



## STATEMENT OF A WITNESS

In the matter of:	CEG	Assault
Place:	Joint Investigation Response Squad	
Date:	9 February 2011	

Name:	CDP
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### STATES:

1. This statement made by me accurately sets out the evidence that I would be prepared, if necessary, to give in court as a witness. The statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I will be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything that I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.
2. I am 43 years of age.
3. I am the natural mother of  who was born on the  2006 at the St George Private Hospital at Kogarah. I also have one other child  and he currently attends year 2 of . The children's father is  and we have been since separated June 2010 but he still sees them regularly and helps with pick ups.
4.  has been attending the  located at  since late 2008. Initially she attended only three day per week, and later during 2009 she attended four days a week, which was every Tuesday through to Friday from about 9am to 3-6pm depending on my work hours. I drop of  every morning and my husband  and I share picking her up.
5. Since  has been attending the  I have met all of the staff who work there. Prior to finding out about  arrest I never had any problems with any of the staff or the centre or how it is managed at all.

Witness:   
 Kelly DONAGHY  
 Detective Senior Constable  
 Kogarah JIRT  
 09/02/2011

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6. For the first 20 months whilst <sup>CDQ</sup> was attending the Centre, she was happy to go there and seem very settled and secured.

7. Around August 2010 I noticed that <sup>CDQ</sup>'s attitude towards attending the <sup>CEG</sup> <sup>REDACTED</sup> had changed. Every morning she would tell me that she did want to go anymore. She said, "I don't like it there, people hurt me." I just assumed she meant other kids pushing her so I just said its okay and calmed her down.

8. I recall in November 2010 <sup>REDACTED</sup> phoned me and told me that he had heard that <sup>CDM</sup> <sup>CEG</sup> <sup>REDACTED</sup> had been charged with indecent assault on a child. I couldn't believe what I was hearing I was on my way to drop her to kindy but I stopped and turned around and went back home and <sup>REDACTED</sup> agreed with my decision.

9. <sup>REDACTED</sup> and I spoke again later that day about what we should do and I also phoned a friend to work out what I should do about this and if I should talk to <sup>CDQ</sup> or not. I also spoke to other mums who told me that they had been told by the staff at <sup>CEG</sup> that it was just a disgruntled family that didn't get the days they wanted so they made up these allegations. I was disgusted by the centre in saying that and I decided then and there that my child would not return to the centre. Later that day I spoke to Community Services and I took <sup>CDQ</sup> to see them on the next Monday morning. They helped me find a new centre. Later that day I sent an email telling <sup>CHD</sup> was no longer attending the centre. I received an email response to mine and a bill that I paid later. I could never go there again nor discuss this with her at all.

10. I moved <sup>CDQ</sup> to her new kindy and I assumed that all was okay with <sup>CDQ</sup>. I just decided to up my protective behaviour talks with her in case she was confronted with anything in the future. There were no concerns until about two weeks ago when I was lying on the lounge and I was tickling her tummy.

11. I said, "Who tickles your tummy?"

12. <sup>CDQ</sup> said, "Tickle monster (Uncle <sup>REDACTED</sup>) Mummy, Daddy, <sup>REDACTED</sup> (cousin), <sup>REDACTED</sup> (kindy), <sup>CDM</sup> (kindy)."

Witness:

<sup>REDACTED</sup>

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13. I said, "Where does <sup>CDM</sup> tickle you?"
14. <sup>CDQ</sup> said, "<sup>CDM</sup> tickles me all over."
15. I said, "Show me where?"
16. <sup>CDQ</sup> then tickled herself on the front of her underwear halfway between the pubic bone and her groin area. I was shocked.
17. <sup>CDQ</sup> said, "It feels nice mummy I like it."
18. I said,"
19. I'll show you on you mummy."
20. <sup>CDQ</sup> then pulled my dress up and she tickled me on the same area on my underwear. I would describe it as very soft tickling. <sup>CDQ</sup> said, "See it feels nice can you do it to me." I said, "No I won't because it is not a proper place for anyone to tickle you."
21. <sup>CDQ</sup> said, "I don't want to talk about this anymore."
22. I called <sup>REDACTED</sup> the next morning as I was unsure what to do so we called Community Services and told them. They told me that I had to call the helpline to make a report. So I did and I did not hear back for a week. I was sick of waiting and I wanted to know what to do so I called Sutherland Police. I spoke to a Detective and they came to the house and saw me which was great. They told me that they would tell JIRT and then I would be told what was to happen and that is how I am here today.
23. Yesterday I received a call from JIRT and made an appointment today. This morning on the way here I said to <sup>CDQ</sup>, "Do you remember what we talked about in regard to <sup>CDM</sup> tickling you?"
24. <sup>CDQ</sup> said, "Yes mummy."

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25. I said, "What happened is wrong and we are going to talk to a lady about it today from the police."
26. <sup>CDQ</sup> said, "Mummy when we did tickling on undies no one saw us."
27. <sup>CDQ</sup> then giggled in a nervous way and I said, "Well <sup>CDQ</sup> that it wrong and that is why we need to tell them today."
28. I said, "You know we have some police in our family so you don't need to be worried. You have not done anything wrong and you have nothing to worry about."
29. We then arrived here at the office.
30. I am not sure if this is relevant or not but I have heard through the grape vine that the centre is telling you that <sup>CDM</sup> never had children sitting on his lap. I personally know that this not true in any way. When I attended the centre I would often see <sup>CDM</sup> with the children on his lap on many more than singular occasions. At first I was concerned that it was not appropriate but I thought that if it was <sup>REDACTED</sup> with <sup>CDQ</sup> on her lap it would not faze me so I thought I was not being fair and I did not say anything.
31. At the time I didn't think much of it but now I think back and I am concerned. I recall one day seeing <sup>CDM</sup> putting the kids on a big beach ball and rolling them back and forward. I recall seeing <sup>CDQ</sup> one day on this ball in a dress as he pushed her forward her dress went up and over and she was laughing. I did not think much of it now but it makes me sick now. I feel confused, scared and upset that little children in a day-care centre have been abused in this way and I am mortified at how the Centre has handled this by blaming the victims and their families. Once more charges occurred they continued with this defence and it is not appropriate how they have handled this. The local community is torn between the centre gaining ground to rally support for them versus people supporting the family.

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