

IN THE ROYAL COMMISSION INTO INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSES TO CHILD
SEXUAL ABUSE

CASE STUDY 12

STATEMENT OF WL

1 I am the Headmaster of the School. I commenced employment as Headmaster
on 1 January 2011.

2 I make this statement by reference to the School's records and from my own
personal knowledge.

3 Prior to my appointment, I was provided details about the Court case
concerning YJ, his conviction and gaoling.

4 I was also made aware that the School had, in September 2010, formed an
independent Committee to review the child protection policies in place at the
School.

5 I attach marked WL-1 a copy of a letter sent to all parents of students at the
School regarding the Committee from the Chairman of the School Council at
the time W
O.

6 I also attach marked W
L-2 a copy of the Terms of Reference for the Committee.

7 The Committee was comprised of six persons, being:

7.1 V6 – Independent Chair;

V6 = Audrey Jackson

7.2 A member of School Council;

7.3 President of the Parents and Friends Society;

7.4 President of the Boarding Association;

7.5 Head of the Preparatory School; and

7.6 Independent Member.

8 I attach marked WL-3 a copy of the Committee membership profiles.

V6 = Audrey Jackson

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- 9 I attach marked WL-4 a letter dated 2 November 2010 sent by V6, the Independent Chair of the Committee, to the School community regarding the review process.
- 10 The Committee held four half day meetings on 21 October 2010, 7 November 2010, 21 November 2010 and 5 December 2010.
- 11 I attach marked W-5 a letter dated 17 December 2010 from V6 to the parents of the School about the Committee's progress.
- 12 The Committee presented its final report to the Council on 27 January 2011. I attach marked W-6 a copy of the final report to the Council.
- 13 The recommendations of the Committee contained within Appendix 2 of the final report were considered by Council and the key recommendations implemented by the School.
- 14 I attach marked WL-7 a table outlining the manner in which the key recommendations of the Committee were to be implemented.
- 15 I attach marked W-8 a copy of the Chairman's letter to all parents of students at the School dated 13 April 2011 advising of the Committee's recommendations and the actions being taken by the School to implement the recommendations.
- 16 Prior to my commencing employment at the School, the School was subject to a statutory re-registration process by the Department of Education Services in 2010. The Department provided a constructive report and the School was re-registered for 5 years.
- 17 In 2012 the School was also subject to special inspection by the Department of Education Services. I attach marked WL-9 a copy of the Minister's letter

advising of the inspection. Shortly after receiving the letter, Mr Greg Clune from the Department conducted the inspection at the School. As part of the inspection process Mr Clune interviewed various staff members regarding their knowledge of the child protection policies and procedures in place at the School.

18 Whilst the School has not received any written report about the inspection, at the conclusion of the inspection, Mr Clune advised my office that he was satisfied that the School had in place a satisfactory Child Protection Policy and that staff were familiar with that policy. He did also at the time suggest some textual changes to the Policy which were implemented soon after. I attach a copy of the School's current Child Protection Policy marked W-10 which incorporates the changes suggested by Mr Clune.

19 Whilst Headmaster at the School, I have made it one of my primary tasks to ensure that:

- 19.1 the School maintains vigilance in the application of all its policies including in particular its Child Protection Policy;
- 19.2 all staff are familiar with the Child Protection Policy and trained in the Protective Behaviours Program run by Protective Behaviours WA;
- 19.3 all student boarders have also attended a protective behaviours workshop;
- 19.4 the School policies are accessible to the School community by publication on the School's website.

20 In 2012, I was appointed a member of the Professional Standards Committee of the Perth Diocese of the Anglican Church. This position not only enables

me to assist that Committee in its work throughout the Diocese but also provides me with significant experience in child protection.

21 I attended several days of YJ's retrial in August 2012 and attach marked WL-11 a copy of the letter I sent to the School community at the conclusion of the retrial.

22 In July 2013, soon after the Royal Commission was announced, I arranged that each member of our community was emailed a copy of the Anglican Church brochure attached and marked WL-12.

23 The School has learned a great deal from working through what has been a very painful and traumatic process for those students who suffered abuse by YJ and their families. As expressed in my letter of 27 August 2012 (WL-11), I have witnessed first-hand the courage and resilience of those young men who were prepared to come forward and give evidence in the Court cases against YJ. They are very fine young men whose integrity and strength I admire and respect greatly. The School remains determined to ensure they have the support they need. Our highest priority is to provide quality education and pastoral care to our students. We are committed to the continuous improvement of our child protection policies and welcome any recommendations which result from this Commission.

WL

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Date:

5/5/14