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# QUEENSLAND CHILD PROTECTION COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

## Statement of Witness

| Name of Witness             | Linda Joy MANNING                                |  |  |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|
| Date of Birth               | 12/08/1963                                       |  |  |
| Address and contact details | Known to Detective Senior Constable Denise PARER |  |  |
| Occupation                  | Senior Project Officer                           |  |  |
| Officer taking statement    | Detective Senior Constable Denise PARER          |  |  |
| Date taken                  | 14/12/2012                                       |  |  |

### I, Linda Joy MANNING state;

- I am a former employee of the Department of Families [herein referred to as the
  department]. I commenced employment with the department in September 1984, at
  which time I took up the position of youth worker at the Sir Leslie Wilson Youth Centre
  under manager Janice Doyle.
- 2. Sometime later, soon after then newly opened John Oxley Youth Centre [herein referred to as JOYC] opened, I transferred to JOYC. At JOYC I held the position of youth worker. My primary functions were to, in company of other youth workers, keep the centre functioning. To do so we youth workers ensured routines of the children were followed. Youth workers ensured children got up of a morning, ate breakfast and were taken to their relevant school, education or recreational activities. Afternoon and night shifts also followed set routines of ensuring the children attended to recreational activities, personal hygiene (showers etc), meals and being put to bed of a night.
- 3. When I commenced employment at JOYC I recall the manager of the centre was Terry McDermott and the Deputy Manger was Jenny Foote. There was a range of managers of the centre while I was there but I don't really recall any of them. I don't think I worked for Peter Coyne.

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- 4. I recall other staff members working at JOYC around this time including Lynne Draper (Senior youth worker), Fred Feige (youth worker), Jenny Foote, Collin Bray and Brendan Collins and Jan French (youth worker).
- 5. During my time at JOYC I was aware that there were issues within the centre. These issues primarily centred on how to best manage the kids. JOYC was a newer model which was to focus on a bigger recognition of youth culture where as the Sir Leslie Wilson Youth Centre had historically been based on a medical / discipline model. With the change in how the centre was being run staff from Wilson or who had worked under the older model did not always adjust. I recall when there were changes such as the no smoking policy which caused conflict in the centre. I myself do not recall experiencing issues as I was in favour of the new youth centred model JOYC offered.
- 6. I remained at JOYC until February 1988 at which time I travelled overseas. I can recall this date because I left Brisbane prior to Expo 88 starting. After returning to Australia I never returned to employment in the youth detention system.
- 7. While I was overseas I had correspondence with JOYC staff such as Lynne Draper, Jan French and Brendan Collins where I heard some of the day to day issues occurring.
- 8. I recall after my return learning of the Heiner Inquiry. I myself did not take part in that inquiry in any way as I believe it occurred after I had left JOYC. I was never approached nor asked to provide any submission to that Inquiry. I learnt of this Inquiry through what was said in the media. I also recall having seen former colleagues such as Jan and Lynne who had told me how stressful the time at JOYC had been but no details of the Inquiry.
- 9. In relation to sexual abuse allegations or concerns I can only offer the commission the following information:
- 10. I recall one occasion when I had worked at the Sir Leslie Wilson Youth Centre. I recall locating several 'glamour shots' of the female detainees during one of my shifts. I had been surprised at these images and recall questioning the girls about them. I would not describe these images as being pornographic or sexual but they were posed for. When I had questioned the girls they claimed that the images had been taken on a stolen camera which they had hidden. I remember making report of this to the senior supervisor on the

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shift and as a result we conducted a search for the camera. I do not recall us ever finding that camera and there were some concerns that it may have been provided by an unknown staff member but I do not know if that had been the case or not. Any such matters of concern, if ever identified were 'briefed up' to senior youth workers or management and dealt with or resolved.

- 11. At no time during my period of employment at JOYC was I ever aware of any sexual abuse allegations or concerns.
- 12. On the 14<sup>th</sup> December 2012 I met with detectives Parer and Mison of the Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry at which time I provided them with this statement.

#### Linda Joy Manning

Signature of Witness:

#### Declaration

| This written statement by me dated 14 <sup>th</sup> | December 2012      | and contained in th | ne pages numbered |
|---|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1 to 3 is true and correct to the b                 | est of my knowled  | lge and belief.     |                   |
| Sign  | nature             | 1                   |                   |
| Signed at MIPON                                     | this $\frac{1}{2}$ | day of Janc         | vary 20 13.       |
| Witnessed: Sign                                     | nature             |                     |                   |
|   | Rank               | SC F                | Reg. No. 10736    |
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Signature of Officer: