



**QUEENSLAND CHILD PROTECTION
COMMISSION OF INQUIRY**

Statement of Witness

<i>Name of Witness</i>	Garry Alexander THOMPSON
<i>Date of Birth</i>	27/11/1954
<i>Address and contact details</i>	Known to Detective Senior Constable Denise PARER
<i>Occupation</i>	Court Officer
<i>Officer taking statement</i>	Detective Senior Constable Denise PARER
<i>Date taken</i>	13/12/2012

I, Garry Alexander THOMPSON state;

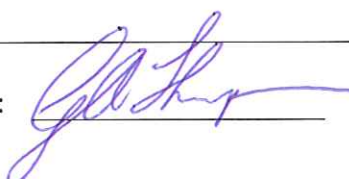
1. I am a former employee of the Department of Children’s Services [herein referred to as the department]. I commenced employment with the department in 1974. I initially started employment with the department at the Westbrook Training Centre before moving on to the Sir Leslie Wilson Youth Centre.
2. I later moved on to the John Oxley Youth Centre [herein referred to as JOYC] the day it opened which I recall being early 1987. I took up position at JOYC as a Child Care Officer. My primary function in that position was to counsel the children, attend to case loads, continue family contact between the children and their families, liaise with external child care officers and discuss children’s court appearances and offending. I remained in that position at JOYC until December 1987 at which time I moved to another position within the department.
3. I recall when I took up my position at JOYC the manager was Terry McDermott and his deputy was Jenny Foote. Sometime later, I cannot recall exactly when, Peter Coyne took over from Terry and Anne Dutney took over from Jenny. This may have been approximately 3 months or so before I left JOYC.

Signature of Witness:

Signature of Officer:

4. I recall other staff working at JOYC during my employment to include: Brian Parker (Admin), Terry Owens (Grounds person), Roy Short (Supervisor), Dorothy King (Child care officer/relief) and John Walkhom.
5. During my period of employment at JOYC I do not recall being exposed to or being involved in any issues between management and staff of JOYC. I later learnt that there were issues, as my wife at that time, Marion Thompson nee Drew, was a social worker at JOYC and continued on after I had left. Marion would tell me about a rift that had developed between management and workers and it had continued to widen. She told me that it was a select few that were highly respected at JOYC by management and that those persons would socialise together. From what Marion and fellow former colleague Sarah Moynihan told me, I formed the impression that some sort of 'witch hunt' had commenced by Coyne and Dutney relating to other JOYC staff. I do not know details of those issues as I did not experience or observe them first hand.
6. I can only make comment that from my own observations and experiences Terry had a very different relationship and style of management than Peter did. Peter's style was more confronting.
7. I recall the Heiner Inquiry. I did not take part in that Inquiry nor was I ever approached to make or made any submission about my time of employment at JOYC. I learnt of the Heiner Inquiry only through what was being spoken about generally within the department. I had been the manager at Woodridge at the time and recall how it had been spoken about in that it had been hastily convened and that Barbara Flynn had sat on the Inquiry. I am unsure if my ex-wife took part in that Inquiry.
8. In relation to allegations of sexual abuse or allegations of sexual abuse within the youth detention system I can not offer the Commission of Inquiry any information or knowledge of any events. I never observed any such instances or was I ever made aware of any allegations during my period of employment at any youth detention centre. Should I have experienced any such instances or concerns I would have immediately made briefing to management for their information and necessary follow up.


Signature of Witness:



Signature of Officer:



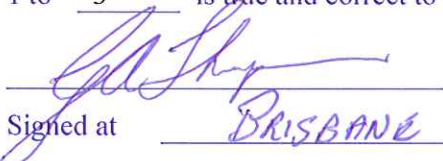
9. On the 13th December 2012 I met with detectives Parer and Mison of the Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry at which time I provided them with this statement.
10. During this conversation I was asked to provide any knowledge I may have relating to the retention and storage of records of the Brisbane Children's Court which is my current workplace. In relation to those inquiries I can confirm that the Children's Court, at its current location North Quay Brisbane, was opened in March 1984 as displayed on a plaque in the foyer of the building. In relation to photographs and other historical registers relating to this location, I believe that any such records are now retained by the Department of Justice. I do not know where those documents would be physically stored, however I am not aware that any such documents remain on site. I am aware that Barbara Flynn was a previous manager of this location and was so at the time of the Heiner Inquiry.



Garry Alexander THOMPSON

Declaration

This written statement by me dated 13th December 2012 and contained in the pages numbered 1 to 3 is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

 Signature
Signed at BRISBANE this 8th day of JANUARY 20 13

Witnessed:
 Signature
Name Denise Parer Rank DSC Reg. No. 10736

Signature of Witness: _____

Signature of Officer: 