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Exhibit number: 19



QUEENSLAND CHILD PROTECTION
COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

Statement of Witness

<i>Name of Witness</i>	Jan Marion FRENCH
<i>Date of Birth</i>	15/06/1962
<i>Address and contact details</i>	Known to Detective Senior Constable Denise PARER
<i>Occupation</i>	Customs Officer
<i>Officer taking statement</i>	Detective Senior Constable Denise PARER
<i>Date taken</i>	13/09/2012

I, Jan Marion FRENCH state;

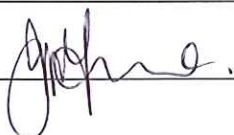
1. I am a former employee of the Department of Family Services [herein referred to as the department].
2. I commenced employment with the department in 1985 as a youth worker at the Sir Leslie Wilson Youth Detention Centre. I remained at Wilson until taking up a position as youth worker at the John Oxley Youth Centre. I cannot recall what date I commenced duty at the John Oxley Youth Centre however I recall being there from its opening. I ceased working at the John Oxley Youth Centre in March 1990 moving on to different employment external to the department.
3. During my period of employment at the John Oxley Youth Centre the Centre's manager was Peter Coyne. Peter Coyne was a man who I would describe as someone who would play mind games with you and would blow minor matters out of proportion. I recall one evening having written a poem to pass time on a whiteboard whilst the children had been asleep. I remember Peter Coyne getting wind of this and making a major issue over it. I was later counselled and accused of attacking management. My actions were also to be recorded on my record.

Signature of Witness:

Signature of Officer:

4. There was an incident in which Peter had given one of the female detainees who was a self harmer a glass unbeknown to me or other workers on the wing. I remember conducting a room search of the female and discovering the glass which was identified as contraband. The girl was to be punished as per Centre policy and furore erupted. In the end it was confirmed that Peter had given her the glass so she could have 'ownership' and responsibility but had not told anyone about this action.
5. I remember a lunch time where 'Van' had been silly whilst eating a banana in front of the detainees. The children had made comments to him about it and he inturn had played to their comments. Such comments and actions were later reported back to Peter Coyne. As a result I remember myself and Van were separated, interviewed and counselled by Peter Coyne over a minor non-obscene action. It seemed that minor matters were often blown out of all proportion by Peter Coyne resulting in staff being unnecessarily counselled.
6. The deputy manger of John Oxley Youth Centre was Jenny Foote however I believe that Anne Dutney was in that position later on during my employment.
7. Other staff members I recall working with at the John Oxley Youth Centre included: 'Principals' – Ray Bentley, Lyn Draper and Colin Bray. 'Senior youth workers' included Eileen Bisby, Trevor Cox and Rudi Pekelharing. 'General youth workers, like myself, included Jimmy Douglas, Mark Freemantle, Bill Goggin, Loraine Hayward, Marj Judd, Sabina Konicanin, Jock McAuley, Peter McNeven, Lorna Nolan, Brad Parfitt, Mariana Pearce, Gordon Teasdale, 'Van' [Van-Villmerin], Fred Feige, June West, Lex Clements, Danny Lannen, Gary Truloff, Darren Hood, Brian Cartledge, Michael Roch, Sister Hornery, Jane Thirnbeck, Linda Manning, Ted Guzowski, Ollie Issacs, Bruce Cassidy, 'Archie' and Brendan Collins. From memory Jane Mumford and 'Scotty' were the cooks. Shauna Moynihan was an art teacher. There were three social workers: Jeff Maninski, Marion and Gary.

Signature of Witness:



Signature of Officer:



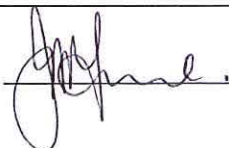
8. I have some memory of an incident that occurred at the John Oxley Youth Centre whilst I was employed there involving sexual abuse allegations. I think I had been on days off and when I returned back to work I remember staff members talking about something having gone wrong on a day out. I cannot remember who I heard talking about this incident but remember talk was about one of the girls having had sex with male detainees whilst on the outing. I remember that these conversations were quite secretive and some comments I overheard were that children had run off and had sex and other comments indicated that the girl had stated she had been raped. I remember the staff being worried that they could lose their jobs because of what had happened. Not too much was said about this incident. I did not directly observe or was I provided first hand information about it. From my recollection nothing seemed to come of it in the end.

9. I do remember some years later seeing a news article on television about this incident. It was at that time I pieced together in my own mind what the news article had said and what I had overheard years prior. I believed it was the same incident being talked about in relation to a girl from John Oxley alleging she had been raped.

10. I remember that during my time at John Oxley one of the staff members, [REDACTED] ran off and started living with one of the female detainees. The female I believe was [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] had been married with a child and, within a week or so of [REDACTED] being released from detention, [REDACTED] and her set up house together. I was surprised at this as I had never seen or heard anything untoward about [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] whilst I was at the John Oxley Youth Centre.

11. Later in my time at John Oxley Youth Centre I recall attending a meeting in the downstairs area of the facility. I do not know who was in charge of that meeting but remember it being held by an older man with dark hair and glasses. The focus of this meeting made mention about some sort of inquiry involving Peter Coyne

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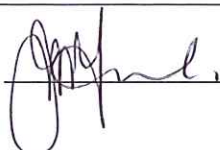
Signature of Officer:



however I was not overly listening at the time. From memory Danny and Linda may have been present with me at that meeting.

12. At no time during my period of employ at the John Oxley Youth Centre did I supply any statement or letter to any person or body about the John Oxley Youth Centre.
13. I have some recollection of there being a 'Heiner Inquiry' however at no time was I ever been approached or requested to provide any evidence or details of sexual abuse or any other matters alleged to have occurred at the John Oxley Youth Centre. I recall that the inquiry was run by a retired magistrate and that I was later told whilst still employed at the John Oxley Youth Centre, that the inquiry had been dropped.
14. In later years I have heard/read various news articles referring to the John Oxley Youth Centre and Heiner Inquiry and the later shredding of documents. I have no direct knowledge of these matters.
15. On the 13th September 2012 Detective Parer attended my home address during which time I provided her with my knowledge of this matter as outlined above.

Signature of Witness:



Signature of Officer:





16. During this conversation Detective Parer produced to me a photocopy of a hand written document dated 3rd October 1989 signed 'Very Concerned'. I am able to state that I am not the author of this document, nor do I recognise the handwriting on the document.

Jan Marion FRENCH


Declaration

This written statement by me dated 13/09/2012 and contained in the pages numbered 1 to 5 is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

 Signature
Signed at Bribie Island this 13th day of September 20 12

Witnessed:  Signature
Name Denise PARER Rank Detective Senior Constable Reg. No. 10736

Signature of Witness:



Signature of Officer:

