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QUEENSLAND CHILD PROTECTION
COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

Statement of Witness

<i>Name of Witness</i>	Gayle Lesley LEGGAT
<i>Date of Birth</i>	27/09/1956
<i>Address and contact details</i>	Known to Detective Senior Constable Denise PARER
<i>Occupation</i>	Retired
<i>Officer taking statement</i>	Detective Senior Constable Denise PARER
<i>Date taken</i>	23/10/2012

I, Gayle Lesley LEGGAT formerly AITKENHEAD state;

1. I am a former employee of the Department of Children's Services [herein referred to as the department].
2. I commenced employment with the department in August 1974. Upon commencement with the department I performed duties at the central office in maintenance and adoptions. I later moved to the Inala Children's Services office where I undertook duties relating to payment of children services support. On the 1st July 1990 I commenced employment at the John Oxley Youth Centre [herein referred to as JOYC] as an administrative assistant. I later undertook duties as a senior administration officer. I continued with administration duties at JOYC until mid-late 1992 at which time I left. I remained employed with the department at head office for some time after that, later transferring to the Department of Education.
3. During my employment at JOYC I recall my fellow staff administration officers Brian Parker (Senior), Jody Preston and Rosemary Erikson. The manager of the centre when I commenced was Tim Evans who had been transferred from the

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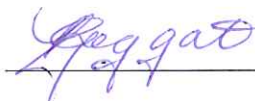
Signature of Officer:

Cleveland Youth Detention Centre, Townsville. Ian McIntyre was the Deputy Manager. Tim ended up wanting to return to Townsville so Ian McIntyre ended up being appointed to manager.

4. Both Tim and Ian were very diligent managers, and through my period of employment, I did not see or experience any issues at JOYC. I do recall at some stage hearing rumours about one of the male youth workers having a relationship with one of the girls and one of the female youth workers having relations with one of the boys. I am not sure whether I heard these rumours whilst I was working at JOYC or after when I had started working in Industrial Relations [IR] as I still had a lot of contact with the youth detention centres after leaving JOYC. Talk of these affairs to me was just rumours. I never saw any evidence which would substantiate those rumours. I cannot recall how I came to learn of those rumours and can only speculate it may have been one of the administrative staff who had told me.

5. During my time at the JOYC I did not witness or have any knowledge of any sexual misconduct as having occurred at the centre. Should such an incident have occurred or have been witnessed, I believe an incident report of a sexual nature would have gone straight to the manager and then on to the department. As administration officer, I would not have seen any report of this nature. I more typically saw reports relating to work cover incidents after they went through the chain of command and were to be processed. Reporting of an incident was usually generated at youth worker level, usually the direct witness of the incident, before being passed on through an in-line manager, i.e. the senior youth worker. The report would then be passed on to a principal youth worker and then on to the manager. Should a more sensitive incident need to have been reported I imagine it would have been passed directly to the manager for his attention. Should a matter be of high concern and need further attention or action I believe it would then been passed from the manager to the department's regional manager. During my period of employment I recall the regional manger as being Ken Otter.

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6. When I was working for industrial relations, some 20 years ago, I recall seeing some sort of sexual complaint coming in about a social worker, who I think may have been from Westbrook. I remember the person's name of being involved as Gayle, as it was the same first name as mine. I had nothing to do with this investigation and do not know the details of it. This investigation may have been handled by a fellow IR officer Ted Clarke but again I am not sure.

7. I am aware that there was an inquiry at JOYC called the Heiner Inquiry. I had nothing to do with this Inquiry as it was over before I started working at JOYC. I remember learning of it through fellow administration officers at JOYC. I remember they told me that they had very little involvement in it, simply that the Director General or Minister had attended one Friday afternoon and removed Peter Coyne. Although it had been a recent event it just wasn't spoken about. When starting at the centre I remember it being evident to me that there were 2 factions, those that had followed Peter Coyne's management and then the others. I recall it taking a lot of work to by the new managers to get everyone working well together. I have some recollection after leaving JOYC of hearing references of the Heiner Inquiry in the media. My understanding of the Heiner Inquiry from media articles led me to understand that the Heiner Inquiry was about documents having been shredded that contained sexual abuse allegations.

8. I do not know of any person who was involved or may have given evidence at the Heiner Inquiry.

9. At no time have I ever been approached or asked to provide any statement, either orally or in written form, to any Inquiry, person or body about my period of employment at JOYC or any other youth detention centre.

10. I believe I may have been a member of the union when I worked at JOYC, but never provided them with any information relating to any sexual or physical abuse allegations relating to JOYC.

Signature of Witness:



Signature of Officer:



11. On the 23rd October 2012 Detectives Parer and Brewer attended my home address during which time I provided them with this statement.

12. During our conversations numerous JOYC staff members' names were raised. I recall the following staff during my time at JOYC as I had performed rostering duties. The following persons I can identify are as follows:

Kerry Deakin (kitchen), Owen Morrison (casual youth worker), Earl Ramsden (child care officer, now deceased), David Gold, Dorothy King (Social worker from Inala area office), Darren Leahy (casual youth worker), Ken Gerke (appointed youth worker), Narend Nath (youth worker), Wayne Armstrong (youth worker), Rodney Reston (youth worker later senior youth worker), Josie Russo (cleaner), Trudy Parker (domestic), Bruce Reid (youth worker) and Mark Mills (youth worker).

Gayle Lesley LEGGAT

Declaration


This written statement by me dated 23/10/2012 and contained in the pages numbered 1 to 4 is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

 Signature

Signed at BRISBANE this 23rd day of NOVEMBER 20 12

Witnessed:  Signature

Name Denise Parer Rank DSC Reg. No. 10736

Signature of Witness: 

Signature of Officer: 