



QUEENSLAND CHILD PROTECTION COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

Our reference: [eDocs document number]

Statement of Witness

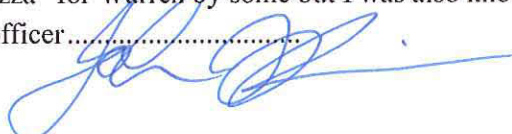
Table with 2 columns: Field Name and Value. Fields include Name of Witness, Date of Birth, Address and contact details, Occupation, Officer taking statement, and Date taken.

I, Warren John Christensen state;

- 1. I am 48 years of age.
2. I am currently employed by the Department of Environment and Heritage. I am presently a team leader. My duties include, training staff in low level investigations, compliance and regulatory issues. I have a high focus in ethics based training for staff.
3. I hold the following degrees: Bachelor of Arts majoring in Criminology/Criminal Justice, University of Queensland, Master of Social Science (Legal Studies and Criminal Justice), University of Queensland and I am currently a doctoral candidate at the University of Queensland.
4. I am a former employee for the Department of Family Services, [herein referred to as the department].

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5. I was employed by the department as a youth worker from 1989 until I resigned in 1999.
6. Upon commencing duty with the department I worked at the John Oxley Youth Centre (JOYC) at Wacol. I remember there was no training for new staff at the centre.
7. Back when I started employment with the department there were three units at the JOYC. These units were named Blaxland, Lawson and Wentworth. These are the units the detainees lived in.
8. I remember back then in my early days with the department, there was this new style of youth detention which was referred to as "normalisation". This included having mixed gender units. That is female and male detainees residing in the same unit. I remember there was this perplexing issue that staff found difficult to understand at the time. Are we dealing with damaged children? or Are we dealing with criminal offenders?
9. Some of the staff I remember from my time at JOYC back then are; Peter Coyne – manager, Anne Dutney – Deputy manager, Lyn Draper – management, Eileen Bisby – senior youth worker, Irene Colner – youth worker, Trevor Cox- senior youth worker, Jan French – youth worker, Jimmy Douglas – youth worker, Bruce Goggins – youth worker, Lorraine Hayward – senior youth worker, Scott healing – youth worker, Marge Judd – youth worker, Sabina Konicanan – youth worker, Peter Mcnevan – youth worker, Alex Muelenberg – mechanic/teacher, Brad Parfitt – youth worker, Mariana Pierce – youth worker, Rudy Pekalharing – youth worker, David Smith – youth worker, Gordon Teasdale – youth worker, Jill Wesche – youth worker, Bruce Cassidy – senior youth worker, Mark Mills – youth worker, Brian Cartledge, June West – youth worker, Paul Hamson – youth worker, Colin Bray – principle youth worker, Daryl Hood – youth worker, Archie Olde-Woblers – youth worker, Jane Thirnbeck – youth worker, Gary Truloff – youth worker,  – youth worker, Daniel Lanen – youth worker, Jeff Manitzky – Teacher, Jodie Preston – Admin, Lorraine McGregor – Nurse, Fred Feige – youth worker, Russo – youth worker, Lex Clements – youth worker, Rodney Reston – youth worker, Olley Isaac – youth worker, Bronwyn Marshall – youth worker, Narand Nath – youth worker, David Gold – youth worker, Gloria McNevan – Kitchen and Terry Owens- Groundsman
10. I remember staff at the centre also had nick names. These names were often generated by the detainees. I was known as "Wazza" for Warren by some but I was also known as a

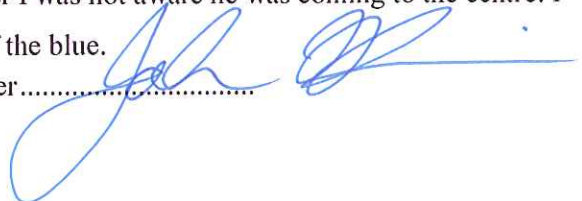


“Stiffy” by the detainees. The term “Stiffy” was a nickname given to staff who worked a particular way. Basically it was for staff who were straight. There was another term “Gerry” and this nick name derived from term geriatric. There was also a nickname “Fat cat”. This name was youth worker Gary Truloff. One of the staff members also had a nickname “Barny”. I am not sure of “Barny’s” actual name.

11. I remember an incident that occurred at JOYC that stands out to me. This was the handcuffing at the tennis court. I make mention of this incident as I had issue with decision by the manager Peter Coyne to handcuff the detainees. I can’t remember the exact date but I remember I was working a 3-11 shift when it happened. The senior youth worker on shift was Trevor Cox. During this shift there had been disturbance within a unit. I remember after this incident being asked by Trevor Cox to handcuff detainees. By this stage the detainees had settled down as they had accompanied Fred Feige and myself to the secure yard. I disagreed with Trevor’s decision to handcuff the detainees and said “No” to him. At some stage later I was then given a phone where I spoke with the manager Peter Coyne. Peter Coyne then directed me to handcuff the detainees. I told him it was inappropriate. I still refused and didn’t handcuff the detainees.
12. I remember leaving the centre and I still had handcuff keys in my pocket. I then returned to the centre where I observed the detainees handcuffed to a chain wire fence at the tennis court.
13. The next day I returned to work for a 7am to 3pm shift. When I returned to work I noticed the detainees were still handcuffed to the tennis court.
14. Sometime in 1990 I remember one day I arrived at work and being bundled into a room at the entrance of JOYC by the duty manager. I was literally immediately taken to an area to wait along with other staff to meet with a man called Mr Heiner. All the staff were being notified to wait for this Mr Heiner as they arrived. I can’t remember the names of the other staff at the time but I remember there being a few of us waiting along with me. I told the senior or duty manager that I did not want to meet with this person Heiner. I remember we as a group were informed that we had to meet with the man and we all had no choice about it.
15. Prior to meeting with Mr Heiner I had not provided any complaint nor had I provided any statement. On the day I met with Heiner I was not aware he was coming to the centre. I was shocked and felt like it was bolt of the blue.

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16. I don't think I was the first to enter the room to meet with Mr Heiner. At some stage I was asked to enter the meeting room. I entered this room and observed there was a desk and man whom I know to be Heiner sat opposite. I am pretty sure somebody in the room was taking notes. I can't remember if there was a tape recorder or not. There may have been another person present however I am not sure on that. I remember being a little rattled at the time and as I said earlier it was a big shock.
17. I didn't know what this meeting was about. I was not totally co-operative as I felt forced. I also felt this meeting was improper and I had been given no advice before attending.
18. The meeting was basically about the manager Peter Coyne. I remember I was asked the following questions. Do you like Peter Coyne? What do you think of his management? Are you aware of him doing things to staff? In response to these questions my memory is that I told Mr Heiner I had no problems with Peter Coyne's management style. I was basically guarded in my responses to these questions. I kept my responses minimised. I know I did not speculate. However I remember making a remark to Heiner that there was poor training for staff at JOYC.
19. Mr Heiner did not inquire with me about any specific incidents.
20. Mr Heiner did not ask me any questions about sexual abuse at JOYC.
21. I did not tell Mr Heiner anything about sexual abuse at JOYC.
22. The handcuffing incident to my knowledge was not also questioned by Mr Heiner.
23. My entire meeting with Mr Heiner lasted about 5 -10 minutes. It was pretty quick. I know I wasn't the first person that day to Heiner nor was I the last person.
24. At the time I was a member of the associated union for employees at the centre. I had no involvement with the union regarding the Heiner matter nor did I contact the union about it.
25. After my meeting with Mr Heiner I went to work. I didn't really discuss about what Heiner had said to me and what I told him. There was actually very little conversation amongst staff other afterwards. However, a group of staff who appeared to me at the time

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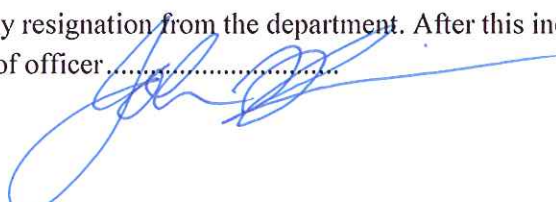
to have more knowledge of the dispute or situation were Fred Feige, Daniel Lannen and Lex Clements. These three guys were I would say upset at the time. I know there was an incident prior to the Heiner meeting whereby staff member Lex Clements was assaulted by a detainee. I got the impression from other staff that this may have been the trigger for the inquiry and Peter Coyne was the manager, however I am not sure.

26. Within 48 hours of meeting with Heiner, Peter Coyne contacted me via the telephone. He asked me what I told Heiner. I told him to mind his own business. I don't think at the time he took this reply well.
27. I felt the issues from the staff around this time were mainly due to the level of animosity and victimisation towards them by Peter Coyne. I remember back then I would relieve in a higher position of acting senior youth worker. I remember I had a disagreement with management about shifts and as a result I felt I did not relieve for another six months because of this disagreement.
28. I never witnessed any sexual abuse at the John Oxley Youth Centre. In fact I would advise staff working with me to be vigilant and always have a female staff member present if it warranted it.
29. However there was an occasion where I felt something strange had occurred. Sometime whilst I was at the centre a female detainee [Shelly Kneel] promptly left the centre. Back in those days the manager had the say when a detainee could be released. This was pre Juvenile Justice Act. I was advised by management that Shelly could go. I was asked to help pack up her stuff with another female staff member. I am not sure of the other staff member but it may have been Sabina. The way this happened was just unusual. I then escorted Shelly to a halfway house.
30. Sometime later after she [Shelly Kneel] left I had heard through staff there had been a sexual encounter whilst on an outing with a youth worker. This incident occurred on a school trip to Somerset Dam. I remember I inquired more about this incident but I couldn't find much out. I have some impression from back then, that the staff member with the nick name [REDACTED] was involved in this incident. The person who knew more about this was the mechanic Alex Muelenberg. I heard most information about this incident along the centre grapevine so to speak. There were also rumours about a female detainee called [REDACTED] and other staff at the centre however I do not know much about it.

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31. In 1999 I provided a statement and gave evidence before the Forde Inquiry.
32. About the time of the Forde Inquiry I received a phone call from Danny Lannen. My understanding of this call is that Danny raised an incident about detainee Annette Harding with me or he may lodge something about it to the Forde Inquiry. When I say lodge, I mean provide further details about this incident in a statement.
33. I haven't seen or spoken to Danny since the Forde Inquiry, however I have since been told by Fred Feige that Danny Lannen raised issues of the Annette Harding sexual abuse to me.
34. I don't know if Danny Lannen or Fred Feige actually gave testimony at the Forde Inquiry but I am sure they gave statements.
35. I provided oral testimony at the Forde Inquiry. My issue related mainly to the handcuffing incident as mentioned earlier in this statement. I remember there being some conjecture over who the male detainee had been when it occurred. I was asked about an incident involving Annette Harding at the Inquiry by Commissioner Forde. I advised the Commissioner I had heard of the incident but was away from the centre at the time it had occurred.
36. Within the centre I had heard rumblings about the Annette Harding incident. It was said in talk that this incident was badly handled and swept under the carpet. As I said earlier I do not have much information about this incident as I was not at the centre at the time.
37. On Monday the 24<sup>th</sup> September 2012 I met with Detectives Mison and Parer where I had a conversation about my employment at the John Oxley Youth Centre. During this conversation I was shown documents signed "very concerned". I was asked whether or not I recognised the writing. It seemed very familiar. I recall aspects of the information. I have since recognised this document as being shown to me during the Forde Inquiry. It was shown to me in what I would call the evidence gathering stage prior to my appearance. On this occasion I was also asked to identify the author to which I am still unable to do so.
38. On the 15 of May 1998 I was involved in a serious incident where I was severely injured at JOYC. This incident led to my resignation from the department. After this incident I


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was unhappy with the circumstances in which the matter was dealt with and investigated. Basically documents went missing including large extracts from my personal file. I know this as a fact and I call this the "John Oxley Way".

**Declaration**

This written statement by me dated 25th September 2012 and contained in the pages numbered 1 to 7 is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

  
Signed at BRISBANE this 26 day of September 20 12 Signature

Witnessed:  
  
Name J.A. MISON Rank Det Sgt Reg. No. 8065 Signature

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