

"JHI"



NSW POLICE FORCE

P190A

Version 4.2 (07/05)

STATEMENT OF A WITNESS

In the matter of: Steven LARKINS
 Place: Newcastle Police Station
 Date: 07 September 2011

Name: Jacqueline HENDERSON

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 49 years of age.
3. I am an Aboriginal person of Worimi descendant.
4. From late 1998 to 2003 I worked for the Hunter Aboriginal Children's Service (HACS). I was the case work manager for HACS for outer home care and family support. The manager was Kerry CRAWFORD.
5. Kerry CRAWFORD left HACS in 2000 and her position was filled Steven LARKINS. I was still the case work manager for HACS for outer home care and family support.
6. Behind Steve I was the second manager of the service. In Steve's absence I would take over his role but when he was present I managed the case load.
7. Whilst I was case manager Steve was actively involved in the manager of children within the service.
8. By that I mean, Steve had to be consulted with the placements of all children in the care of the service. That consultancy required Steve to meet the children at all times before being placed into care. When Steve met the child he was always in the company of the case worker of that child.

Witness: _____

Signature: _____

Jacqueline HENDERSON

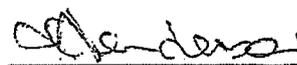
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9. Steve also managed and made notes in relation to the case management of the children in the care of the service.
10. From the day a child came into care of the service Steve had direct control of those children whereby he made all decisions in relation to the care and management of those children.
11. Steve would often bring it to my attention and to that of my staff that before a decision was made in relation to the care and management of a child Steve had to be consulted.
12. On occasions when a decision was made in relation to the care of a child and Steve was not consulted, he would bring it to my attention that he should be consulted.
13. Steve also had direct contact with all children in care of the service. From time to time Steve would have children in the care of the service stay at his premises.
14. Steve would also provide a mentoring role with some of the children in the care of the service, especially the high needs level children.
15. In 2003 I resigned from my position of case manager and took a role within the HACS committee as Chair Person.
16. I was the Chair Person of the HACS committee from mid 2003 until early 2005.
17. During my role as the Chair Person of HACS I was never informed by Steve of any issues he had with his Working With Children Check or past police matters.
18. In 2003 I heard rumours within the Worimi Aboriginal community about Steve and a past incident involving a Scout. This was raised during a Worimi committee meeting. It was not raised what that allegation was apart from the later involving a scout and Steve.
19. I confronted Steve about this. I was still employed as the case worker for HACS at the time and as the role as second in charge of the organisation (HACS) I thought it was my duty to confront Steve and ask him.
20. I approached Steve in the HACS office. I said words to the effect of, "I have been hearing rumour and innuendo within the community that you touched or molested a boy in Scouts. I want you to tell me the truth?"

Witness: _____



Signature: _____



Jacqueline HENDERSON

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Steve answer, "If I heard any more rumour or innuendo more about this I will seek legal advice."

I said, "I want to know the fucking truth."

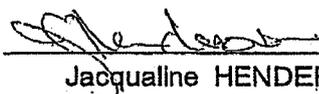
Steve never answered me. He got very agitated and aggressive. I would see he got really burred about the issues. I was angry about his response too. I left the office and walked out of his office.

21. I resigned from HACS not long after this meeting. There were a number of reasons why I resigned from HACS and this was one of the reasons why I resigned. That was because Steve could not and would not answer my question in relation to the rumour I heard about him molesting a scout boy.
22. It was after I left and signed from HACS I took up my role as Chair Person as the committee of HACS.
23. On Wednesday 7th September 2011 I attended Newcastle Police Station where I had a conversation with Detective Senior Constable (DSC) ABBOTT.
24. Detective ABBOTT showed me a document. This document was from the DoCS Screening Unit and is stamped Highly Confidential.
25. This letter is addressed to Steven LARKINS and it is in relation to Report to Employer on Risk Assessment concerning Steven Andrew LARKINS DOB: 05/05/1966.
26. This document states that Steve was given a Medium level of risk assessment in relation to work with children, This document is dated 11th November 2003. I was the Chair Person of the Committee of HACS at this tie.
27. I have never seen this document before. Had I been made aware of this document as my role of Chair Person or Manager of HACS I would have Steve stood down and investigated.
28. Steve would not have been able to fulfil his role as CEO of the Childrens service. This is because he has direct contact with children and the nature of the organisation.

Witness: _____



Signature: _____



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- 29. HACS was a children service and an Aboriginal Children's service at that and the fact the CEO was given a medium risk assessment in relation to employment with children made him unable to fulfil his position.
- 30. Had I been made aware of Steve's medium risk assessment he would never been able to firstly fulfil his position let alone maintain it.
- 31. I would have brought it to the attention of the committee and I would have made other agencies aware of his risk assessment.

Witness: _____

[Handwritten signature]
N. J. Gibson
Disc 07.08.11

Signature: _____

[Handwritten signature]
Jacqueline HENDERSON

Witness: _____

Signature: _____

Jacqueline HENDERSON