ROYAL COMMISSION INTO INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSES TO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE
CASE STUDY 32: GEELONG GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Statement of Ivan Lloyd Sutherland

This statement by me 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.

Where I have referred to individuals who have been allocated a pseudonym by the Royal Commission, I have referred to them by that pseudonym.

BACKGROUND

1. My name is Ivan Lloyd Sutherland and my date of birth is REDACTED 1931. I am now 83 years old.

2. I was employed by Geelong Grammar School (GGS) from 1950 until 1993, when I retired.

APOLOGY

3. I have been shown the documents about children at GGS provided by the Commission. I am so sorry for these children who went through these traumatic times, which I can see are still suffering from.

4. I knew most of the people in these papers; they’re part of the school families. Part of Glamorgan’s campus culture was a family culture, because it was such a small school and everybody was involved. We’re all affected by this terrible abuse. I am devastated about the things I’ve now read but didn’t know about then. I wish that I’d known and if I’d known we would have acted upon them.

5. In retrospect, I feel that the school could have and should have done more. It’s not acceptable that this has happened to children.

6. I think an apology is due to the survivors and their families, who have also gone through so much trauma over many years. For my part, I want to tell them I am sorry for what happened to them.

7. I appreciate the opportunity to participate in this Commission and try and assist it with its important work. If there is hope for a better future, then something good may have come from this misery.

MY EMPLOYMENT AT GEELONG GRAMMAR SCHOOL

8. I began my employment at GGS in 1950 as a Junior Resident Master at the Glamorgan campus (what is now referred to as the Toorak campus and, in my era, was known as Glamorgan). I was also completing my training at the Associated Teachers Training Institute.

9. I graduated with a Diploma of Primary Education in 1952, after three years of study.
From 1953 to 1955 I was a resident tutor and responsible for year 4 students. As a resident tutor I also carried out boarding house duties. This included supervising the boarders' bedtime, taking them for meals and being generally responsible for their daily routine.

At that time there were about 45 boarders, all boys. They were all in the one boarding house, called Glamorgan Boarding House. I was one of about five resident tutors.

At the end of 1955, I left the Glamorgan campus to take up a resident teaching appointment at the Corio campus, in the Junior School. From 1956 to 1958, I was a resident tutor at Corio. I was teaching all primary students as a class teacher, which meant I taught every subject aside from specialist subjects like music or PE. I was also doing the same boarding house duties as I had been at Glamorgan, but with an older age group.

At Corio, there were three houses of 60 boys each. All the students were boarders in those days. I lived in one of the boarding houses called Barwon House. I lived there with a group of other teachers, and at 25 I was easily the youngest.

In 1959, I went on leave for a year to go travelling. My mission was to see and experience as many schools as I could, as I now felt clear that education was to be my life's calling.

In 1960, I came back to GGS at the start of the school year. I had the same role, although I think I was in a different boarding house but I do not now recall which one.

In 1964 I married my wife, Elizabeth Darling (Liza). Once I got married I moved out of the boarding house, into a flat on the campus. I remained a tutor, and had duties to assist with the boarders.

In 1964 to 1966 there was a new boarding house built called Fraser House, for year 7 boys. I was a non-resident tutor for the house - I didn't live there because I was married; I lived nearby, perhaps 150 yards away on campus, in a flat upstairs. About 64 boys lived in the house, who were all new to boarding.

In 1967, I was appointed House Master of Fraser House, a position which was later changed to Head of House. I took over the role from Jimmy Neil, who retired at the end of 1966. In my role as House Master I was responsible for the children's welfare in the house; "the whole show". Across all the positions I held at GGS, I was aware of this responsibility I had toward the children. This is why I want to apologise to them personally.

After this appointment, my wife and I moved into the House Master's house, which was still separate to Fraser House, but closer than our previous flat.

In 1970 I went on leave for a year, with my family. While I was away, another teacher and long time friend called Eyre Walker and his wife Jennifer were standing in.

I was the last House Master at Fraser House, which closed at the end of 1971. It closed so that those Year 7 students could be absorbed into the other three junior secondary boarding houses. Fraser House then became known as Lindon House, a second year VCE student house.

After Fraser house closed in 1971, I became House Master of Barrabool House for Years 7 and 8, and also some Year 9 boys during a change over year. I stayed there from 1972 to 1979.

In 1979 I became President of the Common Room. The Common Room included all staff, so it was like being President responsible for all of the staff. At that stage it was ladies and gentleman, because girls had come to the school in about 1970. I was in charge of staff meetings, perhaps one or two a year, but it was more about organising the social calendar for the 'Common Room'. There were about 50 staff at the time, perhaps 60. It was a big group.
Glamorgan

24. In November 1979, I was appointed to Glamorgan as the Head of Campus, and commenced in the role in Term 2 of 1980, after taking some leave.

25. It was an honour to go back to Glamorgan, to my old school that I knew so well. I was called Master of Glamorgan at the time, but in modern terms, I was Head of Campus.

26. I just stepped in and took up the job; there was no real handover or induction to the position. I took over the role from Edward Butler. I retained Butler's secretary.

27. I have marked the location and names of various old buildings on a modern aerial photograph (Annexure A). When I took over, the administration was in the White House. I changed this as soon as I started because the administration was too far away from the centre of the school. I moved the office back into the Grey House where it was originally, when I was first at Glamorgan.

28. As Master of Glamorgan I was responsible for everything; the welfare of staff, the students, the maintenance and the general running of the whole campus.

Glamorgan Boarding House

29. Glamorgan had one boarding house, at the rear of the Red House.

30. There were up to 12 boarders, primary school students, most of whom were about eleven years old, but some of whom were as young as five. The number varied because when parents were going away on business or something, they would put their children, who would usually be day students, in to board for a week or so. Some of them were 'weekly boarders', who went home on Friday night and came back on Sunday night.

31. The boarding house had a matron, a cook, a house master and a couple of live in tutors. The tutors put the boys and girls to bed and looked after them, particularly on weekends. The cook lived in another building on campus, and the matron lived in the Red House, very close to the boarders.

32. It was a very close community, just like a family. At that time my oldest son was at Corio and my other two sons were mixing at the Glamorgan boarding house a lot. They then moved to Corio to board when they finished Year 6.

33. The residents on campus, including the matron, the tutors who lived nearby, all mixed with the boarders. The cook tended to keep to herself over in the Grey House, where she lived.

34. As a boarder you had the run of the school – the oval, the hall, the swimming pool and the staff put on certain activities for children. It was very much the usual case for boarders and the resident tutors to spend time together – it was a very happy school.

35. In 1982, I recommended closing the boarding house for financial reasons. The Principal agreed, and I implemented the decision.

Retirement

36. I retired in December 1993 as I had turned 62, the compulsory age for retirement.

37. My successor was Phillipa Beeson, who came from Ivanhoe Girls Grammar where she was the vice principal and the head of the junior school. I was involved in interviewing candidates for the position, and presented a shortlist to the headmaster, Mr Lewis, who made the final choice.
38. It was an easy transition because Phillipa had been in a position of authority in her previous role, so I understand she just went ‘on with the business’ of running the campus. She also visited the school a couple of times before she started.

39. When I retired, Liza and I moved out of the Wallace Avenue house.

40. When I started, there were maybe 15 teachers on the campus. The school grew while I was there. Initially, it was about 320 girls and boys in 1980. When I left in 1993 there were 420 students, so we had grown by about a third.

No knowledge of incidents or untoward behaviour

41. While at GGS I never received any complaints about untoward behaviour. I didn’t have anybody, either a student, a parent or staff member, report anything such thing to me.

42. I regret now that the students or parents didn’t feel they could approach me directly.

43. When I was the Master of Glamorgan we had meetings where the heads of the different campuses would meet once a term. It was also our custom that Heads of Campus would share their own individual challenges with the Principal at other times when any need arose. I do not ever remember anything about sexual abuse or untoward behaviour being brought up in any of these fora.

44. If I did become aware of such an issue, I would have gone to the Principal, as he had overall responsibility for the school. If nothing came of that, I would have gone to the Police. During my tenure, however, I did not believe I ever had cause to make either report.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

45. Unfortunately, there were no policies about paedophiles or reporting sexual abuse when I was at Glamorgan. Nor was there an express focus on prevention strategies such as employment screening, staff training and incident response systems, to help create child safe environments. There was no induction or training process, it was simply a matter of relying on your experience and common sense.

46. I have reviewed the document with identification number GGS.0009.001.0054 provided by the Commission. I’m glad this mandatory reporting process was introduced, but when I retired at the end of 1993 I wasn’t even aware of it, nor did I have any input into it. It was probably being drawn up at Corio, the main campus from which the Principal presided over such issues. I can only assume it was implemented by Phillipa.

INDIVIDUALS

John Buckley

47. I met John Buckley in 1961, when he was appointed as a resident tutor in the Junior School at the Corio campus. Buckley was also living in a boarding house, but we weren’t in the same one. At the time, I was good friends with Buckley, as one of a group of resident assistant Masters who were all bachelors.

48. Between 1964 and 1966, Buckley became a resident tutor at Fraser House, and occupied rooms at the house. I was by then a non-resident tutor, and lived nearby with my wife.
The following year, 1967, Buckley was appointed to teach in the art department in the senior school. That was my first year as House Master at Fraser House. Buckley was never a resident tutor when I was House Master.

Buckley was transferred to the Glamorgan campus in approximately 1968 or 1969. I don't know why he was transferred. I don't think he was very suited in the senior school, he'd never taught senior school art before.

According to the old school publications I still have, Buckley joined the Timbertop staff in 1975 or 1976.

In his spare time, I understand that Buckley occupied himself in the art world. He was, for instance, the director of the Gallery of Modern Art in Brisbane, and he also built up his own private gallery in Melbourne.

In 1978 or 1979, Buckley returned to the Glamorgan campus. He succeeded Roger Morton as House Master in charge of the boarding house at the rear of the Red House. I did not have any involvement in appointing Buckley, as this was before I'd become Head of Campus.

When I returned to the Glamorgan campus in 1979, Buckley was the House Master. He was living in the Grey House, although he was the House Master for the boarding house at the rear of the Red House.

When my wife and I took leave in the term prior to my appointment, I entrusted Buckley to look after my two youngest sons. My oldest was now at Corio. The younger two became boarders, they lived in the Red House; Buckley still lived in the Grey House. In place of my wife, Buckley's mother lived in the front of the Red House, and helped care for the boys. It was a personal arrangement that was given the okay by Ed Butler, my predecessor. Knowing what I now know, I never would have done it; but I trusted him, I thought I knew him, I'd known him for almost 20 years and as far as I could see, as far as a lot of people could see, he'd never put a foot wrong.

I returned for Term 2, and moved into the White House – Wallace Avenue – now called the Ivan Sutherland Centre. Having this building named after me was a great honour, in that I felt the School appreciated the life time of service I had given them.

On our departure of the Red House, Buckley moved in. The White and Red House were 200 yards or so away from each other, across the oval.

Following the closure of the boarding house in 1982, Buckley moved off the campus and lived locally. He remained on the staff.

In 1984 to 1985, Buckley was on leave. I think he was probably busy setting up his art gallery; he was certainly involved in the buying and selling of art.

In 1986 or 1987 Buckley returned to Glamorgan. He was certainly there in 1987 – that was the centenary year for Glamorgan, and the first time a Year 7 class had been introduced to the campus. Buckley was the class teacher for the Year 7 class.

Buckley went on leave in 1991 (at the end of that year). He couldn't make up his mind whether he wanted to leave permanently or come back in two years' time. I think he was going to focus on his gallery in Richmond.

I did not terminate Buckley's employment, and I'm not now sure if anyone did. In my mind, he resigned and went to focus on his gallery. In any event, as I elaborate below, I never received any complaints about Buckley.
**Student BIH**

63. I remember BIH at Glamorgan. He was a student in the mid-1980s and spent most of his early days at Glamorgan.

64. He was a lost soul and a poor little boy, he didn't have a father and his mother was an alcoholic or took drugs. She stayed in bed most of the times. He was looked after by his grandmother. He lived just by the Glamorgan campus on Washington Street. He often only turned up to school when he got out of bed or down from a tree - a couple of times his granny called me and said "he's up a tree, come and get him", so I did!

65. I remember that he suicided in the end. It's very sad.

66. I have seen the references in the documents provided by the Commission to BIH being involved with Buckley, but I don't know anything about that.

**Specific documents re Buckley**

67. I have reviewed the document with identification number GGS.0008.0070.0179_R provided by the Commission. I believe the note refers to concerns of Cressida Crossley (CC), who was a Year 7 teacher at GGS, and Jacqui White (JW) a Year 8 teacher at GGS. They never discussed their concerns about Buckley with me; I never received any complaint about him. The first I learnt of it was on reviewing the documents provided by the Commission. The only observations I had about the two female staff members was that I knew they found him frustrating to work with.

68. I have reviewed the document with identification number GGS.0008.0070.0182_R provided by the Commission. The death of this poor boy who was run over by a train while he was making graffiti shook the entire school. I remember that I got the news whilst I was at a fundraising event at Sally Brown's house. Of course I was also present at the funeral at St John's in Toorak. Buckley gave the eulogy. I see now that Buckley was criticised for this, but at the time, I didn't know about the criticism.

69. I have reviewed the document with identification number GGS.0008.0070.0015 provided by the Commission. I maintain what I said about him in this performance review. I think he did have favourites; that was one thing I'd be critical about. As a teacher you don't have favourites (or if you do, you don't show it). It's a nasty thing to say, but generally if students had money or were interested in art, or the parents were, I sensed that he'd try and encourage them. I thought he was bolstering his art network. At the time I did not appreciate that this was a signature or warning sign for grooming. In hindsight, if I'd known what I now know from reading modern material on this topic, I might have spotted this problem.

70. He was a very good teacher, but he was frustrating to work with in a team. He wasn't a team player. I think he was jealous of other members of artistic staff who could do the job just as well. He did a lot of excellent work in dramatic productions, but so could a lot of other people. I think he was a bit jealous when people stepped in to do those and took the shine off him.

71. I have reviewed the document with identification number GGS.0008.0070.0162_R provided by the Commission. This is all news to me. If it's true, I wish I knew back then. I'd never heard of the prostitution bit, never, and I'm not sure about the overdose bit either. This is completely foreign to me and very sad.

72. I have reviewed the document with identification number GGS.0008.0070.0169_R provided by the Commission. The issues referred to in the note were never discussed with me.

73. I didn't know that Buckley was a paedophile when I was at GGS; I didn't have any suspicions. The first inkling I had that Buckley was a paedophile was about 18 months or
two years ago when the Police asked my son to identify himself in a photograph, as part of their investigation into Buckley. The Police also asked me about it across two and a half hours as part of their intensive investigation.

74. Looking back, it's distressing that he was doing all this and I didn't know anything. I feel like I've let these boys down.

75. I have reviewed the document with identification number GGS.0008.007.0176_R provided by the Commission. I don't know who wrote this note or what they were talking about. If I'd had a feeling that Buckley was doing anything inappropriate with children, I would have investigated it immediately.

76. I did not have any concerns about Buckley's teaching ability or his interactions with the students, but I noted that he didn't seem to get on with the junior secondary staff, and seemed to be a loner rather than a team player. In about 1990, I commented about this to the Principal at the time, Lewis, in passing. I said something to the effect that I was having a bit of trouble with Buckley because he doesn't seem to get on with the staff and he's not a team player, and Lewis's reply was "yes but he's a very interesting person", and my reply to that was "yes, but you don't have to work with him". At that time it was only a small staff for two small Year 7 and 8 classes of about 15 students each, and Buckley just didn't seem to pull his weight.

77. I taught BIM when I was first at Glamorgan, as a student.

78. He then completed his training and became a resident tutor at Fraser House. It would have been in late 1960s. I was the House Master at Fraser House at that time. Document with identification number GGS.0014.001.0772_R says that BIM was a House Master. He was never a House Master.

79. BIM then became a resident tutor in Barrabool House when I was House Master there. I think that was in 1972 to 1973. I don't recall specifically requesting that BIM come with me to Barrabool but I would have approved having him because I thought he was a good, reliable teacher.

80. I was friends with BIM and considered him to be a family friend. We also had a good working relationship. BIM was godfather to our third son, when he was born in 1972.

81. BIM then went to Glamorgan in about 1974 to 1975. I'm not sure what his specific role was, I wasn't at Glamorgan then.

82. BIM then disappeared suddenly, sometime after he came back to Corio. I didn't know the details. I wondered what he'd been banished for, but he left suddenly and no one spoke to me about what happened. I never had the chance to ask him what happened, and looking back, perhaps this was a deliberate choice of his. I don't know what he did next.

83. I have reviewed documents from the Commission that refer to BIM being an emergency teacher in 1980, including documents with identification numbers GGS.0014.001.0772_R and GGS.0001.001.0136_R. I don't recall him being an emergency teacher with us.

84. I do recall that BIM used to run weekend REDA camps because of his membership in a REDA club that I think was called the REDACTED club. The camps were nothing to do with GGS, but I think he would offer to take interested students. I do not now recall how he managed to invite these students. As it was not a GGS camp, the school did not follow its usual administration system of ensuring there was parental consent. I don't recall in what years the REDA camps were held, or the frequency of the camps.
I never went on a camp myself, but I know they were overnight. I believe they were run under the auspices of the REDACTED. It seemed like an excellent extracurricular activity. I don't have a recollection of him expressly seeking my approval, but I knew about it and would have said something if I disapproved. And if I'd known about the circumstances of him leaving GGS, I would certainly have disapproved of the camps.

I have reviewed documents that refer to a complaint from a student named BIR about BIM, being documents with the identification numbers GGS.0008.019.0033_R, GGS.0014.001.0772_R, GGS.0008.011.0010_R, GGS.0001.001.0133_R and GGS.0007.004.0022_R provided by the Commission. Reading these documents was the first time I had heard of this. I did not know anything about this and I don't recall being interviewed or asked to make a statement about it.

In relation to the document with identification number GGS.0014.001.0772_R, I don't recall having a discussion with Philippa about this. But I see a reference to what I knew about BIM when he was at Corio. I have not inspected an un-redacted version of the document, but as I stand here today what I recall knowing was that he was banished suddenly, but not knowing the reason.

With the benefit of hindsight now that I know more about BIM, I would have never have acquiesced to the suggestion of the REDACTED camps, let alone had him as the godfather of my child.

I have been shown the document with identification number GGS.0001.001.0133_R provided by the Commission. If this document records a meeting, I was not present and can't shed any light on why BIR would made uncomplimentary remarks about me, nor do I know the particulars of what was said. If by that remark BIR or the author of the note was saying I was in any way complicit with grooming or sexual abuse, I was not knowingly doing so. As I've explained, at that time I held BIM in high regard and had made him a godfather of my child some years beforehand.

BIM has now been out of my life for a very long time.

My deepest sympathy is with BIR. I regret that the issues were not brought to the attention of the school when it happened. BIR must have gone through hell suffering this terrible trauma. I apologise for the fact that, during my time as his administrator at campus, I wasn't able to protect him.

I have been shown the document with identification number GGS.0008.019.0035 provided by the Commission. I don't recognise this handwriting. Nothing about the note triggers any specific memory. Without more information about its origin to give it context, I can't say anything more about it.

I have now been shown the statement of BKQ provided by the Commission, being the document with identification number STAT.0655.001.0001_R. I remember the boy's name, although I can't now place his face. I don't recall hearing receiving any reports or complaints involving him.

The complaint regarding BIM being in the shower room with the boys is not, of itself, improper. There was a legitimate role for supervision of children of this age to make sure they're washing themselves and not misbehaving, but if the context of the supervision had drifted in any way towards leering at them, that takes on a different tone and I would have investigated that if I'd heard about it.

I wish I'd known about this at the time. If I'd known I would have done something to help the situation and before it escalated, because I see it went on and on.
Student BKV

96. I have reviewed the statement of BKV, being the document with identification number STAT.0639.001.0001_R. I remember him, he was a lonely boy. He used to come to our house and my wife was a great support to him – she would spend extra time with him and comfort him, as part of her role as House Master’s wife. I’m saddened to hear of his abuse at the hands of BIM. My wife was so good to him, I hoped he would have felt he could have confided in us, but he didn’t. It’s so sad that he didn’t; I didn’t have a clue that the abuse was happening. With the benefit of hindsight that was a missed opportunity to prevent abuse. My wife never relayed any detail to me about anything untoward, and I’m confident that if there were any, she would have told me.

97. I would also add that if my wife, who was a registered teacher anyway, had also been trained on how to identify children who might be being abused, she might also have spotted that BKV was at risk.

Jonathan Harvey

98. Jonathon Harvey was at Corio. He wasn’t there long with me – he was there in 1968 and 1969. He was only there for two years because his visa expired, and he had to go back to teach in England.

99. My wife and I stayed with Harvey when we went to England while I was on leave in 1970. Harvey then came back to the Corio campus in the 1970s. He was never at the Glamorgan campus.

100. My family and I were friends with Harvey. We used to see him socially. For this reason I provided a character reference for him in 2007 in relation to his criminal proceeding (Annexure B). I stand by what I said about him in his statement, in that as I didn’t know about the offending, I could honestly say that he’d otherwise been a strong team member, who was hard working and reliable.

101. I’ve reflected on whether my friendship with him would have affected my behaviour and I believe that if any complaint had been made to me concerning Harvey’s behaviour my friendship and professional relationship with him would not have interfered with my investigation of the matter. If there were any such issues, the friendship went by the by – the children’s welfare was the most important thing for me.

102. As with most workplaces, I was friendly with many people at the school, but I would not let that interfere with my professional duties. In some ways I think I would have been harder on my own friends than other people, as I would have expected more of them.

Student BKU

104. I have reviewed the statement of BKU, being the document with identification number STAT.0645.001.0001_R provided by the Commission. I’m saddened to read about the abuse by Anderson and Buckley; I had no knowledge of it. Although I was a tutor at Fraser House at the time, I had married by then and was living a few houses away. I recall a few students with the same surname as BKU. If this boy went by a nickname rather than his legal name, I remember him well. I’m devastated to read of his trauma.

105. The comment in paragraph 17 in his statement, about Buckley lingering in the showers as opposed to simply checking on the boys, crosses the line into inappropriate attention. If I’d known about it, I would have told Buckley directly to stop doing it and if it continued I would have reported it to a higher authority.
Student BKB

106. I have read the statement of BKB, being the document with identification number STAT.0643.001.0001_R provided by the Commission. I see that BKB refers to ‘culture’. I would agree that different boarding houses have different cultures depending on the people involved. For my part, I tried to create a happy and caring learning environment. I was aware that the boys were away from their families, and we tried to be that family for them. Looking back, my role at Fraser House was one of my most challenging environments, as it involved ensuring that the young boarders, who were away from home for the first time, all settled in to the new environment.

Student BKO

107. I have reviewed the statement of BKO, being the document with the identification number STAT.0651.001.0001_R provided by the Commission. I remember this boy’s name. I didn’t teach him and he wasn’t in Fraser House. I’m very sorry to read of his experiences, and you can see how it touches so many other people. I wish we could have done more for him.

108. I didn’t have any significant relationship with Davison, but I recall that I taught his sons.

John Hendry

109. I have read the statement of John Hendry, being the document with identification number STAT.0634.001.0001_R provided by the Commission. I have said elsewhere in my statement and as Hendry has said in his statement, I never received any complaints from anyone, whether a child, staff, or parent, report anything untoward. If I had, I would have investigated it.

CONCLUSION

110. I have reviewed the policy and procedure documents provided to the Commission and see that there are now a variety of policies for things like mandatory reporting, criminal record checks, handbooks for non-teaching staff and a policy on bullying. We had nothing like all these policies. Thank goodness they did come in, because in retrospect, they were necessary.

111. I have been shown and am now familiar with recent material relating to sexual abuse and grooming behaviour published by the Education Department and I confirm there was no guidance or material assisting us to identify paedophiles at the time I was a teacher. Such material might have assisted me to spot this activity in my time at GGS. For instance, I can now see that the type of favouritism that Buckley displaced can be an indicator of grooming behaviour. I didn’t appreciate this at the time.

112. I think the pastoral values in the modern policies reflect my vision of the school was when I was there. It is the caring attitude, the child first. It’s a child’s school, not an adult’s school.

113. Now that I know some adults did not respect that, I want to say that I am very sorry to all those survivors.

Ivan Lloyd Sutherland
28 August 2015