

NORTHERN TERRITORY POLICE FORCE

PLACE Darwin Police Station

STATEMENT

DATE 24th February 1966

(3b)

NAME	PATTERSON / Mervyn Victor. <small>(Surname in Capital)</small> / <small>(Christian Name)</small>
ADDRESS	Betta Dixon Home, Bagot Road, Darwin.
OCCUPATION	Superintendent of Betta Dixon Home.

STATES—

I am the Superintendent of the Betta Dixon Home, Bagot Road, Darwin. The Home is run by the Aborigine Inland Mission of Australia, and its function is to care for underprivileged children of which there are some 70 to 80 in the home.

On the staff is a Reginald POWELL and his wife who act as cottage parents to eleven children ranging in ages from 7 to 15 years. As cottage parents Mr and Mrs POWELL live in a cottage with the children and have control of them under my supervision.

Among the children living with Mr and Mrs POWELL are AJZ 13 years, REDACTED 7 years, AJY 13 years, AJX about 10 years.

On Monday 14th February 1966, AJY and another boy from another cottage ran away from the home and weren't seen again until the morning of the 15th February 1966. I questioned them as to why they had run away and AJY said among other things that Mr. POWELL had been rude to him. As a result of his allegations I questioned him further and from what he told me I gathered that he alleged that Mr POWELL had entered his bedroom when he was in bed and he (POWELL) had played with his penis. AJY also alleged that the same conduct had happened between POWELL and AJZ

The same night I questioned AJZ on the matter but it was after he had been in contact with AJY. AJZ's story was similar to AJY's in that he alleged that POWELL had played with his penis whilst he was in bed.

As a result of the allegations I saw Mr POWELL the same night and told him of the allegations. POWELL inferred that the

Witness *[Signature]* 24/2/66 (Signature) Mervyn V. Patterson

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STATEMENT—(continued)

NAME

PATTENORE

Mervyn Victor

(Surname in Capitals)

(Christian Name)

STATES—

boys were lying to get their own back on him for his disciplining them. I accepted his explanation against the childrens allegations because of his past clear record. I did however tell the children that any further allegations should be reported to me.

Mr POWELL came to Darwin on the 8th July 1965 and I've known him since then and I regard him in the highest esteem and have found him to be of exemplary character and have never ever questioned his sincerity of work or words. He has been an outstanding chap and he is a lay preacher. *Mervyn V. Pattenore*

Witness

Signature

By Authority: A. J. ARTHUR, CHIEF OF POLICE, CANTON.

12/17 24/2/66