

QUEENSLAND CHILD PROTECTION
COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

Statement of Witness

<i>Name of Witness</i>	June Yvonne WEST
<i>Date of Birth</i>	13/06/1931
<i>Address and contact details</i>	Known to Detective Senior Constable Denise PARER
<i>Occupation</i>	Retired
<i>Officer taking statement</i>	Detective Senior Constable Denise PARER
<i>Date taken</i>	28/09/2012

I, June Yvonne WEST state;

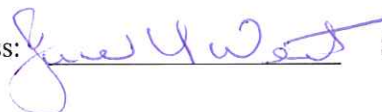
1. I am a former employee of the Department of Children's Services [herein referred to as the Department].
2. My initial contact with the department was in the capacity of nurse/youth worker at the Wilson Youth Detention Centre. I believe I commenced employment there some time around 1977. I undertook duties at Wilson for approximately 10 years before transferring to the newly open John Oxley Youth Detention Centre [herein referred to as JOYC] sometime around 1987. I undertook duties in the capacity of youth worker at JOYC for a 5 year period before retiring in 1992.
3. My role as youth worker at JOYC involved me undertaking the duties of role model, mother figure and supervisor of the children. I assisted the children in their daily duties such as meals, chores and educational programs. If the children's behaviour was poor they would be reprimanded or sent back to their rooms by the youth workers.

Signature of Witness:

Signature of Officer:

4. Upon my commencement at JOYC the manager was Peter Coyne. I would describe Peter Coyne as a marvellous man who had his finger on the pulse. I respected Peter and he respected me. Peter would write encouraging letters to staff about their performance and was very supportive during times of personal hardship. Anne Dutney, the Deputy Manager, was also very good and would write encouraging letters of endorsement and positive feedback to the staff.
5. When I had commenced at JOYC, Peter had taken over from his predecessor Terry McDermott who had big shoes to fill. Terry had been held in very high regard and as a result Peter was not readily accepted by the JOYC staff. Although this was the case I was not aware of any real issues or management problems other than there being typical conflict of personalities as with any work place. For example, on one occasion I had been given relieving as a Senior Youth Worker over others who had completed their in-service training. I recall that this had caused tensions with other youth workers who in turn made complaint to management about me having been awarded the relieving.
6. At no time during my employment at JOYC can I recall ever providing a statement to management or any union body about any issues or concerns I had about JOYC as I never had any complaints to make.
7. Whilst at JOYC I was aware in 1989/1990 that an Inquiry was being conducted in to JOYC. I recall having to attend the downstairs area of the administration section of the centre. There I spoke with a middle aged man, whose name I cannot recall, or can I remember what position he held. I do not recall what we spoke about or what questions were asked of me. I cannot even recall the general nature or purpose of this meeting. I remember that we, the staff, had not been given a choice about attending this meeting, and that other staff members had covered our shifts whilst we spoke with this man. I recall the conversation with this man had been brief as I had no complaints to make.

Signature of Witness:




Signature of Officer:



8. I was never aware of any sexual abuses or allegations of abuse at JOYC at the time of the inquiry nor did I ever speak with this man about any allegations of sexual abuses. I do not know who else spoke with this man or ever gave evidence to him or the Inquiry.
9. The only knowledge of any sexual abuses that are alleged to have occurred at JOYC relate to a young aboriginal female by the name of Annette Harding. My only knowledge of this incident I learned through later published newspaper articles. I do not have any other direct knowledge of this incident nor do I have any recollection of any staff or children ever talking about such incident.
10. I recall listening to the radio in recent times and the Heiner Inquiry being mentioned. I have not been able to understand what they were saying as I never saw or heard of any abuses during my time at JOYC.
11. I do not recall any staff members, children or person ever expressing any sexual abuse concerns to me during my time at JOYC.
12. On the 28th September 2012 Detective Parer attended my home address at which time she showed me two documents.
13. The first hand written document dated the 30th May 1988 I recognise as being written and signed by me. This document appears to outline the fact that I accompanied Annette Harding to the Mater Hospital for a medical examination. I have no memory of this incident, why or how I had come to take Annette to the hospital. The fact that I wrote the document seems unusual as when we took children out of the centre we did not necessarily have to write a report. I believe I would have had to have been instructed by someone senior for me to write such report. I have no recollection of who made such request of me or why.

Signature of Witness:



Signature of Officer:



14. I have no knowledge of the second hand written document dated 3rd October 1989 signed 'very concerned'. I am not the author of this document nor do I recognise the author of it.

15. During my period of employment I can recall some names of fellow workers. These people include: Senior Youth Workers – Eileen Bisby, Trevor Cox, Lyn Draper, Rudolph Pikelharing, Bruce Cassidy, Col Bray, Gary Truloff, and Fred Feige. I recall youth workers: Jim Douglas (Deceased), Jan French, Bruce Goggins, Loraine Hayward, 'Scotty' Healing, Marj Judd, Sabina Konnicanin, Lola Nolan, Peter Palmer, Barry Parfitt, Marina Pearce, Dave Smith, Gordon Teasdale, Lex Clements, Jill Wesche, Mark Mills, Brian Cartledge, Paul Hamson, Danny Lannen, Warren Christensen. Other staff included Peter McNeven, Sara Moynihan, Jane Thirnbeck, and Jenny Foote. Loraine McGreggor and Kit Mountany were nurses.

16. On the 28th September 2012 Detective Parer attended my home address during which time I provided her with my knowledge of these matters.

June Yvonne WEST

Declaration

This written statement by me dated 30th OCTOBER 2012 and contained in the pages numbered I to 4 is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

June Yvonne West Signature

Signed at ASPLEY this 30TH day of OCTOBER 20 12

Witnessed:

[Signature] Signature

Name D PARER Rank DBC Reg. No. 10736

Signature of Witness: June Yvonne West Signature of Officer: [Signature]