

Date: 6.2.2013



Exhibit number: 157

QUEENSLAND CHILD PROTECTION
COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

Statement of Witness

Name of Witness	Paul Glass
Date of Birth	
Address and contact details	Known to the Commission
Occupation	House Manager, Logan Cottage, Silky Oaks
Officer taking statement	Jason SCHUBERT
Date taken	16 / 01 / 2013

Paul Glass
I, ~~Greg Well~~ state;

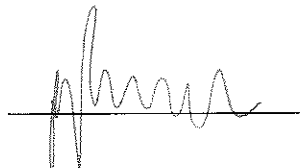
1. I am the House Manager of House C located in Logan. House C is run by Silky Oaks.
2. *I have a cert 4 in youth work, cert 4 in juvenile justice, and a partially finished degree in sociology. I have 14 years experience in Youth work, majority of those years in residential youth work.*
3. House C was originally formed in response to a number of young people experiencing placement breakdowns and essentially becoming homeless and disengaging from the out of home care system. We have successfully, on a number of occasions, had young people re-engage with the care system at their own pace, and successfully transition into a long term placement. House C accommodates both male and female children.
4. One of these was a young person whom the Department of Communities had difficulty placing due to their intravenous drug use, prostitution and aggressive behaviour. The young person would, from time to time, come into House C to have a shower, good meal and rest peacefully overnight. House C became a haven for this young person from their day to day world. The program and the staff supported and cared for the young person, including offering refuge from their drug dealer and helping connect the young person to health and external support services. After a few months the young person was engaging daily in the program and the Department decided to give the young person a long term placement, to help prepare the young person to transition into independence. The young person stopped prostituting and started to manage their drug misuse.

Witness signature: *Paul Glass*


Officer signature: *Jason Schubert*

5. House C is a purpose bought property located in suburbia. It is a two story rendered brick and gyprock lined home with four bedrooms upstairs for young people and one bedroom downstairs for a carer. It is a modern, clean and tidy home. The garage was converted into an office.
6. House C is an emergency placement model that houses young people whilst Child Safety find a more permanent option. Young people (in the care of the department) are able to 'check in' to the house between 3.00pm and 6.00pm and must check out before 9.00am the following day with a service support worker, who will take them to required services. When children leave at 9.00am each day they take their belongings with them. The house model supports one night stays, however your people can return a number of nights in a row.
7. Having children leave the house by 9.00am gets them off their Xboxes and Playstations. It has encouraged some children to return to school or find employment.
8. Most young people attending House C do so after a breakdown of a residential care placement. Young people exiting youth detention also use the house. Placements are referred through the Placement Support Unit (PSU) although children can self place themselves.
9. The PSU appears to focus solely on finding a bed for a child instead of focusing on their long term outcomes.
10. Each morning we provide to Child Safety, a list of young people who stayed with us. This information also allows Child Safety to know about the movements of children in their care.
11. House C is recurrently funded in the amount of \$832,000 per year which has a lot of cream. Silkyoaks has been "creative" to spend that amount. It provides emergency accommodation for about 700 young people visits each year averaging 2-3 young people per night.
12. Although not for profits cant bank money they do get creative to shift money in other ways. Eg, creating positions to hire friends and family, purchase assets eg expensive 4wds. In 2012 I was instructed to get creative to spend a 70k underspend in that financial year.
13. House C is our house and children are a guest.
14. To assist us to set strong, simple and clear boundaries there are four main rules:
 - a. No intoxicating substances
 - b. No sexual contact

Witness signature:



Officer signature:



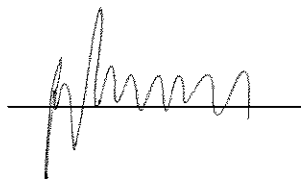
- c. No violence or threats
 - d. Respect
15. If a young person does not follow these rules they are asked to leave the premises.
 16. House C has an extremely low level of incidents involving call outs to police or damage to property.
 17. On entering the house children leave their personal bags in a locked area of the house. They are only allowed to bring inside the house with them small personal items. There are motion detectors inside the house to alert carers to any movements outside the young persons' room at night.
 18. There are 5 number of full-time equivalent carers and 3 casual / relief workers.
 - 8:30am till 4pm – Support service worker, 1 worker.
 - 2 till 10pm - Afternoon shift, 1 worker.
 - 6pm till 10am – Sleep over shift, 1 worker.
 - 10pm till 6am – Awake shift, 1 worker.

Street team – Monday, Tuesday, Friday, 8am till 6pm. – 2 workers.

House manager – Monday till Friday, 9 till 5pm.

19. Within the residential care sector I am aware that there is reluctance for carers to formally pursue charges against young people in their house. I am aware that one of the reasons behind this reluctance is that it would have an adverse impact on their own employment through being separated from the child or through a child being incarcerated and funding stopping.
20. Within our funding agreement we are also able to offer a day service after 9.00am where we have one of our staff transport children to support services, including school, Centrelink, library, court, etc. We also fund a street team where 2 staff *do some community work. Court support, visit the YPs that are sleeping ruff. Contact YP with info from there CSO.*
21. I believe that general residential facilities provide children with a false sense of reality. It appears that often money is thrown at children to avoid escalations in behaviours.
22. I find residential care very reactionary. Recently there was an example of a child who was, after two well attended meetings with relevant stakeholders and Child Safety, advised that they would be moving to a long term placement. However whilst waiting they were advised that the placement was given to another child.

Witness signature:



Officer signature:



- 23. Attached please find a model of care that addresses some of the shortcomings of residential care and better supports children transitioning to total independence. If required I am happy to elaborate on the model. The model allows for a greater involvement of NGO's in assessing and referring children and families to supports. The model also supports Centrelink payments presently provided to children over 16 being put away to assist with children exiting care (paying for bonds, etc).
- 24. I do not think young people take their bail undertaking seriously as there is no offence for breaching their bail conditions.
- 25. A secure care model would remove "choice" from a child to be in a house. We work a lot with young people about their choices. A secure care model may be suitable for young people on curfews or to keep them out of youth detention.
- 26. [REDACTED] has had no issues with neighbour complaints.
- 27. Our carers are certificate 4 and above and do 8 hours shifts.

Declaration

This written statement by me dated 6/2/13 and contained in the pages numbered 1 to 4 is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

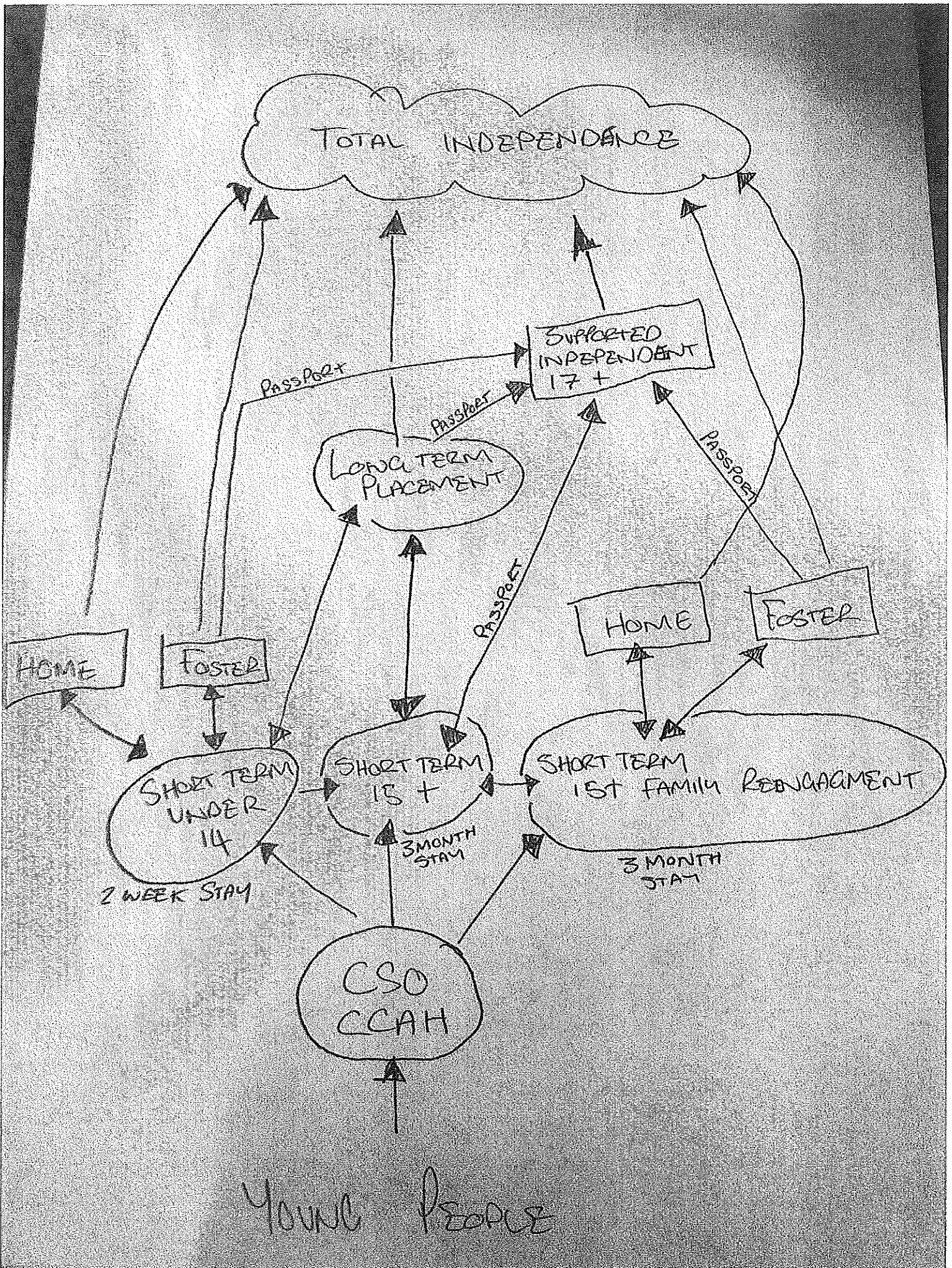
Signed at [Signature] Signature
CAVET this 6 day of FEB 20 13

Witnessed:

[Signature] Signature
Name STANLEY SIMS Rank Officer of the QCPCI Reg. No. _____

Witness signature: [Signature]

Officer signature: [Signature]



YOUNG PEOPLE