

**THE ROYAL COMMISSION  
INTO INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSES  
TO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE**

**STATEMENT**

I, **Bennett Alfred King**, Executive Director, Queensland Academy of Sport (QAS), of Kessels Road, Nathan in the State of Queensland, state as follows:-

1. I have been employed as Executive Director of QAS since June 2007.
2. My background prior to commencing this role was as a professional cricket coach.
3. When I commenced employment in this position with QAS, Mr Scott Volkens was already employed as mentor coach for swimming and had occupied that position since 1997 on a series of contracts.
4. At the time of my commencement, I was aware from earlier media reports that Mr Volkens had formerly been charged with allegations of child sexual abuse but that the Director of Public Prosecutions had elected not to pursue those charges.

**Mr Volkens' Role at QAS**

5. The way QAS' swimming operations were structured at the time of my commencement at QAS was that there were a number of high performing clubs in Queensland to which Mr Volkens would provide direction and assistance to the coach. Those clubs all ran morning and afternoon squad training sessions. Mr Volkens would spend time with the coach at a particular squad session each morning and afternoon. The amount of time he would spend with each coach would vary depending on the level of experience of each particular coach. In between those morning and afternoon sessions, Mr Volkens would either work at home or at the QAS office where he would develop programs, attend staff meetings and meet with the service providers such as nutritionists, psychologists and physiotherapists.

---

Page 1 of 4

  
.....  
**Bennett Alfred King**

  
.....  
**Witness**

6. As a result Mr Volkens had no individual or personal contact with athletes.

### **Movement of Mentor Coach Role to Swimming Queensland Incorporated**

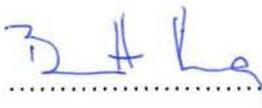
7. In around 2008, QAS began to review the roles of "head coaches" or "mentor coaches" who were not actually training QAS athletes.
8. QAS determined that those mentor coaches could better execute their roles if they were employed by the various state sporting organisations (SSO's) such as Queensland Swimming Incorporated.
9. As a result, a number of high performance coaches went to work for SSO's including coaches for football, baseball, softball and cycling.
10. By agreement with Swimming Queensland, QAS was to provide funding for it to employ a high performance coach.
11. It was therefore determined that long term, QAS would no longer require a mentor coach for swimming, the position occupied by Mr Volkens beyond December 2009.-

### **Blue Cards**

12. In 2008, the Department of Communities directed that all staff who worked with children in that Department, which included QAS, were required to have a blue card. This was despite government employees being expressly exempt under the *Children and Young People and Child Guardian Act 2000* from any such requirement. Because the vast majority of people at QAS interacted with athletes, some of whom were minors, all staff at QAS were informed that they were required to have a blue card.
13. It was my role to ensure that policy was implemented throughout QAS. In response to this, I directed a manager within QAS to attend to this process and to making those applications.

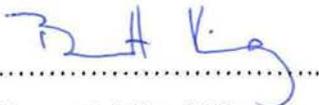
---

Page 2 of 4

  
 .....  
**Bennett Alfred King**

  
 .....  
**Witness**

14. QAS made blue card applications on behalf of its staff of around 60 people. **Attached** and marked with the letter 'A' is a copy of the application made on behalf of Mr Volkens dated 17 June 2008.
15. By letter dated 16 February 2009 the Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian (the Childrens Commission) wrote to QAS advising that as Mr Volkens is subject to an exemption under the Act, 'the Commission does not have the jurisdiction to process his application'. **Attached** and marked with the letter 'B' is a copy of that letter.
16. I understand that Mr Volkens then applied for a volunteer's blue card, through Swimming Queensland, while still employed at QAS. On 28 May 2009 Swimming Queensland emailed QAS advising of the steps Mr Volkens had undertaken towards obtaining a volunteers blue card and the inquiries Swimming Queensland had made to the Children's Commission regarding the progress of that application. **Attached** and marked with the letter 'C' is a copy of that email.
17. I also understand but again have no first hand knowledge, that in June 2009 the Children's Commission issued a "Negative Notice" to Swimming Queensland in respect to that application by Mr Volkens for a volunteer Blue Card.
18. Mr Volkens ceased employment with QAS on 12 February 2010. **Attached** and marked with the letter 'D' is a copy of his Separation Advice.
19. QAS had no involvement with the Children's Commission or Mr Volkens in relation to any appeal to the Queensland Civil and Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

  
.....  
**Bennett Alfred King**

  
.....  
**Witness**

**Notifying Athletes Regarding Accusations and Charges**

20. I never gave consideration to notifying athletes, or people responsible for their welfare, of allegations or charges against Mr Volkers as Mr Volkers was not working directly with athletes.

I make this statement of my own free will believing its contents to be true and correct.

Dated at Nathan this 14<sup>th</sup> day of May 2014.

B A King  
.....  
**Bennett Alfred King**

[Signature]  
.....  
**Witness**