



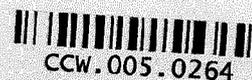
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STATEMENT OF KEVIN JOHN SMITH

I, **KEVIN JOHN SMITH**, say as follows:

1. I am a Maths Teacher at Brisbane Grammar ("the school"). I started in 1974. I knew Kevin Lynch while he was a teacher at the school. I knew him only a professional basis. I was not a mate of his. I was just a work colleague. I would see him in the common room but he often spent the lunch hour in his counselling room being available for students. I understand that initially he was a humanities teacher.
2. I remember him more clearly in his role as school counsellor. At the time, the counsellor's role was two-fold. The counsellor advised students about career options. He also helped students with personal problems. Students could make an appointment to see Lynch directly. Alternatively, if a teacher saw that a student had a problem or needed career information, the teacher would refer the student to the counsellor. I do not recall ever referring students to Lynch. I did not really have many boys who came to me with personal problems that needed referral to a counsellor.
3. I cannot recall the exact location of Lynch's office over the years. There have been room changes over that time. I recall that most recently Lynch's office was at the top of the stairs near what used to be the common room. There were two ways to access that room. Students usually used the door at the top of the stairs. Teachers could also gain access through another door that led to the Bursar's room. At one point an intercom system was installed in Lynch's office. The door would be closed and you had to press the intercom button to gain access. As a form teacher I would, from time to time, get information for students about different careers. Lynch had many useful forms and brochures in his office and I would get them from him. I recall one particular occasion when I went to him and asked for information on relaxation techniques that I could use in the classroom. He told me that he had a relaxation tape. But he mentioned no other techniques. I did not end up using Lynch's tape because I had a similar tape of my own.
4. I recall an occasion when Lynch told me of an incident concerning a boy who had gone to him for relaxation. Lynch told me that he had asked the boy to lie down and relax. At one stage Lynch put his hand on the boy's stomach. The boy was not at ease with the situation and left Lynch's office. At the time I did not think there was anything inappropriate with what Lynch had described to me. Lynch gave not other detail about the incident. He did not even tell me the name of the student concerned. I would not have a clue whether that



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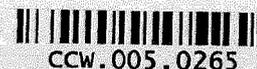
technique was okay or not. I expect, however, that males, particularly at that age, are not usually open to be touched by other males. Lynch counselled many boys after this incident. Nothing that I heard from Lynch or from anybody else about the way he counselled the boys would indicate that there was something amiss.

5. I remember the time when Lynch left. He talked to me about the need to retire in order to get his superannuation money. His marriage had recently broken up and he needed to buy another house. He did not tell me the reasons for the marriage breakdown. I did not keep in touch with Lynch after he left Brisbane Grammar. I came to know that he became a counsellor at St Pauls.
6. In all the time that Lynch was at Brisbane Grammar and even after he left Grammar and went to St Paul's no student, former student or anybody else complained to me about Lynch behaving in any improper way. I did not even overhear any rumours, jokes or other remarks to this effect.
7. I came to hear about his death. I went to the funeral. Nothing negative was said at the funeral. Past students attended to pay their respects and they spoke very positively about him. I think it was on the day of the funeral that I found out Lynch had committed suicide.
8. The first time that the alleged behaviour came to my attention was when I read the stories in the media recently regarding with Parode's connection with the School. All I know about the matter is what I have read in the media.
9. I respected Lynch as a person. I understood that he did a lot for students. He was intelligent and seemed to care about them. He was well liked. He had a good reputation as a counsellor. I was very surprised to hear the allegations.
10. In some ways I am not surprised that in Lynch's era allegations like this did not get around. Things are more open these days and people are encouraged to talk. We now have policies in place to deal with problems at school. Take, for example, bullying. The clear policy now is that if boys come forward with allegations of bullying, those allegations will be investigated and something will be done. Things were not the same in Lynch's era.

Dated this day of 2000

Kevin John Smith

Witness



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