

PLAINTIFFS WITNESS STATEMENTATF  

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UNITING CHURCH in Australia Property Trust (NSW) and Ors

1. My name is ATF [REDACTED]; I currently reside at [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. My phone number is [REDACTED] and my email address is [REDACTED].
2. I was born on the [REDACTED] 1974 at Wahroonga. I grew up on the Upper North Shore. I resided for most of my childhood at [REDACTED].
3. I recall my early childhood as being happy. I was one of two siblings. I have an older brother who is two years older than me named [REDACTED]. My parents were together and I resided with them. My father, [REDACTED], was a managing Director of [REDACTED] Company and my mother did fulltime home duties.
4. I started at Killara public School in Kindergarten in 1980. My brother had been there before me and I attended there for my first 5 years of school and left for Knox at the commencement of year 5 in 1985. My brother was commencing year 7 that year.
5. At Killara I had performed well academically and I was pretty much at the top of my class and was successful in sport and pretty much had a happy experience.
6. I don't recall suffering any abuse or trauma in my pre-Knox years had piano lessons privately and progressed to 4<sup>th</sup> grade eventually.
7. When I commenced at Knox in Year 5 and year 6, I was in the top class. I received the [REDACTED] and I was [REDACTED] team and the [REDACTED] team. I also represented the school on the [REDACTED] team. I was happy and enjoyed the experience of the school.
8. One of the teachers at Knox prep. was Barry Tiffin Stewart. He was a notorious tickler. I recall he loved chasing boys around the playground and tickling them and sliding his hands into their clothing, particularly their pants. I think, so far as I was aware, he did it to just about everybody in the school. I recall Stewart tickling me to the point when I became incapacitated and unable to resist and he slipped his hand down the front of my shorts and groped my genitals. He did this for a number of seconds until I recovered sufficiently from the tickling to be able to resist him.
9. There was another incident in the PE storeroom where there was a pile of gymnasium mats. He cornered a group of us in the room against the mats, bent us over the mats tickling us and rubbing himself against our buttocks. This was the sort of thing that happened a lot with Stewart and was an unremarkable event. I thought it was normal for teachers in boys' schools to behave like this because it was so common and widespread at Knox.

10. In the course of my football training in year 6 I came under the supervision of Craig Treavor, who was a boarding master at the Senior School at Knox, a teacher on the junior school and was my football coach. As I recall it was the 12B's. Treavor, as a boarding house master had his own offices and accommodation at the Senior School, Pacific Highway, Wahroonga.
11. To my observation Treavor and Stewart had some sort of relationship together and would play sexual pranks on each other. I remember on several occasions Stewart spoke to Treavor through the drivers' window of Treavor's car while we were passengers leaving the school grounds, he would always smile and acknowledge our presence. I recall on one occasion Treavor placed a life sized blow-up sex doll with a large vibrating black phallus in the drivers' seat of Stewart's car and did the seatbelt up on it. Stewart picked the sex doll up by the vibrating phallus and carried it to another teacher's car. The car was parked in the school grounds in the school car park at the Sutherland Avenue gate and this was apparent and obvious to the entire student and staff bodies.
12. The rugby season commenced in the second term in about April. We finished school at 3.10 pm and Tuesday and Thursday afternoon's rugby training started and would run until about 5pm. The training was held in the Prep School located at Billyard Ave. Wahroonga.
13. Classmate **REDACTE** and I both lived in Killara. Treavor created a pretext based upon his parents living in Killara to offer to drive **RED** home and myself after training. For the first few weeks after training he would drive us home. I recall his car was a Toyota Celica with the personalised plates CT666- Craig Treavor 666 the number of the beast in Bible chapter Revelations. I recall it was a metallic silver/grey colour. It was considered a smart car to have at the time being a sports car with spoiler on the rear.
14. I remember after several weeks driving us backwards and forwards he suddenly one day asked us: -

*"Have you boys ever seen a porno? A sex movie?"*

We were 11 years old at the time and we answered: -

*"No"*

He replied: -

*"Would you like to see some?"*

We said: -

*"Sure"*

15. A short while afterwards Treavor invited **RED** and I back to the boarding house where he resided at the main campus. He had a small room in the nature of a bedsitting room at the back of a boarding house. The site has changed since and the building has been substantially altered. At the time

the room was adjacent to the infirmary on the corner of Pacific Highway and Woodville Avenue. The room had a bed and corner desk /table and a separate bathroom. It was very small and intimate. There wasn't much furniture and if there were three of us in the room someone had to sit on the bed. He had a large television and video player.

16. On this occasion it was about 4pm in the afternoon and it was getting dark. We went into his room with him and he pulled out a video. He had a stereo cabinet with glass swing out doors and racks of black VHS video cases with the names of the movies listed on the spines with dyno tape. He had a large video collection. Some of the videos had suggestive names that accurately described the content and others had codenames.
17. Initially Treavor showed us pornography, which consisted of what I now know to be "X" rated heterosexual sex acts. The content was very graphic and showed various types of intercourse in full detail. This was a great surprise to us as 11 year olds.
18. Whilst we I was watching the videos with him, REDACTED and I were quite shocked. He appeared to be quite excited. He would comment on various aspects of the videos, for example: -

*"What do you think of that boys? Have you ever had your cock sucked before? Would you like to have it sucked?"*

*"Look at the size of the cock on that guy! Imagine having that in your arse"*

Treavor would make jokes about me having a tiny penis and nick named me REDACTED, in reference to a tiny penis. He encouraged me to show him to disprove what he said.

19. Treavor also had a vibrating female sex organ replica in plain view on his table in the room. He told us that he used it and encouraged us to use it while we watched the pornography but we never did.
20. I found the experience shocking and disorientating but REDACTED and I kept going back.
21. After that first meeting, Treavor, over a short period of time, began driving us home everyday. Treavor would drive us to his room at the senior school and park in the car park directly outside his room. We would then get out of his car and go more or less directly to his room. All of this activity was plainly visible to any staff, teachers or other students. Sometimes there would be other boys as well, including REDACTED and REDACTED.
22. After a while Treavor began giving us beers as well. I had never drunk alcohol before and one stubbie of VB would have a noticeable effect on me. I think he may also have given me spirits as well such as scotch on later occasions. As the alcohol was introduced the pornography started to change from heterosexual to homosexual, bestiality and paedophilic material. Treavor would go into great detail explaining the different types of sexual acts possible, with various kinds of animals and children, and was also making efforts to find us a "snuff" movie- a movie that involves the rape, torture and subsequent murder of the victim. He told us they were real people and not actors.

23. I recall a paedophile movie that was poor quality, Treavor told us it was shot in Kings Cross; it involved a boy of about 12 years old being sodomised by a number of men.
24. Looking back I don't know how this could have happened but it was a process of gradual degrees and de-sensitisation, which led to the breakdown of boundaries in an incremental way. Looking back I can see that it was carefully gradated and that he was working to a clever plan. I suspect that he had done this before with older boys.
25. Treavor himself was an old boy of the school and had been a prefect when he had been a student. At that stage he was about 30 years old and not been teaching for very long. He told us he was a good friend of Dr. Paterson's and that he had dinner with him quite regularly.
26. This conduct continued throughout Year 6 and into Year 7.
27. In year 7 we were on the same campus as Treavor's accommodation and we would go straight to his room after school. This continued for a period into Year 7 but at one point it stopped.
28. For my 12<sup>th</sup> Birthday Treavor gave me a stack of sleazy X rated pornographic magazines. Some of the titles included Teen Sex, Ribald, Moan 'n' groan for Grunt! Treavor also gave me a large black dildo about 8 inches long and consisted of a phallus and testicles and was a realistic representation of male sex organs. He gave me this at school in view of other students and teachers in a cardboard box with a clear Perspex window. I recognized it as the box the inflatable sex doll had come in. I threw away the dildo and took the magazines home with me.
29. Several months later my mother discovered the magazines while cleaning my room and demanded to know where I had got them. I told them and had found them in the street but she was unconvinced and asked me if Treavor had given them to me. I told her no, but she was very concerned and my brother told me that she was very suspicious of Treavor and subsequently made a complaint to the school.
30. From Year 7 onwards my academic career deteriorated. I went from being a leading student to underperforming badly. I had a very poor attitude towards education. I had no respect for the school, the staff or what it had to offer me. I felt cheapened and abused by my experiences with Treavor and I was becoming increasingly confused about my sexual identity and distrustful of the motives of the adults around me. My Year 10 English teacher Adrian Nesbit was a senior advisor to the headmaster. He would lean over me at my desk and breathe closely in my ear, on my marked essay papers he would invite me to visit him after school or on weekends at his residence at another school boarding house "Kooyong" where he was a master. The school purported to be and encouraged the highest standard of honesty, morality and integrity but to me it was all a lie. This deterioration in my performance is evident in my school reports from that period. It was a very dramatic turn around.
31. I recall my parents were very disturbed and worried about me. My mother was distraught.
32. I recall being called by Dr. Paterson to visit him in his office and explain the deterioration in my performance. I recall he showed me my aptitude test results and then my reports and asked me to explain the discrepancy

between my high aptitude and my poor academic achievement. I recall seeing that in IQ results, I was in the top dozen boys in a year of over 200 students. He appeared to be genuinely perplexed and concerned as to why I was underperforming. I did not tell him about Treavor, as Treavor was a close friend of his. Treavor would often discuss his dinners with Dr. Paterson and inferred that Paterson was "in on the joke" with Treavor and Stewart.

33. I recall another incident at Treavor's room while we were watching pornography. The general duties master, Stuart Pearson, (in charge of senior school discipline) knocked on Treavor's door. We were made to hide in the cupboard while they had a discussion. Treavor told us he had dropped by to borrow pornographic movies from Treavor.
34. I was unable to discuss these events with anyone as I was embarrassed and ashamed and did not know whom to turn to because everybody in Authority seemed to be connected to my abusers.
35. I had what I know realise was very low self-esteem at the time and I had no belief in the system and its ability to deliver beneficial results to me. I thought I was there to be exploited and abused in ways that I didn't really understand.
36. I have no specific recollection of being touched by Treavor but I have had nightmares and intrusive memories of him attempting to have sex with me. I was often very groggy when I left his room after having drunk a few beers or scotches as a new adolescent.
37. By year 8 I had started to smoke cannabis and drinking increased amounts of alcohol and becoming devious in ways of obtaining it. By year 9 I was dabbling in speed, LSD, and ecstasy. I was taking drugs several times a week throughout the remainder of my school career. My HSC was not a success; I did most of my exams while stoned on cannabis. I got a 69 UAI, which was inadequate to get into almost anything. My parents paid for me to study at Macquarie in a Bachelor of Arts through the non-award system but I quickly lost interest and dropped out.
38. When I left school at the completion of year 12 I went through a period of severe drug abuse. I recall taking cannabis, cocaine, ecstasy, meth, LSD, Amphetamines, magic mushrooms, heroin, ketamine, anything I could get my hands on. I was also participating in various sexual relations with men, women and group sex encounters. In order to finance my drug habit I was also selling drugs, something I had started earlier while at school. I was on a completely self-destructive course. I was alienated from my family and friends.
39. I developed paranoia about systems of control- the Church, Police and Government and their motives and means of control and oppression. I withdrew myself from society and lived a marginalized existence, spending a length of time living in a cave. It was during this time I pierced my nasal septum with a large bone and circumcised myself with a carving knife. I was very alienated from the "System" and consider myself as living an outlaw existence. I have only ever been formally employed once for a couple of months after leaving school as a cleaner for Handleys cleaning in 1993. It was below me and I gave it up. Since then I have never been employed. I have only ever lodged one tax return in my life.

40. I continued abusing substances until I was about 30 years of age. I commenced a de facto relationship with REDACTED in 2003. We had a daughter in 2006, REDA. We separated soon after REDAC birth. I withdrew from drugs about the time REDAC was born in an effort to gain control of my life and assume my role as a father. I am no longer abusing substances.
41. I have always avoided facing up to the memories of my abuse at Knox but the consequences of that abuse have always been a factor in my life. It has always prevented me from concentrating and focusing on a particular goal in life. It is only recently that I have begun to realise that having a goal in life is something that is worth doing.
42. In early 2010 I became aware of media reports of teachers being charged for sexual abuse at Knox. My brother rang me and told me that Treavor had been charged. This was a huge relief to me. Emotionally I felt like a weight had been taken off my shoulders that I did not even realise had been there. I felt in a funny way vindicated in that I realised now that somebody would see what had happened to me was wrong and could take some action. To this point I felt that I could never make a complaint because of the pervasiveness of the culture of this type at Knox and because Treavor had connections throughout the entire school all the way up to the headmaster.
43. I was also intimidated by the fact that I would have to ultimately take on the Uniting Church over this.
44. I went to Hornsby Police station in response to a request for further statements from other potential victims and gave my statement to Hornsby police.
45. A fact that assisted me to do this and to issue instructions in respect to a civil claim was discussions I had with some of my contemporaries including REDACTED who attended the video sessions with me and some of the other boys.
46. I understand that I should have brought this case by the time I turned 24, i.e. by 1998. In 1998 I was in no state to issue instructions. I had no idea that anyone would act in respect to my instructions, I felt completely helpless, drug addicted, lonely, devastated and powerless to take this matter on or even to realise it was a possibility. Those feelings substantially impeded me in the management of this cause of action and that problem has continued until early 2010 when I gave my statement to police, spoke to my colleagues and eventually got in touch with my present solicitors.
47. Specifically how it happened was that I met with REDACTE and ARD ARD for the first time since school for a beer and to discuss the events at Knox. ARD had instructed Koffels and encouraged me to come forward.
48. I have always resented the fact that I was singled out for this type of treatment by Treavor but I did not in my heart understand that it was wrong and that it was actionable and that it was Knox's fault until after I had spoken to Mr Menounos at Koffels. He explained to me my rights and I realised that at about that time I was a victim and that something could and should be done. I am anxious to put the entire matter before the

public to prevent this sort of thing happening again, particularly as I have a child of my own, and to clear this memory from my psyche so I can move on with my life.

49. I feel that my great economic potential has been devastated by the undermining of the educational opportunity that Knox presented to my parents and me. I feel particularly bad for my parents who placed their trust in the school. My potential for healthy emotional, sexual, and social relationships was also undermined by my abuse at Knox and has had severe ramifications on my relationships with my family, my friends, and deeply affected my intimate relationships also.
50. I am presently a street busker playing the **REDACTE**. This has been the result of my under achievement and loss of confidence and inability to realise my intellectual potential.
51. I feel comfortable being a busker as it a completely informal lifestyle, No one has power over me or can tell me what to do. I am outside the "system" of control. I can make about \$40000 a year in a really good year but to do that I am working 5-7 days a week, 11-12 months of the year in all weather conditions. I have photos of myself busking in various locations over the years.