

Date: 23.1.2013



Exhibit number: 276

**QUEENSLAND CHILD PROTECTION
COMMISSION OF INQUIRY**

Our reference:

Statement of Witness

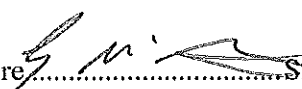
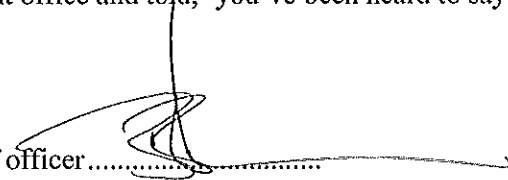
<i>Name of Witness</i>	George Alexander McAulay
<i>Date of Birth</i>	1/12/1954
<i>Address and contact details</i>	Known to Queensland Child Protection Inquiry
<i>Occupation</i>	Retired
<i>Officer taking statement</i>	Detective Senior Sergeant Brett Barber
<i>Date taken</i>	10/10/2012

I, George Alexander McAulay state;

1. I am a former employee of the John Oxley Youth Centre (JOYC). I first started working for the Department of Family Services in January 1986. I was initially employed on a temporary basis as a youth worker at the Sir Leslie Wilson Centre at Wilston under manager Janice Doyle.

2. After about a year of employment at Sir Leslie Wilson, I transferred to the John Oxley Youth Centre herein referred to as [JOYC]. I commenced work at JOYC as a youth worker the day it opened. The first manager at JOYC I only remember as Terry who was a pretty good bloke. He was very entrepreneurial. He had no set guidelines in how he'd work but he was very able to build up your confidence and that sort of thing and just see how things went. He was fairly open. It was certainly a happy place to work.

3. The next manager at JOYC was Peter Coyne. Peter Coyne was something entirely different. Whilst he was sort of charismatic and smiled a lot he was a vicious man. When he let go, he had an explosive temper. That's how things went with him. An example of how things became unfair and unpleasant was the issue of the speaker system. We youth workers had a two way speaker system so we could talk to the front and back offices, but he [Peter] turned it round and listened in to our conversations. Later youth workers were dragged up the front office and told, 'you've been heard to say this';

Witness signature  Signature of officer 

'you've been heard to say that'. The union stepped in and had the speakers ripped out, but it was all pretty unpleasant.

4. I remember some other staff working at JOYC including: Peter Coyne, Michael Roch, Daryl Hood, Mark Freemantle, Trevor Cox, Pekelharing, Peter McNevin, Bruce Cassidy, Mark Mills, June West, Irene Colmer, Chris Edwards, Colin Bray, Lyn Draper, Connie, Mariana Pierce, Lorraine Hayward, Douglas, Mark Freemantle, Van Vlimmerin, Bisby, Healing, Sarah Moynihan, Lex Clements, Fred Feige, Russo and Lola Nolan.

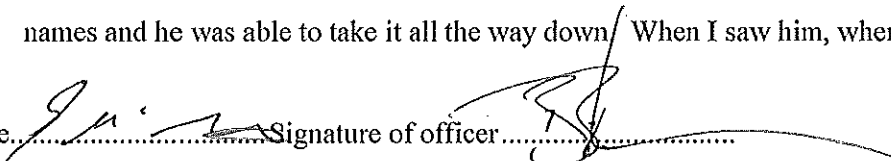
5. I remember when I worked at JOYC there was talk about an incident that occurred on an outing when Peter Coyne was the manager. This incident involved an aboriginal girl whom I remember as "Annie" [Annette Harding]. I remember coming on shift one Sunday night at about 11pm and everything was upset in the wing. What I know about the outing/incident is hearsay from other staff at JOYC as I did not attend the outing nor have I spoken to Annie about it. What I became aware of is that there had been a group of teachers who were non youth working staff who had taken the kids to Slaughter falls that day. The group of kids included the girl Annie, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. The kids were allowed to go up to the top of Slaughter falls out of sight and that's when they held down Annie and raped her. What happened next was Annie came back to JOYC on the bus. Annie was a bit teary and they dropped her off. No one questioned Annie and it was only that night one of my fellow co-workers Mark [Freemantle] who was working in her wing went into her bedroom and had a bit of chat to her, about what occurred. It was Mark who later told me what had happened.

6. The next morning, the centre's 2IC (second in charge), Jenny [Foote], took Annie out in the morning away from all of us in wings to keep Annie away from the other kids. Annie was away for about five days. On the following Friday of that week, Annie was returned to her room with all the other kids. In this period the girl had not been examined by a doctor and the police weren't contacted. I believe this was the case as JOYC was a very close environment and everyone knew just about everything going on. After another four to five days, a meeting was held with staff and Peter Coyne. I remember Peter Coyne told us that he was releasing all the kids including Annie, [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and the other ones involved whom I can't remember their names. As far as I am aware [REDACTED] didn't participate in the rape, he actually just masturbated to what was going on with the kids. About four to five weeks later, [REDACTED] ended up back in JOYC. I wish to point out that from this moment on Peter Coyne then

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systematically started knocking out all the youth workers. When I say “knocking out” I mean staff started leaving JOYC through resignation. In fact, probably about 60 to 70% of youth workers would have left JOYC within a matter of months. I remember this time, as my father had just passed away. Peter Coyne then started on me. I remember being called regularly to see Peter Coyne in his office for some reason or another.


7. The rape of Annie was covered up. In my opinion the teaching staff would have been charged for misconduct in how they operated at the outing. In my opinion, if it had been the youth workers in charge of the outing there would have been more consequences for what went down.
8. I am aware of the Heiner Inquiry. I never gave any evidence to that inquiry or to any other Inquiry about my time at JOYC.
9. I remember when I was working for the Local Government Association I spoke with a retired police officer over the phone. This may have been around 2000 maybe 2001. The retired police officer was of aboriginal descent. I believe his name may have been Colin Dillon. I can't recall exactly why I spoke to this person but I told him about the Annie incident that occurred at Slaughter falls during our call. I just mentioned it to him and keep in mind as it was so long ago. As far as I was concerned it was historical, it was nothing else. Basically I just gave him the broadest details and it was just a sketchy outline about Annie.
10. After speaking to this retired policeman I then I met a journalist whom I know as Bruce Grundy, who I would describe as a top guy, along with Col Dillon in a coffee shop. There is a coffee shop down the bottom of Local Government House where I had been working in Newstead and I am pretty sure we all met in there.
11. I spoke to them about the Annie incident and provided my sketchy details about it. I probably gave them about as much sketchy detail as I have provided in this statement. Col was very good at getting information out of you. He asked pretty pertinent closed sort of questions.
12. Not long after Bruce Grundy followed up. I had a further meeting with him about the Annie incident. To me, those people involved had long gone. I couldn't even remember names and he was able to take it all the way down/ When I saw him, when we met a



second time, he had a list of all the names and things; he just showed me the list and asked me to read into it. He showed me his research and what he'd done and only after that was a meeting organised with the editor of The Courier Mail just to make sure that I was kosher. I gathered it was standard procedure in that they were confirming the source.


13. After several months or so I met with one of the female editors of The Courier Mail and spoke about the same stuff I spoke to Bruce Grundy earlier about. Bruce was at that meeting too. Again we had met at the same coffee shop at Newstead. After this interview an article appeared in the Saturday edition of The Courier mail. I never heard from Bruce Grundy again.

14. At no time since have I ever been approached or asked to provide a statement or give evidence, to Police, any other Inquiry or body about my time at JOYC. No other media ever contacted me again either.

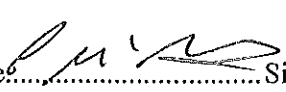
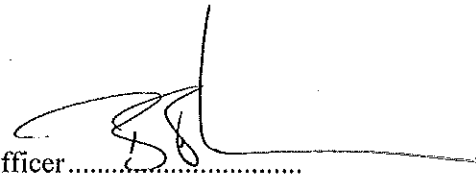

George Alexander McAulay

Declaration

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


Signed at BRISBANE Signature this 18TH day of JANUARY 20 13

Witnessed 
Name B. BILBEK Signature Rank DSS Reg. No. 6382

Witness signature  Signature of officer 
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