



NSW POLICE FORCE

P190A

Version 4.2 (07/05)

## STATEMENT OF A WITNESS

<b>In the matter of:</b>	James Brown
<b>Place:</b>	Belmont Police Station
<b>Date:</b>	31 August 2010

<b>Name:</b>	Suzan Bettye Aslin
--------------	--------------------

### 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 67 years of age.
3. In 1972 I moved to REDACTED in Kurri Kurri with my then husband Eric Ross-Gowan. At the time we had five children, all boys being Simon, Ian, Christopher, Andrew and Sean. Eric had moved there for work which resulted in Simon starting year 7 at Kurri High and the other three going to primary school with Sean staying home with me as he was too young to go to school.
4. After a while Ian and Simon became involved in the scouts and Andrew became involved in the Cubs with the Kurri Kurri Scout group in 1973/74 to the best of my memory. Christopher has a disability and joined the scouts as well but required a reasonable level of care to ensure he is able to participate. I was asked by the Scout leader, Alan Gray to become involved in the scouts and as a result became the Venture Scout Leader. My husband Eric also became a Venturer Scout leader as well. The scout hall was located on the main road leading into Kurri Kurri from Stanford Merthyr not far from the intersection of Lang Street.
5. As part of the spiritual requirements of the venturer scouts I recall that Ian and Simon approached Father Gary Parker of the St Paul's Anglican Church to further their studies in spirituality in the Scouts. Ian would have had to be 14 years of age to undertake this as a Venturer scout and that would have been in 1976. Gary came and spoke to the whole group of

Witness:

REDACTED

Signature:

*Suzan Bettye Aslin*  
Suzan Bettye Aslin

**Statement of Suzan Bettye Aslin  
In the matter of James Brown**


Venturers on different aspects of spirituality. I used some of what Gary spoke of in some of my classes I later taught in religion. He had a way of explaining things that was very good people.

6. As a result of their studies in the scouts both Ian and Simon started going to the Anglican Church which is just around the corner from the Scout Hall but it is located on Lang Street near the post office. As a result of Ian and Simon going to church my husband and along with the other boys started to attend church as well.
7. I recall Ian and Simon were asked to join the youth group which was part of the Anglican Church at Kurri Kurri. To my memory it was just a social thing to keep the kids off the street. There was not a lot for the local youth to do. Eric and I fully supported the kids getting involved in these activities.
8. I recall the first time I met Jim Brown was one day in late 1976 early 1977 just after Ian and Simon started Ventures and going to the Anglican Church. There was a knock at the front door and the next thing I know Jim Brown is in the kitchen. I cannot be sure but I believe one of the boys let him in. I recall that it was a weekend and it was around midday. The conversation revolved around me being a venture leader and we talked about how the youth group could be involved in the scout group.
9. One of the most distinct things I remember about our conversation was that I asked Jim "Are you a homosexual". Jim denied being homosexual but was not angered or show any signs of embarrassment, or resentment when I asked him this. Call it a mother's intuition but I was concerned that this person had just turned up and I wanted to know more of why he was interested in the boys. I remember speaking with Simon and Ian and asked them to be careful when in the company of James Brown and I told Jim that I would think about his request but this never occurred.
10. Ian and Simon continued to go to Venturers and attend the church and youth group. I have a memory of Ian and Simon going to other parishes due to their involvement with the church. I have a vague recollection of them being taken by Jim Brown. It was on one of these occasions that I remember them going and meeting with Father Peter Rushton. I am not sure of the circumstances of this meeting other than what the boys told me at the time. It is quite likely that the boys went on other trips involving their duties with Jim but I cannot recall them at this time.

Witness:

REDACTED

Signature:

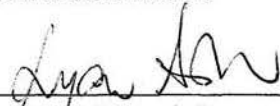
  
Suzan Bettye Aslin

**Statement of Suzan Bettye Aslin  
In the matter of James Brown**

11. It was around this time that I found out by accident through one of the other ventures that Ian was going around to Jim's house. I recall that I did not mind if Ian was going to Jim's place provided there were other people present when he was there.
12. Ian and Simon continued to attend the Venturer's, the church and the youth group for the next couple of years with no issues to my knowledge. Ian, Simon and the boys seemed happy growing up. I also recall that a youth group from the Anglican church went on a camp to Morpeth. The Anglican Church has a theological college there and we had a weekend of fun and games and spirituality. I recall that there were three adult males to assist. These were Father Peter Rushton, James Brown and another younger minister whose name I can't recall at this time. It was cold at the time but we stayed in a dormitory that is on site.
13. Then one day in 1978 Ian tells me he is concerned that James Brown is pursuing him. I recall Ian saying to me that Jim told him that "You will be mine" and "Relations between males are better" or words similar to that. From the way Ian was talking I had no doubt that Ian was saying James Brown wanted an intimate relationship with him. Ian was 15 going on 16 at the time. I had and have absolute faith in Ian and it's in Ian's nature to confide in me in relation to matters he wanted to talk about. I recall that my reaction at the time was that I felt sorry for everyone. I told Eric but he did not seem too perturbed over this.
14. Ian and I went to Jim's place in Kurri Kurri one night shortly after Ian told me his story. We did not go around straight after Ian told me, it was a number of weeks but I cannot recall exactly how long it was. Jim's place was not far from the Kurri Kurri swimming pool. I do not remember the address but it was an older house. There was a small verandah where you entered the house and into the lounge. There was a dark coloured lounge; I believe it was brown with the kitchen on the other side of the lounge. I recall that the bedrooms were to the left of the lounge down a hall from what I recall.
15. I cannot recall the circumstances of how Ian and I were at Jim's place. I know on arriving we sat on the lounge in the lounge room. We were all sitting on the lounge. I was on couch then Ian was on my left with Jim sitting next to Ian. There was just general chit chat and then out of know where I saw Jim lean over Ian and I see his Jim's face get close to Ian's face then my vision is obscured. It's not till later that Ian told me that Jim had leant over and kissed him mouth. I did not realise that this had occurred at the time otherwise we would have left immediately. I was appalled when Ian told me this. I felt stupid that I was there when it

Witness: REDACTED

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Suzan Bettye Aslin

**Statement of Suzan Bettye Aslin  
In the matter of James Brown**

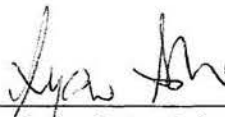
happened and not being able to do something about this at the time. As a parent it was a dreadful thing.

16. I know we had dinner there as of all things I remember carrots in the dinner, had I realised that Jim had kissed Ian we would not have been there. I remember that we talked about the St Albans Children's Home at Aberdare. This was due to my awareness that Jim was going to foster a child from the home. I cannot recall the boys name. We also talked about a trip that Jim and Peter Rushton were about to embark on overseas to Europe. It was just general chit chat. I cannot recall if it was at that time but I am almost certain it was then that Jim showed me a glossy magazine showing the gay bars in Europe.
17. At one point I had to go to the bathroom. After I went to the bathroom I went into a bedroom. I know its wrong but I went into the bedroom to have a look to see what's there. I remember there was a light on in the room and I could see a large number of magazines under the bed. I grabbed one of the magazines. From the front of the magazine I could see that it was a pornographic magazine. I opened the magazine and it opened to two males fornicating. I remember vividly that one of the males was a negro. I had never seen anything like it before. There were more then one photograph of males in the magazine and it showed the negro with what I would describe as a large rampant erect penis. When I found this magazine I was stunned, as I looked at the other magazines and it appeared that they were all gay porn.
18. I did not want this person to have any further influence on my sons. While I trusted Ian implicitly I wanted Jim gone out of Ian's life. I walked out of the bedroom with the magazine in my hand waving it at Ian saying "Look at this" Ian and Jim was still sitting at the table. Ian and Jim both got up and came towards me. Jim looked angry and he tried to grab the magazine from me. Ian looked appalled. I know there was some pushing and shoving and I was holding the magazine away from Jim but he got the magazine from me. If there was conversation between us but I cannot recall what was said. There was a very heated argument but I just cannot recall what was said at that time.
19. I know when Ian and I went to leave Jim said "You will be mine" I knew he was not referring to me so that just left Ian he was referring to. At that stage I believed that Jim Brown was referring to having a relationship with Ian. At that point I am unbelievably angry with myself that I allowed Ian to be involved with Jim knowing what I thought when I first met Jim Brown.

Witness

REDACTED

Signature:

  
Suzan Bettye Aslin

**Statement of Suzan Bettye Aslin  
In the matter of James Brown**

20. We went home, but Eric was working and it was only the other kids that were home. I did not tell my husband as I believed that it would end violence with Jim Brown being the victim. I know I told Ian on the way home that he was to have no more dealing with James Brown. That night when I undressed I saw that I had a number of bruises around my waist and up towards the front of my shoulder blades. I was concerned that Eric would see the bruises but I covered them up till they disappeared.
21. To my memory I had a conversation with Professor David Frost around 1978 where I raised concerns I had for James Brown and Peter Rushton in regards to the children attached to the St Albans children's home. I informed the Professor of what had occurred between Ian and James Brown and he advised me that he would advise the Bishop for the Newcastle Diocese of the Anglican Church. Professor David Frost was the head of the department of English at Newcastle University where I was undertaking my degree in Bachelor of Arts. The Professor was a member of the Anglican Synod at the time.
22. About a week after I spoke with Professor Frost I received a telephone call from Bishop Holland. I was home at the time. I raised by concerns with Bishop Holland and told him how James Brown had pursued my son and I believe I raised the fact that he had pornography at his house. I also raised my concerns over Peter Rushton and James Brown fostering two boys from St Albans children's home. I wanted the Bishop to be aware of my grave concerns over the welfare of any male children under the care of these two people. Bishop Holland told me that he would look into it. The only thing I ever heard was that Peter Rushton was moved from his parish to the cathedral not a thing about James Brown. I was never contacted by anyone from the church in relation to the matter I raised with the Bishop and informed of any outcome.
23. REDACTED
24. One of the other things that I recall about James Brown was that he used to work at Davis and Spence lighting at Hannell Street at Wickham. I cannot recall how I found this out. I have supplied Detective Harding with a copy of a newspaper clipping from a local paper which I believe was the Cessnock Advertiser. The article depicts three Venturer scouts. Two of these being my sons Ian and Simon. This picture was taken in May 1979.

Witness:

REDACTED

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Suzan Bettye Aslin

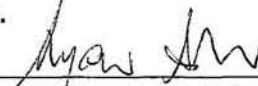
Statement of Suzan Bettye Aslin  
In the matter of James Brown

EXHIBIT - I PRODUCE A COPY OF THE NEWSPAPER CLIPPING.

Witness:

REDACTED

Signature:



Suzan Bettye Aslin

CHANDLER  
DSC  
31-8-10

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Suzan Bettye Aslin