



Royal Commission  
into Institutional Responses  
to Child Sexual Abuse

Statement

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Name AX  
Address [REDACTED]  
Occupation Business Owner/Contractor  
Date 11 October 2013

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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. My full name is AX and my date of birth is [REDACTED]
3. I am currently self employed as a [REDACTED] I am currently studying [REDACTED].
4. I am the wife of [REDACTED] and I am the mother to three children, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and AP. AP was born on [REDACTED] 2003.
5. I started working with Jill Yankos, Jonathan Lord's mother, in 2009 and continued to work with her until early 2011. We also worked with my friend AN for part of that period.
6. Jill Yankos spoke about her son with me; she said that he loved kids and that he had always worked with children. On numerous occasions she suggested that John could babysit my children. I never took Jill up on the offer.
7. AP attended Catholic School 1 [REDACTED] in Cronulla. In kindergarten he met AN son, AO and they became best friends. AP and AO started going to [REDACTED] together from the start of 2010, and they went on most Saturday mornings.
8. I knew that Jonathan Lord regularly babysat AO for AN. If AP went to play at AO's house, I knew that John may have been the person looking after the children, not AN.

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## Statement in the matter of YMCA and Jonathan Lord

Statement of AX continued

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It was established between AN and I that it didn't really matter if she or John were looking after the boys, because we thought they were in good care with John Lord.

9. On Saturday 3 September 2011, I went to collect AP and [REDACTED] from [REDACTED] and I saw John Lord there collecting AO. AP asked me if he could go back to AO's house with AO and John. I agreed. In the afternoon, John sent me a text message to tell me that everything was okay. I now know that AP was indecently assaulted on this day.
10. AP was never enrolled in YMCA before and after school care or vacation care. However, on 16 September 2011, Johnathan Lord was taking AO to a "movie night" at the YMCA, and AP went along with them. John Lord told me he was organising the event and I thought it was fine that the children were going to a YMCA movie night with the organiser, even though neither AP nor AO attended YMCA childcare. I did not register for AP to attend that event, make any payment to the YMCA for AP to attend that event or have any direct contact with the YMCA in relation to that event. John drove AO and AP to the event and drove them home again. At 10:00pm I texted John to see if everything was alright, as it was a bit late. John replied saying that they were nearly finished and that AP would be home shortly. John dropped AP home later that evening.
11. One day in October 2011, AN called me and asked to pop around to my house. When she arrived she was very distressed, and she told me AO had been sexually abused by Jonathan Lord. I was mortified. AN told me to ask AP about if John had done anything to him. At the time AP was 8 years old.
12. AN was already around ten days in to the process of speaking with the police about AO and she recommended that I speak to DoCS before I raised the topic with AP. I called DOCS and they gave me some information about how I should ask AP if anything had happened to him. I found them very helpful.

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## Statement in the matter of YMCA and Jonathan Lord

Statement of AX continued

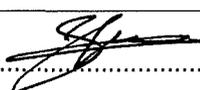
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13. That afternoon, I casually asked AP if anything had happened to him. He said that it was private between him and John and that he didn't want to talk about it. AP found it hard to talk about and was really embarrassed.
14. I called DoCS again that evening to make a formal complaint. Sometime shortly after that, I was contacted by Leanne Kelly from the Kogarah Joint Investigation Response Team ("JIRT"). Leanne Kelly asked me to bring AP in for an interview. I do not recall the phone call very clearly.
15. Before AP had his interview, I remember that I was told to be quite careful with my dialogue when I spoke to him and make sure that I didn't ask leading questions. I cannot recall if Leanne Kelly had told me this, or the person on the phone from DoCS. When I spoke to AP about what had happened, I just focused on letting him know that he wasn't in trouble. I told him that all he had to do was be honest and talk to the police and tell them the truth. I didn't want him to think that it was all too much of a big deal.
16. I took AP to Kogarah JIRT on 15 November 2011, where he was interviewed by Leanne Kelly and a counsellor without me being present. I was upset that he was interviewed on his own, but I was prepared for it. I think AN may have told me that would happen, but it may have been Leanne Kelly, I can't remember. The police said that I could go for a walk and come back. I just waited in the waiting room for about an hour, which seemed like a really long time. The police later told me that AP interview took a long time because at first he wouldn't say anything and it wasn't until he had been able to draw a picture of what had happened that he had started talking.
17. When AP came out of the interview he seemed okay. He didn't look like he had been crying. The police gave him a teddy to take home with him and he really liked that. After AP had given his statement, the police took him to a play room to play while I went and made a statement with Leanne Kelly.

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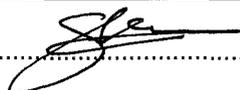
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18. I really didn't like that I didn't know at the time, and still don't know, what AP had said in his interview. I asked to know at the time and they said that I wasn't allowed to know. I find it really hard that to this day I do not know about what really happened to my son; about the extent to which he was touched. I think I should be able to know that.
19. When I left JIRT, they said that they would be in touch to organise some counselling for AP but I had to follow up with somebody because nobody contacted me. AP went to have some counselling sessions at the Children's Hospital in Randwick. He had about 8 sessions between December 2011 and March 2012. I was in most of the sessions, and at some points AP was in with them alone. I didn't mind this as I understood that it was necessary for some parts of the treatment.
20. AP saw two counsellors, one before and one after Christmas. He liked going and he had a good rapport with the counsellors. Towards the end of his sessions, the focus had moved away from Jonathan Lord, and the counsellors told me that they thought he was fine to stop having the sessions.
21. No counselling was offered to me or the rest of the family. At the time we had lots of things going on as a family. I think it would have been good for us to have some counselling at the time.
22. I think that JIRT did explain the process of the criminal investigations and court proceedings to me, but not in layman's terms.
23. I do recall being told by JIRT that if Jonathan Lord pleaded guilty, then the children wouldn't have to give evidence, but that if AP did have to give evidence, he could do it by video link. I was really relieved when I heard that AP wouldn't have to give evidence, I didn't want him to have to do that.
24. I didn't feel like I was up to date with what was happening in the case. I heard from JIRT about every 2-3 months. Sometimes AN and AP's school would know about what had happened at some mentions and court dates and I hadn't even know that there was a court date.

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## Statement in the matter of YMCA and Jonathan Lord

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25. I got most of my information from AN I think that JIRT were in contact with AN more than me, but I thought that was understandable because AO's charges were a lot more serious than [REDACTED] If I hadn't had AN throughout the whole process, I am not sure that I would have understood what was going on at all.
26. At some point I found out that Jonathan Lord had been dismissed from a youth camp in the USA because of an inappropriate situation. I asked Leanne Kelly about what could be done about this and she said she was looking into it, but as far as I know nothing was done. I do not think the police contacted the camp in the USA. That made me angry because I felt like that issue was going unaddressed.
27. Before the sentencing hearing, JIRT posted me an information pack and said that I could prepare a victim's impact statement for AP I didn't really understand what a victim's impact statement was or that I could do one myself. I helped AP to prepare victim's impact statement and my husband [REDACTED] read it aloud in court. That statement said the following:
- My name is AP and my mother AX is typing this statement for me word for word.*
- I met John by him babysitting me a couple of times. John Lord is a very bad man and he deserves to go to jail for a long time. I hope when he gets out of jail he does not do what he did to me to anyone else. Because of John I had to go to counseling (sic) for a number of weeks. It made me aware of bad people and now I know to call for help if someone is doing something bad. It has now made me worried when I have a babysitter that I don't know. I hope he is in jail for heaps of years.*
28. I told AP school principal at Catholic School 1 about what had happened to him. I thought it was important that he knew and that it was my responsibility as a parent to tell him. I wanted the school to keep an eye on AP and make sure that he was well watched to see if he was okay. The school principal and the associate principal were brilliant and really supportive.

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Statement in the matter of YMCA and Jonathan Lord

Statement of AX continued

29. I think that AP was probably one of the children least affected by Jonathan Lord, and I feel like the things that happened to him weren't as serious as what happened to some of the other children; there weren't multiple times when he was assaulted for example. Because of that, throughout the whole process I felt like we were entitled to less attention and support. AN and AO definitely had more calls and counselling than AP and I, but I thought that was to be expected because AO had been abused more times.

30. AP is a quietly confident little boy, and I feel like he handled everything that happened quite well. He got a skin condition quite soon after everything came out about John Lord, which only comes out when he is stressed. He'll have that forever. I can't be sure, but I think that the events with John Lord might have been a cause of why he got the condition. At the time that everything was happening, I felt like he wasn't himself and that his spirit was dampened. But more recently I have felt like he has gotten more confidence. He seems a bit better and is coming in to his own now.

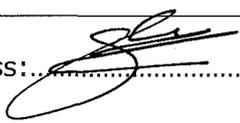
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SOPHIE LLOYD.

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