


Date: 6.12.2012Exhibit number: § 221**QUEENSLAND CHILD PROTECTION
COMMISSION OF INQUIRY****Statement of Witness**

<i>Name of Witness</i>	Brendan Sean Collins
<i>Date of Birth</i>	5/4/1963
<i>Address and contact details</i>	Known to Detective Sergeant Colless
<i>Occupation</i>	Network Engineer
<i>Officer taking statement</i>	Detective Sergeant Fabian Colless
<i>Date taken</i>	20 September 2012

I, Brendan Sean Collins state:

1. My full and correct name is Brendan Sean Collins and I am 49 years of age having been born on the 5th April 1963. I am currently employed as an IT Network Engineer with the Department of Housing and Public Works.
2. On the 20 September 2012, I attended the Office of the Child Protection Commission of Inquiry and provided the details contained within this statement.
3. I am a former employee of the John Oxley Youth Centre (JOYC). Prior to working at JOYC I was employed as a youth worker at the Sir Leslie Wilson Youth Centre, I was interviewed for the JOYC position by the centre manager Terry McDermott. I and seven other workers went over to JOYC prior to it opening, where we set up the programs and prepared the centre for it to be opened. I believe that I would have left JOYC some time in 1988.
4. I later worked at JOYC as a casual youth worker for a several months in about 1993 or later. At that time I recall my wife was on maternity leave.

Signature of Witness: B CollinsSignature of Officer: 

5. While I was at JOYC in 1988 my primary position was as a youth worker. At that time there were a number of levels of youth workers at the Centre. These included a youth worker and there were two youth workers assigned to each housing wing, a senior youth worker who managed the shift and then the principal youth worker. .
6. I remember the managers at JOYC when I was there was the centre manager who was initially Terry McDermott and Jenny Foote (deputy manager), the senior youth workers were Colin Bray, Trevor Cox and Fred Fiege. Principal youth workers like Lynn Draper and Rudy Pekarharing. I remember after Terry McDermott left, Peter Coyne was appointed as centre manager.
7. While I was at JOYC there were no problems initially, it was well managed and the guiding philosophy was that 'the punishment ended after the door closed behind you'. This was in stark contrast to what was happening at Sir Leslie Wilson. I do not recall any major incidents at the centre while Terry McDermott was manager.
8. The environment in my wing was that the children were empowered, we had weekly meetings with the children, they were engaged in the decision making of areas they were allowed to have influence over.
9. When the new manager Peter Coyne came in and the senior youth worker roles were filled by new people then it became more authoritarian and a lot more dictatorial.
10. I cannot fully attribute this to Peter Coyne as we had an influx of staff from Sir Leslie Wilson Youth Centre who were generally more prison guard in their approach. This resulted in a lot more incidents between youth workers and children.

Signature of Witness:



Signature of Officer:

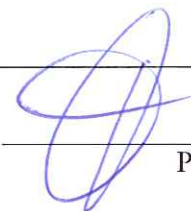


11. Prior to leaving JOYC in 1988 I remember that there were some problems with one of the wings where staff had been traumatised from incidents that had occurred. I wasn't involved in this as I was on holidays when it happened. After I left JOYC in 1988 I returned to Townsville to work on my family Trawler for a several months before I returned to my university studies.
12. I believe that while employed at JOYC in 1988 I was a member of the Australian Workers Union (AWU).
13. I remember that I specifically left JOYC because of problems at JOYC and even though I had left I remained in contact with colleagues at JOYC and that is why I wrote a submission explaining the reason why I had left. I recall that it was about how the management of the centre had broken down and the impact of it.
14. On the 20 September 2012, I was shown a photocopy of a typed document by Detective Colless, titled 'AFFIDAVIT', which bears my name Brendan Sean Collins and consists of three paragraphs and is signed by myself and witnessed by a justice of the peace and dated 2 October 1989. I recognise the signature at the bottom of this document as my own. I remember that my mother typed up the document for me
15. This document I was shown is a copy of the submission I prepared as outlined in paragraph 13 of this statement.
16. I cannot recall how I came to prepare the document in the sense that I cannot recall which of my colleagues discussed the Inquiry in the centre with me and I don't recall who I sent it to. I do not recall specifically which JOYC staff I maintained contact with after I left JOYC however I did maintain contact with Mark Freemantle and Daniel Lannen.

Signature of Witness:



Signature of Officer:



17. The reason I prepared the letter was to explain what had happened at JOYC from my perspective. I felt I needed to state my reasons for resigning from my position at JOYC. From my understanding the document was going to the Inquiry about the management at JOYC. I do not recall the contact details of the person in the Inquiry that I sent it to.
18. After I sent the document I do not know where it went. I never received acknowledgement of receipt nor was it returned to me. I subsequently assumed it was shredded along with the other evidence of the Heiner Inquiry. I have not seen it until I was shown a copy of it by Detective Colless.
19. I did not give evidence at this inquiry nor did I give evidence to the inquiry about any sexual abuse. I have no specific knowledge of anyone that gave evidence at the Heiner Inquiry nor did anyone tell me that they gave evidence at the Heiner Inquiry at the time.
20. While I was employed at JOYC I was not aware of any incidents involving sexual abuse at JOYC. I subsequently became aware of rape allegation at JOYC through the media. I have also read material relating to the Heiner Inquiry on the internet.
21. I did not attend the Ford inquiry, not did I give any evidence, statements or submissions to the Ford Inquiry.
22. I have not given any evidence or submit any statements or submissions to any parliamentary inquiries.
23. I have never been interviewed by any other persons, police or media in relation to the Inquiry at JOYC.

Signature of Witness:

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Signature of Officer:



24. On the 20 September 2012, I was shown a list of staff, by Detective Colless, who were employed at JOYC around the time of my employment. I was able to identify most of the staff on the list as people I worked with or knew of working there and others who I did not know.

25. On the 20 September 2012, I was shown a photocopy of a hand written document dated 3rd October 1989 signed 'Very Concerned'. I am not the author of this document, nor am I able to recognise the handwriting on the document.

Brendan Sean Collins

Declaration

This written statement by me dated 10/10/12 and contained in the pages numbered 1 to _____ is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

B Collins Signature

Signed at Brisbane this 10 day of October 20 12

Witnessed:

[Signature] Signature

Name F. G. Colless Rank D/Sgt Reg. No. 2634

Signature of Witness: B Collins

Signature of Officer: [Signature]