



QUEENSLAND CHILD PROTECTION  
COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

Statement of Witness

<i>Name of Witness</i>	Lesley Owen Charles MORISON
<i>Date of Birth</i>	28/04/1935
<i>Address and contact details</i>	Known to Detective Senior Constable Denise PARER
<i>Occupation</i>	Retired
<i>Officer taking statement</i>	Detective Senior Constable Denise PARER
<i>Date taken</i>	31/10/2012

I, Lesley 'Owen' Charles MORRISON state;

1. I am a former employee of the Department of Family Services [herein referred to as the department].
2. I commenced employment with the department sometime around 1989. I had been employed working at the Challinor Centre with handicapped children. I had been looking for further challenges in my life at that time and decide to take up a position a the John Oxley Youth Centre [herein referred to as JOYC] in the capacity of casual youth worker. As a youth worker I worked on a 3 shift roster, that being 7a-3p, 3p-11p, or 11p-7am shifts. In the early days I worked approximately 5 days a week but this later was scaled back to about 2 days a week. My role as youth worker was to attend to duties such as waking up the children and getting them ready for their day's activities, supervising meals with them and taking them for activities and excursions. At night duties would involve night patrols of cell making sure the children were secured.

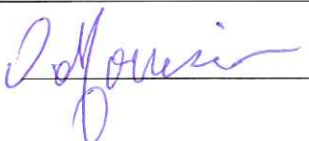
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3. Whilst working at JOYC I recall that the manager was initially Peter COYNE however he left and was replaced by a second manager whose name I cannot recall. I remember Peter Coyne leaving under some sort of cloud but I don't know why. Peter would have left just shortly after I arrived at JOYC.
4. Other staff members I remember were fellow youth workers/senior youth workers: Des Marriage, Fred Feige, Eileen Bisby, Danny Lannen, Marianna Pearce, Brian Cartledge, Bruce Cassidy, Warren Christensen, 'Connie', David Smith, Col Bray, Paul Hamson, Olly Issacs, Marj Judd, Bronwyn Marshall, Mark Mills, Brad Parfitt, Rodney Reston, Walter Tallis, Gary Truloff, 'Barney', Ken 'Slick' Gerke, David Gold, Gordon Hopps, Carmel Belford, Gordon Teasdale, Rudi Pekelharing. Other staff included Lorraine Hayward (supervisor), Trevor Cox, Lorraine McGreggor (nurse), Karen Merciadies (teacher), Anne Dutney (2<sup>nd</sup> in charge), Scotty Healing (youth worker – now social worker), Alex Meulenberg (mechanic), Brian Parker, Jody Preston (administration), Peter Williams and Terry Owens who was the yards man and later became a youth worker.
5. I recall that when I was employed at JOYC there was some sort of management and staff dispute. To me this seemed mainly between youth worker Fred Feige and Peter Coyne. Fred had some sort of issue with Peter and he was constantly badgering him. He was a thorn in Peter's side. I myself had no issues with Peter. The only issue I ever recall being involved in was an occasion where a door had been left open when it should have been secured. As a result I ended up being locked in a toilet area by one of the detainees for a few hours. I remember the young fellow involved ended up being charged but don't recall too much about it other than that.
6. The only other issue I recall were the ones between senior and junior youth workers. This was mainly over people's opinions as to how best do their jobs. It also stemmed from how particular staff treated the children as there were differences between how some of the ex-Toowoomba staff members treated the children compared to others at JOYC.

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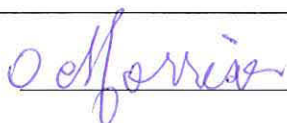




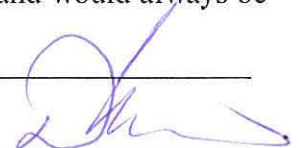
7. At no time was I ever approached or asked to provide any statement, either verbally or in written form, to any person, body or Inquiry about my time of employment at JOYC.
8. I cannot recall if I was a union member or not whilst employed at JOYC. I do not recall ever making approach to a union or supplying them with any statement or submission.
9. I know over the years there have been a few Inquires about JOYC and youth detention centres. I remember reading the Forde Inquiry report one night shift whilst I was at JOYC and it being about sexual molestation of children and general treatment of children in care.
10. The term the Heiner Inquiry does not have any meaning to me. At no time was I ever approached nor have I ever spoken with a person named Noel Heiner. I have never been asked to prepare any statement or submission for such Inquiry. I do not recall which staff may have been involved in that Inquiry.
11. I have limited knowledge about sexual abuse alleged to have occurred at JOYC. I remember hearing third or fourth hand rumours about a staff member named [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was a youth worker and did his job well. I have some recollection about there having been some sort of overnight outing which involved camping in tents. [REDACTED] was said to have had sex with some one who had been underage. I cannot recall who told me but do remember that [REDACTED] suddenly ended up leaving JOYC around that time.
12. There was another occasion; again I cannot recall how I learned of it, which involved one of the male youth workers on night shift. I cannot remember that youth worker's name only that he was about 21-22 years old [REDACTED]. [REDACTED]. This male youth worker had been acting very oddly. I would see him in the administration room near the intercom and would always be

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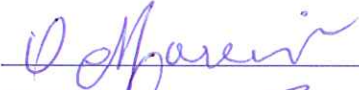
acting suspiciously. After a few occasions I decided that I would approach the boss about this youth worker's behaviours, however before getting the chance to do so I learned that this male youth worker had left. From memory I was told that this youth worker had been networking with one of the head male detainees which had been outside the scope of appropriateness.

13. At no time have I ever been asked to give any evidence, statement or submission to any other Inquiry or person about any sexual abuse allegations or my period of employment at JOYC or any other youth detention centre. I never have had any reason to make such report as I never directly witnessed or had direct knowledge of any such events. Should I have needed to report such an incident I would have personally gone directly to the manager due to me having little faith in middle management.
14. On the 31st October 2012 Detectives Parer and Mison attended my home address during which time I provided them with this statement.

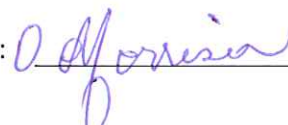
Lesley Owen MORRISON

**Declaration**

This written statement by me dated 31<sup>st</sup> October 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 7th this 7th day of NOVEMBER 20 12  
IPSWICH

Witnessed:  Signature  
Name Denise Parer Rank DSC Reg. No. 10736

Signature of Witness:  Signature of Officer: 