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QUEENSLAND CHILD PROTECTION COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

Statement of Witness

Table with 2 columns: Field Name and Value. Fields include Name of Witness, Date of Birth, Address and contact details, Occupation, Officer taking statement, and Date taken.

I, Mariana Katherine Pearce state;

- 1. My full and correct name is Mariana Katherine Pearce and I am 69 years of age having been born on the 25 August 1943. I am currently retired.
2. On the 15 October 2012, I was interviewed by Detective Sergeant Colless, investigator from the Office of the Child Protection Commission of Inquiry, and provided the details contained with this statement.
3. I am a former employee of the John Oxley Youth Centre (JOYC) and the Sir Leslie Wilson Youth Detention Centre (hereafter referred as Sir Leslie Wilson). I remember that while working at both centres I was involved in primary care. I think when I first started it was at Sir Leslie Wilson and back then we were known as nursing assistants, but that changed from having a matron in charge to having a social worker in charge. Then they built JOYC and I transferred over to there.

Signature of Witness: [Handwritten Signature] Signature of Officer: [Handwritten Signature]

4. When I started working at Sir Leslie Wilson I was about 40 years old which would have been about 1983 as I am 69 years of age now. I don't recall when I went to JOYC but I recall in my application to go to JOYC, I informed them that I wanted to be amongst the first to go there. I remember I was working with the first shift welcoming the child residents from Sir Leslie Wilson. I remained at JOYC until I retired.
5. I remember the centre managers at JOYC while I worked there as being Terry McDermott, who had a social work background, Tim who came from Townsville, Peter Coyne and Ian McIntyre. Ian McIntyre was the manager who was there when I retired at 55 years. I recall the name of the manager at Sir Leslie Wilson as being Janice Doyle.
6. I would say that there problems at JOYC from time to time and I remember that there were a lot of problems when Peter Coyne was the manager there. He was eventually dismissed because he was abusing staff at JOYC and I was one of those staff he abused.
7. I remember that he was very unfair the way he would treat staff for example he would call you down to his office where he would berate you and send you back upstairs and a while later have you return to his office to berate you again. I recall some of the staff left because of him because they couldn't take it. I had a nervous breakdown under him but he never managed to get me to leave.
8. I recall that I wrote many letters while at JOYC and these letters were mainly about the way children were being treated unfairly at JOYC. I also wrote a report for the Heiner Inquiry in relation to Peter Coyne and his management practices. I remember it was about how Peter Coyne was treating the staff at JOYC. I recall that I wrote this report and it was penned in my own writing style.

Signature of Witness:

DL Pearce

Signature of Officer:

[Handwritten Signature]

9. I recall that a man by the name of Noel Heiner had looked into the management of JOYC when Peter Coyne was the manager.

10. On the 15 October 2012, I was shown, by Detective Colless, a photocopy of a 4 page letter document in handwriting with the name of Mariana Pearce on the last page. I recognise the writing on this letter as my own. I recall writing this letter and I believe that this was the document I wrote for the Heiner Inquiry that I previously mentioned. I wrote this as I felt that I had been badly treated. I think we were asked to write reports for the Heiner inquiry but I cannot recall who asked us to do that. I cannot recall who I gave it to or what happened with it afterwards. I recall that when I went in to speak to Mr Heiner, they already had a copy of the letter or I brought it in with me or a copy of the same.

11. I do not have a copy of it anymore; I only threw out material such as that only a few years ago. I thought I heard that they were eventually destroyed by the Minister because we didn't have any sort of indemnity and I recall that Peter Coyne was trying very hard to get something on us.

12. I remember that when I saw Mr Heiner, he listened to me but I didn't understand what he meant and was giving the evidence the wrong way and I couldn't understand the process. I remember that Mr Noel Heiner was there with a female person, who I do not know or recall her name. I don't believe that this female person was from JOYC.

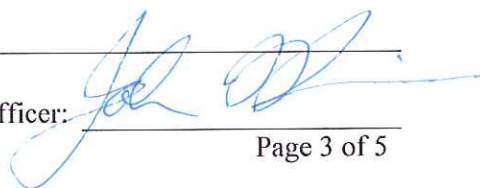
13. I cannot recall what I told Mr Heiner but I probably would have told him about the things contained in my letter to him (as referred in paragraph 10 of this statement).

14. I may have spoken about an incident where I believed that two staff members had attended and entered my house but I can't recall.

Signature of Witness:



Signature of Officer:

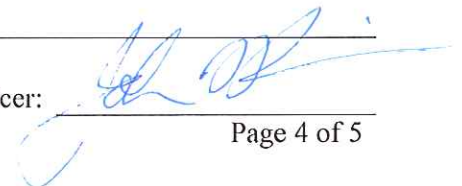


15. I did not talk about nor did I tell Mr Heiner about any details of any sexual abuse at JOYC.
16. I think that Fred Feige, Danny Lannen and the nurse Lorraine McGregor would have given evidence to Mr Heiner. I remember that Lorraine was very concerned about the way Peter was treating people at JOYC.
17. I recall an allegation of sexual abuse at JOYC involving a little girl I think called Shelly Neal where she was either swimming in the JOYC pool or on a picnic. There was an allegation where some staff member who I would describe as having reddish ginger hair. I heard on the grapevine that he was interacting with Shelly and that he had an erection but I don't know exactly what was supposed to have happened. I'm sure that he was sacked over what happened. I believe that Ian McIntyre was the centre manager at the time of this allegation.
18. I was also aware of an incident involving Annette Harding, I only heard this via the JOYC grapevine and I did not have any direct knowledge of this matter. I did not give this information to Mr Heiner.
19. I did not attend the Ford inquiry, not did I give any evidence, statements or submissions to the Ford Inquiry. I have not given any evidence or submit any statements or submissions to any parliamentary inquiries.
20. I have never been interviewed by any other persons, police or media in relation to the Inquiry at JOYC. I did not give an interview to any media or Sunday program in relation to my employment at JOYC.
21. On the 15 October 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.

Signature of Witness:



Signature of Officer:



22. On the 15 October 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.

Mariana Katherine Pearce

Declaration

This written statement by me dated 15 October 2012 and contained in the pages numbered 1 to 5 is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

M.K. Pearce Signature

Signed at Forest Lake this 5 day of Nov. 20 12

Witnessed:

J.A. Mison Signature

Name J.A. MISON Rank Det Sgt Reg. No. 8065

Signature of Witness: _____

Signature of Officer: _____