



NSW POLICE FORCE

P180A

Version 4.2 (07/05)

## STATEMENT OF A WITNESS

**In the matter of:** Knox Grammar School - Historic Sexual Offences  
**Place:** Hornsby Police Station  
**Date:** 07 May 2009

**Name:** Marian NOACH

### 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
2. I am 59 years of age.
3. My full name is Marian Frances NOACH and my date of birth is the 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1949. I was born in Sydney Australia. I was raised in Melbourne by my parents for seventeen (17) years before re locating in Sydney.
4. I was trained at Blacktown to become a Registered Nurse. After this time I returned to Melbourne and did twelve months of Midwifery. From there I went to New York with five (5) nurses and worked in the Emergency Section and Operating rooms. I returned to Sydney in 1974 working at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in the open heart section. I continued at this hospital on a post graduate theatre course working in the Prof Theatres.
5. After I left the Royal Prince Alfred I did a six (6) month course at Willoughby in Child Infant Welfare. From there I went to the Mater Hospital doing operating theatres (Micro Surgery). I then attended the College of nursing and completed a six (6) month course on Nursing.
6. In late July 1980 I was employed as a nurse at Knox Grammar School on the Pacific Highway Wahroonga and remained there until May 2002. I was employed by Dr Ian PATERSON. Knox Grammar School is an all boy school and has a Preparatory School which is located on Billyard

Witness:

*Al Campbell*  
 07/05/09

Signature:

*Marian Noach*  
 Marian NOACH

*7 May 2009*

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Avenue Wahroonga. I was a live in boarder on the Senior School Campus. I lived in the school hospital flat.

7. I was employed as a full time Nurse doing (128) hours a week. The school hospital was built in memory of a Mrs GILLESPIE which consisted of a flat which has a door which opened up into a five bedded ward and a two bedded ward. There was a clinical examining room and also a waiting room. The hospital was about ten (10) feet from Gilmore house and faced the Residence Masters flat.
  8. As the head nurse I was responsible for the welfare of about (1800) hundred students which includes about (200) boarders. I was also responsible for teachers and maintenance staff that may injure themselves.
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9. Throughout my many years of employment as a nurse within Knox, I worked with quite a few nurses. Some of the names are, Maree CHARLES, Ann BUSTEED, David MARTIN and Joan FLYNN. Joan worked with me for about five (5) years solid before taking time off. When she returned Joan and I shared around fifty six (56) hours each per week for about five (5) to six (6) years.
  10. The clinic was open and manned in the eighties and mid nineties twenty four seven. The boarders would attend morning, break, lunch, after school, before dinner and after prep at night. If the students were sick they would have to report to their Resident Master or House Master first before attending the clinic. This was predominately boarders.
  11. Upon attending the clinic the students would have to sign an attendance registry book which had a hard red cover. They were the Collins books with blue pages and A4 in size. The students were responsible for signing in upon arrival. The books were located in the waiting room.
  12. When I would treat the students for what ever reason, I would record the date, time, nature of complaint and treatment given. When I first started this information was recorded into hard covered books. As time went on we then moved into the clinical room and kept recording the patients and medical history and treatments in red covered books. We also had a medical Doctors "KISS" system which was for Doctors when they attended the clinic to treat the

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Abe Campbell  
07/05/09

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boarders and occasional day students. The "KISS" system was separate record cards that the Doctors wrote on. This system would have commenced in the mid eighties or a little bit later.

13. In the ninties the school become computerised and were given a "TASS" medical system computer programme. All the medical information from students was entered into this system so that every student had there own medical file. This was introduced by the school which went computerised and the school wanted this as a component for the medical history and treatments.
14. There were a bit of confusion over the access into the students medical files. This was because the Deputy (whom I don't recall his name) at the time also wanted access. I objected to this as this access was confidential information on students only accessed for Nurses and Doctors treating the patient. ~~I don't know if any of the files were accessed by others.~~
15. Whilst I was nursing at the school if I had any complaints I would voice my opinion. I was not afraid to speak with the Housemasters or Headmaster to voice my opinion. An example of this was on one occasion when a student (whom I can't recall) was caned and attended the clinic. Some of the welts appeared outside of the area designated for canning. As a result of the cane being accidentally misplaced around the chest cavity. The welts were treated with ice packs, Panadol and some topical cream. I would inform the canee. There were other occasions when students would attend for caning where Panadol would be given and ice packs.
16. Other examples I would address is when some of the students were placed outside the dining room as punishment in the freezing cold in winter, I would go to the Housemaster and inform him that it is winter and we do not need any more sick kids. There was also health runs in the morning organised by Norrie CANNON. Norrie was a House master, Director of Boarding. He was into health and fitness. Norrie would make the kids go for morning runs sick or not sick, they were made to go. A lot of the kids wanted to go for fitness but there was the minor that did not. I would voice my opinion to Norrie about the sick kids attending.
17. In the nineteen eighties I found the school to be a very family orientated, caring community within the school. Dr PATERSON and the Deputy Mr TURNBULL were very virtuous and opening. I would describe Dr PATERSON as a most caring and dedicated and available twenty four seven to all. His concern incorporated not only students but the whole family.

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18. When students attended the clinic and I treated them it was for medical reasons. However there was one occasion that I recall very clearly. It was when two (2) year eleven (11) or TWELVE (12) boarders presented at the hospital. This would have been approximately in either 1985 or 1986. The boys were ASD and REDACTED. They presented in an agitated state. ASD blurted out words to the effect of, "We've got to do something to protect the young boys from a teacher because we are leaving at the end of the year and we can't do it". I said words to the effect of, "Who was the teacher? They both replied, Mr VANCE. I was shocked at what was coming out of their mouths. I thought immediately this was serious. I then said to the boys that we have got to go and see Dr PATERSON now. It was around 4.00pm at the end of the day because I was making beds at the time they arrived.
19. I stated we needed to contact Dr PATERSON immediately. The boys were apprehensive and really did not want to go. I think that they were fearful that they would not be believed. My response was that I will support you on what we do. I rang Dr PATERSEN directly in his office and told him that the matter was serious and the boys were on there way.
20. Both the boys would have returned about fifteen (15) minutes later and appeared less apprehensive. They stated to me that Dr PATERSON was going to investigate the matter and would require a week to do it.
21. About eight (8) days after the event ASD and REDA returned to the clinic and said that it was a week and that nothing had happened. At this point I thought something more had to be done. I told the boys to return and in my opinion ASD was ready to maintain the momentum. He was determined that something had to be done. I again rung Dr PATERSON and he informed me to send both the boys over.
22. The boys returned and told me that Dr PATERSON was dealing with it.
23. ASD was a very courageous strong young man from the country and was one of the first boarders that I knew. I believed in what he said straight away. I had never seen ASD so upset before and the contents had substance because he mentioned a name. Although not the contents.
24. James was more a follower, he was mature beyond the average boy his age and that applies to ASD also.

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25. I don't know what transpired but three (3) days later Mr Damien VANCE was terminated at Knox Grammar.
26. All I know bout Mr VANCE is that he was a Military type of person, very disciplined and a blokey type of guy.
27. When I heard the news about Craig TRELOAR on the television I was deeply shocked, given the proximity of the back door of Gilmore boarding house and Craig's dormitory door. Craig always appeared warm, helpful and compassionate to people. Kids always wanted to be in his class and I never had a cross word with him.
28. On a couple of occasions some boys would talk about the "Dark Room" in Mr NISBETT's boarding house. They would pass comment that this room was of a small confined space and that you had to squeeze past him in it. But there was never any further commentary. My opinion on Mr NISBETT is that he appeared compassionate and really did solve a lot of kids problems in house and go the hard yards to protect the kids from the consequences of their behaviour of school rule of suspension.
29. I was contacted by Amber STEPHENS from Hornsby Police investigating the Knox Grammar incidents. I was informed that a student by the name of ASV [redacted] had mentioned my name in relation to the "Balaclava incident" and Mr VANCE. The student had apparently mentioned to me about an incident about someone wearing a balaclava. My response was that oh, that was Mr VANCE. I do not recall that incident of AS [redacted] and I having that conversation. However ASV [redacted] has a recall of it, but I just do not recall the incident.
30. On the 7<sup>th</sup> May 2009 I attended Hornsby Police Station and provided Plain Clothes Senior Constable Annette CAMPBELL this statement.

Witness: Alec Campbell  
 07/05/09

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 Marian NOACH  
 7<sup>th</sup> May 2009

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