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Date: 26.11.2012

Exhibit number: 51



QUEENSLAND CHILD PROTECTION COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

Our reference: [eDocs document number]

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, Marion Ann Thompson state;

- 1. I am a retired, divorced woman of 48 years of age. I have kept my married surname of Thompson. My maiden surname was Drew.
2. Since 2006 I have suffered from a degenerative neurological condition.
3. I am a former employee of the Department of Family Services, [herein referred to as the department].
4. I hold a Bachelor of Social Work from the University of Queensland. After graduating from my degree I commenced employment with the department as a family services officer at the Ipswich office. I worked in this position for a period of three years.
5. Whilst I was working at Ipswich I was approached by Peter Coyne. At the time Peter Coyne was the manager of the John Oxley Youth Centre, [herein referred to as JOYC]. I had previous dealings with Peter as he worked at the Inala office of the department as a social worker. I don't think Peter had been manager long at JOYC when he approached

Witness signature..... M. Thompson Signature of officer..... [Signature]

me. Peter discussed with me if I was interested in applying for position at JOYC. I would describe Peter Coyne as being a little eccentric.

6. I subsequently applied and attained a position at JOYC. I remember I was excited about this new opportunity as I was interested in helping children who had not been well looked after.
7. Some of the staff I remember from my time at JOYC back then are; Peter Coyne – manager, Ann Dutney- deputy, Eileen Bisby- senior youth worker, Jim Douglas – youth worker, Lyn Draper - principal youth worker, Jan French – youth worker, Lorraine Hayward – senior youth worker, Sabina “Connie” Konicanen – youth worker, Jock McCauly – youth worker, Peter McNeven – youth worker, Sarah Moynihan – Artist, Marian Pierce- youth worker, Rudy Pekalharang – admin section, Mark Mills – youth worker, Josie Russo - housekeeping, Lex Celemence – youth worker, Colin Bray – separate section, June West – youth worker, Lorraine McGreggor – youth worker, Brian Cartledge – youth worker, Archie (can’t remember last name) – youth worker, Jane Thirnbeck –youth worker, Gary Truloff – senior level worker, Danny Lannen – youth worker, Trevor Cox - senior level worker, Jeff Manitzky – psychologist, Jody Preston – Admin, Karen Mersiades – Teacher and Terry Owens - groundsman.
8. Whilst I worked at JOYC I was not aware of inappropriate things occurring. I do remember though some staff were more suited to the work than others. There was a bit of staff fighting amongst themselves. I wasn’t involved in these staff tensions back then nor did I pay much attention to them.
9. I was aware there was an inquiry being conducted about JOYC back then. I recognise the name of Heiner as being familiar to the person conducting the inquiry. From what I had heard from other people it was all about Peter Coyne and Ann Dutney. I do not have a great memory of this time. I think I may have met with this man Heiner at work briefly. I think it was about processes at the centre and management. My rough recollection is that this meeting occurred in a room and there were only the two of us. I am pretty sure that if I said anything about Peter Coyne or Ann Dutney, it would have been positive as I was impressed by them both at the time. However, I do not recall what I said to Heiner
10. I cannot remember providing anything to this inquiry in written form.

Witness signature.....*M. Thompson*..... Signature of officer.....*[Signature]*.....

11. Whilst I worked at JOYC I was not aware of any sexual abuse. I never witnessed any sexual abuse and do not recall any talk or rumours of any sexual abuse. The only thing I remember which I think was inappropriate was when youth worker [REDACTED] and a former detainee [REDACTED] got married. I found out about this marriage after I had left JOYC.
  
12. In total, I worked at JOYC for about three years. I was made acting deputy of the centre for a period of about 2 to 3 weeks right at the end of my time there. I have a letter from Tim Evans the manager appointing me to this acting position dated in April 1990. After I did this relieving as deputy manager I left the centre.
  
13. After leaving JOYC I worked on and off for the department as I raised my children.
  
14. On Thursday the 11th day of October 2012 I met with Detectives Mison and Parer. Detective Mison showed me a document signed "very concerned". I am not the author of this document nor do I recognise the handwriting on it.

**Declaration**

This written statement by me dated 11/10/2012 and contained in the pages numbered 1 to 3 is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signed at Maria Thompson Signature  
Brisbane this 17<sup>th</sup> day of October 2012

Witnessed:  
  
Name J. F. Mison Signature  
Rank Det Sgt Reg. No. 8065