



**QUEENSLAND CHILD PROTECTION
COMMISSION OF INQUIRY**

Statement of Witness

<i>Name of Witness</i>	Linda Marie DE COCQ VAN DELWIJNEN
<i>Date of Birth</i>	29/03/1964
<i>Address and contact details</i>	Known to Detective Senior Constable Denise PARER
<i>Occupation</i>	Teacher
<i>Officer taking statement</i>	Detective Senior Constable Denise PARER
<i>Date taken</i>	04/12/2012

I, Linda Marie DE COCQ VAN DELWIJNEN state;

- I am a former employee of the Department of Family Services [herein referred to as the department].
- Around Christmas 1990 I took up employment at the John Oxley Youth Centre [herein referred to as JOYC]. There I held the position of Practical Youth Worker in the field of arts and craft. My position required me to instruct the young people in arts and crafts which took place in a dedicated art room. The young people would be brought to my room by the youth workers at JOYC. I performed duties from 9am-5pm when I was employed by the department; however some time during my period of employment, JOYC was taken over by the Department of Education. At that time my hours of employment reverted to that of a regular teacher, being 9am-3pm. I worked at JOYC in this capacity until its transition to the then newly opened Brisbane Youth Detention Centre around 2001. I remained working at the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre until 2003 at which time I returned to mainstream teaching duties with the Department of Education external to all youth detention centres.
- At the time of commencing my employment at JOYC I believe the manager was Martin Grandalis. I recall the previous manager had been a Peter Coyne. I know that because I recall staff of JOYC at different times speaking amongst themselves about there being

Signature of Witness: *L. Delwijnen*

Signature of Officer: *[Signature]*

two groups – those having been supportive of the previous manager and others who hadn't. There had been talk amongst staff about the last manager however I didn't understand what they spoke about because it was all before I had started there. This talk to me had been general chit chat about who was a supporter of Coyne and the fact he had been moved on. I just got on and did my job.

4. I recall that there were other managers at JOYC during my time of employment that included Barry Collings and Ian McIntyre. Other staff members I recall include Rudi Pekelharing, Trevor Cox, Lyn Draper, Eileen Bisby, Terry Owens (grounds person/later youth worker), Dave Lloyd, Peter McNeven, Simon Nance, Gary Truloff, and teachers Karen Merciadies, Margret Kerswell (who came after me), Alex and Gordon.
5. At no time did I have any involvement with the Inquiry conducted at JOYC known commonly as the Heiner Inquiry. This Inquiry was before I started employment at JOYC.
6. In relation to my knowledge of any sexual abuse allegations within the youth detention system I can offer the following information:
7. I recall an incident involving young person Shelly Neale. From memory the event occurred not long after I had commenced employment at JOYC. I had been asked to be an extra person on an outing to I think to either Wivenhoe or Atkinson Dam. There were approximately 6 students on the excursion and other staff. The excursion was to be a day trip only. After arrival at the dam I recall us stopping for lunch. I sat on the bank of the dam that day as both students and other staff members entered the water and had a swim. Nothing seemed to have occurred out of the usual or was cause of any concern to me that day. I returned with the staff and the young people back to JOYC after the excursion and went home as usual.
8. The next day when I started work I learned that one of the youth workers who I remember now only as ████████ had resigned the previous evening over some sort of incident that was alleged to have occurred at the dam. I learnt of this through other staff talk and believe that the incident was supposed to have been sexual. I immediately went to either one of the principal youth workers– Rudi Pekelharing, Trevor Cox, Eileen Bisby, Lyn Draper or possibly even the manger about the incident.

Signature of Witness:


R. O'Wynne

Signature of Officer:

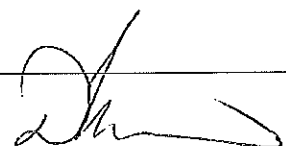
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9. I remember attempting to have conversations with someone senior about this stating that no one had even approached me and asked me about what could have happened as I had been present on the actual excursion. I recall being told that it had been the staff member's decision to resign and that they had made that decision themselves. I was also told not to further discuss the incident for fear of defamation or something.
10. I recall later learning from other staff that the incident between Shelly and the youth worker was supposed to have happened whilst in the water. I had been watching the young people swimming that day and was not aware of anything out of the normal.
11. At some stage I recall later being asked whether or not I was noticing any changes in Shelly's behaviours whilst she was in my class. I can say that Shelly often had outbursts at different times so to me there was no obvious change in her behaviours. Shelly never raised the incident or allegations with me and it was never spoken of or raised again.
12. I have some recollection that I may have written something in relation to this incident but I cannot confirm that. I remember having to write a lot of incident reports in my time at JOYC for incidents such as breakages of materials etc. but cannot recall if I had to write one in relation to that incident.
13. On the 4th December 2012 I was contacted by Detective Parer of the Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry during which time I provided her with my knowledge of this incident and time of employment at JOYC.
14. On the 5th December 2012 I received a copy of an e-mail document titled 'Criminal Justice Commission – Statement of Witness – Linda DELWIJNEN' from Detective Parer which she indicated in her e-mail that she had located since our conversation.
15. After review of that document I am able to confirm that the document contains a statement made by me to the Criminal Justice Commission on the 6th October 1998. This document relates to the incident involving Shelly Neal which I have recounted to the best of my knowledge in the above paragraphs.

Signature of Witness:



Signature of Officer:



16. I have no further information I can offer in relation to that incident or any other incident of sexual abuse allegations within the youth detention system.

Linda Marie DE COCQ VAN DELWIJNEN

Declaration

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

L. Delwijnen Signature

Signed at Redbank Plains SHS this 12 day of December 2012

Witnessed:

[Signature] Signature

Name D. Parer Rank DSC Reg. No. 10736

Signature of Witness: [Signature]

Signature of Officer: [Signature]