

## STATEMENT OF RON COCHRANE

I, RON COCHRANE, c/- Brisbane Grammar School, Gregory Terrace, Brisbane, Senior Sports Administrator, state as follows:

1. I am currently a Senior Sports Administrator employed by the Brisbane Grammar School. I have worked at the School as a teacher and boarding house master since May 1980. Accordingly, I have had a continuous period of service of 22 years. From 1980 to 1997 I was the Senior Resident House Master of the boarding house.
2. Before I began working at Brisbane Grammar, I worked at Rockhampton Grammar. As a consequence of that position, I knew many of the masters at Brisbane Grammar and, it was through that connection, that I ended up working at the School.

### Affidavit of Bruce David Brown

3. I have seen a copy of the affidavit of Bruce Brown which includes, amongst other things, some allegations about me. Mr Brown alleges that he has been informed by <sup>BQD</sup> that I gave a detention to <sup>BQD</sup> for missing an appointment with Mr Lynch. He also alleges that <sup>BQD</sup> told me that Kevin Lynch "made me pull down my pants and he touched me." It is also alleged that I responded to <sup>BQD</sup>'s complaint by saying words to the effect, "That's rubbish - don't be so stupid."
4. I recall <sup>BQD</sup>. He was a problem boy. He had little understanding of appropriate behaviour. I seem to recall that his father had been in <sup>REDACTED</sup> and then worked as a <sup>REDACTED</sup> in <sup>REDACTED</sup>. As a consequence, <sup>BQD</sup> and his other siblings were brought up by his mother. I recall <sup>BQD</sup> had a younger brother, <sup>REDACTED</sup> who was a good cricketer. I had more to do with <sup>REDACTED</sup> than <sup>BQD</sup> through my cricket coaching activities.

5. <sup>BQD</sup> was at the boarding school when I commenced as Senior Resident House Master in May 1980. Initially, he was simply one of 168 other boarders under my care.
6. It has been alleged that I referred <sup>BQD</sup> to counselling with Lynch. In my entire time at the School, I believe I never referred a boy to counselling. This is because I primarily regarded the guidance of boarders as my responsibility. Additionally, I never particularly warmed to Lynch and, because of these two reasons, I am confident that I would never have referred anyone to see him.
7. As I have mentioned, I was not friendly with Lynch. I suppose you could say I was part of the sporting/rugby group at the school and Lynch certainly wasn't part of that group. To my mind, he was something of an old gossip. Additionally, I had a falling out with him in about 1983/84. At that time, Mr Coote, the School Deputy Head Master, was Acting Head Master because Max Howell was away on a course. A computer was stolen from the school and it seems that Lynch and Coote formed the view that it was taken by a particular boarder. They attended at the boarding house one night with the intention of searching the boy's personal belongings. I refused to allow them to come into the boarding house. From that time on, there was a degree of ill feeling between myself and Lynch.
8. It is also alleged that I gave <sup>BQD</sup> a detention for missing an appointment with Lynch. I have never given a boy a detention. I never really agreed with detentions as a technique to modify behaviour. To me, forcing a boy to work out of school hours was an exercise in futility - how could that change a boy's behaviour for the better?
9. Without resiling from the general proposition that I did not give detentions, it seems to me ludicrous to suggest that anyone would be given a detention for not attending a session of counselling. Presumably, counselling is a voluntary exercise and if a boy didn't want to attend that would seem to me to be the end of the matter.

10. I deny that <sup>BQD</sup> ever told me that Lynch had touched him in an inappropriate way. I am absolutely certain that if he had said that to me I would remember it. Further, I would have immediately reported the matter to the Head Master.
11. Mr Brown's affidavit also mentions me in the context of <sup>BQF</sup>. Once again, I remember <sup>BQF</sup>. He was an attention seeker and was always trying to attract attention to himself. I spent a lot of time with him trying to overcome his behavioural problems. Ultimately he went on to represent the School at swimming. Whilst he had some problems, he was a totally different proposition to <sup>BQD</sup>. As I mentioned, he was an attention seeker and generally a bit quirky.
12. I deny that <sup>BQF</sup> told me Lynch pressed his fingers into the area above <sup>BQF</sup>'s penis or that Lynch had instructed him to masturbate in Lynch's presence. If I had been told such things I would have immediately reported them to the Head Master.

**Allegation by** REDACTED

13. I do not recall REDACTED I deny he ever made any complaint to me about inappropriate behaviour by Kevin Lynch. Had he done so I would have reported the matter to the Headmaster. Also, had he made such complaint I would remember him.

**Knowledge of Lynch's activities**

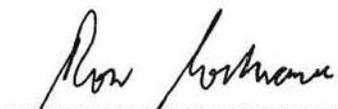
13. The first I knew of Lynch's improper dealings with boys was when I read about it in the *Courier Mail*. I was totally amazed when I read the report. I had absolutely no idea before that time that he had been involved in such activities.
14. Shortly after reading the report I contacted an old boy of the School, who had been a prefect and captain of rugby, Michael Ware. Michael was a *Courier Mail* journalist at that time. I asked him if he knew about Lynch and he said that he had. I said to him

that he should have told me or one of the other senior masters. Michael seemed to think this was asking a little much of him.

### Other Incidents

15. During my teaching career, I have been involved in a few other incidents relating to sexual impropriety in Schools. In about 1977, when I was the Senior Boarding Master at Rockhampton Grammar, two senior boys came to my room one night and woke me while I was sleeping. They told me about an improper dealing between a Year 9 boy and a Master, [REDACTED]. I immediately went and woke the Head Master, who contacted the Chairman of Trustees. The Head Master, Chairman and I then went to [REDACTED] room and woke him and put the allegation to him. He accepted the allegation and left the School immediately. The Head Master subsequently reported the incident to the police. I believe Mr [REDACTED] was charged.
16. Quite a few years later, [REDACTED] by chance got a job at Brisbane Grammar as a relieving teacher. He saw me and it was obvious that each of us recognised each other. He said to me words to the effect, 'If you say anything about Rockhampton Grammar I won't have a job.' I told him that I was going to say something about what I knew of him and I immediately went and spoke to Mr Coote, who was the Acting Head Master at the time. Mr Coote summonsed Mr [REDACTED] and asked him to leave the School immediately.

DATED this 30<sup>th</sup> day of May 2002.

  
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**RON COCHRANE**

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