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## QUEENSLAND CHILD PROTECTION COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

Our reference: [eDocs document number]

## **Statement of Witness**

Name of Witness	Daniel Francis Lannen
Date of Birth	02/12/1953
Address and contact details	
Occupation	Security Officer
Officer taking statement	Detective Sergeant J A MISON
Date taken	17 / 10 /2012

## I, Daniel Francis Lannen state;

- 1. I am 58 years of age.
- 2. I am currently employed as a State Government Security Officer.
- 3. I am a former employee of the Department of Family Services, [herein referred to as the department].
- 4. In about February or March 1987, I commenced employment with the department as a youth worker at the John Oxley Youth Centre [herein referred to as JOYC].
- 5. Prior to working for the department I was with working in disability services. I hold the Associate Diploma of Residential Care from the Kelvin Grove College of Advanced Education.

Witness signature Signature of officer.....

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- When I commenced duties at JOYC, Terry McDermott was the manager. I describe
   Terry as being a good manager who conducted many good programs for the kids.
- 7. Sometime later Terry left and Peter Coyne took over as the manager. Peter Coyne started off all right then he just snapped. As a result there were many issues that arose within the centre among staff. There was a lot of division amongst staff. Some staff were targeted by management. I describe this period as being like a "war" between management and the youth workers at JOYC.
- 8. Some us of youth workers I would describe as advocates about the mistreatment of kids and events that happened at JOYC.
  - 9. The groups within the centre were as follows; First, there was the management group. This group included Peter Coyne, Trevor Cox, Ann Dutney, Psychologist Manintsky, Colin Bray and Lyn Draper.
- The group that I would describe as the advocates included myself, Fred Feige, Brendan
   Collins, Jan French, Mark Freemantle, Scott Healing and Rudy Pekalhearing.
- 11. There was another group of persons who were the teachers. I would say this group went between the management and the advocates.
- 12. I remember back then there were a number of incidents involving detainees which were handled poorly. Once incident involved female detainee Annette Harding. This incident occurred on a outing being run by the teachers. The incident was about a sexual assault by five residents or detainees. To my knowledge nothing gone done about this incident.
- 13. I was not present on this outing. What I had heard about was from rumour and talk amongst staff at JOYC. At the time I was expecting an investigation as opposed to nothing. To my knowledge I believe the police did not respond to this matter.
- 14. Another incident that occurred involved female detainee Shelly Neale. I was not present when this incident occurred. It occurred on another outing at a dam. It involved an allegation against a youth worker, \_\_\_\_\_\_. This youth worker was also known by the nick name \_\_\_\_\_\_. Everything I had heard about this incident was from other staff at JOYC. I had heard that \_\_\_\_\_\_ had sexual intercourse with Shelly Neale in the water at the dam.

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15.	I have a recollection that I was in the day control room downstairs at JOYC when I was
	approached by The day control room is where staff report to as they arrive at
	work to drop their keys off. told me this day to let the staff know that
	is no longer working at JOYC.
16.	I didn't discuss this matter about with with I presumed it was
10.	about the incident at the dam with Shelly Neale.
	about the mordent at the dain with sherry reale.
17.	I remember sometime after had left JOYC I was at home reading the
	Ipswich Advertiser paper when I observed an article about an under 14 years of age girls
	sporting team welcoming a new coach. The article identified this coach as
	I was concerned about this so I contacted the sporting club involved. I spoke
	with someone on the phone at the club about I asked this person whether or not
	provided a reference from JOYC. I was told that did provide a
	JOYC reference and in fact it was a great reference.
18.	Another issue of concern to me was the handcuffing of young persons. I recall an
	incident when an 11 year old detainee was handcuffed in his bedroom standing upright.
	This handcuffing was done by Trevor Cox. The detainee was handcuffed to some louvers
	in the room and I remember being concerned as it restricted the young persons breathing.
19.	I also recall the time when detainees were handcuffed to the pool fence overnight in
17.	winter with minimal clothing. I didn't approve of this type of discipline either.
	winter with minimal clothing. I than t approve of this type of discipline either.
20.	I also recall another issue where detainee was being unnecessarily over
	medicated, which resulted in her barely being able to function at a normal level.
21.	I recall a further incident with a young 14 year old female detainee. To this day I still
	get upset just talking about this incident.
	The deputy Anne Dutney had a thing about this young
	detainee who was wearing a particular item of clothing. Anne Duteny directed staff to
	give this young detainee a government towel to wrap around her. The towel was not very
	big and it was held on her via safety pin. The young detainee wore this government towe
	for a week. I felt this action was inappropriate.
22.	Due to voicing my disapproval of certain actions I believe I became a target of Peter

Coyne. I would often receive letters of explanation in relation certain incidents by Peter

Coyne. These letters included an allegation against me for using excessive force which I deny.

- 23. I remember one petty incident involving a straw hat. In the storeroom at JOYC there were some cheap straw hats for issue to detainees. Most detainees didn't wear them. I along with some other staff acquisitioned some of these hats to where when we would walk around the yard in the sunlight. I remember Peter Coyne observed me wearing one of these hats and he approached me. He asked me if this was a hat from the centre. I told him it was. Peter Coyne then instructed me to return it. In my opinion this was petty.
- 24. Another example of Coyne's behaviour to me related to taking detainees off site. Back then a detainee was allowed out for a meal in the company of youth worker the day before they were due to leave the centre. The detainees chose the youth worker they wanted to accompany them on these trips. I had good relationships with many of the detainees and as such I was often chosen by the detainees for the trips. Peter Coyne did not like the fact I was chosen and as such I was stopped from participating in these trips with the detainees.
- 25. I recall sometime back then when I was experiencing conflict with Peter Coyne that my wife told me she received a phonecall at home from Peter Coyne. When my wife told me about this call she was very upset and in tears. My wife told me that Peter Coyne said to her that he is going to sue us for everything we had for jeopardising his career.
- 26. I recall back then Peter Coyne had two hats on display in his office. One hat, had hands that would clap and another hat, had a picture of a pistol on it.
- 27. I felt victimised by Peter Coyne's actions because I stood up to his behaviours. I remember at that time getting a barrage of show cause letters from Peter Coyne. These letters were basically a please explain as to why I should not be suspended from JOYC. I was required to supply a response to these show cause notices. As I proved that all allegations by Coyne were false, I was never suspended.
- 28. Due to Peter Coyne's targeted conduct towards me I subsequently approached my union about victimisation. I was a member of the QPSU. I recall going into the City to try and get some things happening about what was occurring with management at JOYC and my treatment.

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- 29. I remember being taken in this union official's office. Whilst seated in this office I remember observing a hand written a note on the desk. I read the note and clearly remember the words written down were, "What the fuck is going on out at John Oxley Youth Centre" signed Janine. I don't know who wrote this note but I presumed the name of Janine to be Janine Walker who was head of the QPSU at the time.
- 30. During the period of the Heiner Inquiry I remember staff being upset. I recall on one occasion where the housekeeper was crying.. This house keeper had the last name of Logan.. I remember this housekeeper was in tears. I approached her and had a conversation. The house keeper told me that Lyn Draper told her that if she does not say good things about Peter Coyne to the inquiry your job may be not secure.
- 31. I was at work when I was called to the Inquiry. It was a usual working day and I was asked to go to the conference room downstairs at JOYC. I went in the room and met Barbara Flynn. I think there was another women present at the meeting. This women was an associate taking notes. Heiner was not there when I attended the meeting. I never met with Mr Heiner. I sat down at a table opposite Barbara Flynn. I don't have a lot of recollection of what I said or what was actually said to me. I think the discussion was about any concerns I may have had at JOYC. I think I told Barbara about the abuse of kids, including handcuffing, use of drugs and victimisation of staff. Although I don't recall specifics of these conversations.
- 32. I don't recall telling Barbara anything about sexual abuse. However, I believe I would of spoken about this as it was a concern to me.
- 33. I think the meeting lasted for about 30 mins. By the time of the Inquiry, I had no fear of Peter Coyne. At this stage my wife and I discussed about me leaving JOYC and we both decided to stick with it during this process as we had already been through so much. We had already had so many personal attacks, phonecalls, nuisance hang-up calls at all hours, letters and I remember thinking what more could Peter Coyne do to us.
- 34. I remember during the Heiner Inquiry that Peter Coyne appeared "cocky" at work. I remember at this time he would kept saying the phrase continually 'winners are grinners".
- 35. Sometime after the Inquiry, Ruth Matchett from head office came out to JOYC. A meeting was conducted by Matchett with all the staff at the centre. I was present at this meeting. Ruth Matchett discussed the issues at the centre. Peter Coyne was also present at

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this meeting. My recollection is that the meeting was conducted very professionally and it was concise. Peter Coyne was dismissed from the role of manager at this meeting in front of the staff..

- 36. A standout memory after this meeting conducted by Matchutt was Ann Dutney being hysterical. She was in tears and saying the words "I can't believe it".
- 37. I learnt sometime later that all the documents from the Heiner Inquiry were shredded. I am not sure how I learnt that the documents were shredded.
- 38. Quite a few years later at around the time of the Forde Inquiry I was interviewed by the CJC. I thought I would be called to give evidence at the Forde Inquiry but I never did. I contacted the inquiry just prior to it finishing to find out why I had not been called as a witness. I was told that Inquiry staff couldn't locate me. I was told it was to do with a mix up over addresses.
- 39. I have not given any evidence to parliamentary inquiry.
- 40. I recall sometime later I was contacted by a freelance journalist who was looking into the incidents about JOYC. This journalist asked me a few questions. I did not give this journalist a lot of information. The journalist came back a second time. He told me that he had it wrong and that I am one of the good guys. I think he was inquiring into the Annette Harding incident.
- 41. Some of the staff I remember from my time at JOYC are; Peter Coyne-manager, Ann Dutny - deputy manager, Jill Wesche -casual youth worker, Margaret Judd - youth worker, Peter McNeven - youth worker, Marks Mills - youth worker, Bruce Cassidy senior youth worker, Arena Karatziz - social worker, June West -youth worker, Scott Healing – cook/youth worker, Paul Hamson – youth worker, Col Bray – senior youth worker, Chris Edwards - youth worker now deceased, Daryl Hood - Senior youth worker now deceased, Archie Olde Woblers – youth worker, Jane Thirnbeck – youth worker/child care officer, Eileen Bisby – senior youth worker, Jan French – youth worker, Lynne Draper - Principle youth worker, Gordon Teasdale - youth worker, Alex Mulenberg - mechanic, Gary Truloff - senior youth worker, Trudy Lewis - alarm watcher and sister to Anne Dutney, Peter Coyne's wife - alarm watcher, Trevor Cox's wife alarm watcher, Frevor Cox - senior youth worker, Bradley parfitt - youth worker, Rudy Pekalhearing -senior youth worker, Sabina Connie Konicanen - youth worker, Jim

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Douglas – youth worker, Mariana Pierce – youth worker, Lorraine Hayward – youth worker, Warren Christensen – youth worker, Jennifer Foot – deputy manager, Brian Parker – pay section, Jeff Manitzky – Psychologist, Jody Preston – Admin, Irene Colmer – youth worker, Brian Goggins – youth worker, Jock McCauley – youth worker, Sarah Moynihan – crafts, Lola Nolan – youth worker, Dave Smith – youth worker, Tony Van Vlimmeren-youth worker, Ray Bently – principal youth worker, Fred Feige-youth worker, Lex Clemence – youth worker, Josie Russo – housekeeping, Vince Robinson – youth worker, Michael Roch – youth worker, Olly Isaacs – youth worker, Agnes or Kit Mountany – Nurse, Diedre Duncan – house keeping, Lorraine McGregor –youth worker/nurse, Unknown first name Logan – housekeeping, Gordon Cooper-teacher, Karen Mersiades –teacher, Wayne Armstrong – youth worker, Cindy ranger-craft, Narrend Nath –youth worker, Brendan Collins-youth worker, Terry Owens –groundsman, Paul Yule-youth worker, Rodney Reston – youth worker, Ken Gerke – youth worker and Darren Leahy –youth worker.

- 42. I ceased working at JOYC in 1994.
- 43. On Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> day of October 2012 I met with detectives Mison and Colless from the Child protection Inquiry. I had conversation with these detectives at to my employment at JOYC.
- 44. During this conversation I was shown a number of documents.

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- 45. Detective Mison showed me a 3 page document dated 03/10/1989 signed Daniel F

  Lannen. I am familiar with the content of this document. I am the author of this document and my signature appears on page 3.
- 46. Detective Mison showed me 2 page document dated 11/01/1990 titled as STATEMENT TO MR N. HEINER, S.M. RE: INQUIREY AT JOHN OXLEY YOUTH CENTRE. Signed Daniel F Lannen. I ram familiar with the content of this document. I am the author of this document and my signature appears on the second page.

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47. I was shown a document dated 15/01/1990 with words Daniel Lannen written on it.

After reading the documents I recognise the issues being raised in it.

This written statement by me dated			17-10-12	and contained in the pages numbered		
1 to	8	is true and correct to	the best of my know	ledge and belief.		

	(1			Signa	ature		
Signed at	OCT	INW600	RANK	this	26	day of	 20 /2

Witnessed:

Declaration

Name T. A. MISON Signature
Rank Det Sqt Reg. No. 8065