

Date: 23.1.2013

Exhibit number: 278



**QUEENSLAND CHILD PROTECTION
COMMISSION OF INQUIRY**


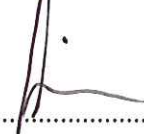
Our reference: [eDocs document number]

Statement of Witness

<i>Name of Witness</i>	Peter Wayne Palmer
<i>Date of Birth</i>	01/03/1962
<i>Address and contact details</i>	Known to commission staff
<i>Occupation</i>	Anglican priest
<i>Officer taking statement</i>	Detective Sergeant John Mison
<i>Date taken</i>	14/12/2012

I, Reverend Peter Wayne Palmer state;

1. I am 50 years of age. I am a priest of the Anglican faith in the Diocese of Willochra in South Australia.
2. I hold the Advanced Diploma of Theology and the Advanced Diploma of Counselling.
3. I am a former employee of the Department of Family Services, [herein referred to as the department].
4. I commenced working for the department at the Sir Leslie Wilson Youth centre at Wilston in about 1985. After about eight months at Wilson, I transferred to the John Oxley Youth Centre, [herein referred to as JOYC]. I started working at JOYC as a youth worker the day JOYC opened on the 1st of March in 1986. I specifically recall this date as it was my birthday.
5. Prior to working for the department, I was a volunteer foster carer with my wife. My wife and I took kids who came out of the Sir Leslie Wilson centre and assisted with assessments for long term care.

Witness signature.......... Signature of officer..........


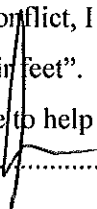
6. I recall some of the staff that worked at JOYC as: Rudy Pekalhari – senior youth worker, Lynne Draper – senior youth worker, Fred Feige – senior youth worker, Trevor Cox – senior youth worker, Eileen Bisby – senior youth worker, Col Bray – senior youth worker, Daryl Hood – youth worker, Bruce Cassidy – senior youth worker, Lex Clements – youth worker, Brendan Collins – youth worker, Diedre Duncan – domestic, Effie Dyer – youth worker, Di Fields – senior youth worker, Jenny Foote – deputy to Terry, Mark Freemantle – youth worker, Jan French – youth worker, Guy Gibson – youth worker, Gordon Teasdale – youth worker, Ted Guzowski – youth worker, Lorraine Hayward – youth worker, Scott Healing – chef, Kit – sister, Ken Kleiden – youth worker, Scott McKnight – youth worker, Sabina “Connie” Konicanin – youth worker, Wendy Kropp – youth worker, Danny Lannen – youth worker, Linda Manning – youth worker, George McCauley – youth worker, Lorraine McGregor – youth worker, Peter McNeven – youth worker, Sarah Moynihan – art teacher, Jane Mumford – chef, Trudy Lewis – office, Archie Olde Wolbers – youth worker, Irene Colmer – youth worker, Mariana Pearce – youth worker, Bruce Read – youth worker, Michael Roch – youth worker, David Smith – youth worker, Jane Thirnbeck – youth worker, Tony Van Vlimmerman – youth worker and Jim Douglas – youth worker.

7. When I commenced duty at JOYC, Terry McDermott was the manager. Terry was a great manager. I felt he led us youth workers as opposed to having to just manage us.

8. Peter Coyne became the next manager. To me it seemed that after Terry had left and Peter took over the centre lost its focus. When Peter Coyne became manager there was also a change in the residents at the centre. JOYC got a lot of residents from Westbrook which altered the dynamics at JOYC. These residents I would describe as being more “hardened” and staff were not trained to deal with these types of residents as we were youth workers not wardens.

9. I remember around this time I got knocked out by a resident. All I knew is that I woke up in the Ipswich Hospital. Everything started to go downhill. Staff got edgy and jumpy at work. In my opinion it was the case that the staff didn’t have the skills to do the job.

10. The staff then started fighting against other staff. There was dissension in the ranks and I remember I didn’t feel comfortable. Some staff were fighting with Peter Coyne and the bureaucracy behind him. As a result of the conflict, I felt that the centre lost it’s goal which was to “get young people back on their feet”. The youth workers became gaolers instead of people working with young people to help them. When JOYC started under


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Terry McDermott, the centre model had been about developing children as opposed to being punitive.

11. A lot of staff resigned and left JOYC due to the management and staffing tensions under Peter Coyne's management. I also resigned and left JOYC in about December 1988. I remember I commenced studies at Bible College in March 1989 after which I graduated and became a missionary in Arnham Land and then a priest in charge at Wyndham.
12. I have heard of the Heiner Inquiry. I was not involved in the Inquiry and as such I did not give evidence nor provide any written material to the Inquiry. The Inquiry happened after I left JOYC.
13. I did not witness any incidents of sexual abuse at JOYC. I did not report any incidents of sexual abuse at JOYC.

Declaration

This written statement by me dated 11/01/2013 and contained in the pages numbered 1 to 3 is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

 Signature PETER WAYNE PALMER
Signed at Hope Valley this 11 day of January 20 13

Witnessed:

WAYNE LINDSAY STAUNTON Signature 
Name _____ Rank _____ Reg. No. _____

Witness signature.......... Signature of officer..........
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