



NSW POLICE FORCE

P190A

Version 4.2 (07/05)

STATEMENT OF A WITNESS

In the matter of: Police Vs. Rojer JAMES
 Place: Gosford Police Station
 Date: 07 April 2009

Name: ATV

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 72 years of age.
3. I have three children, ARY [REDACTED] and REDA [REDACTED] ARY and RED [REDACTED] attended Knox Grammar. Both children went to Knox Grammar Preparatory School and completed schooling in grade twelve at Knox Grammar. ARY was a boarder at Knox Grammar during the years 1974 and 1978. RED had a break from the school during the years of 1974 and 1979. ARY is currently forty-seven (47) years of age, and born in 1962. RED is currently forty-five years of age, and born in 1964. Dr Paterson was the principal or Head master of the school during this time. In 1974 my husband and my three children resided at an address called REDACTED Aberddine 2336. This was during the years of 1974 until 1978. The property was approximately 1000 acres. Before this we lived at an address at Killara. When we returned to Sydney in 1978 my family and I, moved to Wahroonga.
4. Whilst ARY was at school he was involved in cadets. This was an out door activity that involved marching and involved a disciplinary action for the students. It was similar to a little army for the students. This activity was run by and organised by the school. I remember that in about 1976 when ARY was in about year eight and 14 years of age there was a camp that ARY was to attend for cadets. I do not remember the circumstances relating to times and dates or permission notes related to the camp. My husband, REDACTED dealt with this

Witness: HMERSE

HMERSE.
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Signature: [REDACTED]

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kind of information. My husband is now deceased. It was in about May, June or July that a cadet camp was organised. Rojer JAMES was a teacher at the school and do not remember what his involvement was at the Knox Grammar at school. I do not remember why it came about, however the students and the teacher, Rojer JAMES attended our home address at REDA. My understanding was that the camp was related to out door activities, hiking, cooking and certain life skills. The camp was about half a kilometre away. This is where Rojer JAMES and the students, including ARY stayed. I remember taking treats to them on at least one occasion during the camping stay. I do not remember how many teachers were staying with the students but specifically remember Rojer JAMES. This is because on one night my son, ARY and his teacher Rojer JAMES stayed at my house. I do not remember why this occurred. I do not remember where they stayed inside the house, however remember that only ARY and Rojer stayed. There were no other children or students that stayed at my house. I was a very busy person, I would often have many activities around the house. We had many animals living on the farm and I would often work long hours to care for them. There was always something around the house that needed doing. On the night that ARY and Rojer came back from camp my husband, RED and I were home as well as my other two children, RED and RED. The next morning I can recall that ARY was not talking to Rojer JAMES. I did not know why this was and assumed that he was being rude. I said words to the effect of "What's the matter ARY Why are you being rude?" I do not remember his reply. I do not remember if they stayed another night or if they left my property.

5. About February of 2009 I received a phone call from my son, ARY ARY asked me "I don't know if you've seen the news lately?" He stated that Knox had been in the news and that there were some sexual offences from "way back". He stated that he had been to Hornsby Police Station to make a statement. I said "Why have you been affected?" He said "there have been a lot of people before me." ARY explained to me further that whilst he was on camp during 1976 he was "interfered with." I immediately knew that it was Rojer JAMES. I said the name "Rojer JAMES" and he said "Yes." He did not tell me anything more about this matter.
6. I felt shocked and extremely distressed about this matter. I felt let down and upset by the news. It affected me for a number of days and caused me to cry on a number of occasions. I was disgusted that this occurred in my house and the trust that I held for Rojer JAMES. I was so

Witness: *hemene*

HMERSE
7/4/07

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sad for ARY that he was so alone for so many years and never told me the story. I feel so incredibly angry and disgusted at Rojer JAMES. This matter has caused me a lot of grief.

- 7. At my house in 1978 we had an alcohol cabinet that had alcohol in the house to entertain when we had visitors. About two weeks after Rojer JAMES left our house after the stay I recall pouring a drink for a guest at my house. My husband, RED noticed that the alcohol was replaced with water in almost all of the bottles that previously had alcohol in it. We assumed that it was Rojer JAMES. It happened close to the time after his stay and there were no other persons that had stayed at my house during this time. Rojer was never given permission to enter our liquor cabinet.
- 8. On the 7th of April, 2009 Constable MERSE contacted me in relation to making a statement in relation to this matter. I supplied a statement at Gosford Police Station on this day.

Witness: *H. Merse*

Signature: ATV

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H. MERSE
7/4/09

Signature: ATV
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