

Statutory Declaration

OATHS ACT 1900, NSW, EIGHTH SCHEDULE

I,**ARH**....., do solemnly and sincerely declare that
 [name of declarant]

I believe that I should be allowed to continue to work with children.

In a letter dated September 2010, I was given permission to work with children. No evidence has been presented to me of any inappropriate action since that date and as proof of my ongoing professional relationships with students since 2010, I have submitted a professional reference from **REDACTED** principal of the **REDACTED**. He has observed me conducting myself appropriately with his students over a four year period from 2010 until the present. He is constantly asking me to take on new students for him. Two of my five current students at that college are siblings of previous students, whose parents specifically asked for me to coach their child, which is a clear vote of confidence in my conduct. As no new allegation has been made in that four years, and I have no criminal record of any sort and I have the professional support of my employer, I struggle to understand why the determination seems about to change.

Furthermore, I have worked with more than 70 non-college students over the past 4 years, all having heard of me through word of mouth between parents, which suggests I have a good reputation among my clientele and that I work with students appropriately. I am currently working with thirteen students who are the siblings or cousins of former students, which reinforces the idea that my relationships, over a long term are conducted in a proper fashion. I believe that I am a person of good character and there is no likelihood of any repetition of the conduct which triggered the initial assessment and there has been no proven negative impact on any student in my care, nor is there likely to be in the future.

Another professional assessment has been provided by the mother of **REDACT**, **REDACT**, herself a teacher, and the mother of the boy at the centre of the 2009 allegation of grooming behaviour at **School**. She has not only spoken for the propriety of my work with **RED** when he was 16 and subsequently, and can confirm that nothing of any sexual nature passed between us but is also currently employing me to work with her daughter and recommended me to work with her niece, who is currently in Year 12. **RED** is now 20 and his mother is still referring other parents to me for tutoring work. She is fully aware of child protection requirements in her professional role and has had the opportunity to observe me, at close quarters, working with her children over four years.

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Mark McCrossin, former Year 7 Yearmaster at Knox Grammar and current Deputy Headmaster at Kincoppal, Rose Bay has also submitted a professional assessment. He was in a supervisory role over me at Knox and can present a very positive view of the way I conducted myself in the situation with

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He was also aware of the tension that existed between myself and my then headmaster Peter Crawley over unrelated issues, which I believe may have coloured Mr Crawley's approach to me.

Additionally, REDACTED headmaster of School 2 during my entire employment there, and therefore in the primary supervisory role over me, has also submitted a professional assessment which challenges the view presented of me as predatory. Collectively these references present a picture of someone who has acted appropriately with the student's under his care.

In the context of working at private schools, one of the things that parents expect is an increased commitment from the teaching staff. In 2009, at the time of the allegation about REDACTED, I was giving help at lunch times to 9 students, only two of whom were from my classes. All of those sessions had been requested by the parent of the child, or if requested by the child, cleared with the parent and teacher. I saw it as my role to extend help where possible if requested. In the past, that was considered part of the role of teachers and it is one of the reasons why I wanted to be a teacher. I wanted to help students. One of those students, whom I have not seen or spoken to since she left school in 2009, recently contacted me to ask for a reference on the basis that I was the teacher who had made the greatest impact on her during her time at School 1. It appears that my desire to assist students is being misinterpreted as something unhealthy. I argue that it derives from a motivation to assist where I can.

I am prepared to submit references from parents of past students if that would be considered helpful to my case. Mr Andrew Mills has informed me that this would probably count against me, but I am certain I could easily ask a dozen parents to vouch for my behaviour with their children.

I feel an irony exists about the judgement being made about me. In recent times, I have been contacted by two former students, one now 24 and living in England and the other in his late 30s and living in the USA, neither of whom have I seen since they left school. They wrote to me to comment on what a positive impact I had on their lives, "ARH How are you sir? I have such great memories of you. You were such a light for me in the dark days of school" and "You had such a big impact on people's lives". Another, now in his mid twenties wrote to me that I had, "a nurturing quality in your teaching that I didn't experience with anyone else and I prospered from that".

In the light of these references and other evidence I believe I have made a consistent case to be allowed to work with children,

and I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true, and by virtue of the provisions of the Oaths Act 1900.

Declared at: **REDACTED** on 8th July 2019

[place] [date] ARH

[signature of declarant]

in the presence of an authorised witness, who states:

I, Patricia Jannar, a Solicitor 37482

[name of authorised witness] [qualification of authorised witness]

certify the following matters concerning the making of this statutory declaration by the person who made it: [* please cross out any text that does not apply]

- 1. *I saw the face of the person OR ~~*I did not see the face of the person because the person was wearing a face covering, but I am satisfied that the person had a special justification for not removing the covering, and~~
- 2. *I have known the person for at least 12 months OR *I have confirmed the person's identity using an Driver's Licence identification document and the document I relied on was Driver's licence No **REDACTED**

[describe identification document relied on]

.....
[signature of authorised witness] [date] 8th July 2019