



Royal Commission
into Institutional Responses
to Child Sexual Abuse

Statement

Name
 Address Known to the Royal Commission.
 Date 14 August 2013

1. This statement made by me accurately sets out the evidence that I am prepared to give to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The statement is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.
2. My full name is and my date of birth is .
3. My mother is and my father is ,
.
4. My parents separated when I was about years of age. After my parents separated I lived with my mum
. Mum and I moved around a bit for a couple of years until the start of 1995 when we moved to . Life was a bit tough due to the breakup of my parents' marriage and living apart from my dad.
5. I went to School from until . After that I went to
 School for a couple of months before I moved in with my dad in at
, and I started going to School. I completed my school certificate in
 before commencing in the workforce.

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6. While I was at REDACTED School, I met REDACTED RE was the person who introduced me to Scouts. I was interested because RED talked about all the fun activities he did at Scouts like travelling, going on camps, walking through the bush and learning survival skills. This interested me as I was looking for something different and getting out of the home a bit.
7. The first time I went to a Scouts meeting was around REDACTED at REDACTED Scouts. This is the first time I met Steven LARKINS who introduced himself to me as "Skip". The group at this meeting was a combination of the REDACT Scouts and the REDACT Scouts.
8. This first Scout meeting was a bit of a disappointment. Firstly, the uniform I was given by Steven LARKINS was far too big – it was adult size and didn't seem a legitimate thing to me at first because it was not a proper size for kids. Secondly, the other kids were pretty much just throwing a ball around inside the hall and running back and forward chasing it. I remember thinking that this was not what I thought Scouts would be. I thought we would be taught how to tie knots and stuff like that – not run around after a ball.
9. The next weekend Steven LARKINS came to pick me and REDACT up and we went to REDACTE REDACTE Scouts again. When we arrived the same group was there but this meeting was much better as we did get taught how to tie knots and put up an army type tarp like a tent. I started to really get interested in this now.
10. I also remember it was a very hot day and we were outside. What was strange about this meeting was I was asked by Steven LARKINS to rub sunscreen on the back and chest of the REDACT Scout Leader who seemed to enjoy it. I remember him moaning and groaning and making noises as I put the sunscreen on him. I felt very uncomfortable about this and wanted him to piss off, but as I was a young kid I didn't want to upset anyone. It was also weird as while I

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REDACTED

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was doing this Steven LARKINS just stood there and watched. This made feel a bit uneasy, I really didn't know what to think.

11. About REDACTED, Steven LARKINS had arranged for RED and I to spend the weekend with him for some Scout thing. I understood from what Steven LARKINS said that we were going to camp with him and his female friend RE, also a Scout, at REDACTED. We were also going to a games place at REDACTED.

12. I was actually more interested in the trip to Intensity than camping. I didn't really want to go camping because in the time I had been in Scouts, Steven LARKINS didn't seem the type of bloke who was really capable as far as camping was concerned, or would be able to protect us if something went wrong. I formed this view because when he was demonstrating things like tying knots and putting up tents he stumbled and didn't really seem to know what he was doing compared to the other Scout Leaders who were very good at these things.

13. We then went to Steven LARKINS' house in REDAC. Instead of camping, Steven LARKINS told us we would be staying at his place that evening. I thought this was bit weird but we were already there and on the way he had taken us past REDAC so I thought it was OK.

14. That evening at the house, Steven LARKINS placed some mattresses on the floor of his bedroom near his bed for RE and I to sleep. I thought this was also weird as well but as RE had her own room I guess the boys then had theirs.

15. That evening Steven LARKINS, RED and I went to his bedroom where he told us a story before we went to sleep. Instead of sleeping on his bed, Steven LARKINS told us he would be sleeping next to me. I thought it was weird that he wanted to sleep next to me, when he had his own bed to sleep in. I was starting to get a bit worried because he was getting too close to me.

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16. Steven LARKINS then lay down between RED and I. Shortly after this he sexually assaulted me.
17. Initially I just froze, I was petrified as to what was happening to me. This had never happened to me before and I had never felt that bad before.
18. I eventually got enough courage to tell Steven LARKINS to "Fuck Off". I jumped up and ran out of the room. I went to the bathroom and locked myself in. Steven LARKINS followed me trying to tell me nothing had happened – he'd done nothing wrong. When he was following me I was very frightened and looked for something to protect myself with before locking myself in the bathroom.
19. I stayed in the bathroom all night, I was too scared to come out. I was too young at that time to face him and decided to wait it out until the morning. I tried to think of a way to get back home without Steven LARKINS being involved. I was so far away from home I didn't know how to get back or even where I was. I couldn't have figured out how to get home even if I wanted to.
20. I stayed locked in the bathroom until I could see sunlight come in through the bathroom window. I unlocked the bathroom and demanded to Steven LARKINS to be taken home. Steven LARKINS and RE then took me home in the car. I can't remember whether RED was with us or not, all I was focussed on was getting home.
21. When I got home I went straight to my room. I couldn't tell my mum what had happened at the time. I was so embarrassed about what had happened to me. I felt dirty and I felt it was all my fault. For some stupid reason I thought I would get into trouble for what happened and mum would be angry with me. I don't know why I thought this. I guess I was only REDACTE years old and had this major shit happen to me by an adult and that it was my fault.

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22. I never discussed it with anyone for months, I felt I couldn't. All I felt was anger. I remember getting into fights and stuff after that at school. I couldn't let it out and I didn't want to tell anyone because I was so embarrassed about what happened. At homes things were really bad as I was angry and would lash out at anything. This really affected my mum and she cried a lot trying to find out what the problem was.
23. I never spoke about it with RED at that time and he never asked me what happened. Things were a bit strange between us after that. He didn't even ask me why I didn't want to go back to Scouts.
24. I didn't go back to Scouts after this event and I never had any contact with Steven LARKINS until about three (3) or four (4) months later. Steven LARKINS called and my mother told me he was on the phone for me, I had a massive chill down my neck. I just froze. I then took the receiver and yelled "Fuck off you fucking queer cunt". I slammed the receiver down and ran to my room. It was then I first told my mother what happened.
25. Mum started crying and told me it wasn't my fault and there was nothing to be ashamed about; the same thing had happened to her when she was young. Mum was very supportive to me but it was taking a big toll on her and also me.
26. Mum then arranged for me to go to Newcastle Police Station and report the incident. I was then interviewed by the police about the matter. I felt good telling the police as I thought something was going to be done. After leaving the police station that was the last I heard from the police at Newcastle.

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27. A couple of months after reporting the matter to police, I received a \$10,000 victims of crime payment – paid into a trust account for me – resulting from the abuse I received from Steven LARKINS. I don't know how this was arranged or by who.
28. At no time was I contacted by any member of Scouts.
29. In April 2011, my mum told me that Steven LARKINS has been charged with child porn offences or something similar. I just knew something like that would eventually happen to him because of what I had been through and I was glad he had finally been caught.
30. In May 2011, I was contacted by Detective Nathan ABBOTT about the abuse by Steven LARKINS. I then made a statement dated 27 May 2011 about the whole incident. I felt great relief that finally someone was doing something about Steven LARKINS.
31. In 2012, the date of Steven LARKINS hearing on charges of sexual assault, Detective ABBOTT contacted me and told me he pleaded guilty to the sexual assault on me and other matters and was sentenced to a couple of years in gaol. I was really disappointed in the sentence he received considering what he had done to me. It was good to have him finally convicted for what he had done and that every now knew about it. This was a great relief to me.
32. This incident has affected my life. It has made me a harder person. I don't trust anyone. I felt it has made me an angrier person. It has affected my personal life. I have difficulties with relationships. I feel the only people I can trust are my immediate family. I don't trust anyone other than my wife to look after REDACTED. My grandparents told me that when I was young before the abuse, I was a happy and friendly child. After the abuse, I changed a lot and my grandmother says I am now a shell of the person I once was.

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Signed: AC

Date: 29.08.13

Witness: REDACTED

Date: 29-8-13

Signature AC

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