

NORTHERN TERRITORY POLICE FORCE

## STATEMENT

PLACE Darwin Police Station

DATE 31st. February 1966

(3b)

NAME	LOWELL, Reginald (Surname in Capital) (Christian Name)
ADDRESS	Retta Dixon Home, Tagot Road, Darwin.
OCCUPATION	House parent/storeman.

STATES—

have you been cautioned that you are not obliged to say anything or answer any questions unless you wish to do so? *yes.*

Are you making this statement of your own free will? *yes.*

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I came to Darwin to work for the Retta Dixon Home in July 1965. My wife and I were working in Cottage 7 till about the end of August, then we moved over to Cottage 1. The months that followed was the general getting to know the children, managing the home, general supervision.

There were 3 children then in Cottage 1, a very difficult group, it took much patience on my wife and myself's part to maintain general running. I could have been round about some date in October or November that **AJX** being a very affectionate child expressed his desire for a cuddle or kiss which led on to saying "Goodnight" at the bed. This caught on with the others and they seemed to have a jealousy if they were left out. If I did it to one and not the other.

**AJY** the most difficult child, seemed to show this jealousy more, the result being very offhandish and cheeky and hard to approach. It was the end of schooling in December that the **AJZ** came to our cottage. I don't know how long they were there. They stayed about a week and then they went to live with their sister. I remember in that week **AJZ** expressed affection of being in the cottage then I remember he put his arms around me as a hug and I kissed him on the cheek. Little more than a week before Christmas my wife went away to Tasmania because of her **AJZ** illness. It was then that I expressed deep love for **AJZ** as much that one of the children noticed it. One of the **AJZ** **AJZ**

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## STATEMENT—(continued)

NAME

POWELL

Reginald

(Surname in Capitals)

(Christian Name)

## STATES—

saw me crying in the kitchen. That week was most difficult and busy the children wouldn't co-operate and work but [REDACTED] showed a helpful and affectionate attitude. By helpful I mean he helped in the work. This lead to a few cuddles and kisses. I don't remember of anything indecent then I was too busy with other things. The boys want to camp in the first week in January. My wife had arrived back Christmas day. One occasion [REDACTED] came back from the camp for medical treatment. He expressed a hunger for affection which was noticed also by my wife. I remember one or two occasions then of a cuddle and kiss. He'd wander down to the store. In the process of work I put my arm around his just to brighten him up, gave him a kiss and sent him off. It was when the boys returned from camp that [REDACTED] showed softness which led on to talk at the bedside and of a general stroking of the back to sooth him. On one of these occasions it went a little further, probably a hug and a kiss and the touching of his penis. That I say happened about twice. Though there ~~is~~ are times he hasn't been difficult he's just gone to bed with a "Goodnight". Prior to school recommencing [REDACTED] arrived back at the cottage. There again they expressed a delight in being back. I remember that night I kissed [REDACTED] goodnight and gave him a hug I don't remember but I could have touched his penis without disturbing his clothes. This happening with [REDACTED] where we entered into a deeper act took place in the days or week following. [REDACTED] was at that time in the other bedroom so it meant saying "Goodnight" to him in another bedroom. It only bear in the last two weeks that [REDACTED] has been with the [REDACTED].

These entering into this habit left with me with a sense of wrong and guilt with a sort of fighting within me to restrain which on

Witness

L. P. Kesson

Signature

R Powell

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(Surname in Capitals)

(Christian Name)

## STATES—

some occasions I did. But in the sense of weariness, pressure of work, these climatic conditions, I've let myself loose from the restraint this could be brought on to by the affections of the children more or less encouraging me. But I know they must be stopped. I'm conscious of the pitfall and the guilt and I'm ashamed to mention the matter. I've sought God for strength and help in this matter and forgiveness but I know this way must be conditioned on our part. I'm just really sorry about the whole matter.



Witness

L.R. Casson

Signature

Recd 27/4/66

24/4/66