



NSW POLICE FORCE

P190A

Version 4.2 (07/06)

## STATEMENT OF A WITNESS

**In the matter of:** Strike Force GLENROE  
**Place:** Caloundra  
**Date:** 18<sup>th</sup> November 2012

**Name:** CPE

### STATES:

1. This statement made by me accurately sets out the evidence that I would be prepared, if necessary, to give in court as a witness. The statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I will be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything that I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.
2. I am 64 years of age.
3. In making this statement, I have refreshed my memory from a previous statement of mine which was sworn before Jonathan DAVIS, a solicitor at Ryan & Bosscher Lawyers in Sydney, on the 28<sup>th</sup> January 2005. I will discuss the reasons behind this statement later on in this statement.
4. I was born in Moree on the [REDACTED] 1948. I lived in Moree for sixty one years before I moved to Queensland with my husband [REDACTED]. As a result of our marriage we have three children, [REDACTED] 71),<sup>CPD</sup> (dob [REDACTED]73) and [REDACTED] 75).
5. Our family were practising Catholics and would attend St Francis Xavier's Catholic Church most Sundays.
6. All of my children went to St Philomena's Primary School in Moree where I also worked as a finance administration officer. I was employed at the school from 1980- 2008. During my time at the school, I also served on the parish finance council. In these days, the parish owned the school and still do today. Due to this, I had involvement with the priests and knew them well.
7. For the majority of my employment, Mon signor RYAN was in charge of the parish.

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8. When <sup>CPD</sup> was in year three in 1981, he volunteered himself to become an altar boy for St Francis Xavier's Church. This is something that he chose to do himself and I don't believe that there was any outside pressure by anyone for him to become one. This was just a general practice for the church to approach children of this age.
9. <sup>CPD</sup> served as an altar boy for three to three and a half years and only stopped when he went away to High School.
10. Sometime around the early 80's, Father Farrell came to work at St Francis Xavier's Church. I found Father Farrell to be overfriendly and could be rather cocky at times. He was more of a friendly nuisance to me.
11. Despite this, we welcomed Father Farrell into our home which saw him attend our place on numerous occasions to have dinner with us. He was really good to us and around the time that my mother **REDACTED** was ill with cancer, he took the time to minister to her, right up until she passed away.
12. I am unable to recall these dates, but during <sup>CPD</sup> time as an altar boy, he did go on day trips and overnight trips with Father FARRELL to assist with mass in neighbouring towns. There was nothing every mention at the time by <sup>CPD</sup> which suggested mistreatment by Father FARRELL. I have learnt in recent years though that this was not the case. I will touch on this subject further on in my statement.
13. Sometime between March and June of 1984, I attended a Parents and Friends meeting at our school. The meeting had finished and we were all having a cup of tea as usual. Whilst speaking to <sup>CPQ</sup>, a parent of another child at the school, I enquired with her as to why she stopped her son from being an altar boy. Her response was words to the affect of "Surely you know what is going on with Father FARRELL."
- I said, "What do you mean?"
- She said words to the effect of "Father Farrell was interfering with the boys."
14. Upon hearing this, I was in shock and in disbelief. I immediately went home to speak to <sup>CPD</sup> about what I had just heard but was not able to, as he was asleep. The following morning I

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approached <sup>CPD</sup> and asked him directly 'Has father Farrell ever touched you?'

<sup>CPD</sup> immediately burst into tears and said to us "Yes, but I cannot get him into trouble".

15. I was extremely shocked and blown away by what <sup>CPD</sup> had told me. I never questioned <sup>CPD</sup> further about what he told me. The next course of action I took was I contacted the parish priest Mon Signor RYAN and requested for him to meet me at my place at 9.30am.

16. The following morning at 9.30am, Mon Signor RYAN attended my home. My husband was present at the time however, did not say anything during the discussion. I said to monsignor Ryan "Do you know that Father Farrell is interfering with the boys?" He acted really surprised by this. He thought the reasons for calling him over were for marital problems.

17. I said to him, 'No I called you here because he is interfering with the boys.' He responded "You know I will need to go and ask him (referring to Father Farrell) about it."

I said, "Ok" and he soon left.

18. By noon that day I became aware that Father Farrell had packed and left Moree. I am unsure who told me that. I later spoke with Sister Regina Mcinerney (deceased) and asked her advice on the pros and cons about taking further action. I was worried they would make life difficult for <sup>CPD</sup>. I remember her saying that the church had a large amount of money to fight such allegations and the negative effect on children whose case could not be proven would be damaging to them. She offered some good advice and left it open for me to make my own decision.

19. As parents we decided not to take things further at the time, because we just wanted to protect <sup>CPD</sup> and really weren't aware of the full extent of his abuse. Should we had known the full extent of things, our decisions would have been different.

20. There is nothing more that I can add to this statement in regards to what occurred from here on in. Everything that I can recall happening is covered in my statement dated 28<sup>th</sup> January 2005.

21. Sometime in either 2003 or 2004, <sup>CPD</sup> and I met with Bishop Luke MATTHYES, a representative from the Catholic Church and a representative from the Broken Rights Group. This meeting took place in Sydney at Saint Mary's Cathedral. The purpose of this meeting was

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to allow <sup>CPD</sup> to put forward his case to the church authorities. I am sure that this meeting was organised by <sup>CPD</sup> but I am unsure his reasoning for arranging this. He just asked me to attend for support.

22. It was during this meeting that I became aware of the extent of <sup>CPD</sup> abuse by Father Farrell. At present, I don't wish to comment on what I heard. This is something for <sup>CPD</sup> to tell you. What I will say is that <sup>CPD</sup> was sexually abused on many occasions by Father Farrell, some of which are quite sickening.

23. Nothing further came of this meeting and I thought that it was a waste of time. <sup>CPD</sup> did however, receive correspondence from Bishop MATTHYES just to acknowledge the meeting and to acknowledge that there would be no further follow-up by the church. At some stage, I did see this letter but I am unable to provide any further details contained in it. I no longer have a copy of this letter but <sup>CPD</sup> might.

24. About 1 year later after this meeting, <sup>CPD</sup> was contacted to the best of my knowledge from someone from broken rights. This person requested <sup>CPD</sup> to provide a statement that could be used to support <sup>CPK</sup> S' case. I have no knowledge of <sup>CPK</sup> prior to this.

25. To my knowledge <sup>CPD</sup> made this statement and upon completion, they contacted me and asked whether I would make one. I was quite happy to assist, so I provided them with a statement outlining what I knew in regards to Father Farrell. To this date, I have never seen the statement made by <sup>CPD</sup>

26. In regards to <sup>CPK</sup> case, I heard that there was a settlement made between him and the Catholic Church for a large amount of money. Both <sup>CPD</sup> and I were never required to give evidence at court for this matter.

27. I was only aware of two children whom were abused by Father Farrell. They are <sup>CPF</sup> <sup>CPF</sup> and <sup>REDACTED</sup>. In regards to <sup>CPF</sup>, I found this out through his mother <sup>CPG</sup> whilst I was working with her. I am unable to recall the conversations in the past that I had with her but do remember that she never went into the specifics of <sup>CPF</sup> abuse with me. This came out around the time that Father Farrell was shifted out of the town. In regards to <sup>REDACTED</sup> I became aware of his abuse when it went to court and people in the

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town were gossiping about it. I have never had a direct conversation with his family about his abuse.

28. In regards to CPD I have no memories of specifically raising CPD abuse with any other persons. Others have however indicated their awareness to me of CPD abuse and did offer their support should CPD decide to take things further. Three people that stand out to me as offering their support are Rick JOHNSTON (director for Catholic Education in Armidale); Bernadette DE DASSELL (Ex principal) and Karen JAGERS (Current principal). I have gone into knowing what they know with them.
29. So many things happen at that point in time that it is possible that I spoke with others about Father Farrell.
30. During this year, I became aware of other children that were abused by Father Farrell as a result of a number of TV programs being aired. These programs were the 7.30 report and Four Corners. Up until viewing these programs, I had no knowledge that these children had been abused.
31. Whilst making this statement, I handed Detective WILLIAMS a copy of my statement dated the 28<sup>th</sup> January 2005. Referring to the statement handed to Detective WILLIAMS, I must make mention to some dates which I changed on page two, point 4 & 5. These changes I believe were made at the time of making the statement and were done in front the solicitor.

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