

IN THE ROYAL COMMISSION INTO
 INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSES TO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE
 AT SYDNEY

PUBLIC HEARING INTO INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSES TO THE CONDUCT OF STEVEN LARKINS

CHRONOLOGY @16 SEPTEMBER 2013

Date	Event
5 May 1966	Stephen Larkins born
1979	AA born
28 Nov 1984	Larkins appointed Assistant Scout Leader
1986	AC born
April 1992	Larkins indecently assaults AA in Larkins bedroom while staying over for Stockton Scouts activities
11 Apr 1994	Larkins removed from 1 st Stockton Scout Group
1994	AD born
8 May 1995	Larkins becomes Assistant Scout Leader Raymond Terrace Scouts
Mid 1995	Bromley tells Hoytink concerned Larkins interfering with children and found Larkins lying in tent with scout
14 Oct 1996	Larkins transfers to Hunter and Coastal Region Scouts as Regional Leader
22 Mar 1997	Larkins assaults AC in Larkins' bedroom in Morrisett while staying over for "Newcastle" Scouts activities
6 April 1997	Hoytink receives call that Larkins seen at Stockton pool handing out sweets to children
7 April 1997	Hoytink contacts Mayfield Police and writes to Alan Currie, Regional Commissioner, about pool incident
17 April 1997	Currie gives Larkins official warning referring to pool incident, removes Larkins from "face to face" work, transferred to "computer liaison officer" to report to Peter Elliott
April 1997	Hocking tells Currie of Larkins climbing into sleeping bag as child suffering hypothermia, showering with scouts on camp

3 May 1997	Currie interviews Larkins and he admits both pool and sleeping bag incidents; confirms removed from face to face contact and only able to attend supervised "major camps"
20 May 1997	Whitford tells Currie of Larkins taking two scouts to Newcastle for Friday meetings, and receipt of anonymous phone calls
2 July 1997	Currie requests police check of Larkins by Hilton Bloomfield
14 July 1997	AC tells mother of indecent assault, she informs police
15 July 1997	Newcastle Community Services Centre (DOCS) receives report from AC alleging sexual behaviour by Larkins;
15 July 1997	DOCS Officer Hedison contacts AB's school, police Child Mistreatment Unit and mother
16 July 1997	Bloomfield confirms to Currie that a police check has been carried out and Larkins has no record
17 July 1997	Child Mistreatment Unit (NSW Police) advised by DOCS
24 July 1997	S/C Hayward (Sex Crimes Squad) records AB's allegations of assault
18 Aug 1997	S/C Turney obtains statement from AB re Larkins' assault
12 Sept 1997	Turney speaks with Currie as to whether Larkins has been suspended; some discussion of Larkins being reported for "child abuse"; Currie does not recommend suspension
Xmas 1997	Larkins seen at Sea World Scouts' Jamboree
15 Jan 1998	AC provides statement to S/C Turney
9 Feb 1998	Larkins interviewed by S/C Turney at Newcastle Police Station, denies assault
10 Feb 1998	DOCS Hedison advised by S/C Turney of interview with Larkins and DPP advice sought
25 Mar 1998	APVO Complaint and Summons laid at Newcastle Local Court
30 Mar 1998	Interim APVO made against Larkins, "defendant present in court", Larkins signs order
6 Apr 1998	Interim APVO made, "defendant present in court"
4 May 1998	Interim APVO made, "defendant present in court", Larkins signs order
6 May 1998	S/C Turney seeks recommendation from DPP as to whether to prosecute Larkins for aggravated indecent assault
25 May 1998	S/C Turney's request forwarded to DPP

14 June 1998	DPP Solicitor Kylie Henry provides internal recommendation to prosecute Larkins to her manager
15 Jun 1998	Interim APVO made, "defendant present in court"
15 June 1998	Henry calls Amloh to say no answer as yet
16 June 1998	Amloh calls Henry , Henry says brief needs to go to Sydney as is a child sexual assault
23 Jun 1998	Kylie Henry, DPP recommendation for prosecution approved
13 July 1998	Interim APVO made. "defendant was not present in court"
16 July 1998	S/C Turney records COPS entry that S/C Amloh has informed him that DPP advises no prosecution is to proceed
19 July 1998	S/C Amloh speaks to AB and Larkins
22 July 1998	Gregory Coles, DPP writes to S/C Turney enclosing recommendation to prosecute
27 July 1998	APVO withdrawn (on undertakings by Larkins)
28 July 1998	S/C Amloh contacts AB
29 July 1998	DPP receives representations concerning Larkins - Greg Coles asked for report by Director, request attaches request from Victims Compensation Tribunal
3 Aug 1998	S/C Amloh diary records "Saw Mick Hall [AVO prosecutor] re Lennox/Larkins. Contrary Info."
6 Aug 1998	S/C Amloh places DPP advice in her diary for that day. Records in diary that S/C Turney will go over to AB's place.
11 Aug 1998	Henry unable to confirm with police that charges have been laid
19 Sep 1998	S/C Turney records that entry of 16 July 1998 incorrect
24 Sep 1998	S/C Turney advises Sandra Eyre (Witness Liaison DPP) that AB not willing to proceed owing to "delay and initial misinformation"; Turney requests Eyre to contact AC and AB and explain legal process
25 Sep to 24 Oct 1998	Eyre attempts unsuccessfully to contact AB
26 Oct 1998	AB advises Eyre that AC was told that "not enough evidence" and AC "wanting to put experience behind him". Eyre tells AB she is available to discuss issues further with AC
3 Nov 1998	S/C Turney notes that "retraction statement to be obtained" from AB

11 Nov 1998	AB says to Eyre that AC "definitely did not want to proceed with the matter". Eyre gives AB phone number if AC changes her mind.
17 Nov 1998	COPS entry notes that retraction statement from AC "complete"
12 Feb 1999	Entry in Criminal History – Aggravated Indecent Assault – Summons not issued, Court date of 26 March 1999
May 1999	AA makes "complaint" to Des Hocking
2000	AA tells Group Leader John Peel then Des Hocking, Regional Scout Leader, about 1992 indecent assault by Larkins
20 April 2000	Peter Olah, Chief Executive of Scouts, notes receipt of complaint re Larkins from AA, Currie to meet AA
1,5 May 2000	Currie attempts to meet with AA
11 May 2000	Meeting between Hocking, Currie and AA. Allegations referred to Warwick Bateman to discuss in confidence.
12 May 2000	Currie recommends immediate suspension of Larkins
12 May 2000	Olah determines to suspend Larkins, Currie informs Larkins
12 May 2000	Olah reports to police (CPEA/JIT in Newcastle) who ask for report by victim and then to Newcastle Detectives, Olah asks AA to call police
17 May 2000	Olah writes to Larkins advising of suspension, asking him to refrain from participation in any Scouts activity and not to wear uniform or badges, suspension is of a "temporary nature"
17 May 2000	Olah offers to accompany AA to police
19 May 2000	Olah speaks with Larkins about suspension, Larkins seeking details of allegations, Olah declines to provide details refers to "investigating authorities"
29 May 2000	Larkins commences as Acting Co-ordinator with Hunter Aboriginal Children's Service (HACS)
1 June 2000	Olah meets with Currie, Currie provides 1997 file notes re swimming pool incident; Olah meets with AA to assist with complaint to police, counselling and support offered; AA agrees to go to police
7 June 2000	Olah continuing to liaise with Newcastle police re AA, contact with Det Kirren Steel
8 June 2000	Olah notes AA's reluctance to contact police
8 July 2000	Olah meets Det Steel, told "prosecution for similar offence unsuccessful last year", Olah tells Steel "he is gone from Scouting regardless of outcome of prosecution", AA requests counselling from Scouts

9 July 2000	Det Steel records narrative from AA re Larkins assault – placed on COPS
26 July 2000	Olah advises AA of counselling availability
19 June 2001	Currie emails Olah expressing frustration at lack of movement on prosecution; notes Larkins seeking reinstatement; surprised Larkins has job as “Aboriginal Youth Adviser to DOCS”
22 June 2001	Larkins completes prohibited employment declaration confirming he is not a prohibited person
10 Feb 2003	Allen speaks to Larkins and suggests that he resign and he does so
12 Feb 2003	Larkins applies for WWCC for himself and Jacqueline Henderson, nominates himself as “contact person”
14 Feb 2003	DOCS commences inquiries and receives a “clear” reply to AVO check
28 Feb 2003	CrimTrac search reveals court date of 26 March 1999 for aggravated indecent assault
28 Feb 2003	DOCS Screening Unit Working with Children Clearance Form: no record of any relevant charges or convictions” [forged]
3 Mar 2003	Nathalie Bratt, DOCS seeks clarification from Newcastle Local Court of 1 x Agg Indecent Assault with a court date of 26 March 1999
6 Mar 2003	Newcastle Court tells DOCS no record of appearance by Larkins
7 Apr 2003	Rasmussen (DOCS) requests WWCC consent form and prohibited employment declaration
8 Apr 2003	Larkins speaks to Rasmussen and then writes to her at DOCS: never convicted or charged with child related offence, no legal action against him in 1999, allegation made by child in 1997 but dropped; in tel call says criminal history does not relate to him; Rasmussen calls Newcastle Police and told by Const Fletcher summons never issued
20 June 2003	DOCS writes to Larkins requesting any documentation from police
June 2003	Jacqueline Henderson becomes Chair of HACS
12 Aug 2003	Sgt Denman confirms to Rasmussen that no summons issued and documentation sent to Criminal Records to have matter removed from system
15 Sept 2003	Rasmussen writes to Larkins (home address) asking for confirmation of criminal history relating to him; OR withdraw request for WWCC “by yourself or the agency” if “you do not work directly unsupervised with children”. Letter returned to sender and received by DOCS 11 Nov 2003.
11 Nov 2003	Rasmussen conducts final assessment and rates Larkins “Medium-High”.

12 Nov 2003	Overall score revised by Rasmussen, approved by supervisor Priestley to Medium 17 Nov 2003
11? Nov 2003	Priestley writes to "HACS Attention Steve Larkins" advising of medium risk assessment
21 Jan 2004	Larkins enters contract of employment as Manager of HACS
10 Feb 2004	Larkins seeks review of WWCC on basis never charged or convicted of the charges, refers to clear Criminal Records
7 Mar 2004	Larkins provides DOCS with further information including CV, references, denies being person "who has had charges against them"
12 Mar 2004	DOCS ceases to be screening agency and role transferred to CCYP; staff transferred on 15 March 2004
14 Apr 2004	Priestley calls Larkins re review – Larkins says as Co-ordinator does not have direct contact with children; WWCC requested in error; "to be signed off by his supervisor"
15 Apr 2004	Priestley requests statutory declaration from Larkins to confirm assertions on 14 April 2004
26 Apr 2004	Larkins gives statutory declaration that "I do not have a case load where I am directly responsible contact with children"
26 May 2004	Larkins faxes letter purportedly from Mark Zaniol, "Professional Supervisor that Larkins does not have "a case load of children" but manages others who are directly responsible for their care
28 May 2004	Zaniol confirms by email to Priestley that while supervisor Larkins has told him that his position has not changed re direct unsupervised contact with children
4 June 2004	Judi Teesdale WWC and Grant Marley confirm with Priestley that Larkins does not meet criteria for WWCC. Decision made to "withdraw his WWCC"
16 June 2004	Teesdale writes to Larkins (at Mayfield PO address) that WWCC withdrawn as position "does not meet the criteria"
March 2005	Henderson ceases as Chair of HACS
2009	Elphick becomes Chair of HACS
14 Dec 2010	Other caseworker finds inappropriate text messages from Larkins on AD's phone – tells Eggins
14-18 Dec 2010	Eggins investigates and satisfied that text messages sent by Larkins
18 Dec 2010	Eggins informs supervisors of text messages

19 Jan 2011	Management Committee meeting of HACS (Elphick, Faulkner, Morris, Smith, Brown, Larkins) – discussion of decision made by Larkins to care for AD – Larkins using “parental responsibility” power
1 and 2 March 2011	CCYP visits HACS for assessment
19 Apr 2011	Larkins thumb drive discovered with child pornography on it by HACS worker and police informed
19 Apr 2011	Larkins arrested and charged and Larkins stood down from HACS
20 Apr 2011	DOCS caseworker attempts to find AD reported as living with Larkins; locates him at home of Larkins’ relative
17 June 2011	Ombudsman announces inquiring into screening and assessment of Larkins by FACS
26 Aug 2011	AC provides further statement to police
31 Aug 2011	Larkins charged with (19 counts): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Produce, disseminate, possess child abuse material x 6 2. Aggravated indecent assault (child under 16) – AB 3. Dishonestly obtain fin adv 4. Make false document to obtain fin advantage 5. Use false document to obtain fin advantage 6. Intentionally make false statement in stat dec 7. Publish false misleading material to obtain fin adv 8. Intentionally make false statement in stat dec 9. Publish false misleading material x 4 10. Make false document to obtain fin advantage 11. Aggravated indecent assault (child under 16) - AA
1 Sept 2011	Zaniol confirms that letter under his name of 26 May 2004 not his letter
20 Oct 2011	AA provides statement to police
26 Oct 2011	S/c Turney provides statement to police
17, 24 Nov, 8 Dec 2011	Orders made by Children’s Court granting parental responsibility to the Minister of those children previously under PR of principal officer HACS
Dec 2011	Ombudsman makes recommendations including interview of those for whom HACS had PR
22 Mar 2012	Ombudsman report sent to Minister
30 Apr 2012	3 x possess child abuse material withdrawn
31 May 2012	7 x deception, dishonesty and false statement withdrawn
5 July 2012	Ombudsman finalised report

31 July 2012	<p>Larkins convicted and sentenced at Newcastle Local Court for</p> <p>3 x possess child abuse material: 12 months imprisonment commencing 31 May 2013 concluding 20 May 2014 (9 months and 5 months NPP respectively)</p> <p>2 x aggravated indecent assault: s. 9 bond of 3 years</p> <p>1 x make false document; 1 x use false document; 1 x intentionally make false statement: 18 months imprisonment commencing 31 July 2012 concluding 30 Jan 2014 (NPP 12 months concluding 30 July 2013) concurrent</p>
31 July 2012	Larkins lodges severity appeal from all but s.9 bond, released on bail
12 Sep 2012	Walk writes Ombudsman to accept recommendation
31 Jan 2013	<p>District Court severity appeal – convictions and sentences confirmed save for</p> <p>3 possess child abuse material: 12 months imprisonment (5 month NPP) and s.9 bond</p> <p>1 x make false document; 1 x use false document; 1 x intentionally make false statement: sentence to commence 31 Jan 2013</p>