

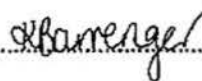
**Statement**

**Name** Lance Balcombe  
**Address** REDACTED  
**Occupation** Chief Executive Officer  
**Date** 16 December 2014

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 Chairman of the Hutchins School Board from June 2010 to December 2012.
3. At the Board meeting on 25 May 2010 I was present as a Board member. The Headmaster reported that he had received a letter from Mr AOA making a complaint regarding the prior investigation of his allegations of sexual abuse suffered at the School. In particular, Mr AOA claimed that he was not satisfied with the investigation conducted by John Bednall and indicated a cover up had occurred.
4. I was aware that in the past Mr AOA had made a complaint that he suffered sexual abuse at the School but I did not know any details of the allegation nor any details of how the School had dealt with it in the past.
5. I have no recollection of seeing Mr AOA's letter of 3 May 2010 or its enclosed letter of 23 August 2002 from Mr AOA although the Headmaster reported on these matters at the May Board meeting. It was agreed that the Headmaster would further review the matter and provide further advice to the Board and also that there would be a letter sent to Mr AOA acknowledging his communication.

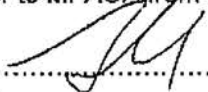
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- 6. The Board subsequently met on 21 July 2010, on 25 August 2010, on 22 September 2010 and on 20 October 2010. Mr AOA was not discussed at any of those Board meetings.
- 7. I have been shown a copy of a letter from Dobson Mitchell & Allport Lawyers dated 19 July 2010 addressed to Mr Warwick Dean. I have not previously seen this letter.
- 8. Prior to the Board meeting on 25 November 2010 I would have had a meeting with Mr W Dean to prepare for that meeting. I believe we would have discussed the draft letter to Mr AOA which is the annexure IV annexed to the Minutes of that Board meeting. To the best of my recollection the discussion centred around the allegations of a failure in the investigation by J Bednall and a cover up. I have no recollection of an apology being discussed.
- 9. At the Board meeting of 25 November 2010 Mr Dean tabled the proposed letter to Mr AOA, being annexure IV of those Minutes. Mr Dean provided background as to how he came to the views expressed in that letter around the review of the investigation conducted by John Bednall.
- 10. I do not recall any discussion at that Board meeting regarding an apology to Mr AOA. The discussion centred around Mr AOA's allegations regarding Mr Bednall's investigation.
- 11. The Board reached a consensus decision that the proposed letter to Mr AOA be sent to him in the form attached to the Minutes as annexure IV. The only documents tabled at the 25 November 2010 Board meeting relating to Mr AOA were the draft letter to Mr AOA from Mr Warwick Dean dated 25 November 2010.

Signed: .....



Date: .....

16 December 2014

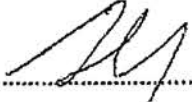
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W Barrenger

Date: .....

16 December 2014

Signature: .....



Witness: .....

W Barrenger