



**Royal Commission**  
into Institutional Responses  
to Child Sexual Abuse

### Statement

**Name** Julie Blyth  
**Address** Known to the Royal Commission  
**Occupation** Counsellor  
**Date** 21 April 2015

1. This statement accurately sets out the evidence that I am prepared to give to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. This statement is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.
2. Where direct speech is referred to in this statement, it is provided in words or words to the effect of those which were used, to the best of my recollection.
3. In preparing this statement, I have been shown certain documents relating to my interaction with AWB in the capacity of Counsellor employed at Royal North Shore Hospital, Sydney (**RNSH**). Where I refer to a document in this statement, I have used the document reference number, which appears in the top right hand corner of the document to which I refer. I have not independently reviewed the files of the entities from which these documents have been drawn.
4. This statement has been prepared on the basis that the Commission will issue a Notice to Produce under *Royal Commissions Act 1902 (Cth)* s 2(3A) for the production of a signed copy.

### Background

5. My full name is Julie Blyth and I am currently employed as Clinical Advisor in the Engagement & Support Branch of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

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Witness: .....

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6. I graduated from the University of Sydney in 1980 with a degree in Social Work, and began working in health service settings. My work in the field of sexual assault response began in around 1982 when I worked in addition to my primary employment, on the after-hours roster of the Sexual Assault Service at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in Camperdown, NSW.
7. New South Wales (NSW) Sexual Assault Services were established around 1980 (then called HELP Centres) and were initially established in hospitals. Over time the hospital-based units changed and expanded to become a network of services across the state that operated in community health contexts. 24 hour crisis units remained in major hospitals' emergency departments.
8. In 1987 I became Co-ordinator of the Sexual Assault Service at RNSH in Sydney. I held this position for three years until I went on maternity leave in 1990.
9. I then established a consultancy practice providing training, teaching, supervision and other services related to the field of child protection, sexual assault and interpersonal violence. This was at a time of significant change in child protection law and practice. I returned to clinical practice at the Sexual Assault Service, RNSH for two days a week in 1995 as well as continuing my consultancy practice. The clients from my consultancy were drawn from the government and non-government sectors and included NSW Health, NSW Police, Queensland Health, NSW Department of Community Services, NSW Department of Ageing & Disability.
10. I continued to work two days a week at RNSH and run my consultancy in this way until joining this Royal Commission in September 2013.
11. I am the author of a number of written materials on subjects related to the care and treatment of sexual assault survivors, including academic publications and training materials.

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**RNSH**

12. In 2005 the RNSH Sexual Assault Unit was staffed with four full-time Counsellors, myself working two days per week, and one doctor. A roster of doctors and counsellors provided additional crisis responses outside office hours. The unit's catchment area extended from the Sydney Harbour Bridge to Brooklyn, NSW. As such, the unit's workload was frequently large, and NSW Health set priorities for Sexual Assault Services to manage the strain on resources. These were set out in the relevant NSW Sexual Assault Services Policy & Procedures Manual (2005). Adult survivors of child sexual abuse were Priority 7. However, the Northern Sydney Sexual Assault Service did ensure that all adult survivors received at least some level of assessment and referral.
13. On 20 October 2005 Northern Sydney Health psychologist Max Cluff (**Max**) referred to me a client of his, AWB. Max reported he had been treating Mr AWB for issues relating to alcohol and that Mr AWB had disclosed to Max that he had been repeatedly sexually assaulted as a child by Dr John Rolleston (**Dr Rolleston**) at his practice in St Ives and at RNSH.
14. I interviewed Mr AWB on 27 October 2005. Mr AWB told me that he had become aware that Dr Rolleston, who had sexually abused him when he was a boy was continuing to work as a doctor in rural NSW. His main objective in disclosing was to take steps that would see Dr Rolleston stopped from practising in the future. I discussed with Mr AWB the options which were available to him including reporting to NSW Police and/or the Health Care Complaints Commission (**HCCC**). I offered to assist in linking him with appropriate people in these Departments. A copy of the clinical notes I took of that meeting are reproduced at **[NSW.2010.001.0027 and NSW.2010.001.0027\_T]**.

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