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Date: 26.11.2012

Exhibit number: 48



QUEENSLAND CHILD PROTECTION
COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

Our reference:

Statement of Witness

<i>Name of Witness</i>	Vincent Robert ROBERTSON
<i>Date of Birth</i>	26/09/1956
<i>Address and contact details</i>	Known to Commission of Inquiry
<i>Occupation</i>	
<i>Officer taking statement</i>	Detective Inspector Peter Brewer
<i>Date taken</i>	23/10/2012

I, Vincent Robert Robertson state

1. I am a married man and I reside at an address known to the Commission of Inquiry
2. On Tuesday 23rd October 2012 Investigators attached to the Commission of Inquiry attended my residence and spoke to me about my former employment with Government, including my time at the John Oxley Youth Centre. I was shown at this time the terms of reference to the Inquiry and the 3(e) component dealing with the Government response relating to allegations of historic child sexual abuse in Youth Detention Centres.
3. I first commenced employment while I was living at Aratula, starting at 'the Outlook' at Boonah in about 1984 and remained there until about 1989 when it was down scaled with view to closing the facility. I then went to the Ipswich Area Office as Administration Officer for a while before crossing over into Child Protection and then Juvenile Justice at this time.
4. It would have been around 1989 / 1990 that I assigned to John Oxley Youth Centre. I remember I started in the setting up stage of the John Oxley and was the first Administration officer and was responsible for setting up the administration systems and procedures at the centre. The first time there setting up the admin systems I was there for about 4 months.

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

5. It was not long after that I went on to relieve as a Principle Youth Worker, and I think the person I was temporarily replacing was Rudy Peckelharing. This would have been when there were kids there, and from memory this period was for about 6 to 9 months.
6. The Manager at the time of setup I can't remember but the principle person I knew as Manager when I worked there was Peter Coyne. I had quite a bit to do with the Manager as a principle Youth Worker and also on a day to day basis knowing about the admin procedures as I was handling the budget.
7. I recall the structure for the Centre was the Manager with three Principle Youth workers in charge of separate areas, Activities, off site employment for the children and the day to day running of the Centre. I recall some of the other people there at the time but not many now by name, however I do remember Anne Dutney was the Assistant Manager. I have not had any contact with former staff members since I left there. After leaving I went to other areas of the Department which subsequently changed names a number of times. I also became Ill for an extended period, offered and accepted a Voluntary Retirement, left and after a period of recovery, began in private industry.
8. In relation to the management of the John Oxley Centre I was aware of some particular issues and concerns about the way things were managed, but these did not relate to incidents of sexual abuse. The incident I was recalling involved the handcuffing of a male resident to a stormwater grid in the main exercise yard and how this was managed by Peter Coyne.
9. I am aware that subsequent to this there were some inquiries that went on. It was about this time that I was transferred back to Boonah to work on a Youth Diversion Program as I was only relieving at John Oxley.
10. I do remember that I was asked to go back to the John Oxley Centre on one day and I spoke to some Departmental officials about the John Oxley Centre. It was basically put to me as an informal chat about my time at John Oxley. This turned into 3 people sitting down at a table taking notes of what we spoke about. I recall that there were 3 men from the Department, it was not recorded and I didn't make a formal statement. I spoke to them in the Manager's office at John Oxley and I did not recognise the men who spoke to me.

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

11. I was asked by police investigators for this Commission of Inquiry about the name Noel Heiner, but I do not recognise this name. The information I previously gave was very non specific and I was asked about my opinion about Peter Coyne as a Manager and his day to day interaction and management of staff. I do not know what happened with the information I gave to these persons.

12. After locating and consulting my Resume I can confirm that between March 1975 to April 1992 I was with the Department and it was to the later part of this that I was employed at John Oxley. I was a member of the union at the time but I do not recall speaking to anyone from the Union about the issues at John Oxley.


13. In general terms if any incident occurred there was a formal reporting process that would come from one of the three wings to the Principal Youth worker to the Assistant manager and then the Manager. The Manager would generally need to see all incident reports. Any external communication correspondence would have been typed up by the Administration ladies and given to the Manager, but in my position I did not see this correspondence or have any knowledge of such filing


14. I am very surprised to hear of allegation of sexual abuse as I have not ever heard of any allegations of this nature before. If any sexual abuse was detected I would expect that it would be reported and acted upon straight away by the Manager. It would also be expected that the police would be contacted. Generally speaking I had seen that previously if any immediate incident happened, people would be asked to remain where they were and the police called in. This could be for an escape or something serious like that.

Vincent Robertson

Declaration

This written statement by me dated 23/10/12 and contained in the pages numbered 1 to 3 is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

 Signature
 Signed at Karalee this 5th day of November 20 12.

Witnessed: 
 Name Peter Beebe Rank 1st Lt Reg. No. 7160

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