



**QUEENSLAND CHILD PROTECTION
COMMISSION OF INQUIRY**

Statement of Witness

<i>Name of Witness</i>	Ouida Rose RATAPU
<i>Date of Birth</i>	17/09/1958
<i>Address and contact details</i>	Known to Detective Senior Constable Denise PARER
<i>Occupation</i>	Senior Youth Worker
<i>Officer taking statement</i>	Detective Senior Constable Denise PARER
<i>Date taken</i>	28/11/2012

I, Ouida Rose RATAPU state;

1. I am a current employee of the Department of Justice & Attorney previously known as Communities [herein referred to as the department]. I commenced employment with the department sometime around 1989/1990, at which time I took up the position of youth worker at the John Oxley Youth Detention Centre [herein referred to as JOYC]. When I commenced at JOYC I was employed as a casual youth worker, and after approximately 12 months, became permanent. I continued on until the closure of JOYC in 2001 at which time I transitioned to the newly opened Brisbane Youth detention Centre at which I currently hold the position of senior youth worker.
2. My role as youth worker when commencing employment at JOYC was to look after the kids and ensure that they got to their designated programs and activities. Duties were undertaken in shifts; those being 7am-3pm, 3pm-11pm or 11pm-7am shifts.
3. Upon commencement at JOYC I recall the manger of the Centre being Peter Coyne and the second in charge being Anne Dutney. I myself did not have much to do with Peter Coyne, as a new young youth worker, I essentially just did what I was told to do, and did not ask any questions. I just did what was asked of me and completed my duties as required.

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4. I cannot recall when but remember there being several changes in management during my time at JOYC. Other managers included Martin Grandalis, Barry Collings and [Ian] McIntyre.
5. I can remember several staff that I used to work with at JOYC. They include principal youth workers: Col Bray and Trevor Cox; youth workers: 'Westy' [June West], Olly [Isaacs], Bruce Cassidy, Lorraine Hayward, Ken Gerke, Ken Kleidon, 'Judy' [Marj Judd], David Smith, Danny Lannen, Paul Hanson, Fred Feige, Terry Owens (deceased), Sabina 'Connie' Konnicanin and Marianna Pearce. After further prompt I recall Fran Biddulp, Faye Lewis (Laundry staff), Guy Gibson, Rosalie Kennedy (Crafts program), Noël King, Dave Lloyd, Jan Malloy and Neville Mathers.
6. I recall there having been several issues which arose at different times whilst I was employed at JOYC, however for the main part I stayed out of it. As a young youth worker I just did my job. I have memories of one of the staff members Danny Lannen being given a hard time by management, under Peter Coyne. I do not know what it was all about as Danny was really nice guy and very proactive with the kids. Something makes me recall that management would try and shut him down and silence him in his questioning of things.
7. I recall that there was an Inquiry [Heiner] held in relation to JOYC. I cannot remember the actual time it happened and was never approached or asked to participate in it. I would have been quite new to the centre around then. I do not know even what that Inquiry was supposed to be about and was never asked to write any statement or submission to any person or union for it. I have no idea which staff may have been involved in that Inquiry and can only guess it may have included Fred Feige and Danny Lannen as they were part of the union and vocal. Fred Feige was the representative of the Australian Workers Union which I was a member of.
8. I recall several years later there being other inquiries [Forde Inquiry] and investigations [Death in custody] held in relation to JOYC but I never took part in those inquiries.
9. In relation to my knowledge of sexual abuse allegations I can only offer the following information.

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10. I have limited knowledge about an event in which it was said a female child, Annette Harding, was raped. I only learnt of this matter through the media and newspapers. I do not have direct knowledge of that event.
11. I have some recollection of an incident involving a youth worker I know only as [REDACTED]. He was nick named [REDACTED] as he looked like [REDACTED] from the [REDACTED]. From memory [REDACTED] was supposed to have played with (sexually touched) one of the female children, Shelly Neale, during an excursion. I think the excursion had been to the beach and I remember this occurring not long after I had started at JOYC. I do not know what the result was of this event was, however I remember that soon after I never saw [REDACTED] at JOYC again. This event did not occur on my shift and I do not have any direct knowledge of it. My only knowledge of it was what I learned through other staff discussing it.
12. I recall another occasion around the mid 1990's involving a male youth worker I know only as [REDACTED]. He was nick named [REDACTED] as he was tall and thin in his build, much like a [REDACTED]. One of the male children named [REDACTED] approached me on an escort when I was one on one with him and told me that [REDACTED] was pressuring him to 'hook up' with him after he was released from JOYC. [REDACTED] was worried because he was soon to be released and thought [REDACTED] was going to come after him. I remember at the time of being told almost brushing it off, however by the next morning I learnt that [REDACTED] had also been trying to tell the same things to other youth workers. I immediately went and verbally reported my knowledge of it to the then manager Martin Grandalis. Again I don't know what ended up happening, however [REDACTED] did not return to JOYC again after that.
13. Other than verbally reporting the above incident involving [REDACTED] to Martin Grandalis at the time, on no other occasion have I had to complete an incident report or make any statement or report about any allegations of sexual abuse within the youth detention system. Should such a need have arisen I would have, and now would continue to, document such events through e-mails and reports and ensure they are followed through with management.
14. During my time working in the youth detention system I can say that I have seen great improvements since commencing employment at JOYC. Now there is better training of

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staff, increased security – such as double ups on escorts, greater accountability of staff and even now uniforms are supplied.

15. On the 28th November 2012 I met with detective Parer of the Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry at which time I provided her with this statement.

Ouida Rose Ratapu

Declaration

This written statement by me dated 28th November 2012 and contained in the pages numbered 1 to 4 is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

OR Ratapu Signature

Signed at Wacol this 13TH day of DECEMBER 2012

Witnessed:

[Signature] Signature

Name D Parer Rank DSC Reg. No. 10736

Signature of Witness: *OR Ratapu*

Signature of Officer: *[Signature]*