



VICTORIA POLICE
STATEMENT

Name: AGP
Address: REDACTED
Occupation: Home Duties

Ph Home: REDACTED
Ph Work: REDACTED

STATES:

My full name is AGP and I am 42 years old. My date of birth is the RED of REDA, 1957. I live with my five children, AGS who is 18 years old, RED who is 17 years old, REDA who is 14 years old, RED who is 14 years old and RED who is 9 years old. The children's father is REDACTED, REDA and I separated in 1994 and have since divorced.

My oldest daughter AGS, christened AGS, was born on the RE of RED, 1981 at the REDACTED in Melbourne. AGS started school when she was 6 years old at the Belgrave Heights Christian School. We lived in the bush in Upwey and AGS attended this school from Prep to Grade One. AGS started school at Northside Christian College in Mc Leans Road, Bundoora when she started Grade Two. AGS was to turn 8 years old that year. We still lived in Upwey for approximately a month when AGS first started school at Northside and we used to travel back and forth between Upwey and Bundoora every day. We then moved to REDACTED Bundoora and AGS continued school at Northside until she was a few weeks into Year Nine. She then went to Pascoe Vale Girls Secondary College until she was in Year Ten and then she went to Mill Park Secondary College to study Theatre and Drama. She finished school in Year Twelve and has since gone on to Latrobe University and is completing a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Theatre Drama. All my other children have also attended Northside Christian College for a time during their schooling.

I remember in 1992 when AGS was in Grade 5, the whole family was sitting down to dinner. We were still living at REDACTED at the time. I was sitting opposite AGS at the kitchen table and we were talking about how quickly time flies. I was saying that before we know it the twins will be in Grade Two. As I said this I looked up and I saw a look of horror on AGS's face.

I said to AGS, "Honey you don't look too happy about that. Is there anything you want to tell us?"

AGS said, "Not with the little ones around."

I said, "Okay we'll talk about it later."

We then went on to finish dinner. I did not know what AGS was going to tell us. I put all the other children to bed and my sister went off to study in her bedroom. My younger sister REDAC was staying with us at the time and she was about 18 when this happened.

Later that evening my husband and I sat down with AGS in the lounge room to talk to her. I said to AGS that she didn't seem happy when I was talking about REDA and RED going into Grade Two and I asked her if there was anything she wanted to tell us. I said something like "What is it about the twins going into Grade Two that you're not happy with?" I remember AGS saying "Mummy their such babies, I don't want them going into his class." I then recall asking AGS "What is it you want to tell us." AGS said, "Have you ever wondered why REDA and I don't want to grow up."

X AGP
[Signature box]

By RED, I took AGS to mean REDACTED, who was AGS's best friend. AGS has known REDAC since they were in Grade Two together at Northside. I said to AGS, "Yes we had" and I told her that RED and I had talked about it. REDA is REDAC's mother. I can't remember when RED and I first spoke about this. But I can remember during conversations with REDA, we had spoken about how both AGS and REDAC didn't seem to want to grow up. We spoke about how it was unusual that both girls seemed to be going through this at the same time. From conversations we spoke about how both girls seemed reluctant to talk about pre menstrual issues and we talked about our concerns about this. I noticed that AGS never allowed me to talk with her about pre menstrual things. She never let me tell her the very basics about growing up and how her body was going to change. If I ever tried to bring up the subject she would become hostile and say comments like "I don't want to know about that" and "I don't need to know about that." Because I had never been able to talk with AGS about growing up, as far as I knew she did not know anything about it. I told AGS about the conversations with RED.

AGS then went on to tell us that the reason they didn't need to have any talks about sex was because Mr SANDILANDS had told them. I said, "What do you mean he told you about it?" AGS said that Mr SANDILANDS had told them about growing up and about what men and women do. She went on to tell us that Mr SANDILANDS had shown them pictures. I asked, "What sort of pictures?" AGS said, "You know Mummy, rude pictures." I said, "What do you mean rude pictures?" She said, "You know pictures of men and women without clothes on." My response was "Like what, photos or something?" She said, "No, they look like they come out of a magazine." I said to her again, "You mean he showed you pictures of men and women without clothes on from a magazine?" and she said, "Yes."

I remember at the time I tried to stay very calm and just let AGS talk, without any pressure or without making her think that what she was saying was wrong or that she was going to get into trouble for what she was telling us. During the course of the conversation I remember AGS telling us that she knew how babies were born and how it happened. I remember when AGS was telling us this, she sounded disgusted by it all. She seemed disgusted when she was retelling us what she knew and what Mr SANDILANDS had taught her. Her face was screwed up and she was speaking in a very low voice. She seemed reluctant and hesitant to talk about it, like she didn't want to talk to us about what she knew. This is the first time AGS had ever spoken to me about this subject and what she knew, I had no knowledge that AGS knew of these things prior to this. AGS is a natural talker, she is a very good communicator and can talk very easily to people. I remember on this occasion AGS appeared to find it very difficult to speak about what she told us. She was visibly upset, her eyes were watery and she had her head down a lot of the time. She was leaning forward in her chair and she had her hands clasped in her lap, like she was very anxious. It took a long time for AGS to tell us what she knew, there were many pauses and she took a long time to be able to come out and tell us what she wanted to say. I was very mindful to just let AGS speak without putting suggestions into her head. I just wanted her to tell us what she had to say before I came to any conclusions myself. I remember AGS also told us that she knew how men and women had sex. After AGS finished telling us about what she knew, I didn't push her for any more information. I tried to let AGS just feel free to talk without putting ideas into her head. I wanted her to feel that we were listening to what she had to say and that we believed her. I remember after talking to AGS she asked, "So what's going to happen to REDA and RE?" I reassured AGS that no matter what happened they wouldn't be in Mr SANDILANDS' class.

Mr SANDILANDS was AGS's Grade Two teacher at Northside Christian College. I remember Mr SANDILANDS was deemed legally blind, but was able to find his way around the school. I learnt this when I went on a tour of the school, before AGS enrolled.

After AGS told me about what happened in Grade Two with Mr SANDILANDS I spoke to Jane ROOKES, who was the wife of the principal at the time. I can't remember an exact date of when AGS first told us about Mr SANDILANDS, except that it was in 1992 and she was in Grade Five.

I remember I couldn't speak to the principal Neil ROOKES, because he was away on study leave in America at the time this happened. Jane ROOKES asked me if it could wait until Neil got home. I said no it couldn't. I told her I was going to see Pastor Dennis SMITH, who was the Senior Minister at Northside Christian Centre at the time. The Christian Centre ran the school.

I went and saw Pastor Dennis SMITH after school one day. I took my husband with me and we saw Pastor SMITH in his office. I preceded to tell Pastor SMITH the whole story about what AGS had told us, from sitting down to dinner to speaking to AGS in the lounge room. Pastor SMITH went on to tell us how children can make up things. I told him that we firmly believed AGS and we had no reason to doubt her. I then went on to tell him that if he didn't do something we would go public with this story. Pastor SMITH told us that we might have been throwing things out of proportion because we were such strong Christian parents and perhaps we were overreacting about what AGS had told us. He said we were the original smother mother and smother father. I told Pastor SMITH that I didn't want Mr SANDILANDS working with children after what AGS had told me. He talked about how an investigation may not be the best way to proceed and he talked about other ways of removing Mr SANDILANDS from the school and if I would be happy with that. I told Pastor SMITH that I did not want Mr SANDILANDS to ever work with children again. The matter was left with Pastor SMITH and he said he would get back to me. I never spoke to Pastor SMITH about this subject again and he never contacted me to tell me of an outcome. Some time later that year there was a public announcement in the Northside newsletter that Mr SANDILANDS had decided to retire.

I remember when I enrolled AGS at Northside in 1989, I had a long discussion with the principal at the time Neil ROOKES. In the course of the conversation I told Neil that I had strong views on sex education. I told him I believed it was a family responsibility. Neil assured me that sex education and body awareness was not part of the Northside School curriculum until High School, which started at Year Seven. He said that even then parents would be notified of any plan to teach sex education and body awareness to their children and that parents would have to give their written consent before such education would be carried out in school.

AGP
AGP

Statement taken and signature witnessed by me
At Greensborough C.P.U. on 23/2/00 at 11.53 am.

REDACTED

Michelle WALSH
Constable 31039

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.

AGP
AGP

Acknowledgment made and signature witnessed by me
At Greensborough C.P.U. on 23/2/00 at 11.53 am.

REDACTED

Michelle WALSH
Constable 31039