

QP125.E 6/96	QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE STATEMENT OF WITNESS	Statement No.		Date	12/1/97
STATEMENT OF					
Name of Witness (in full)	Noel Thomas Michael HYNES			Age	62
Occupation	Catholic Priest	Date of Birth:	REDACT		
Police Officer taking Statement:	MM WILLIAMS	Rank & Reg. No.	REDACT	Station	R'ton JAB

Noel HYNES states,

1. I am a 62 year old male and a priest with the Catholic church. I was ordained in 1958 in Rome. I spent most of my childhood growing up in Bundaberg. I am currently the Parish Priest situated at St Patricks Catholic Church in Power Street, Bundaberg. I have been in Bundaberg since February 1987.

2. I know a priest by the name of Father Reginald DURHAM. I have known Reg DURHAM for years. I knew Reg before I was ordained. Reg was a priest when I first met him. Reg's family lived in Bundaberg and I recall he used to visit him family in Bundaberg on occasion.

3. Reg is currently retired and is residing in the presbytery at Neerkol, which is just outside of Rockhampton. Reg still does some parish work as adminstrator of the parish.

4. After being ordained, I served in the Catholic Church throughout Queensland and Sydney.

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5. In January or February 1994, while I was serving at Bundaberg, I was appointed as the contact person when allegations of sexual abuse by church personnell were made, in the Rockhampton Diocese. I was appointed to this position by Bishop HEENAN who was and still is the Bishop of Rockhampton.

6. About a month after I was appointed to this position, I recall that I was in Brisbane attending to a meeting at the Catholic Centre in Edward Street. It was after the meeting, when I spoke with a female person by the name of Myoline CARRICK. At the time Myoline was a contact person for responding to allegations of sexual abuse by Catholic Personnel in the Brisbane Diocese.

7. I recall that it was on the day after this meeting that I had a private conversation with Myoline in her office. I recall that Myoline informed my that a woman by the name of AYB **REDACTED**, had made a complaint against Father DURHAM of sexual abuse on her as a child. At this stage I did not know AYB and had never met her. We talked about this for a short time. After the meeting I returned to Rockhampton.

8. About a week or two later, Myoline contacted me by phone and I had a conversation with her.

9. Either that day or within the next day or so, I contacted Bishop HEENAN, by phone and informed him of the complaint and the allegations. A meeting between myself and Father

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DURHAM was organised by Bishop HEENAN. The reason for this meeting was for me to inform Father DURHAM of the complaint and the allegations and to see if he would agree to attend a meeting with [AYB] in Brisbane. This meeting in Brisbane was at the request of [AYB].

10. Within a week, I travelled to Rockhampton and attended Bishop HEENAN'S , residence in Ward Street, Rockhampton. Bishop HEENAN picked me up from the airport and drove me to his residence. A short time after we arrived at his house, Father DURHAM arrived.

11. I recall Bishop HEENAN greeting father DURHAM and explained that I was present as there was a matter I had to discuss with him. This conversation took place in the front lounge room. I recall that Bishop HEENAN then left the room.

12. I recall that I said words to the effect of,

"We have received a complaint from [AYB].
[AYB] alleges that you sexually abused her when she was a child."

13. I think I then said, 'What's your comment on that.'

14. I cannot recall the specific response that Father DURHAM gave me. I recall that he did not say much at all.

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15. I do recall him saying words to the effect of,

16. "AYB [] used to come over to the presbytery to help as her mother used to send her over. AYB [] has a tendency to go on a bit."

17. I recall Father DURHAM saying, "There was no sexual intercourse."

18. I can not recall if Father DURHAM admitted to any other form of sexual abuse on AYB []. I can only recall him denying that he had sexual intercourse with AYB []. This meeting did not last long and this was all I can remember about the meeting.

19. Father DURHAM did agree to attend this meeting with AYB [] in Brisbane.

20. On 4th of May 1994, I attended Hendra Presbytery with Father DURHAM for this meeting with AYB []. I do not recall why I attended with Father DURHAM. I think Bishop HEENAN may have requested that I attend with Father DURHAM. I recall that Myoline CARRICK also was present at this meeting. The meeting was conducted in the front lounge of the presbytery.

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21. The meeting mainly consisted of [AYB] making statements about how much she has suffered and how the sexual abuse had knocked her esteem around. I recall that [AYB] had prepared a service which we all took part in during the meeting. I can not recall anything else she said.

22. I can not recall Father DURHAM asking [AYB] any questions about the sexual abuse, during this meeting. In fact I can not recall him saying much at all during this entire meeting.

23. I do recall [AYB] asking him, "Why, why me."

24. I recall that his reply was,

25. "I don't know."

26. I know there must have been more conversation had at the meeting, but I can not recall anything else.

27. Towards the end of the meeting [AYB] had a private conversation with Father DURHAM.

28. After this meeting I left Brisbane and travelled back to Bundaberg. I did not talk to Father DURHAM at all about this meeting. I did not take any notes at the meeting and I only made brief comments in relation to the Service that [AYB] had prepared.

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29. I have not mentioned these allegations or discussed this matter with Father DURHAM after this meeting. I have not had much contact with Father DURHAM since this meeting.

30. On Sunday the 12th of January 1997, I attended the Bundaberg Police Station where I supplied this statement to Detective WILLIAMS.

N. HYNES

OATHS ACT 1867-1988

I make this solemn declaration by virtue of the provisions of the Oaths Act 1867-1988 that:-

- (1) This written statement by me dated 12/1/97 and contained in the foregoing pages numbered 1 to is true to the best of my knowledge and belief; and
- (2) I make it knowing that, if it were admitted as evidence, I would be liable to prosecution if I stated in it anything that I knew to be false.

.....Signature

Taken and declared before me at Bundaberg

this 12th day of 1997

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