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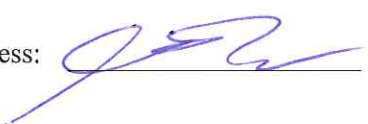
QUEENSLAND CHILD PROTECTION
COMMISSION OF INQUIRY


Statement of Witness

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|------------------------------------|--|
| <i>Name of Witness</i> | Narend Chand NATH |
| <i>Date of Birth</i> | 13 06/1958 |
| <i>Address and contact details</i> | Known to Detective Senior Constable Denise PARER |
| <i>Occupation</i> | Business owner |
| <i>Officer taking statement</i> | Detective Senior Constable Denise PARER |
| <i>Date taken</i> | 22/10/2012 |

I, Narend Chand NATH state;

1. I am a former employee of the Department of Family Services [herein referred to as the department].
2. I commenced employment with the department sometime mid 1989 at the John Oxley Youth Centre [herein referred to as JOYC]. When I commenced duties at JOYC I was employed on a casual basis only. This meant I was called in to work as required. When I first started my duties were similar to that of an errand boy. I would run around the Centre and do whatever task was assigned to me. After approximately 3 months I was requested to become a teacher's aid. Due to my tertiary qualifications as a Marine Biologist I started getting involved with the children and doing teaching projects with them. I assisted with simple mathematics as well. After teaching the children for approximately 1 year I was advised that I could no longer hold the position of teacher/teacher's aid as I was not a registered teacher in Queensland so I was removed from classes. As the management at JOYC did not want me to leave, I was offered and accepted a position of youth worker. Over my years of employment at JOYC I attained promotion to level of senior youth worker. At one time I was to become principal youth worker however this did not eventuate. In my later years at JOYC I became

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a case manager for 2 years working Monday-Friday office hours due to a back injury I had sustained at work. I continued case management duties until I left JOYC in early 2001.

3. I recall numerous staff members working with me during my period of employment at JOYC. These persons included centre manger Peter COYNE (who had originally hired me), and youth workers: Colin Bray, Olly Isaac, Danny Lannen, David Smith, Lorraine Hayward, Eileen Bisby, Trevor Cox, Fred Feige, Sabina Konnicanin, Marianna Pearce, Irene Colmer, Marj Judd, Rudi Pekelharing, Gordon Teasdale, Bruce Cassidy, Gary Truloff and Ouida Retapu. I also recall teachers Karen Merciadies and Gordon Cooper.
4. I remember there being major issues between staff and management whilst I was employed at JOYC. I would describe JOYC as having been split in to two factions. One involved middle management staff aligned to Peter Coyne and the other faction was made up of youth workers. These factions evolved due to a lot of nepotism and favouritism going on in the centre. This had a ripple effect which led to major riots amongst the children. An example of this was the decision by management to permit some of the young female detainees to have nail polish. The children were supplied with nail polish and subsequently sniffed it to get high. They would then smash the glass bottles and self harm with the shards of glass. When this occurred it was the youth workers who were disciplined by supervisory senior staff for letting it happen, not management for allowing the situation to eventuate in the first place.
5. JOYC ended up being run similar to that of a prison movie. It was staff against children and children setting up incidents against particular staff. I personally had only stayed on because of the camaraderie between the youth workers with whom I was aligned and as a means of employment.
6. Another issue I observed was that if you said anything against management you were targeted and made a 'floater'. This meant you didn't have a designated role

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or position and were made to move between units or areas as required. I myself was made a floater several times.

7. I recall coming under scrutiny by middle management over incident reports. Due to my level of education I identified that reports being written up by youth workers were often subjective and not factual. I often assisted youth workers to prepare reports in order to make them factual. My assistance to those persons was not liked by middle management.
8. After Peter Coyne left JOYC, from my observations, the centre began to operate more smoothly. The interim manager Barry Evans was some what of a trouble shooter. He started change at JOYC and was fair in his decisions. General issues did continue however these related to the fact that both male and female children were being accommodated together.
9. I recall at some stage during my employment at JOYC, preparing a statement to the new manager (post Peter Coyne) with ideas as to how to improve the centre. This was part of our then in-service training that was being conducted. I remember preparing this statement freely and not at any person's direction.
10. I have limited recollection about an Inquiry occurring in relation to JOYC. I cannot recall if the Inquiry commenced just after I had started at JOYC or if the Inquiry had already started when I arrived. I was not asked to be part of this Inquiry nor did I make attempt to be involved in it in anyway. From my observations this Inquiry involved mainly ex-Wilson Youth Detention Centre staff and not newcomers like me to the centre.
11. I do not know what the purpose of this Inquiry was. I never met any person by the name of Noel Heiner nor was I ever approached to provide any statement, verbal or written, to any Inquiry.

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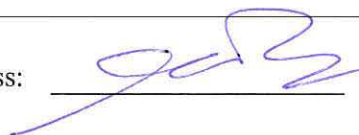


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12. During my time at the JOYC I did not directly observe any incidents of sexual abuse amongst the children or staff. The only information I can offer in relation to any issues of sexual abuse allegations are as follows:
13. I recall hearing third hand of an incident where a male detainee had snuck in to a room with one of the female child detainees overnight. I believe he had made up his bed to make it look like he was in his own room whilst he had hidden in the female child's room. I was made aware of this incident the following morning and made aware that the female child had been given a morning after pill. Peter Coyne had been the manager when this had occurred.
14. Another incident of sexual concern to me was an occasion where all the children had attended the centre's swimming pool together in a large group. Some of the male and female children snuck off behind nearby rocks out of the view of supervisors. From memory some inappropriate contact may have happened in the water. I believe I may have written some sort of report to Peter Coyne about my opinion and concerns about the inappropriateness of letting all the children in the swimming pool together.
15. I recall occasion where a female child had been placed in to time out due to her behaviours. Time out was an empty secure room with a perspex window. This female child, who I would describe as having a mental illness, would often flash her breasts or undress. I recall this causing some level of entertainment for some of the male youth workers who would encourage others to 'come and have a look'. I found this to be inappropriate and unprofessional.
16. Other information I heard third hand related to child detainee [REDACTED] living with a youth worker shortly after her release. This occurred in the late 1990's. I was distraught to hear such information as I believed it was an abuse of position if true.

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17. I further heard third hand of an incident relating to an excursion at Wivenhoe dam. I believe this excursion had involved a female child, possibly by the name of [REDACTED], and male staff member [REDACTED]. There had been some talk amongst staff that sexual relations between the two had occurred. I remember staff talking about this as [REDACTED] just disappeared, no longer working at JOYC shortly afterwards.
18. Over the years JOYC changed its structure separating the female and male children in respective accommodation. I ended up being allocated work in the boys unit. Although some things improved I remember there still being issues surrounding the children's apparent access to contraband of marijuana and cigarettes entering the centre and being given to the children. Another issue that I found distressing involved use of force within the facility. One such example involved a distressed child of large stature and size (approx. 120kg) needing restraint due to her behaviours. Numerous staff had to be involved in her restraint which did not feel good or seem appropriate.
19. At no time during my employment at JOYC or post employment have I ever been approached by any person, Inquiry, union or body to provide a statement about my employment at JOYC. I may have signed a petition during my years of employment but cannot recall what the petition may have related to.
20. I was a member of the Public sector union whilst at JOYC. Fred Feige was my union representative. I recall Fred writing numerous submissions as union representative during my time at JOYC. I cannot recall the content of those submissions.
21. On the 27th September 2012 Detective Parer attended my home address during which time I provided her with my knowledge of this matter.
22. During our conversations numerous JOYC staff members names were raised to which I recognised and was able to provide information on the following persons:

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Jenny Foote (Ex Wilson staff/youth worker), Jeff Manitzky (Psychologist), Loraine McGreggor (nurse/youth worker), Peter McNeven (youth worker), Alex Meulenberg (mechanic), Anne Dutney (Deputy manager to Peter Coyne), Dennis Everrett (youth worker), June West (youth worker), Lynn Draper (Middle management/principal youth worker), Jan French (youth worker), Paul Hamson, Scotty Healing (youth worker/ senior youth worker), Trudy Lewis (admin. and Anne Dutney's sister), Bronwyn Marshal (youth worker and Australian Basketball player), Mark Mills (youth worker), Damien Butler (youth worker and professional soccer player), Jane Mumford (cook and youth worker), Jan Nisbett (cook/youth worker), Lola Nolan (youth worker), Brad Parfitt (Irene Colmer's husband and youth worker), Brian Parker (admin), Jody Preston (admin), Rodney Reston (youth worker), Simon Nance (youth worker), Bruce Read, Margaret Huer (youth worker), Carmel Belford (youth worker), Neville Mathers (youth worker), Dave Lloyd (youth worker), Linda Ford (temporary youth worker), Sue Dyer (youth worker), Kerry Deacon (cook/youth worker), Rosalie Cox (Alarm watcher), Tanya Preston (admin), Owen Morrison (temporary youth worker) and Peter Williams (principal of school at JOYC).

Narend Chand NATH

Declaration

This written statement by me dated 22/10/2012 and contained in the pages numbered

1 to 6 is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

[Signature] Signature

Signed at CAMIRA this 2ND day of NOVEMBER 2012

Witnessed: [Signature] Signature

Name Denise Parer Rank DSC Reg. No. 10736

Signature of Witness: [Signature]

Signature of Officer: [Signature]