

Date: 22.1.2013



Exhibit number: 269

**QUEENSLAND CHILD PROTECTION  
COMMISSION OF INQUIRY**

Our reference: [eDocs document number]

**Statement of Witness**

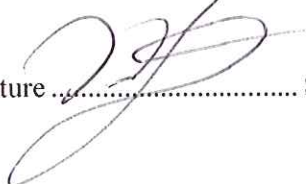

<i>Name of Witness</i>	David Vincent Farnworth
<i>Date of Birth</i>	06/10/1957
<i>Address and contact details</i>	SOMERTON 2179 Beechmont Rd, Beechmont.
<i>Occupation</i>	Teacher
<i>Officer taking statement</i>	Detective Sergeant J A MISON
<i>Date taken</i>	12/12/2012

I, David Vincent Farnworth state;

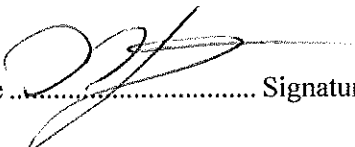
1. I am 55 years of age.
2. I am a currently a Teacher with the Behaviour Advisory Team, at the BEN Centre, an Alternate Education Program located at Beaudesert. I hold the qualifications of Diploma of Teaching and Graduate Diploma of Outdoor Education.
3. I am a former employee of the Department of Family Services, [herein referred to as the department].
4. I commenced employment with the department in late 1988 or early 1989 as a teacher at the John Oxley Youth Centre, [herein referred to as JOYC]. I know it was this time because I returned from overseas for Expo 88 in Brisbane and started working at JOYC sometime after my return. I believe I left JOYC at the end of 1989.
5. My duties at JOYC primarily included teaching the residents maths, english and other formal subjects. I also designed an outdoor program for some of the residents, and I initiated a program that included rehabilitation with animals. This was designed to get the residents to care for an animal and then let it go.

Witness signature .....  
Page 1 of 3

Signature of officer .....

6. There were two other teachers at JOYC. I was reminded they were Karen Mersiades and Gordon Cooper. The teaching facilities were located on the ground floor below the accommodation wing. Teaching staff were quite different to the youth workers. We as teachers were separated physically from the youth workers, and rarely mixed except at break times watching residents. I was asked to, and did deliver a short team-building program to some of the workers that I think included some Youth Workers.
7. When I started at JOYC, Peter Coyne was the manager. I liked Peter Coyne. My minimal interactions with him lead me to believe Peter was a good manager. I remember on one occasion I raised a concern about a female resident who had been “put down” by a youth worker. When I say put down, I mean that just as the resident was beginning to feel some success and proud of themselves, something was said that in my opinion completely undermined their confidence. I spoke to Peter Coyne about this incident. Peter listened to me and he appeared to genuinely care and understand about the issue I raised.
8. I cannot recall any specifics from meeting with a magistrate and other persons about any issues at JOYC.
9. I am not aware of any incidents of sexual abuse at JOYC nor have I reported to any person about any incidents of sexual abuse.
10. On Wednesday the 12<sup>th</sup> day of December 2012 I had a conversation with detective Mison of the Child Protection Inquiry. During this conversation detective Mison read to me a report that was completed by Karen Mersaides dated the 8<sup>th</sup> of December 1989. In this report on paragraphs 5 and 6, Karen refers to comments that I have had with her back in 1989 about a meeting that I had with a magistrate. Although I don’t at this time recall the specifics of meeting with the magistrate, I do just recall Karen and I discussing the inquiry, and neither one of us being happy with the way it appeared to be going. The information in these paragraphs in Karen’s letter sounds like something I would of said at the time about Peter Coyne.



**Declaration**

This written statement by me dated 12/12/2012 and contained in the pages numbered I to 3 is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

[Signature] Signature  
Signed at Beechmont this 7 day of JAN 20 13

Witnessed:

[Signature] Signature  
Name Sara Laise Burner Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Reg. No. \_\_\_\_\_