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Date: 26.11.2012

Exhibit number: 53



QUEENSLAND CHILD PROTECTION  
COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

Our reference: [eDocs document number]

Statement of Witness

<i>Name of Witness</i>	Jill Wesche
<i>Date of Birth</i>	30/05/1939
<i>Address and contact details</i>	
<i>Occupation</i>	Retired
<i>Officer taking statement</i>	Detective Sergeant J A MISON
<i>Date taken</i>	21 / 09 /2012

I, Jill Wesche state;

1. I am retired and 73 years of age.
2. I am a former youth worker and employee of the Department of Communities, [herein referred to as the department] since the 1970's.
3. I initially worked in the department at the Cleveland Youth Centre located in Townsville. I commenced working at the Cleveland Youth Centre in the late 1970's.
4. I transferred from the Cleveland Youth Centre to the John Oxley Youth Centre (JOYC) at Wacol in about 1985. The John Oxley Youth centre was a relatively new centre when I started there. I was again employed in the role of youth worker. I was mainly a casual employee. The centre operated three wings for the detainees. These wings or building blocks were called Blaxland, Lawson and Wentworth. I remember a lot of the staff being former employees of the department at the Sir Leslie Wilson centre located at Wilston. I think the manager prior to Peter Coyne had been from the centre at Wilston.
5. I remember some of the following staff working at (JOYC) back then as; Peter Coyne - manager, Trevor Cox - senior youth worker, Jimmy Douglas - youth worker, Lyne Draper - management, Bruce Goggins - youth worker, Lorraine Hayward - senior youth worker, Marge Judd - youth worker, Connie - youth worker, Peter McNeven - youth worker, A Meulenberg - teacher of manual arts, Rudy Pekalharang - youth worker, David Smith - youth worker, Bruce Cassidy - senior youth worker, Mark Mills - youth worker, Arena Karatzis - youth worker, June West - youth worker, Paul Hamson - youth worker, Colin Bray - senior youth worker, Christopher Edwards - Youth worker, Dennis Everett - youth worker, Guy Gibson also known with nickname "Jerry" - youth worker, Gary Truloff - youth worker, Daniel Lannen - youth worker, Warren Christensen - youth worker, Anne Dutney - deputy manager, Jeff Manitzky - originally youth worker then psychologist, Jody Preston - admin

Witness signature.....Jill Wesche.....Signature of officer.....[Signature].....

girl, Fred Feige – youth worker, Lex Clements – youth worker, Michael Roch – youth worker, Mariana Pierce – youth worker, Lorraine McGregor – youth worker then nurse, Olly Isaac – youth worker and Bromwyn Marshall – youth worker.

6. I remember when I was working at JOYC an incident involving a male detainee that was handcuffed to the tennis court. I remember the manager at the time, Peter Coyne, had become involved in this incident. I remember I started work at about 7am. I was instructed to sit with a lad who had been handcuffed to the tennis court fence. I was advised that the boy hadn't done what was asked of him. I was aware that the boy had been provided with a blanket as well but the young boy had put it in a drain.
7. I was still working at JOYC in 1989 to 1990. I remember back then there was an inquiry being conducted by a magistrate called Heiner into the going on's in the centre. I remember staff at the time having to be interviewed by the magistrate at the centre. I can't remember the names of the staff though.
8. I did not meet or get interviewed by Mr Heiner.
9. I did not provide Mr Heiner, the department or any union a statement about any concerns I might have at the centre.
10. I don't know much about this inquiry. All I know is that at the time some other staff, mainly former employees of the Sir Leslie Wilson Centre, were not getting on with the manager Peter Coyne.
11. At the time of this inquiry I was not a member of any union.
12. I remember sometime whilst I was at JOYC one of our staff members was dismissed for an incident involving a female detainee. This staff member started after I commenced employment at the centre. I can't remember his name but I think his nickname was ██████ as in ██████ from the ██████ cartoon strip as he was similar in appearance. I can't remember the name of the detainee but I would describe her back then as being 14 years of age, thin with blonde hair. I was not present when the actual incident occurred. I heard about it later by other staff members that something happened at a picnic. I was told by someone working at the centre that the incident occurred when the female detainee and ██████ were swimming and ██████ had fondled the detainee inappropriately. I was also made aware by a staff member that the female detainee told a teacher. I can't remember the teacher's name but I think he taught mechanics or manual arts. I am also aware that this staff member reported to management what the detainee had told him. My memory is that staff were angry at this teacher for reporting it as ██████ was well liked at the centre.
13. I am sure ██████ left the next day after it was reported. I remember when I first found out about this was when I was driving to work up Wacol Rd near JOYC. As I drove towards the centre I could see ██████ was leaving and walking away. He appeared to be crying. I then got to work and asked someone about ██████ as he was crying. It was then I was first made aware what had happened. What I was told is the information I obtained from other staff as I know in paragraph 12.
14. In 1993 I left the centre for a year long trip around Australia. I came back briefly in 1994 and worked on and off for six months before I finally left the centre.

Witness signature.....*Jill Waoche*..... Signature of officer.....*John D.*.....



15. I remember another incident I became aware of when I was working for the department. On this occasion I was working in Townsville at the Cleveland Youth Centre. This incident occurred in about late 1981 or 1982. It was just before I left to live in Brisbane. I remember this incident related to a young female detainee whom I vaguely remember her name as [REDACTED]. I remember at the time being with her in her room. The female detainee and I had a conversation. The detainee told me she was worried and terrified of being pregnant. I remember telling the girl you can't be as you have been in the centre for a period of time. Around this time I was then made aware that it wasn't a male detainee but another male staff member who had been having sexual relations with the detainee whom I remember as [REDACTED]. Whilst chatting with other staff I was made aware that the staff member involved with [REDACTED] was a Thursday Islander whom I know as [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]. I do recall this staff member [REDACTED] did leave the centre shortly after. As far as I know there were no charges about the incident. I also remember at the time two female staff members working at the centre left because they were not happy about how this incident was dealt with. I think one of the women was a former nun. I can't remember the manager of the centre's name at the time but I remember he was an American fellow.
16. On Friday the 21<sup>st</sup> of September 2012 I met with Detectives Mison and Parer where I had a conversation about by my time with the department. During this conversation Detective Mison showed me a piece of paper containing handwriting signed "very concerned". After viewing this piece of paper I can state I am not the author of this handwriting. I also do not recognise whose handwriting is on the document.

**Declaration**

This written statement by me dated 21-9-12 and contained in the pages numbered 1 to 3 is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signed at Jill Weasle Signature  
Brisbane this 21st day of September 2012

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