

STATEMENT
STATUTORY DECLARATION

I,	AKT
OF,	AKT
DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH:	AKT
TELEPHONE:	WORK: AKT HOME:
OCCUPATION:	ADMIN OFFICER
PLACE OF BUSINESS:	DEPT OF EMPLOYMENT & WORKPLACE RELATIONS
SUBJECT:	RETTA DIXON - DONALD HENDERSON

I, AKT OF AKT DO
SOLEMNLY AND SINCERELY DECLARE THAT:

I lived in the Retta Dixon Home from about grade 2 or 3 when I went to the Nightcliff Primary School, which would have made me about 7 or 8 years old at the time.

I would have left Retta Dixon when I was 13 years old as I was in year 8 at Nightcliff High School.

The reason that I left was because my best friend's parents fostered me out to their family and I moved with them to a farm at TOOLAMBA, which is not far from Shepparton in Victoria.

Whilst I was at Retta Dixon home I spent most of my time in Cottage 7 and the house parent at this cottage whilst I was there was a Miss. Judy FERGUSON. I also spent shorter amounts of time in cottages 1 and 5.

Our cottage was a large house and there were either 5 or 6 bedrooms to the cottage. Most of the time there would have been between 7 and 12 kids in our cottage.

Some of the kids in our cottage were AKT [REDACTED], AKT [REDACTED] REDACTED [REDACTED], AKT [REDACTED] who was much younger than me, AKT [REDACTED], AKT [REDACTED] (sister) and that's about all that I can remember at this time.

I remember that the boys who stayed at Retta Dixon would talk about Mr. HENDERSON and they would say to each other things like "Is Mr. HENDERSON rooting you up the bum".

This talk was regular and we all knew that there was something going on. (There was also a rumour that an Aboriginal girl who lived in Mr. HENDERSON'S cottage became pregnant to him. I actually saw this Aboriginal girl who would have been about 15 or 16 years old at the time and I saw that she was pregnant. I saw that she moved out of Mr. HENDERSON'S cottage into cottage number 4 whose cottage parent I believe was Mr. WALLS - I believe that Mr. WALLS still lives in Darwin).

I remember one particular time that AKT [REDACTED] had to go over to the store to get some supplies. AKT [REDACTED] is about the same age as me and AKT [REDACTED] was the older one. So AKT [REDACTED] would have been about 11 and REDAC [REDACTED] was slightly older.

Mr. HENDERSON used to look after the store and the distribution of supplies.

The weekly/fortnightly/monthly supplies were delivered by Mr. HENDERSON on a trailer, which was towed by a tractor.

If you needed supplies in between then the cottage parent would send one of the boys to see Mr. HENDERSON to get the required supplies. We used to use a wheelbarrow to bring the supplies from the store to the cottage.

On this particular occasion AKT [REDACTED] pushed a barrow over to the store at the request of Judy FERGUSON and Gwen PLATT.

I remember standing outside cottage 7 on the verandah area with Judy FERGUSON and Gwen PLATT when AKT [REDACTED] came back over to the cottage. I could see that AKT [REDACTED] was distressed and Gwen PLATT said, "Where's the food" and AKT [REDACTED] said to Gwen PLATT "Mr. HENDERSON tried to root me up the bum".

Gwen PLATT then slapped AKT [REDACTED] across the face and said to him "Don't be so stupid, go back and get the food".

AKT [REDACTED] then walked back to the store and I don't know what happened after that.

I can't remember the exact time that this happened but from memory it would have been just before or just after Cyclone Tracy. It would have been either a Saturday, Sunday or a holiday as it was during the daytime and from memory somewhere around lunchtime. At any other time I would have been at school during the day.

I remember being stressed out as I had a feeling of helplessness as I seen that REDACTED [REDACTED] was really stressed. We were like one big family as we looked out for each other, this was the only family that we had.

I did visit the store on occasions, as there was often handouts of clothing and shoes. I never went over unattended. I can't remember much about the store inside even though I did go inside on occasions. All I can remember is that there were shelves in the store.

At times our lives were happy at Retta Dixon and at other times they were harsh. Everything was run by the bible and we had to pray of a morning and night. Physical discipline was also very very harsh and we would be hit for the slightest misdemeanour. As an example if I didn't make a pot of tea the right way, like if I didn't warm the pot first or if I put the tea leaves in last then I would get a clout over the head with the teapot. This would leave lumps on my head. I learnt not to cry, as they seemed to get a kick out of you crying.

The good things included trips to Lee Point and Coomalie where we often stayed for up to a few days at a time and this mainly happened during the school holidays.

My brother **AKT** has also spoken to me and he has indicated to me that something may have happened to him but he is too ashamed to talk to me about it but he did say that he would give you a ring.

I WILL BE AVAILABLE TO GIVE EVIDENCE IN DARWIN
WHEN REQUIRED AT ANY TIME DURING THE NEXT 3 MONTHS. I DO
NOT EXPECT TO CHANGE MY PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR RESIDENCE
DURING THAT TIME, NOR DO I EXPECT TO BE ABSENT FROM MY
USUAL PLACE OF RESIDENCE EXCEPT ON WEEKENDS. I UNDERSTAND
THAT THE CONTENTS OF THIS STATEMENT MAY BE DISCLOSED FOR
DEFENCE PURPOSES.

AND I FURTHER DECLARE THAT I:

(a) HAVE ATTAINED THE AGE OF 18 YEARS;

AND

(b) I HAVE READ THIS STATEMENT BEFORE SIGNING IT;

AND I MAKE THIS SOLEMN DECLARATION BY VIRTUE OF THE OATHS
ACT, CONSCIENTIOUSLY BELIEVING THE STATEMENTS CONTAINED IN
THIS DECLARATION TO BE TRUE IN EVERY PARTICULAR. I
ACKNOWLEDGE THAT A PERSON WILFULLY MAKING A FALSE STATEMENT
IN A STATUTORY DECLARATION IS GUILTY OF AN OFFENCE AND IS
LIABLE TO A PENALTY OF 2,000 DOLLARS OR IMPRISONMENT FOR
TWELVE MONTHS OR BOTH.

DECLARED AT PETER MCAULAY CENTRE THIS Monday, 30 DAY OF
June, 2014

AKT

BEFORE ME

ROGER NEWMAN
COMMISSIONER FOR OATHS (NT)
PETER MCAULAY CENTRE
TELEPHONE: 89223344