

**STATEMENT OF KEVIN ALLEN**

On 16<sup>th</sup> September 2013, I, **KEVIN ALLEN**, of  
; make the following statement:

**History**

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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. I was born on 26 December 1949. I am presently 63 years of age.
3. I have been a volunteer Member of the Scout Association of Australia (New South Wales Branch) (**Scouts Australia NSW**) since approximately 1957. I joined the Scout Movement as a Cub Scout Youth Member at eight years of age.
4. I am currently the Deputy Regional Commissioner of the Hunter and Coastal Region (the **Region**).
5. Between March 1968 (when I was about 18 years old) and March 1970 I served as the Assistant Scout Leader of 3<sup>rd</sup> Mayfield Scout Troop (**3<sup>rd</sup> Mayfield**), a Scout Troop that was in the Newcastle District of the Region (which was then known as Newcastle and Hunter Area).
6. For the next 27 years, between March 1970 and March 1997, I served as the Scout Leader of 3<sup>rd</sup> Mayfield. During part of that time (between May 1995 and October 1996), one of my Assistant Scout Leaders was Steven Larkins (**Larkins**).
7. Between March 1997 and December 2009 I served as the Regional Commissioner (Scouts) for the Region.
8. I began my current role (Deputy Regional Commissioner) in about December 2009.
9. In all the above roles I have served in, I have served as an unpaid volunteer.
10. Annexed hereto and marked "A" is a copy of my Member Record, as taken from Scouts NSW's Member Information System.

11. As Scout Leader at 3<sup>rd</sup> Mayfield between 1990 and 1997, I reported to Kenneth William Burns, the Group Leader of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Mayfield Scout Group. Kenneth was my father-in-law. He died a number of years ago.
12. As Scout Leader, I also liaised with each of the following:
  - (a) Keith Evans, the District Scout Leader in the Newcastle District; and
  - (b) Peter Elliott, who was the Assistant Area Commissioner (Scouts)/Regional Commissioner (Scouts) in the Area/Region between 1987 and 1997 (**Mr Elliott**).
13. I first met Steven Larkins (**Larkins**) in or about the early 1990's. I met him in passing at a Region event that both of our troops had gone to. At the time, Larkins was a Scout Leader at 1<sup>st</sup> Stockton. 1<sup>st</sup> Stockton was in Water Wonderland District, which was a different district to the one that 3<sup>rd</sup> Mayfield was in.
14. I did not hear much about Larkins while he was with 1<sup>st</sup> Stockton. I recall once hearing someone pass the comment that Larkins had "played up again". I asked him for details of what he meant by that, but he did not elaborate. I do not remember when that was.
15. I did not hear anything about Larkins leaving 1<sup>st</sup> Stockton, or why he did so.
16. At the time, I did not hear that Larkins had moved to 1<sup>st</sup> Raymond Terrace. I later found out that Larkins had some friends in that group.
17. Again, at the time I did not hear anything about Larkins' behaviour at 1<sup>st</sup> Raymond Terrace, or about his appointment as a District Leader in Wallaroo District.
18. By 1995 I had been the Scout Leader at 3<sup>rd</sup> Mayfield for about 25 years. At the time I had come under a lot of pressure to leave 3<sup>rd</sup> Mayfield and move to a Region job. My sons were still in 3<sup>rd</sup> Mayfield, and I stood firm that I would not move-on unless there was someone to replace me.
19. Larkins came to 3<sup>rd</sup> Mayfield in late 1996. I remember that he turned up one Friday night (the Scout Troop met on Friday nights, for about two hours), and said that he was interested in joining the Group.
20. My father-in-law, as Group Leader, was responsible for processing Larkins' request to transfer to the Group. He was a stickler for asking about the background of people

who wanted to become leaders with the Group. He would have pressed Larkins on that, and on the reason why he was transferring to the Group.

21. As Larkins had completed his training in the Scout section, there was no need for him to do further training before transferring his appointment to 3<sup>rd</sup> Mayfield. Once the Group accepted him, his transfer form would have been signed by the Group Leader and sent to Branch.
22. As my Assistant Scout Leader, I found Larkins to be a good leader. He was good at participating in the activities – he never sat back. He was open to getting involved, and was quite knowledgeable about Scout skills and Scout activities.
23. Larkins got on well with the kids at 3<sup>rd</sup> Mayfield. I never saw anything that I thought was out-of-place. I was not aware of anything that would raise doubts about him in my mind. I did not see him do anything questionable, and I heard no stories about him from the kids, or from their parents.
24. While Larkins was with the Group, I did not talk to him much about his past with other Groups. Because his practices were quite good, there was nothing for me to question him about.
25. Larkins left 3<sup>rd</sup> Mayfield before I did. He moved in late 1996, about the time that Districts were abolished. My recollection is that he had a problem with getting to Scouts and doing TAFE study. He said that his TAFE night clashed with the meeting night. From my recollection, he was living with his parents at Stockton, and was travelling to 3<sup>rd</sup> Mayfield at the time by bus.
26. I do not recall there being much fuss about his transfer out from 3<sup>rd</sup> Mayfield. To the best of my recollection, Larkins said that he had the problems just mentioned above, and that he was moving on to do another job. I do not remember that he explained what that new job was, and I can't now remember what it was.
27. When the Districts were removed, many of the uniformed roles that we had in Districts were kept, but their names were changed. The biggest change was that we lost a large amount of District layside volunteers.
28. After he left 3<sup>rd</sup> Mayfield, and before I did, my only contact with him was at Regional activities – the water activities weekend and Corroboree.

29. As I mentioned above, I became Regional Commissioner (Scouts) in the Region in March 1997, replacing Mr Elliott, who became Regional Commissioner (Youth Programme) within the Region.
30. As Regional Commissioner (Scouts) I reported to Mr Elliott and, through him, to Allan Currie, the Regional Commissioner for the Region.
31. As Regional Commissioner (Scouts), the team that reported to me were the replacements for the District Scout Leaders. I still referred to them as District Scout Leaders, even though the Districts were replaced with Divisions, and many Districts were consolidated in the process.
32. I held a regular meeting of my District Scout Leaders, called a "Region Mindari".
33. Keith Evans continued in the role of District Scout Leader for the new Newcastle Division, and he came to Region Mindari.
34. Port Stevens Division did not have a District Scout Leader for a while. The Division rotated the job of coming to Region Mindari meetings between different people each month – typically a Scout Leader from a different Group in the Division.
35. Larkins did not report to me while I was Regional Commissioner (Scouts). At the time he reported to Peter Elliott, the Regional Commissioner (Youth Program). He used to help out putting the administration together behind-the-scenes for the large Region activities, such as the Water Activities Camp. For example, he did a lot of computer work putting together rosters and time schedules, so the event could run efficiently. To the best of my recollection, he had some computer system that enabled him to do that.
36. Larkins only came to my Region Mindari meetings when there was a large Region event that he had input into. He went to a few Region activities in that time, and was mainly on the Activities team, coordinating the event.
37. I am aware that an incident arose concerning Larkins and the Stockton swimming pool. To the best of my recollection, that incident came up before I began as Regional Commissioner (Scouts). I was not involved in the handling of that incident.
38. The first that I heard of it was a rumour that an accusation had been made about something to do with Larkins and the pool, and that everything was being handled. I

believed that the Region Office was handling it. I was not taken into anybody's confidence about what had occurred.

39. I did not hear any outcome from the incident. I didn't hear whether Larkins' role had changed as a result of the incident. The role that Larkins did while I was Regional Commissioner (Scouts) was always as I have just mentioned. I was not aware that Larkins had been taken away from face-to-face contact with Youth Members as a result of that incident.
40. In January 1998 I went to the 18<sup>th</sup> Australian Jamboree in Springfield, Queensland (near Ipswich). I was on the NSW Contingent Team for that Jamboree. I do not remember seeing Larkins at the Jamboree.
41. In about 2000 I heard that a complaint had been lodged against Larkins, and that from that complaint he was stood down. I did not hear any detail of what the complaint was.
42. I am aware that people within the Region did try to find out what the complaint was, but nothing was said to me about what had happened.
43. Larkins remained stood down for several years after that. It is my recollection that a large number of people in the Hunter and Coastal Region knew that Mr Larkins had been suspended in 2000. Various people would ask me from time to time why Larkins could not come back, and I said to them that I did not know.
44. The next that I heard about Larkins was that he had resigned a few years later.
45. I did not discuss Larkins' suspension with Larkins, or with Allan Currie or Peter Elliott. I am aware that one witness before the Royal Commission has said in a statement that I spoke to Larkins before he resigned. I did not. I was not involved in anything that led to Larkins resigning from Scouts.
46. As at the date of making this statement, I understand that the Stockton pool incident that I mentioned above involved Larkins giving lollies to kids. I am not aware of any more about the incident than that. I do not now remember who told me that.
47. I first heard about the nature of the allegation that was made against Larkins in 2000 well after he resigned. All that I heard about it was rumour. Nothing has ever been formally stated to me about it.

48. For the purpose of making this statement I have been asked what I had heard about various allegations involving Larkins, specifically allegations concerning:

- (a) him sleeping with Scout on his arm;
- (b) him being in a shower complex at Corroboree when Scouts were showering;
- (c) him requiring Scouts to shower only in his presence;
- (d) him buying a present for a Scout (shoes); and
- (e) him being in a sleeping bag with a youth member to treat hypothermia.

49. Prior to making this statement I had never heard any of those allegations being made against Larkins.

Signed:  .....

Date: 17/9/13

Witness: .....

Date: