



NSW POLICE FORCE

P190A

Version 4.2 (07/05)

STATEMENT OF A WITNESS

In the matter of: Knox Grammar School
Place: Hornsby Police Station
Date: 28 August 2009

Name: ASL

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 41 years of age.
3. I commenced my education at Knox Grammar School as a full time boarder in 1981 because my family lived in Thredbo. Knox Grammar School is a male only school consisting of a prep school and senior school. They're operated as independent campuses but the school principal is in charge of both. Whilst I was attending the school, the principal was Dr PATTERSON. I completed all my senior school through to year 12 at Knox and was a boarder for all but second term in year twelve (12).
4. The school caters for both day students who travel to the school each day and boarding students who attend and reside at the school. Some of these went home on weekends, some stayed on weekends depending on their situation.
5. Boarding at the school was structured and broken up into 'houses', each house accommodated a set group of students. Year 7 resided at Gilmore House, Year 8- Gillespie, year 9 and 10 - McNeil and years 11-12 at Ewan House.
6. Gilmore, Gillespie and McNeil houses were located on the senior School campus which is on the Pacific Highway, Wahroonga and Ewan House is located within the prep school campus also at Wahroonga but on the other side of the railway line.

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7. Each house is run by a Boarding House Master. This person is responsible for the house and equivalent to a general manager or head of the house. Each of the Boarding House Masters was employed as teachers within the school and I believe being a House Master was an added advantage as they were provided with accommodation meals etc.
8. The Resident Masters were employed to run the day to day operation of the house. They would wake the students up in the morning and look after any issues that came up during the day. These positions could be teachers from other school, teachers on exchange etc they were junior to the Boarding House Masters.
9. I moved into Ewan House in 1985 when I commenced year 11/ 5th Form. At the time Adrian NISBETT was the boarding house master of Ewan House. NISBETT was an English teacher at the school but I had no previous interactions with him until this point.
10. Ewan House is an older style two story building located within the grounds of the prep school. Year 11 students reside in dorm style accommodation with about 15 students upstairs and 20-25 students downstairs, these are open style dorms.
11. The year 12 students were allocated individual rooms based on school report results for effort. Those with good reports would have first pick of the rooms. I was allocated a dormitory style room which was broken up into rooms divided by partition walls and a door. These were referred to as the "warrens".
12. NISBETT, the Boarding House Master had accommodation at the northern end of the building on the second floor. If you walked up the stairs his area was in front of you. It was not general practice to walk into a Boarding House Masters accommodation. At the other houses the Boarding Masters would have an office, so if you needed to speak to them you would do so in the office. The only occasion I had previously been into a Boarding Masters area was with a teacher Craig TRELOAR who had a room within Gillespie House.
13. I only went into Adrian NISBETT'S area on one occasion, in 1985 about mid way through the rugby season I was at the bottom of the stairs and NISBETT was at the top of the stairwell. He said words to the effect of "ASL I have some good photos from the weekend, come and have a look". This initially wasn't unusual as NISBETT was the schools official photographer for the year book. It would have been about June or July that year. I was about 10-20 meters away

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from him, so I walked up the stairs and followed NISBETT into his area. I recall walking into a lounge type area and then turning to the left. I followed him around to the left and into a dark room. This was a small rectangular room with a bench on one side and an ally way on the other side. As you walked into the dark room there were photos hanging from pegs or clips on a string. There was equipment on the bench and I remember a processing piece of equipment on the bench on the opposite end from the door. NISBETT asked me to walk in first and I walked towards the end of the room which was in a tight corridor between the bench and wall. We walked past the photos hanging on the string. There was some type of processing equipment of the bench and whatever it was it required adjusting and manipulating. Once I was at the end of the room I can't remember the conversation but I gathered he needed to do something with the equipment for me to look at the photos. I recall the light in the room being very low and the door was shut.

14. I was standing in the corner so I was between the wall to the back of me, wall to the side of me and the bench in front of me. NISBETT leaned over the bench which blocked the path back towards the door with his body. As he leant over the equipment and started using it he stuck his elbows out. His right elbow was pointed in my direction. Initially when I had walked past the outer room and into the dark room, I thought to myself this was wrong, but once I was in the position against the wall I could not get out without having to touch or speak to NISBETT.
15. As NISBETT was using the equipment his elbows were levelled with my testicles and they made contact on several occasions. His right elbow touched me on the genitals on more than one occasion. I said something to the effect of 'Geeze look out' but once this continued happening I realised where I was standing, where he was and what he was doing, the whole scenario did not appear to be accidental. In hindsight now I believe this set up was intentional due to the manner in which NISBETT directed me into the room so I was standing between the walls and the bench, the positioning of the equipment on the bench and the fact that I was made to stand on his right side. I would estimate his elbows touched my genitals probably between 3-6 times, I believe one or two may have been an accident, but he did it enough times to make me feel very uncomfortable. At the time I was probably wearing a pair of track suit pants and a sloppy Joe.

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16. I left the room, but I can't remember what I said, but I did not get to see the prints so I did not wait for the full process. I may have said "how about you process them, then I will look at them later".
17. When I immediately left the room I walked out by myself and I bumped into another student REDACTED who's pictures I had seen in the room. I said "your next" or words to that effect indicating there were photos of him in the dark room.
18. I recall later speaking to REDACTED, about NISBETT and the dark room and we may have had spoken to another student REDACTED. I'm not sure how it came about but within the next couple of weeks I spoke to Stuart PEARSON about the incident. Stuart PEARSON was the general duties master at the school who looked after such things as discipline and any issues that weren't covered by a syllabus. He was a former Police Officer and I guess he was seen as having that type of duty within the school environment.
19. I recall talking to Stuart PEARSON within his office, which was in the breezeway across from the school toilets. I told him what had occurred within the dark room with NISBETT and I felt it was intentional.
20. I'm not sure what happened with in the school in relation to this complaint. During year 12 (1986) I have no specific recollection of Adrian NISBET being the Boarding Master at Ewan, and there is a possibility Les HARVEY was the Boarding Master.
21. On 28th August 2009 I spoke with Detective Sergeant WOUTERSZ about Knox Grammar, as a result I attended Hornsby Police Station where I made a statement.
22. I made this statement from my own recollection and I am aware there has been an ongoing investigation from various media outlets and forms, but I am not aware of any other reports being made or publicised in the media in respect to any dark room within Knox Grammar School.
23. During the course of making the statement I completed 3 x sketch diagrams covering 5 pages attached to this statement to which I have signed and dated. These diagrams form part of my statement.

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 Plain clothes senior
 Constable Amette Campbell.

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