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STATEMENT OF RAYMOND JAMES CROSS

C/- ST MARGARETS ANGLICAN GIRLS SCHOOL

11 PETRIE STREET, ASCOT, BRISBANE

- 1 My formal qualifications are B.SC. (University of Melbourne), Master of Education (University of Melbourne) T.S.T.C., M.A.C.E..
- 2 I commenced my teaching career in 1965. From 1965 until 1976 I was employed as a teacher by the Victorian Education Department in various schools throughout Victoria. During that period I occupied various positions of added responsibility, such as Head of Year or Subject Head.
- 3 I was appointed as Master in charge of Grades 8 and 9 at Brisbane Grammar School (BGS) from 1 January 1977 and I remained in that position until February 1982 when I resigned to pursue business interests. During 1986 and 1987 I was employed as Head of the Senior School (grades 10,11 & 12) at John Paul College. From 1988 I have worked as a Mathematics teacher at St. Margarets Anglican Girl's School with the exception of the period from July 1996 to June 1997 (when I was the General Manager of the University of Queensland Rugby Club). My position at BGS was approximately half administrative and half teaching. My responsibilities included the pastoral care of the Grade 8 and Grade 9 students. I reported direct to the Headmaster, Mr Max Howell, but I also worked fairly closely with the Deputy Headmaster, Mr Trevor Baker-Finch. I would generally speak to Mr Howell on a daily basis.

BQE

- 4 I understand that BQE [REDACTED] BGS in 1977 which was the year I commenced at BGS. I have no recollection of BQE [REDACTED]. I have seen a copy of page 5 of a report in respect of BQE [REDACTED] in which he alleges two conversations took place with me in the latter part of 1977. It was common for me to see students individually in my office on the top floor of the New Building adjacent to the main quadrangle. Such meetings could take place any time from 7.30am to 5.00pm and would be instigated by me for a variety of reasons such as where a student may have poor academic results, where there was a discipline issue or where a student had personal problems.



5 I have no recollection of either conversation referred to by BQE taking place. In respect of the second conversation I do not believe that BQE said the words, or anything like the words, alleged. Had he done so then I have no doubt I would have recollected the conversation firstly, because of the serious allegation being made and, secondly, because I would have acted on the conversation. The mere fact of the allegation would have required me to act whether or not I thought the allegation had any substance. No allegation of such a nature has ever been made to me during my teaching career. Had I had the conversation with a student at that time then I would have:

- Taken a note of the conversation, and
- Immediately reported the matter to the Headmaster.

I would not have taken steps to investigate the allegation myself. As the allegation involved legal and staffing matters I would have considered it outside my area of responsibility and authority and a matter that could only be dealt with by the Headmaster.

6 Further, had such an allegation been made to me I would not have gone into a rage as suggested. While my responsibilities included student discipline I would not respond to such an allegation in the way suggested.

7 For me to fail to act on such an allegation is not believable. I am known to be supportive of optimal pastoral care for each student. At that time I was newly appointed to a position of responsibility at BGS. I had developed a very professional relationship with the Headmaster and was entirely committed to the institution, my role and teaching as a career. To ignore such an allegation would be in total conflict of my appointed role. Furthermore, I have no doubt an incorrect decision of this nature would most probably lead to demotion or possibly termination.

As stated above the pastoral care of students was my specific responsibility inclusive of assistance to students at risk .

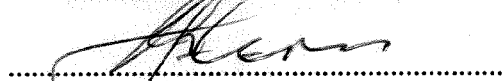
Mr Kevin Lynch

8 I had no knowledge of Mr Lynch prior to my appointment at BGS. I formed the

view that Mr Lynch was an excellent School Counselor. I referred many students to him and there were a number of students with whom Mr. Lynch and I worked contemporaneously. The first time I became aware of improper behavior by Mr Lynch was when I read about it in the press. I had two sons both of whom attended BGS. My eldest son was at BGS from 1985 to 1989, boarding in 1985 in grade 8, at a time when I was not employed by BGS and when I knew Mr Lynch continued to be employed by BGS. I was comforted by the fact that my son, as a Grade 8 boarder, would have access to Mr Lynch as School Counselor.

- 9 My youngest son attended BGS from 1992 to 1996. He experienced some difficulties at school during the early years and I gave very serious consideration to contacting Kevin Lynch for assistance even though he was no longer at BGS.
- 10 At no time prior to the press report did I hear any allegation or rumour that Mr Lynch was behaving improperly with respect to students. For the years 1977 and 1978 I was responsible to Mr. Max Howell for the operation of the BGS Outdoor Education Centre at Lake Moogerah. During that period I visited boys at the camp on a weekly basis. I contributed to the extra curricular program and attended all GPS events during the period of my employment. I was a member of the BGS Rowing Support Committee from 1986; being President in 1988 and 1989. My frequency of informal student and staff contact was extensive.

DATED this 22 day of October 2002



RAYMOND JAMES CROSS

