flynn state;

1. I was formerly an officer of the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care.
2. I was employed by the Department from 1979. In 1989 I was appointed to the position of Senior Court Services Officer. I retired from the Department in 1999.
3. At some time in 1989 I received a message from my supervisor, Ms. Myolene Carrick that the then Director General, Mr. Alan Pettigrew, had asked if I would assist Mr. Heiner in an Inquiry into complaints made by officers at the John Oxley Youth Centre concerning grievances those officers had with the management of the Centre, in particular with the Manager, Peter Coyne.
4. Following this advice I can recall a conversation with Mr. Pettigrew about the pending Inquiry. It was explained to me that my role was to assist Mr. Heiner in clarifying processes and procedures within the Department.

Signature of Witness:

B. J. Flynn

Signature of Officer:

[Signature]

5. It was my understanding from Mr. Pettigrew, that the officers had made complaints to their respective unions about their grievances. It is my recollection that Mr. Pettigrew was responding to pressure from the Unions involved to investigate the complaints. I do not remember anything being put in writing and no written directions were given to me.
6. I was at the time somewhat hesitant about the role, but I was assured by Mr. Pettigrew that, "It is a storm in a teacup."
7. I was informed of a meeting to be held at the Children's Court to discuss the Inquiry prior to its inception.
8. This meeting was held but I became severely ill at work that morning and was unable to attend the meeting. I recall Mr. Pettigrew, Ms. Carrick, and Mr. Noel Heiner coming to my office after the meeting and speaking with me but the Inquiry was not discussed.
9. I was duly informed by Mr. Heiner about when the Inquiry would commence and I subsequently travelled with him to the John Oxley Youth Centre where the Inquiry was held in one of the rooms at the Centre. Mr. Heiner sat at a table, I sat beside him and next to me was the secretary, Jan Cosgrove.
10. As each officer came before the Inquiry the officer sat opposite Mr. Heiner. The process was informal.
11. If my memory is correct, the Inquiry was held once a week for four weeks sitting for about two to three hours each time before it was closed down on the basis that it had not been properly constituted.

Signature of Witness:

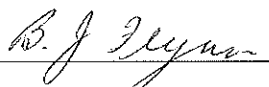
B. J. Flynn

Signature of Officer:

[Handwritten Signature]

12. As far as I can remember the officers who had complaints, voluntarily appeared before Mr. Heiner.
13. I have no recollection of any formal processes having been undertaken. There were no subpoenas, statements or submissions presented to the Inquiry. There were no witnesses or legal representatives present. As each officer sat before him, Mr. Heiner explained in great detail that there was complete confidentiality and that anything that was said before the Inquiry could not be disclosed. This was later known to be incorrect.
14. As a result each officer spoke frankly about their grievances against Mr. Coyne. The unjust treatment of these officers was of great concern to those of us who were party to the hearing. I can remember being very concerned about the stress that these men were experiencing evidenced by the fact that some of them broke down and cried while recounting their grievances.
15. Mr. Coyne and Ms. Ann Dutney appeared before the Inquiry. I do not recall their interview content except that neither was happy about the Inquiry.
16. The only conversations outside the formal hearings to which I was a party were the debriefings in the car after each hearing. Present were Mr. Heiner, Ms. Cosgrove and me. One conversation we had was about the concern we had about the relationships between members of the management group at the John Oxley Youth Centre. It occurred to me, at that time, that the Centre and its staff were experiencing problems because of this dysfunctional management group.
17. Shortly after the new Government took office Mr. Heiner advised me that the Inquiry had been closed down and I was not involved in any further matters relating to the Inquiry. Mr. Heiner informed me that all the Inquiry documents were sealed and handed to head office. Ruth Matchett was the Director General at the time.

Signature of Witness:



Signature of Officer:



18. I have over the period of time since read in the newspapers various commentaries on the Heiner Inquiry. In particular, I have been concerned about the so called 'cover up' of evidence of child sexual abuse that was allegedly given to the Heiner Inquiry. This is totally untrue. No allegation of child sexual abuse was ever raised during the Inquiry.
19. Shortly after I retired, I was contacted by a journalist, a Mr. Grundy, presumably from the Courier Mail, who approached me at my home then at 85 Bardon Esplanade Bardon. He requested information about the Heiner Inquiry. When I refused to discuss the matter he told me I was free to talk because the ten year period had passed. When I again refused to discuss the matter he stated, "You're just like other people in the Department who cover up child abuse".
20. I responded strongly to this accusation by telling him that there was no cover up. I remember being quite definite in my recollection of events in so far as the Inquiry did not receive any information relating to child sexual abuse. I cannot remember my exact words but I told him I was not an untruthful person and matters of child sexual abuse were not mentioned in the Inquiry.
21. Mr. Grundy finally left and I recall quite clearly that his final remark to me was, "You have left me with nowhere to go".

Signature of Witness:



Signature of Officer:



22. I later became aware that Mr. Grundy tape recorded our conversation. At no stage before, during, or after our conversation did he tell me he was making a recording and he did so without my knowledge or consent.

Barbara J Flynn
Barbara Joan Flynn

Declaration

This written statement by me dated 10-9-2012 and contained in the pages numbered 1 to 5 is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

B. J. Flynn Signature
Signed at Brisbane this 10th day of September 20 12.

Witnessed:

[Signature] Signature
Name B. BARBER Rank DSS Reg. No. 6582

Signature of Witness:

B. J. Flynn

Signature of Officer:

[Signature]