



VICTORIA POLICE
STATEMENT

Name: ELLERY, Ken REDA 1939
Address: REDACTED
Occupation: Semi retired

Ph Home: REDACTED
Ph Work: REDACTED

STATES:

My full name is Kenneth Southwell ELLERY. I am 60 years of age, my date of birth being REDACTED /39.

I am a qualified primary school teacher. I commenced 1.1.59 at a composite country district school.

At the beginning of 1984 I commenced a teaching position at Northside Christian College McLean's Rd. Bundoora. I was employed as the principal of the entire school. There were fewer than 200 students there when I was principal. Prep to year 10 were offered to students. At this time I was also involved in teaching some secondary classes and administration in relation to my principal position.

I think teacher Ken SANDILANDS was teaching junior or middle primary school in 1984. He was at the school when I got there and I don't know how long he had been at the school then. Prior to the commencement of classes in 1984 Mr Steve PARKER, the primary supervisor mentioned Mr Ken SANDILANDS whom I had not met at that stage as one who, although very sight handicapped, had good control and was well loved by the pupils. When I met Ken I had the impression he was pretty blind. He would use his hands to orientate himself quite often, and sometimes ask children to locate things for him. He could write on the blackboard if he got up very close. He did not have to have another teacher in the classroom with him.

One break time, possibly a lunch break I noticed Ken in his classroom with a small group of children. I have looked at a letter I wrote to Dennis SMITH on 30.12.86 shown to me by Detective Senior Constable MONK. This letter related to this incident I am now describing. I saw the children close around him as he sat at a desk. I rather think it was the teacher's desk but it is all very vague now. Discerning the closeness of the contact to be uncircumspect, I raised my concern with him a few minutes later. I warned him about these imprudent relationships with the students. The children seemed to be being overly friendly with him and this seemed to be a habitual form of behaviour, as though it had been encouraged or condoned in the past. I raised my concern with him and he was strong in his denial of anything even hinting at impropriety. I was worried about the possibility of sexual overtones to the touching but also just couldn't believe that he could be doing that. The memo dated 30.12.86 was given to Denis SMITH, Chairman of College Council and prior to my appointment, previous overall head of school. Even though he admitted he would have had a "very short fuse" had there been any culpability, any evidence of impropriety in teacher-pupil relationships, there was none: hence Ken, appearing blameless was to be regarded without prejudice.

I do not recall any other incidents in relation to Ken SANDILANDS. I left the school in January of 1987.

I recall that in relation to corporal punishment, that was the domain of Steve PARKER, the Primary section supervisor, and was to be done in extreme cases, when the child had been very naughty, even following warnings. It was known in the school as paddling and I had not heard that term until I arrived at Northside. The more experienced and competent teachers could be delegated to administer this punishment. No firm guidelines existed in relation to corporal punishment and nothing was written down in relation to it. The parents signed a general permission form at the start of the school year and I do not recall whether they were notified or not when their child was disciplined in this way.

In general I remember the positive things about Ken's nature and personality and these seemed to be appreciated by staff and students alike.



Ken ELLERY

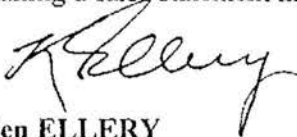
Statement taken and signature witnessed by me at
Camberwell Police Station at 3.05. p.m. on 3 March 2000.

REDACTED

J.L. WIONK

Detective Senior Constable 25439

I hereby acknowledge that this statement is true and correct and I make it in the belief that a person making a false statement in the circumstances is liable to the penalties of perjury.



Ken ELLERY

Acknowledgment made and signature witnessed by me this
3rd day of March 2000 at 3.10 p.m. at Camberwell Police Station.

REDACTED

J.L. WIONK

Detective Senior Constable 25439