

Date: 6.12.2012Exhibit number: 220

**QUEENSLAND CHILD PROTECTION
COMMISSION OF INQUIRY**

Statement of Witness

<i>Name of Witness</i>	Lex John CLEMENTS
<i>Date of Birth</i>	27/01/1954
<i>Address and contact details</i>	Known to Detective Senior Constable Denise PARER
<i>Occupation</i>	Senior Freight Clerk
<i>Officer taking statement</i>	Detective Senior Constable Denise PARER
<i>Date taken</i>	04/11/2012

I, Lex John CLEMENTS state;

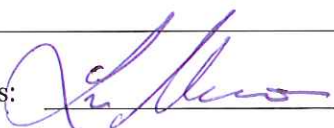
1. I am a former employee of the Department of Children's Services [herein referred to as the department].
2. I commenced employment with the department in April 1978. At that time I took on a position at the Sir Leslie Wilson Youth Centre [herein referred to as SLWYC] as a youth worker. This was a full time position which involved me providing a custodial role over the children as well opportunity to implement programs for the children.
3. When the John Oxley Youth Centre [herein referred to as JOYC] was to open, I remember there being an expression of interest made to SLWYC staff offering transfer. I was not one of those persons who volunteered, but was later 'volunteered' by the manager Terry McDermott to transfer across. I started at JOYC on the 12th March 1987 and continued working there until my resignation in October 1989. I left the employment of the department in October 1989.

Signature of Witness:

Signature of Officer:

4. Whilst at JOYC I was employed as a youth worker and undertook numerous periods of relieving as a senior youth worker. Although I was encouraged to apply for a position as senior youth worker I never did as I wished to remain working directly with the children and not in a management position. As a youth worker I undertook various activities with the children including horse riding, abseiling, canoeing and other external excursions. I enjoyed working with the children.
5. When I first commenced working at JOYC I recall the manager as being Terry McDermott. Jenny Foote was the deputy manager. Some time after I started, maybe 18 months or so, Peter Coyne replaced Terry as the centre's manager.
6. Other staff I recall working with me at JOYC included Chris Edwards, Di French, Sabina 'Connie' Konnicanin, Brendan, Mark Freemantle, Scotty Healing, Maree Pearce, Lorraine Hayward, Loraine McGreggor, Trevor Cox (senior youth worker), Fred Feige, Lyn Draper (3rd in charge), Bruce Cassidy (principal youth worker), Rudi Pikelharing (senior youth worker), Col Bray (senior youth worker), Danny Carrick, John Walkholm, Peter Palmer, Di Fields, Guy Gibson and Josie Russo (Cleaner).
7. I recall that during my period of employment at JOYC some management issues arose. Under the management style of Terry McDermott, JOYC had been run in a innovative and open way. Staffs were always able to approach Terry with any concerns or issues and it led to a positive working environment. When Peter Coyne replaced Terry as a manager the whole feel of the place and the staff became negative. Peter concentrated on 'how things looked' as opposed to 'how things were'. Peter's management style focused on monitoring the staff as opposed to monitoring the kids. For the majority of my time at JOYC I had remained neutral, not buying in to issues that arose. I recall later on being approached by Peter who asked what side I was on, referring to either his side or that of some staff who were opposing him. I remember telling Peter I was on no side. Peter had responded to me by say something like I was 'no longer politically

Signature of Witness:



Signature of Officer:




neutral'. 'If I wasn't on his side he would get me'. Up to that point I felt I still had the respect of both sides, however when Peter had made this comment to me I felt as though I had been pushed in to a corner. I became anti-Peter as a result. Issues continued to simmer over Peter's management. I recall the staff convening a meeting to discuss the negative culture of JOYC and Peter's management practices. I remember this meeting clearly as Peter turned up to it. It became a non-event because staff were intimidated. I do not recall who had organised this meeting but remember that when the meeting started I was quickly 'volunteered' to be spokesperson.

8. Another issue that had a negative effect on staff at JOYC was the need for staff to continually explain themselves and their actions. One such occasion I was involved in was when a youth worker, Paul Hamson, was jumped on by four of the boys at JOYC. I was of the belief that this had been done in fun, however later I was requested to put in an incident report because of the circumstances. Other youth workers who had observed the incident had blown it out of proportion claiming that Paul had been deliberately assaulted. After putting in the incident report, I was asked on two further occasions to explain my actions in written reports as my previous ones were not good enough. Other staffs continually had to write reports on issues and minor matters. I was fortunate that I only had to write a few because I had been neutral for most of my time there. I believe the demand for the later reports came only after I became anti-Peter.

9. In late 1989 I was both unhappy at work and started experiencing stress in my marriage directly attributed to working shifts at JOYC. As a result I made the decision to tender my resignation so I could spend more time with my wife and children. As I did not respect Peter I tendered my resignation directly to head office. With my resignation I wrote a lengthy letter about my concerns relating to the management of JOYC. The reason why I wrote that letter was I had wanted to let it be known that there were problems at JOYC and that my observations and opinions may help the staff who remained working there. I authored this letter under my own steam. I do not recall who I delivered my resignation and letter to

Signature of Witness:



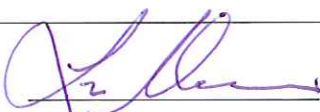
Signature of Officer:



other than it being delivered straight to head office by me. I didn't even tell Peter of my intentions on leaving and gave about 2 weeks notice. I remember head office having conversations with me trying to make me stay on but I refused.

10. Just after I left JOYC I remember that some sort of Inquiry was being held in relation to Peter and his management practices. At first I was really surprised it was happening but then felt relieved that it was occurring so it could make things better for those still working there. I remember learning about this Inquiry through staff who I would randomly run in to about the place. I do not remember which staff members had told me about the Inquiry and don't remember how they were involved or what they might have said. All's I know is that at no stage was I ever approached or asked to provide any statement, submission or evidence to the Inquiry.
11. At no other time have I ever been approached or asked to provide any sort of statement or evidence to any other person, Inquiry or union about my employment at JOYC. I have some belief that I may have been a member of the Trade Workers Union whilst employed at JOYC but never voiced concern to them over any issues.
12. In relation to any allegations of sexual abuses within the youth detention system, I can only offer the following information to the Child Protection Commission of Inquiry third hand, as I never observed any instances of sexual abuses or concerns.
13. I recall an occasion where there had been whispers between a few indigenous female inmates. I remember that they had made comment upon their return from the kitchen that the cook had made some sort of inappropriate comment or like to them. However, the children made no allegations and never raised any issue or comment again. I knew the cook well and dismissed the comment as I did not believe that he would ever behave in an inappropriate way. Further children would often make comments to bait staff or get others in trouble.

Signature of Witness:

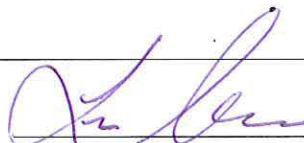


Signature of Officer:



14. On another occasion when I had been employed at the SLWYC I recall that several of the older male detainees had made allegations of sexual abuse against one of the youth workers [REDACTED]. I remember one of the boys who I would call a ring leader stating that the youth worker had given a male detainee a blow job in front of several other detainees. This allegation seemed ridiculous to me. I remember stating to this detainee that I would give him some time to think about things before making report of such allegations because comments of that nature 'could destroy a persons life'. I knew that the ring leader of that group had hated the youth worker and was making all sorts of attempts to undermine his authority. I remember shortly after another of the youth workers must have overheard the boys discussing it because I became aware that youth worker [REDACTED], who also disliked [REDACTED], raced to management and reported the matter. I remember having to provide an official statement and the matter ending up in court. I remember that the whole matter was later thrown out of court by the judge.
15. I have some knowledge relating to a child [REDACTED] of 14/15 years old being raped by 3 or 4 indigenous boys whilst at SLWYC. I only learned of this incident third hand because I think I may have been coming on shift and was provided briefing from staff of the earlier shift. They had asked me to keep an eye on the young fellow. I never had to write any sort of report in relation to that incident and do not know what investigations took place as I was not directly part of it.
16. On the 4th November 2012 Detective Parer attended my home address during which time I provided her with this statement.
17. During our conversation Detective Parer produced to me a copies of several hand written and typed documents.
18. The first document shown to me I acknowledge being a true copy of a hand written incident report dated the 9th August 1989 authored and signed by me. This

Signature of Witness:



Signature of Officer:



Incident report was one I had furnished in relation to the event I referred to in paragraph eight of this statement.

19. The second document shown to me I acknowledge as being a true copy of a hand written statement dated the 9th August 1989 authored and signed by me. I believe I would have furnished this statement at the manager's request to further explain the circumstances surround the event as described at paragraph eight of this statement.
20. The third document shown to me dated the 31st August 1989 appears to me to be a copy of a typed direction made by Peter Coyne requesting further explanation of events which occurred on the 9th August 1989. I cannot recall receiving this document; however acknowledge that it was personally addressed to me.
21. The fourth document shown to me, without date, is a true copy of a hand written document authored by me responding to Peter Coyne's request for further explanation of circumstances surrounding the events of 9th August 1989 referred to in paragraph eight of this statement. I believe this document would have been provided directly by me to the office or manager of JOYC after I had completed it.
22. The fifth document titled 'To whom it may concern' [without date] I acknowledge as being a true copy of a hand written letter I provided directly to head office with my JOYC resignation, as referred to in paragraph nine of this statement.
23. The sixth document, Statutory Declaration, dated 10th November 1989 appears to be a true copy of a hand written statement authored and signed by me. I have some recollection of making this statement in support of fellow youth worker Marianna Pearce whose house I learned had been entered without authority by Peter Coyne and Trevor Cox. I had learned of this incident through disclosures made directly to me by Trevor Cox. I am unsure of the circumstances which caused me to prepare that statutory declaration. I have no recollection as to who I

Signature of Witness:



Signature of Officer:



ended up providing that statutory declaration to or what ended up happening with it.



Lex John Clements

Declaration

This written statement by me dated 4th November 2012 and contained in the pages numbered 1 to 7 is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

 Signature

Signed at Deception Bay this 18th day of November 20 12

Witnessed:

 Signature

Name Peter Brewer Rank Inspector Reg. No. 7160

Signature of Witness:



Signature of Officer:

