

## STATEMENT OF BRIAN CANNON



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Statement of Brian Cannon of REDACTED

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CTED**Background**

- 1 Prior to 1966 I was working as a clerk with Murphy Or<sup>e</sup>s. I had previously been involved in professional theatre and had a teaching qualification in speech and drama. I had also worked as a tradesman for 11 years as a coach and motor body builder.

**Brisbane Grammar School**

- 2 I was employed by BGS to introduce a manual training course at a time when the State Government was subsidising the construction of manual training facilities in private schools. Initially, I was put through a teacher training course by BGS and commenced teaching in 1967. I retired in 1994 or 1995. Throughout that period I was involved as a manual training teacher, an academic subject teacher and also in extra curricular activities – I directed the senior school play and had coaching responsibilities in cricket and football.

**Mr Kevin Lynch**

- 3 I knew Kevin Lynch well but he and I were not close friends. I did not see him outside the School.
- 4 I may have referred students to Kevin Lynch but I do not recall anyone in particular. I do recall referring students to a female who was a remedial teacher more involved with the students in respect of study techniques and reading problems rather than counselling.
- 5 I had no knowledge of Kevin Lynch's counselling techniques. I do recall him giving talks to teaching staff on Teacher Development Days about his role in the School and what he could offer. He would give statistics as to the numbers of students he had seen during the year and he might also have spoken in general terms about the types of problems they had. I recall in these presentations he referred to using a form of hypnosis and possibly also relaxation techniques.
- 6 I never had any suspicions that Lynch may have behaved improperly. In fact I think all of the staff were impressed with what he was doing and thought he was doing a good job. Prior to his appointment as full time counsellor I thought there was a glaring need for the school to have such a person on its staff.



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BQP

7 I remember BQP well. He was very much involved in the senior plays which I directed, not as an actor but back stage preparing sets, costumes etc. He was involved over a two or three year period. I recall he had an elderly father REDACTED

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8 I had nothing to do with BQP outside School although after he had finished at School I came across him at the Queensland Theatre Company where he was involved in some of their productions.

9 The only incident which stands out in my memory in relation to BQP involved Mrs Betty Howell. Mrs Howell also assisted with the senior play. There was an occasion when she came to me and said that she had seen BQP in the dressing room under the stage and that he was crying. I immediately went to see BQP and he said he was upset because he could not see himself getting the costumes completed in time for the play. In the end we hired the costumes from the Arts Theatre.

10 When BQP finished at BGS I provided him with a good reference to the effect that I thought he would succeed in whatever he chose to pursue. I was not particularly aware of his academic ability but he had worked very well within the theatre group.

11 I can say categorically that I never arranged an appointment for BQP to see Mr Howell. Further I think I can say that I never arranged an appointment for any student to see Mr Howell. If, for example, there was any need to report a student for behaviour then that would be to the Deputy Principal.

DATED this 15<sup>th</sup> day of May 2001

*Brian Cannon*

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