



Royal Commission  
into Institutional Responses  
to Child Sexual Abuse

# Statement

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**Name** Lee Ann POWELL  
**Address** Known to the Royal Commission  
**Occupation** Pensioner  
**Date** 12 February 2014

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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 Lee Ann POWELL and I am 57-years-old.
3. I receive a disability pension.
4. I was born in Echuca, Victoria. My birth name was Cheryl Leah POWELL which is the name I had as a State Ward. In 1981 I changed my name to Lee Ann POWELL by deed poll because I hated the name Cheryl.
5. I do not identify as Aboriginal but there are a lot of Aboriginals in my family. I only got to meet my family a few years<sup>ago</sup> My grandmother is dark.
6. When I was three weeks old I moved to Armidale with my parents and my older brother Wayne. My parents had three more children so I grew up with five siblings. In 1960, when I was four years old I was made a Ward of the State and placed into a child welfare home Kind Edward Girls Home in Newcastle. I stayed until I was a bit older and then went to another home in Baulkham Hills called Thornbury Lodge. When I was too old for that one they sent me to Bidura Receiving Home and then I got sent to Lynwood Hall, Guildford. From Lynwood Hall I got sent to McCreadie Cottage which was on the same land as Lynwood Hall. Then I attacked an Aboriginal because she

Signature:.....

*L. A. Powell*

Witness:.....

*[Handwritten signature]*

**Statement in the matter of Parramatta Girls' Training School and the Institute for Girls in Hay: Case Study 7** **Page 2 of 4**

Statement of Lee Ann POWELL continued

stabbed me and I was sent to Minda Home and then to Parramatta Girls Training School ("Parramatta Girls") for being uncontrollable.

**Parramatta Girls**

7. I was told that Parramatta Girls was built by the convicts. It had a lot of underground tunnels leading right out under the Parramatta River and there was this one room called 'the dungeon.' It's under the Parramatta Girls building. Bashings, sexual assault and more bashings happened in there. In the dungeon the staff used to put us in there and steadily bash our heads against the bricks.
8. That is where I was first sexually assaulted by Mr MONAGHAN and Mr GILFORD. They were both in the dungeon together when I was sexually assaulted. One would hold me down and the other one put his hands inside me. That happened about five times and they always did it together. I remember on one occasion one of them put a broomstick inside me.
9. While I was being sexually abused by Mr MONAGHAN and Mr GILFORD they threatened me and said that if I told anyone they would find me and make me disappear. Mr MONAGHAN was a lot older than Mr GILFORD. I think Mr MONAGHAN was the main person in charge and Mr GILFORD was under him. I think Mr GILFORD was probably about 30 or 40-years-old. He was a shorter bloke than Mr MONAGHAN. I remember we used to have a song for them. It was: "Mr GILFORD, Mr MONAGHAN, I had every inch of you, you've fucked me and you've scarred me through and through." That song came from a song by Johnny Cash about San Quentin prison.
10. Parramatta Girls was the sort of place where we weren't allowed to talk to each other much. We stood at attention a lot. I remember that I often had to get down on my knees to scrub the floors with a polish they gave us. Each girl was given a square of the floor to polish. We were each given a pile of socks which we used to call a dolly and we used that to polish the floor. Sometimes I would spend up to three hours polishing one square of the floor. Sometimes they would also make us use a toothbrush on the floor.

*L. A. Powell*

Signature:.....

Witness:..... 

**Statement in the matter of Parramatta Girls' Training School and the Institute for Girls in Hay: Case Study 7** **Page 3 of 4**

Statement of Lee Ann POWELL continued

**Release from Parramatta Girls**

11. I was at Parramatta Girls for nearly two years. When I left I went to a house in Merrylands to Dorothy KNOWLES' place (Aunty Dot). She use to work at McCredie Cottage. She's dead now. She was the mother that I should have had. I must have still been a Ward of the State.
12. I didn't receive any help from the State when I left Parramatta Girls. Aunty Dot was all my support. That was it. The only time I saw the Welfare was after I turned 18 and they gave me a cheque for \$84 for all the work I had done whilst I was a State Ward. I wanted them to read my files to me. They said, they only had one file, the A file. The B file was meant to be destroyed after you turned 18. But both A and B file turned up.
13. I got raped when I went shopping at Fairfield and fell pregnant. They sent me to a convent in Strathfield until I had the baby. I was under 18 at the time and Welfare took my son when he was born. I revoked the consent and then I didn't know what to do with him so then I signed the papers.

**Impact of the child sexual abuse**

14. I have had four children. One was adopted, one died of cot death and I've got two living whom I'm in contact with. I got married in 1975 to a guy that I had been with after my first son was born and taken from me. I married him because I was pregnant to him. I ended up having three children to him. I got my tubes tied at 24. I now have eight grandchildren.
15. I have suffered from depression over the years and have been on and off medication. I felt I wasn't a very good mother but my children have said that I did alright. I was never taught how to be a mother.
16. I hate Mr MONAGHAN and Mr GUILFORD. I still hold that anger against them to this day. I've held it all inside of me. I never reported the sexual abuse to anyone. You weren't allowed to report

*L. A. Powell*

Signature:.....

Witness:..... *25*.....

**Statement in the matter of Parramatta Girls' Training School and the Institute for Girls in Hay: Case Study 7** Page 4 of 4  
Statement of Lee Ann POWELL continued

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abuse at Parramatta Girls. If you did and you got out, Mr MONAGHAN and Mr GUILFORD said they'll find us.

Signed: ..... L. A. Powell .....

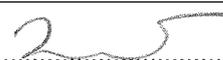
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Signature: ..... L. A. Powell .....

Witness: .....  .....