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STATEMENT OF BRIAN CANNON

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Background

- 1 Prior to 1966 I was working as a clerk with Murphy Ores. 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.



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 recall that BQP was involved in two school plays. In 1977 the School Senior Play was Hotel Paradiso which was held during the second half of the year. I was the Director of the Play. BQP was involved in assisting with make-up, costumes, etc. He had no specific responsibility other than assisting. In 1980 BQP was Stage Manager for the Senior Play, Dark of the Moon, which was also held in the second half of the year. I notice from the program that he was also responsible for set design.

9 BQP was a big lad and was solid. I have no knowledge of him being bullied. He never made any comment to me about being bullied. It is possible that he may have been victimised in some way because he was not "one of the boys" not being involved in any sport. However, that is purely supposition on my part. BQP never discussed any personal problems with me. I was aware he did not get on with his father but I did not hear that from BQP I heard it from someone else. I never knew that BQP was seeing Kevin Lynch.

10 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.

11 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.

12 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.

- 13 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. Mr Howell did not come to the Staff Common Room. He was very conscious of protocol and would not just barge in. There were occasions when he would be invited to the Staff Room or alternatively he would call specific meetings of staff.
- 14 Kevin Lynch's office was, to the best of my recollection, upstairs. I don't recall him ever having an office on the ground floor.

DATED this

27

day of

February

2002

B. Cannon
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BRIAN CANNON

