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**QUEENSLAND CHILD PROTECTION
COMMISSION OF INQUIRY**

Statement of Witness

<i>Name of Witness</i>	Paul Lester Hamson
<i>Date of Birth</i>	02 November 1954
<i>Address and contact details</i>	Known to Det Sgt Colless
<i>Occupation</i>	Youth Worker
<i>Officer taking statement</i>	Detective Sergeant Fabian Colless 9632
<i>Date taken</i>	010/09/2012

I, Paul Lester Hamson states;

1. I am a current Youth Worker employed by the Queensland Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability services. I have been employed as a Youth worker in Queensland since March 1989. Prior to this I was employed at the Alice Springs detention centre in the Northern Territory.
2. In March 1989 I commenced work as a casual youth worker at the John Oxley Youth Centre (JOYC), however I remember that I was given very few shifts. It did take me some time to get a permanent position there because some persons were employed there for 20 to 30 years in their positions.
3. I remained at JOYC until I was seconded to Sir Leslie Wilson Youth Centre in 1994. I would describe JOYC as a well organised and professional centre when I first started there and the staff I worked with were highly professional. It was a good professional environment with dealing with very challenging behavioural issues with young people.

Signature of Witness:  Signature of Officer: 

4. I remember that JOYC was a new centre around that time and it had new concepts and some new ideas such as integration with young people to enable them to go back into the community.
5. While I was at JOYC I remember that the manager at the time was Mr Peter Coyne and the deputy was Ann Dutney.
6. At that time I was not aware of any problems or allegations of mistreatment mainly because I was on a casual basis with few shifts.
7. But later that year people were talking about an incident that had apparently taken place about an excursion. I was not involved in this excursion and I did not want to get too involved. I really did not know too much about it. The rumour I heard was that a girl was left alone and things like that, it was a long time ago so I cannot be accurate of what was said. I believe the issue was that the staff should have been supervising those young people.
8. The girl that this incident relates to was Annette Harding. I also remember that I saw Annette many years later when I was in a nightclub on the Gold Coast and I had a conversation with her and she mentioned to me about an event that had taken place. I think this was about two years after she was released. All I can recall what she said was that something had gone on and she was not happy with.
9. On the 10 September 2012, I was shown a list of staff, by Detective Colless, who were employed at JOYC around the time of my employment. I was able to identify most of the staff on the list as people I worked with or knew of working there and others who I did not know. There are also other staff that were not on the list that I recall such as Lex Clements and Karen Mersiades.

Signature of Witness:



Signature of Officer:

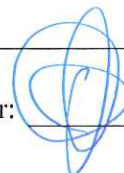


10. Some of the staff I identified were Jill Welsche, Margaret Judd, Peter McNevin, Bruce Cassidy, Mark Mills, June West, Scott Healing, Colin Bray, Geradus Olde-Woblers, Eileen Bisby, Lyn Draper, George Mcaulay, Gary Truloff, Trevor Cox, Rudolf Pekelharing, Sabine Konicanin, James Daly Douglas, Mariana Pearce, Warren Christensen, Jody Preston, Lorraine Hayward, Lola Nolan, Sara Moynihan and David Smith.
11. I believe that Rudolf Pekelharing, Gordon Teasdale and James Daly Douglas who worked there now are deceased.
12. I was aware that around late 1989 I was still a casual youth worker and I recall that a Judge was coming out to interview staff. I was still working in a casual position at this time so I was not on when he came. I was only probably working two or three shifts per fortnight at that time.
13. I did not know why the Judge was coming out to interview some staff; I think it may have been in relation to an incident at an excursion I think. However I do not know this for fact and only heard this through rumours.
14. I was neither called to speak to this judge nor was I interviewed or questioned by anyone about this at that time. I did not give any evidence to this judge nor about this rumour. I cannot recall where I heard the rumour from but I think it would have been from staff working at JOYC.
15. I did not supply nor was asked to supply any statements to either the judge, my union or any other person or body about JOYC in late 1989 or early 1990.
16. I specifically did not give any evidence to any Inquiry about Historical sexual abuse or sexual abuse in general while employed at JOYC.

Signature of Witness:



Signature of Officer:



17. I do not know of anyone that gave evidence to the Judge except for maybe Elizabeth Bisby and Lorraine Hayward, but I'm not sure if they did.
18. I do not know of any other Inquiry at JOYC at that time in 1989/1990.
19. I remember that in 1999 I was called to give evidence at the Ford Inquiry and gave evidence in relation to my employment at JOYC and the abuse of young people in the centre. I was a witness to the people being handcuffed to the fence on the night it occurred and I recall I gave evidence about that handcuffing. I did not give any evidence in relation to sexual abuse at JOYC during the Ford Inquiry.
20. I recall that two other JOYC employees, Trevor Cox and Peter McNeven also gave evidence at the Ford Inquiry on the day I gave evidence. I think that other JOYC employees would have also given evidence at the Ford Inquiry.
21. I was asked by Detective Colless of my knowledge of sexual abuse at JOYC. I outlined that I heard a rumour about a white girl (youth detainee) possibly named 'Shelly', but I'm not sure of that name who was sexually abused by a staff member who was later dismissed. I believe that this occurred in the early 90s but I am unable to provide any specific information about this as I do not know the specific details.
22. On the 10 September 2012, I was shown two separate photocopied documents by Detective Colless. I was asked to verify the authenticity of these documents. The first document was an 'Incident Report Form' prepared by me on 9 August 1989 and a statement dated 9 August 1989 relating to an incident at JOYC. I signed my name and dated both of these documents.
23. On the 10 September 2012, I was shown a photocopy of a hand written document dated 3rd October 1989 signed 'Very Concerned'. I am not the author of this document, nor am I able to recognise the handwriting on the document.

Signature of Witness:  Signature of Officer: _____



24. I have not been approached or interviewed by any police (other than Detective Colless) media or public official. I do recall talking to a Josie Coolwell who is an aboriginal lady who has an interest in this matter. I have also made some checks on the internet about this matter including; 'The Heiner Affair' titled 'do you trust the CMC', an internet site relating to a ABC 7.30 program titled, 'Allegations may re-open into youth detention centre'' and an article by Bruce Grundy titled 'An educational outing'.

Paul Lester Hamson

Declaration

This written statement by me dated 10.19/12 and contained in the pages numbered 1 to 5 is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

 Signature

Signed at Brisbane this 17 day of September 20 12

Witnessed:

 Signature

Name F-G-Colless Rank DS Reg. No. 1632

Signature of Witness: _____

Signature of Officer: _____