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QCPCI Reference: Authors initials / eDocs document number

Date: 26.11.2012

Exhibit number: 34



QUEENSLAND CHILD PROTECTION
COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

Statement of Witness

<i>Name of Witness</i>	Lorraine McGregor
<i>Date of Birth</i>	03/02/1949
<i>Address and contact details</i>	Known to Detective Colless
<i>Occupation</i>	Retired
<i>Officer taking statement</i>	Detective Sergeant Fabian Colless
<i>Date taken</i>	26 September 2012

I, Lorraine Margaret McGregor state;

1. My full and correct name is Lorraine Margaret McGregor and I am 63 years of age having been born on the 3 February 1949, I am currently retired. I was a registered nurse by occupation before retiring.
2. On the 26 September 2012, I was interviewed by Detective Sergeant Colless, investigator from the Office of the Child Protection Commission of Inquiry, and provided the details contained with this statement.
3. I am a former employee of the John Oxley Youth Centre (JOYC), however before working at JOYC I was also employed at the Sir Leslie Wilson Youth Centre. I recall that I started working at Sir Leslie Wilson (Wilson) in 1976 and I finished at JOYC in February 1996. I therefore worked in Youth Detention Centres for 20 years with a year off when I had a child. While employed at JOYC I worked as both youth worker and nurse.
4. I never saw or had direct contact with any sexual abuse of kids at JOYC; I would have really stepped in if I had. I heard stories at different times, sometimes from the kids

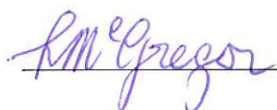
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Signature of Officer: [Signature]

and sometimes from the staff about sexual incidents, however how accurate they were, I do not know.

5. I don't remember who were the managers were at Wilson, however for most of the time there was one manager that retired within a couple of years of me arriving and then the same manager all the time after that, until I left for JOYC. At JOYC there was Terry McDermott, Peter Coyne and Ian McIntyre. I recall the centre manager in 1989/1990 was Peter Coyne.
6. I had a lot of issues with Peter Coyne in regard to his management style; he was the type of manager that you were either 'with him or against him'. No such thing as neutral with him. Lots of the things he did I didn't approve of but he was the manager and orders were orders.
7. I remember that Wilson was all dormitory style accommodation and some of the kids would complain of other kids bashing them up at night-time. There were occasional stories of sexual contact and abuse but nothing official to my knowledge. You would hear that someone said, someone said something. I recall it as being second hand talk and nothing that I could put my finger on. The same thing but not nearly as much for JOYC because the children were mostly in individual rooms, not the dormitory style accommodation as at Wilson.
8. I recall an officer who was alleged to have done something to one of the girls, I can't remember the girl's but if I heard the name I would probably recall it. I was provided the name of Shelly Neal by Detective Colless and I believe that this was the girl in question.
9. I think the worker concerned either resigned or was sacked not long after that. At that time I was the nurse at JOYC. I remember the stories going around and I asked the girl if there was anything in it and she said, no. I vaguely remember this girl being about 16 years of age, blondish brown hair, and reasonably well developed girl. The story was that they had gone on an outing to the beach and there had been some sexual

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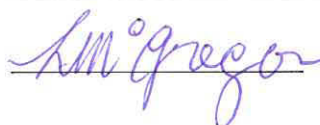
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contact in the water. That was the extent of it. I believe that I told that girl this was the stories going around and I asked whether there was any truth in it and she said no. I was not in a position to assess the truth of this.

10. I was given the name of [REDACTED], by Detective Colless, who I know as [REDACTED] who I recall came from Caboolture and was at JOYC on a murder charge. It was not [REDACTED] who I was talking about in relation to the outing to the beach.
11. However in relation to [REDACTED] I heard that she came in from Wilson and somehow developed a relationship with one of the male workers in the kitchen who I believe was [REDACTED]. Then we moved to Wilson and I recall that this worker then transferred across to JOYC as a youth worker. I recall that there were stories that when [REDACTED] went home on leave, [REDACTED] lived in the same area, and they made contact with each other. I do not know how accurate that story is. I remember that [REDACTED] had a lot of Psychiatric problems. She was one of the kids you couldn't give any self-praise as she would go away and self-mutilate because she didn't think she was good enough to receive praise. I recall she had major depression problems and suicidal watches every so often.
12. I am able to confirm that in 1989/1990 there were some tensions between management and staff at JOYC. As I stated Peter Coyne who was the manager at that time was very much a case of if you're not actively working for me then you must be actively working against me. It developed in cliques of them and us. Those that were perceived as against him were hassled. One incident I remember, I had changed shifts with another worker because of social or family commitments. I remember I was working in there section on an evening shift, instead of in my own section. About three weeks later I got a please explain why I had not emptied the rubbish bin at 9.30 that night. I regarded this incident as extremely trivial and that was the type of thing that Peter Coyne did.
13. Some of the staff that came over from Wilson, I considered them very competent people who eventually resigned because they couldn't cope. I remember at JOYC we

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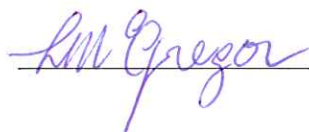
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worked in teams of two and another worker, Michael Roche, and I went into town to complain to the Union. I remember going into town to see the union, seeing someone, they advised they already had complaints and they had taken up with someone. I cannot recall who I spoke to in the union. I recall that Michael and I went into the City one morning and then started work at JOYC that afternoon.

14. I remember that Michael Roch eventually left JOYC as a direct result of his dealings with Peter Coyne.
15. I recall about three or four months later they started an inquiry at JOYC. I believe that we were not the first or the last to make complaints about Peter Coyne. I later heard that this inquiry was not valid or something like that.
16. I remember that Peter Coyne wanted to have control over everything; we were not allowed to put children on time-outs without his approval which was not always practical in all situations.
17. I remember that I would have been a member of the union at the time and I recall it was a Public Service Union.
18. On the 19 September 2012, I was shown, by Detective Colless, a photocopy of a 4 page letter bearing my name and my old address at Willow Street, Woodridge and phone number. I recognised the writing on this letter as definitely my writing. I have read this document and agree with its contents. I cannot recall the actual date I this letter was created.
19. I cannot recall how I came to write this letter or to whom I gave it to, I cannot remember if I gave this letter to the union or the Inquiry. The inquiry I am referring to was an inquiry conducted at JOYC possibly by a retired judge. I recall at the time that the inquiry was a political one rather than a child protection one. I do remember them taking over the conference room at JOYC and talking to lots of staff over a period of time possibly two or three weeks. I do remember during that time that Peter Coyne

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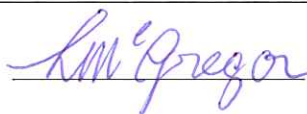
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did not hassle anyone. I believe that after the inquiry Peter Coyne hassled staff who had given evidence against him.

20. I did give evidence to this inquiry. I remember going to the conference room and talking to the male judge, I recall him as being Mr Heiner. I vaguely remember there was another person in the room with us but I'm not sure about that as it was a long time ago. I don't recall what I told him but it possibly would have been similar to what I wrote in the letter (mentioned in paragraph 17 of this statement) and may have given him more examples of those things mentioned in my letter. It would have been about Peter Coyne and the staff management issues.
21. I don't recall if I was shown my letter while being spoken to by Mr Heiner. I recall the process of both of being asked questions and giving answers to those questions by Mr Heiner. I don't recall being asked or giving information other than the issues about the staff issues and Peter Coyne.
22. I do not recall if I was asked by Mr Heiner about sexual abuse at JOYC. I do however remember that my major issue was about Peter Coyne at that time. I cannot recall if I was aware of any incidents of sexual abuse at JOYC at that time that I could have raised with Mr Heiner.
23. I was of the opinion that Michael Roch gave evidence at the Heiner inquiry; because I have a feeling we discussed it afterwards. I know for certain that Lorraine Hayward gave evidence. I also think that Col Bray, Fred Feige and Sabina Konincanin also gave evidence to Heiner.
24. On the 26 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.

Signature of Witness:



Signature of Officer:



25. I do not recall attending the Ford inquiry. I have not given any evidence or submit any statements or submissions to any parliamentary inquiries.
26. I have never been interviewed by any other persons, police or media in relation to the Inquiry at JOYC. However I recall the police came and spoke to me in relation to the incident with the [REDACTED]. I cannot recall who the police were but they were asking me questions of this incident. I think that because I was the nurse at that time they wanted to know if I had done anything or said anything in relation to this incident.
27. I remember soon after the incident this girl wasn't due for release from JOYC but I recall that the centre manager, Ian McIntyre, called me into his office when the mother of this girl was there. I recall they were releasing the girl to her mother before her due date. I can't recall why I was there, however all I can remember being in the room with McIntyre, the girl and her mother and she was getting out early.
28. On the 26 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.

Lorraine Margaret McGregor

Declaration

This written statement by me dated 26 September 2012 and contained in the pages numbered 1 to 6 is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

L.M. McGregor Signature

Signed at ACACIA RIDGE this 6TH day of NOVEMBER 2012

Witnessed:

[Signature] Signature

Name DENISE PARER Rank DSC Reg. No. 10736

Signature of Witness: L.M. McGregor

Signature of Officer: [Signature]