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STATEMENT

STATEMENT OF: The Reverend Donald Grey-Smith
 ADDRESS: REDACTED SA 5019
 OCCUPATION: Retired
 DATE OF BIRTH: 16 November 1931
 TELEPHONE: REDACTED
 REFERENCE: PGJ/ 8648904 / kal

Mr Brandenburg – General

As far as I can remember, I first met Mr Brandenburg in 1974 when I was the Rector at Ceduna. Whilst at Ceduna I thought it would be a good idea to establish a CEBS branch and this was done. I recall that Mr Brandenburg visited on 27 September 1974. I recall that he visited on another occasion and stayed with us overnight on 21 November 1974.

I recall that in January 1975 we had a CEBS camp at Fowler Bay. I recall Mr Brandenburg attended that camp and brought some CEBS boys from Magill. I recall that Mr Brandenburg and the boys from Magill were on "very familiar terms". In saying this I am not suggesting that there was any untoward physical behaviour but rather Mr Brandenburg and the boys were very "close". They were like a family. I do recall that associated with this camp was a car accident. A number of boys were being driven home and the car rolled. This was some distance away. I can recall someone approaching me and prefacing their statement by saying:- "*There is nothing to worry about.*" Of course, when you hear that you immediately start to worry. I was then informed that someone had been injured. I then travelled to the accident scene and was concerned all the way because I knew that my son was in the car. However, on arriving at the scene I found that the occupants of the car were on their way

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back to Ceduna. It was some time before I was able to ring Ceduna. I was relieved to find out that my son was not injured. However, after that, I then felt guilty in relation to the boy who had suffered a broken jaw.

Mr Brandenburg was a regular visitor to Ceduna and Broadview.

Therefore, I knew him well. I would describe our relationship as a work-related relationship. I never went to his house.

Mr Brandenburg's Personality

I would have described Mr Brandenburg as someone who had the CEBS boys' interests at heart. There was really nothing else in his life apart from CEBS. It seemed that he spent his weekdays in the CEBS and GFS Shop on King William Street and then in the evenings would attend various CEBS branches. On occasions I would meet him at various Diocesan functions.

The REDACTED Allegations

[PGJ put to the Reverend Grey-Smith the allegations made by the CBB, i.e. that in the late 1970's there was a meeting at St Theodore's at Toorak Gardens at which time Mr CBB the Reverend Grey-Smith, Mr Oermann, Mr Brandenburg and Archdeacon Brian Smith were present. During that meeting allegations of sexual impropriety were put to Mr Brandenburg which he admitted. However, Mr Brandenburg requested that he not be reported to the police. He said that he would not misbehave again. PGJ asking the Reverend Grey-Smith to comment in relation to these allegations.]

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I do recall that around the time of REDACTED's 21st birthday party (7 May 1977) that CBC approached me and raised some concerns in relation to Mr Brandenburg. The concerns were raised more in a conversational setting rather than a formal complaint. At the time I was the Rector at Broadview and the REDACTEDs were parishioners. I seem to recall that the concerns were in relation to REDACTED and not the younger son, REDAC RED was no longer living at home at the time. I have no recollection of a meeting at Toorak Gardens.

I do recall that there was a meeting but I do not remember where. Looking at my diaries I see from the entries dated 15 February 1978 and 19 February 1978 I did have a meeting with Archdeacon Brian Smith. If you look at my diary entries you will note that the appointments with Archdeacon Brian Smith were "squeezed in" between other appointments. This suggests to me that these meetings may have been arranged at the last minute. In relation to these meetings, I have no recollection as to where they were held; no recollection as to who was present; no recollection as to the date/time; and no recollection as to the reason for nor the content of the meetings.

However, I do recall that there was some discussion concerning allegations of sexual misconduct on the part of Mr Brandenburg. I cannot recall what the allegations were.

However, I do recall that Mr Brandenburg responded to the allegations with words to the effect:

"I am not a homosexual."

I recall that Mr Brandenburg was outraged with the allegations.

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I also recall that I was angry with his response because of the prevailing confusion between homosexuality and paedophilia. Just because someone might be homosexual does not mean that they are a paedophile.

Apart from my diaries I did not keep any records or minutes of that meeting. At the time I did not keep detailed records. That was not my practice. All I have are my diaries. I do not recall there being any follow-up after this meeting.

Apart from this meeting I was not aware of any other allegations against Mr Brandenburg until those allegations became public around the time that he committed suicide. There was nothing about his behaviour that suggested to me any untoward sexual conduct on his part. When I learnt of the allegations my response on the one hand was "surprise" (particularly in relation to the number of victims over the time and space alleged) but on the other hand I was "not surprised". I say "not surprised" in light of the REDACTED incident referred to above.

Mr Oermann

I suggest that you follow up Mr Jim Oermann who I think now lives at Manningham. If there was such a meeting and if he was present then he would probably have a better recollection. I say this because he was an engineer and is also a very organised person.

My knowledge of sex abuse within the Church

It was not really until the 90's that sex abuse within the Church and other institutions started to emerge. It was not really an issue in the 1970's. We had no knowledge of it and were not trained to deal with it.

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I have had two other experiences in relation to sex abuse or sex abuse allegations. The first related to Mr REDACTE. CBC made a complaint about Mr RED. He had some loose connection with CEBS at Broadview. I put the allegation to Mr RED. It was not a specific allegation but rather one of inappropriate behaviour. He denied the allegation. The matter was not followed up any further.

My second experience was in relation to the Reverend REDACT. He was a contemporary of mine. When he was charged and going through Court I would attend Court by way of support. However, that was my only involvement.

Memory

[PGJ suggesting to the Reverend Grey-Smith that surely if there had been such a meeting with Mr Brandenburg and allegations of sexual misconduct made, that these would be indelibly printed on his mind.]

I agree. However, I cannot say why I do not have a detailed recollection of that meeting. The fact is I don't. It may well be that at the time I felt out-of-my-depth and did not know what to do. It may well be that I have repressed some memory of it. It may well be that I interpreted what was said by Mr Brandenburg as a denial, and therefore it left no lasting impression. I have studied the entries in my diary from 12 to 25 February 1978, and cannot recall any of the other events in detail either.

Enquiries

I recall that I have discussed my recollection of the meeting in the 1970's with Archdeacon Collas. I think that may have been sometime in 2002 when he was Chair of the Sexual Abuse Task Group.

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I have also been contacted by the Board of Inquiry (Mr Olsson) and have responded to the Board by writing a letter. The gist of my response to the Board is similar to what I have told you. I have not been asked to give evidence before the Board yet but may well be asked to do so.

CEBS

CEBS is or was a very much grass roots organisation and at parish level is or was a self-supporting/self-controlling body. The driving force behind each CEBS branch is the local Branch Governor – he is the key person. The parish priest played a figurehead role. Apart from this, Mr Brandenburg would have had a lot of input and, in addition, there were a number of booklets that would provide assistance.

The **REDACTED**s

I still know the **REDACTED**s and bump into them occasionally. I do not see them on any regular basis.

Archbishop Reed

[PGJ enquiring of the Reverend Grey-Smith whether he knew Archbishop Reed and what type of man he was.]

I knew Archbishop Reed. He was the Archbishop who ordained me. However, I do not really know how he operated on a day-to-day basis. Our relationship was *formal*.

However, I imagine, that if an Archbishop did receive a complaint of sexual abuse perpetrated by someone within the Church, then they would experience a real conflict with

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there being *concern* for the victim on the one hand and also *concern* for the perpetrator on the other hand.

Relationship between Priest and Synod

Priests within the Anglican Church perceive themselves as self-employed people and are regarded so by the Australian Taxation Office. In my day the priest was a servant of the parish and was, in effect, *on-call* all the time. A priest was not paid for the work that he did but rather received a *living* or a *stipend*. The living would be raised through the Sunday collection or, alternatively, some form of planned-giving.

PGJ

Thursday, 18 December 2003

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