

Record of conversation between Reginald POWELL of Belle Dixon Home and Det. Const D. SANDLINO at Darwin Police Station 23/2/66 commencing at 3 pm.

Q. Now Mr POWELL I want to ask you some questions regarding your conduct with young [redacted] but before we go any further, it's my duty to warn [redacted] you are not obliged to say anything whatsoever nor are you obliged to answer any questions unless you want to as anything you do say will be taken down in writing and may be used in any future Court proceedings, do you understand that?

A. Yes

Q. Now is there anything you wish to tell me about your conduct with him.

A. I've entered his room to say "Goodnight", he's requested me to go to his bed to say "Goodnight", this enters into general talk, a bit of a nuzzle and kiss, this goes further by touching his penis.

Q. When did this happen

A. Last week

Q. Is he in bed at the time

A. Yes. I'm sorry about last week, it was not after the talk with Mr PATTERSON, I restrained myself.

Q. How long ago would it be then

A. Two or three weeks ago.

Q. Is the light on in the room.

A. No.

Q. How old is he

A. Ten

Q. Did you put your hand inside his pyjamas

A. Yes

Q. Did he touch your penis

A. Yes

Q. Was it out of your trousers

A. Yes

Q. Did you get it out

A. I was in pyjamas, he just slipped his hand in

Q. Did he masturbate you

A. No

Q. What did you do to his penis

A. Just played with it for a few minutes

Q. Is he one of the children under your care

A. Yes

L.H. [unclear]

R. Powell

- Q. Where do es this boy live
- A. In my cottage at the Nettie Dixon Home.
- Q. Did you know it was wrong to do what you did
- A. Yes I know, there have been one or two occasions when I've restrained myself from doing it, determined not to enter into that.
- Q. Where there any other children in the room when you did this
- A. Yes, there would be the **REDACTED** boys.
- Q. How old are they
- A. **AJC** they're eight years old **REDACTED** they are.
- Q. At what time would this have happened
- A. Eight to nine o'clock, bedtime.
- Q. Has this boy made any complaint to anyone regarding your behaviour
- A. No
- Q. Are you employed at the Nettie Dixon Home
- A. Yes as a house parent and as a storeman
- Q. Did you ever tell the boy not to tell anyone you did this
- A. No.
- Q. How many children in your cottage
- A. Eleven, male and female.
- Q. What are their ages
- A. Seven years to fifteen.
- Q. How many children in the whole Nettie Dixon Home
- A. Between 70 and 80
- Q. Do your duties associate you with all the children
- A. No, not all, only those in my cottage
- Q. Can you offer any explanation for your conduct towards this boy
- A. Pressure of the work, sense of weariness, they being affectionate type of children, as for myself I wasn't watchful of the pitfalls.
- Q. Well Mr POWELL you will be charged with the indecent assault on this boy and it's my duty to caution you that you are not obliged to say anything or answer any questions unless you wish to do so as anything you say will be taken down in writing and may be used in evidence in any future Court proceedings, do you understand that.
- A. Yes
- Q. Well now I will hand this to you to read, if you agree it's a true and correct record of our conversation I will ask you to sign it although you are to clearly understand that you are under no obligation whatsoever to sign unless you want to and that any signature will be purely voluntary, do you understand that

A. Yes

L. L. Cassano
 Sub. 144-144-26. 2287-28/2/68

[Handwritten signature]