

Date: 30.1.2013Exhibit number: 297

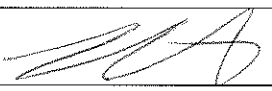

**QUEENSLAND CHILD PROTECTION
COMMISSION OF INQUIRY**

Statement of Witness

<i>Name of Witness</i>	Tanya Heidi PRESTON
<i>Date of Birth</i>	18/04/1968
<i>Address and contact details</i>	Known to Detective Senior Constable Denise PARER
<i>Occupation</i>	Taxation officer
<i>Officer taking statement</i>	Detective Senior Constable Denise PARER
<i>Date taken</i>	03/11/2012

I, Tanya Heidi PRESTON state;

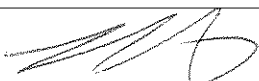
1. I am a former employee of the Department of Family Services [herein referred to as the department]. Sometime during early 1989 I commenced employment at the John Oxley Youth Detention Centre [herein referred to as JOYC]. I recall being 19 years old when I started there. I worked as an alarm watcher at JOYC for approximately 1 year before moving to Toowoomba in 1990.
2. At the time of my employment at JOYC I took on a position of 'alarm watcher'. This was a position in which I physically sat in a monitoring room referred to as the 'bubble'. This room was positioned at the end of the corridors of the three wings. You could physically see down the wings themselves from where you were positioned.
3. The position of alarm watcher required me to monitor both personal duress alarms worn by the staff and wing alarms mounted on the walls. I would also have to monitor video surveillance, make observations of time out rooms, and on occasions be present during visitations when there was not enough staff. At other times I was asked to complete filing for the centre. The filing involved me physically putting the children's files together into their respective folders. Items I would have to file included court results for the children. Occasionally I would look at the court results of the child to see what had happened as a result of court. However with the majority of the documents, I just concentrated on when

Signature of Witness: Signature of Officer: 

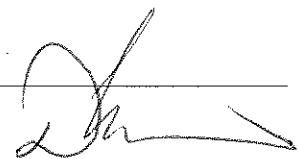
they were dated, not their contents, so I could make sure that their files were in a sequential order. As an alarm watcher the only time I would have contact with any of the children was when they would bring me a meal or if they buzzed me on the intercom system.

4. At the time I was employed at JOYC I remember Peter Coyne was the manager. My sister in-law Jody Preston worked in administration and my other sister in-law Janine Brimstone was an alarm watcher. Other staff members I recall included youth workers Paul Harrison, Jan French, Peter McNeven, Brad Parfitt, Fred, Olly Isaacs, Irene Colmer, Jacqueline Von Lossberg, Paul Sweetland, Ken Gerke, Sue Dyer and Daren Leahy. Brian Parker was an administration officer working with Jody. During my employment at JOYC I went from part time to a full time position. I remember having been talked in to the permanent position, and after accepting and starting it, realised that the full time position was essentially more hours for less money as the weekend shifts on part time were worth more money than weekday shifts. The two people who filled my part time position were Maree Coyne who was the wife of manager Peter Coyne, and Rosemary Cox the wife of senior youth worker Trevor Cox.
5. I am aware that both before and after I was at JOYC that the centre had experienced major issues with the children's causing riots and damage at the centre. I believe that this had been because the facility had not been purpose built. I recall that as a result of all the riots and damage the older boys ended up being moved on to Westbrook permanently.
6. I have limited knowledge about there having being issues amongst staff with Peter Coyne. I learned of tensions during conversations with youth workers who I used to get a lift home with. From memory of these tensions were because of some staff issues and that a staff member had nearly been killed. Alarm watchers such as me had been brought in to the centre to resolve some of the issues.
7. I have some knowledge of their being an Inquiry conducted in relation to JOYC. This Inquiry would was about two years after I had left JOYC. I do not know the name of this Inquiry but remember that it had been Peter Coyne who was involved in the Inquiry. I remember my sister-in-law Jody later telling me that Peter Coyne had ended up getting a promotion and leaving JOYC after the Inquiry.

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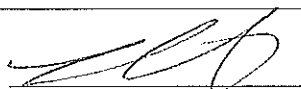


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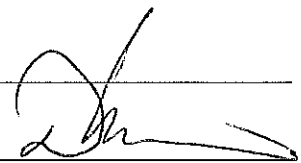


8. During my time at JOYC, things were pretty calm which I remember as being pretty ironic as there were riots both before and after I left JOYC. At no stage whilst I worked at JOYC was I ever approached or asked to provide a statement in relation to the management or functioning of JOYC.
9. The only knowledge of any sexual abuse or concerns I have in relation to JOYC related to a staff member ██████████ Peter was a married man who I remember as having problems in his marriage when I worked with him. He used to cry on my shoulder about it. I learned somewhere along the lines, probably through my sister-in-law ██████████ that ██████████ was supposed to have gotten together with ██████████ a female detainee. They were rumoured to have moved to ██████████ later having children together. I did not have any suspicious about them being in a relationship whilst I worked at JOYC as ██████████ was not that kind of bloke. ██████████ had still been working at the centre at the time I left so I don't know when events were supposed to have happened. Something makes me believe that they may have gotten together after ██████████ had been released from the centre when she was around 18 years of age. I would have learned of the rumour years later.
10. I am not sure if I was a union member whilst working at JOYC, nor do I ever recall being asked to provide or voice any concerns to the union about my employment. I have vague recollection about some staff who were union members who stated they were going to write stuff down about management of the centre. I didn't really take much interest in it. These people may have been Fred [Feige] and Brad [Parfitt]. I do not know what they were going to write down or make complaint about.
11. At no time was I ever aware of any sexual abuses or allegations of sexual abuse whilst employed at JOYC. I find it hard to believe that anything could have happened as staff always worked in pairs and there didn't seem that there would be opportunity for anything to happen.
12. At no time previously have I ever been approached by any person, Inquiry or body to provide a statement, submission or evidence of any kind in relation to my employment at JOYC or in relation to any sexual abuse allegations.

Signature of Witness:



Signature of Officer:




QCPCI Reference: Authors initials / eDocs document number


13. On Saturday 3rd October 2012 I Detective Parer attended my home address at which time I provided her with my statement in relation to this matter

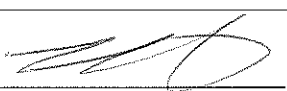
Tanya Heidi PRESTON

Declaration

This written statement by me dated 3rd November 2012 and contained in the pages numbered I to 4 is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

 Signature
Signed at Upper Mt Gravatt this 12 day of December 20 12

Witnessed:
 Signature
Name Denise Parer Rank DSC Reg. No. 10736

Signature of Witness:  Signature of Officer: 