



STATEMENT OF WITNESS

Statement of: [REDACTED] Age: Over 18

This statement, consisting of 5 page(s) signed by me is true to the best of my knowledge and belief. I know that this statement is to be used for the purpose of a prosecution and that if it contains material which I know to be false or misleading, I will be guilty of an offence.

Dated the 7th of November, 2002

Signed: [REDACTED]

Witnessed by (name): B.J. Farrington
of (address): Cf Port Adelaide CIB.

Signature of Witness: [Signature] 1830 7/11/02

I was a teacher at the St. Ann's Special School between October 1983 until December 2000.

St. Ann's is located at 37 Finmiss Street, Marion.

When I commenced at the school the principal was Sister [REDACTED] who left at the end of 1984. A teacher at the school Claude Hamam then became principal.

I was responsible for teaching the group of children between the ages of 16-21 years. I commenced a wood working program at the school in about 1984. The facilities were already in existence but were not being utilised. I have no knowledge of the previous wood working program that was offered. The wood working shed was a double garage that was situated adjacent to the school administration building.

Signed: [REDACTED] Signature witnessed by: [Signature]

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When I commenced the wood working program it was mainly with my group of students and would be a one and a half hour session per week. Occasionally other teachers would send one or two students from their class to join in the wood working. During the year the students would make very small wood working and plastics items such as spice rack holders, recipe book holders, key holders, money boxes etc.

I remember that in the late 1980's a person who I know as Brian Perkins was employed by the school as a Bus Driver. Brian was involved in the bus driving initially and then attempted to become a teacher's assistant. I do know that Brian did a couple of days of payed employment with a class of 13-15 year old students assisting the teacher. The teacher of this class at the time was REDAC (I can't remember her surname). He also did a couple of days of voluntary work with the junior classes. The work would involve toileting the children, helping with reading and general assistance to the teachers within the classroom. This teaching assistance went on for at least two weeks on and off and then the situation was brought up within a school staff meeting. It was decided that Brian did not have the skills to continue in that role. From that time Brian continued with his bus driving duties and general voluntary assistance.

Brian's voluntary involvement in the school activities included the pedal prix. This was an annual event which would normally take all year to prepare for. Brian assisted in every phase. These included designing the bikes, building the bikes, practice sessions and the event itself. Some of the building preparation was completed at St. Ann's in the wood work shed but the majority was built at the Seacombe Gardens High School.

Signed: ... REDACTED

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I cannot provide exact dates but some time after Brian commenced at St. Ann's he was also involved in taking one or two children into the wood working shed. I am aware that he would work with them on projects that he was making for himself or repairs to his personal wooden items. He would also assist them in finishing off very simple projects that I they had started in class with me, such as the spice rack holders etc. I do not remember all of the students Brian was involved with.

I do remember that there were some boys at the school that had a very special relationship with Brian. One in particular was LH who was always keen to be with Brian in the wood working shed. This was partly to get out of academic work which he did not like. LH would have been in REDACTED's class at that time. I have knowledge of this as I would be in the wood working shed when LH would come in with Brian. I also was aware that LH would go and stay at Brian's home on the weekends. The other student that I remember that would request to do wood work with Brian was REDACTED. I am not sure if she actually did or not. I do remember her joining my wood work class on occasions.

Brian did do his own work in the wood work shed during lunch times and class times. This would mainly be on his own projects. My wood work class was generally every Monday afternoon between 1.30 and 2.50 p.m. This was the only official class for wood working at the school. It was well known within the school that children would request to be with Brian in the wood working shed at various times within the school week.

Brian would do his bus run in the mornings and sometimes stay on at the school until lunch time doing general work around the school including his own work in the wood work shed.

Signed: REDACTED

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Or he would come in very early for his afternoon bus run and do a couple of hours work in the shed. I am unable to accurately remember how many children did wood work with Brian, the only child I saw was LH. I do know that there were up to six children that had requested to do the wood work with Brian but I can't say whether they did or not. Of these six the only one I can remember is REDACTED. I remember seeing Brian with LH in the wood working shed by themselves. I am unable to remember how many times, the date or year but do remember that it was at least twice.

Brian would also help me as a volunteer assistant during the wood working class. I also had a paid teacher's assistant helping me. I had different assistants throughout the years, I can't remember who was helping me when Brian was employed at the school. Brian did help me on occasions with the woodwork program for the majority of the time he was associated with the school.

I am unable to remember seeing anything suspicious relative to Brian's behaviour in the wood working shed. I do remember during the second year of our pedal prix involvement that Brian indicated that when student's involved in the prix became tired that they could sleep in his car. I am not sure if any student's did actually sleep in his car. I was a bit concerned at the time and requested that all students remain together to use the sleeping arrangements we had set up. The arrangements were a tent on the lawn area adjacent the track. This was supervised by at least three staff and or parents on a rotating officer for the 24 hrs of the event.

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The door to the wood working shed faced north towards the principals office and opened outwards. There were windows facing north, east and south of chest to above head height. These windows were not obscured. The key to the shed was accessible to all staff including Brian. The key was on a key rack in the Administration Office.

Signed: REDACTED

Signature witnessed by: 