



Royal Commission
into Institutional Responses
to Child Sexual Abuse

Statement

Name

Address **Known to Royal Commission**

Occupation

Date 1st September 2015

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. My full name is and I was born in 1975.

Family background

3. My parents separated when I was 13 years old and I lived with my mother. We lived in the outer regions of Melbourne and it was decided that I would board at Geelong Grammar. I was excited about going to the school.

Boarding at Geelong Grammar School

4. In 1989 I started as a boarder in year 8 at Highton Campus of Geelong Grammar. I was 14 years old. Highton consisted of day students and the boarding. The House Master was Tony INKSTER, and Philip TRUTMANN was the Highton boarding house assistant. Both INKSTER and TRUTMANN lived in the boarding house along with Kate PARSONS who was the school nurse at the time. The master of Highton was John BUGG, who also lived in a residence on the campus.

Signature

..... Witness: 

Sexual abuse

5. I had only been at school for about two weeks when I was woken up one night because I felt a hand under my blankets touching my genital area and trying to masturbate me. I could clearly see a hand rubbing my penis and my testicles. I could feel this hand rubbing all over my genital area, and I could hear a person breathing next to me. I knew it was a male.
6. I lay there extremely scared and I did not know what to do exactly. I kept pretending I was asleep but then I started stretching, pretending I was waking up. I was hoping my actions would stop what this person was doing to me. It seemed to go on forever and at one point he was very aggressive with the way he was rubbing his hand on my genitals. After a while I felt his hand trying to go up into my underwear. At this point I turned my back towards him to make it more difficult for him to touch me. I then heard the breathing stop and he pulled his hand out from under the blanket away from my genitals. After a time I turned over to face my door and I saw an adult male figure in my doorway. I couldn't see who it was.
7. I stayed laying in my bed extremely scared and not believing what had just happened to me. I couldn't sleep or do anything. I was scared he could come back at any time and do this again. I didn't sleep for the rest of the night.

Disclosing the abuse

8. The following day I called my mother and told her what had happened the previous night. I told mum everything and I begged her not to tell anyone about what had happened, I was scared. Mum wanted me to tell Kate PARSONS but I didn't want anyone to know. I remember it was a Sunday and later that day I received a call from mum who told me that she had spoken to Kate about what had happened. She told me that Kate was coming to get me and take care of me. After that I stayed in the room next door to Kate's room. I was too scared to go back to my own room.

Signature

BIW..... Witness: 

Statement in the matter of Case Study 32: Geelong Grammar School

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Statement of ^{BIW} continued

9. Sometime after I was abused I was talking with another student at the boarding house, we were good friends but I don't recall his name. I specifically remember him telling me that someone had come into his room whilst he was asleep and touched him on his genitals. I remember it specifically because I hadn't said anything to him and after he told me what had happened I told him what had happened to me.
10. That Sunday I had to go and speak with the Master, Mr BUGG at his residence. I went to see him with Kate. At the meeting Mr BUGG, Kate and the vice principal at the time, whose name I think was Paul, were all present.
11. During the meeting I told Mrs BUGG and the vice principal what had happened to me. I remember I told them that it could have been Mr INKSTER that came into my room. Mr BUGG wanted to know every specific and drilled me like I was in court. He asked me over and over again what had happened. I recall the vice principal was quite mean to me and I felt they both didn't believe me. They showed me no compassion and questioned everything I was telling them.
12. I remember during that conversation I told Mr BUGG and the vice principal that another student had told me that the same thing had happened to them. Mr BUGG's response was that there was something wrong with that student, basically that he was a write off.
13. After the meeting I was told by Mr BUGG and the vice principal not to tell anybody else about what I had said and not to involve anybody else. I told them both that I wouldn't say anything but felt it was unfair and that they had not believed me.
14. Sometime after that meeting, I believe it was the Monday I spoke to my mother again and she told me she had spoken to Mr BUGG and they had made an arrangement with her that I was not to speak about the incident until the school had conducted its own investigations.
15. Later that same day I was in the cafeteria with two students whose names I do not recall. They were talking to me about who they had seen in the hallway on the night I was

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BIW

..... Witness: 

Statement of BIW continued

sexually abused in my room. At that time I saw the vice principal walking towards me so I stopped him and told him that the two boys I was speaking with had seen someone walking around the boarding house hallway on the night I was abused. I do not recall who they said they had seen.

16. I remember the vice principal exploded and grabbed me by the back of my collar, lifted me out of my seat and dragged me up to the office. I was made to sit in a private office for about six hours until my mother collected me. I was told by the vice principal that I had broken our agreement and that I was in serious trouble. During those six hours nothing was said to be other than my mother was coming to get me.
17. My mother collected me from the office and told me that she had spoken to Mr BUGG and the vice principal and that I had been expelled from the school. I don't know why but the matter was never reported to the police.

Life after Geelong Grammar

18. Within a month of being expelled the school sent my mother a bill for approximately \$2500. This was for the remaining school fees for the term that I was expelled. My mother refused to pay the fees due to what had occurred and was threatened with legal action by the school. My mother received a letter from the school regarding what legal action would be taken unless the outstanding fees were paid. A family friend Laurie GRUZMAN who was a Queens Counsel offered to represent the family in the matter. A letter was sent to the school and I recall in the letter Laurie said that he welcomed action by Geelong Grammar and invited them to court to explain why they had expelled me from school. As a result Geelong Grammar took no further action.

Impact of the abuse

19. At times I feel I minimise the abuse I suffered at Geelong because I feel there are other children there who suffered more than me. I often feel guilty for feeling so much hurt and

Signature BIW

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Statement of ^{BIW} continued

pain for the abuse I suffered for one night, when other children suffered repeated abuse over a longer period.

20. I was tormented for years knowing that I had been expelled from school for reporting the truth and my abuse was never reported to the police. I felt terrible guilt that I had left other children at school at the hands of a sex offender. I knew other children would be abused because no one would listen to me.
21. Throughout my schooling years I hated male authority which caused me great difficulty. It has been through years counselling that I have been able to start trusting men again.
22. For a long time I suffered depression, self-harmed and had suicidal thoughts.
23. After many years of torment from the abuse I suffered, in 2010 at age thirty five I felt strong enough to confront what had happened to me at school. I reported the abuse to the police and took action against Geelong Grammar. I then undertook counselling for a number of years.

Contact with Geelong Grammar

24. In 2013 I reached an agreement with Geelong Grammar School.

Recommendations

25. I would like to see that children are listened to and believed.
26. That all sexual and physical abuse should be reported to the appropriate agencies to investigate. These investigations should not be conducted by the school.
27. All reports of abuse should be documented and retained indefinitely and electronically.
28. Extensive background checks should be conducted with all persons male or female who are responsible for children in the school environment.

Signature

BIW

Witness:



Statement of ^{BIW} continued

29. Counselling should be offered to children who report sexual and physical abuse at the earliest opportunity to reduce the long term effect this abuse has on them. This will assist in reducing self-harming and suicidal behaviours.

Signed:

Date: 1/9/2015

Witness: 

Date: 01/09/15