



QUEENSLAND CHILD PROTECTION  
COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

Statement of Witness

<i>Name of Witness</i>	Rodney Lee RESTON
<i>Date of Birth</i>	07/05/1964
<i>Address and contact details</i>	Known to Detective Senior Constable Denise PARER
<i>Occupation</i>	Team leader –Disability Services
<i>Officer taking statement</i>	Detective Senior Constable Denise PARER
<i>Date taken</i>	26/11/2012

I, Rodney Lee RESTON state;

1. I am a former employee of the department of Family Services [herein referred to as the department]. I commenced employment with the department around Easter 1990 at the John Oxley Youth Detention Centre [herein referred to as JOYC]. I continued employment at JOYC from 1990 through to its closure in 2001. I continued working for the department at the then newly opened Brisbane Youth Detention Centre until I accepted a voluntary redundancy offer around late 2001.
2. At JOYC I held the position of youth worker. Originally I had been employed on a casual basis however after several months I was awarded a full time position. I was allocated a unit of young people to supervise and undertook rotations through the three designated shifts – those being 7am-3pm, 3pm-11pm or 11p-7am. My duties on those shifts varied dependant on the time of day. Typically my role as youth worker was to support the young people within the facility ensuring their attendance at set programs, education and recreational activities.

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3. I recall during my time at JOYC there having been numerous managers in charge of the centre over the years I worked there. I believe when I first commenced that the manager was Tim Evans. From memory Peter Coyne had been recently replaced by Evans. I recall other managers being Ian McIntyre and Barry Collings, and Martin Grandalis, however recall them in no particular order.
  
4. I recall other staff that I worked with at JOYC. Those included youth workers: Fred Feige, Lorraine Hayward, Eileen Bisby, Darren Leahy, Danny Lannen, Jim 'Dougie' Douglas, Rudi Pekelharing, Damien Butler, Sabina Konnicanin, Ouida Rapatu, Gary Truloff, Col Bray, Olly Isaacs, Simon Nance, Terry Owens, Bruce Cassidy, Lynn Draper (Principal youth worker), Gordon Teasdale, Marg Judd, a youth worker named either June or Jean, Peter, and a mechanic/woodwork teacher named Alex. I remember one of the cooks being Kerry Deakin and the groundsman being Terry Owens. Anne Dutney was the centre's 2<sup>nd</sup> in charge. Jody Preston was in the administration/receptionist and there was Brian who was the financial administration person. After prompting I further recall youth workers Damien Butler, Dyer (possibly Pat), Di Fields, Fran Biddulp, Patrick Kendall, Linda Delwijin (possibly a teachers aide), David Lloyd, Cheryl Long, Jan Malloy, Des Marriage, Neville Mather, Artie Muckin, 'Trudy' and Todd Schultz.
  
5. I have recollection of there having been some sort of inquiry held in relation to JOYC just prior to my commencement there. I learnt of this Inquiry through overhearing snippets from other youth workers discussing it amongst themselves. I would come up to groups of workers who would be talking to each other making mention of things such as 'shredding of documents', 'to cover someone's arse', and 'Peter Coyne's' name mentioned however these were broken comments. As I would approach groups they would fall silent and say nothing more or change the subject. I do recall people like Fred Feige, Danny and Darren speaking about it. From memory Fred also made mention of having kept documentation, however I do not know what documents he was referring to or the contents of those documents. I also have some recollection sometime in the mid-late 1990's of Fred Feige speaking with one of the other youth workers Kevin [Lindeberg] about things. I remember Kevin as he was some sort of cartoonist for a newspaper or something and had attended JOYC on several occasions to teach and tutor the young people in how to do caricatures. I do not have recollection of the topic of their conversations on those occasions.

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6. I do not know of any person who indicated to me that they participated in that Inquiry.
7. In relation to the Inquiry, I know commonly as the Heiner Inquiry, at no time was I ever approached or asked to participate in that Inquiry. I was never asked to or prepared any written submission to any person about my time of employment at JOYC. For the main part I learnt of the Heiner Inquiry through the media including programs such as 4 Corners. From memory that program aired after I had left my employment with the department in 2001. I recall that program spoke of allegations that a female child had been raped, but that is the extent of my memories.
8. I have some recollection that years later that there was a further Inquiry conducted named the Forde Inquiry. I did not give evidence to that Inquiry and do not remember if I was asked to prepare a written statement or not for it.
9. I do not have any direct knowledge of any sexual abuses or allegations of sexual abuses that were said to have occurred during my period of employment at JOYC and Brisbane Youth Detention Centre. On one occasion I have recollection of there having been some talk amongst staff in relation to something having gone on during an excursion which teacher Karen [Merciadies] had been on. I do not know what the 'something' was other than it had sexual overtones. I do not know who was involved or who had been around on that excursion. I learnt of it through overhearing conversations only.
10. Another instance I over heard related to a male youth worker named [REDACTED]. Again I was not present at the incident and cannot offer any direct evidence, but recall staff stating that something had happened involving [REDACTED] and a female young person. I do not know her name or what the something was other than it was said to be sexually inappropriate. I remember [REDACTED] left JOYC shortly after I had heard this. I do not know if [REDACTED] had been asked to leave or if he had left of his own accord. This incident would have occurred prior to the Westbrook riots around mid 1990.
11. During my time within the youth detention system, on numerous occasions I completed and submitted incident reports. These reports were to brief supervisors and management of events of concern that had occurred in the Centre. The incident reports I completed all related to acts of violence and instances of escape etc. At no time did I ever complete an incident report relating to sexual abuse allegations or concerns. All incident reports once

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completed were passed on to the immediate shift supervisor and then on to management for review.

12. On the 26th November 2012 I met with detectives Parer and Barber of the Child Protection Commission of Inquiry at which time I provided them this statement.

Rodney Lee RESTON

**Declaration**

This written statement by me dated 22<sup>nd</sup> November 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 Mornvilleumbah this 30<sup>th</sup> day of November 20 12

Witnessed:

 Signature

Officer:

 Signature

Name D Parer Rank DSC Reg. No. 10736

Signature of Witness:



Signature of Officer:

