



Statement

Name

Address Known to the Royal Commission

Date 9 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 , I was born on 1944.
3. On the 6th of June 2011, I made a statement (GG5.0008.024.0020) to Detective Senior Constable David VERNON at Frankston Police Station in relation to an incident involving my son, who is known as BIW in this Royal Commission, at Geelong Grammar School in 1989.
4. Further to that statement I would like to add that the only staff members that I ever dealt with at Geelong Grammar were the Master of Highton campus, Mr BUGG, the Deputy Head Master Paul CLARIDGE, the boarding house master, Tony and the boarding house nurse Kate.
5. When I received a phone call from BIW and he told me that someone had entered his room in the night and fondled him, I told him to go to Kate. I told him not to go the house master as it was a male person who had done this to him and he didn't know who it was.
6. I don't recall what day of the week this happened but it is my recollection that I travelled to Geelong Grammar the next day, but I am not certain.

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Statement in the matter of Geelong Grammar School

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Statement of ^{BLX} continued

7. I recall having a meeting with Mr BUGG, Mr CLARIDGE, Kate and ^{BIW} . I don't recall if BIW was present for the whole meeting. During that meeting I clearly remember feeling that BIW was not being believed, that he was more of a nuisance they had to do something about.
8. I recall that both Mr BUGG and Mr CLARIDGE made it very clear that BIW was not to discuss the matter with any of the other students and that if he did he could be dismissed. I took that to mean expelled from the school and I didn't want that. I came away from that meeting upset but believed that BIW would be safe as he was now sleeping in the room next to the nurse Kate. I also presumed that the school would conduct some type of investigation due to the nature of the complaint.
9. I recall that Mr BUGG advised me that the matter would have to be referred to the main school. I assumed that to mean it would be reported to the main Head Master whom I didn't know.
10. After that meeting I emphasised to BIW not to speak about the matter with anyone else at the school otherwise he could be dismissed.
11. When I received the subsequent call from the school, it was during that call I was told BIW was being dismissed. It was made clear to me that BIW was being expelled. The reason given was because he had broken the agreement and spoken to other boys about the incident.
12. When I arrived at the school I spoke with Mr BUGG and Mr CLARIDGE in Mr BUGG's office. I remember both men were very involved in the conversation and supportive of one another in dismissing my son. I recall arguing with them both, saying that it is impossible to prevent a fourteen year old boy from speaking to other students. I recall the main reason given to me by Mr BUGG and Mr CLARIDGE for dismissing my son was because he had broken the school's rule. I do not recall any conversation regarding what investigations had been made in relation to my son's complaint. They could not have got me out of the school grounds fast enough.

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- 13. After the meeting they brought BIW from another room where he had been waiting, and I walked him to the boarding house. No one escorted us. When we arrived, all of BIW's personal belongings had already been packed up.
- 14. During that walk BIW told me that he had been speaking with two boys in the canteen area and that they told him that they had seen a man near his room on the night of the incident. Mr CLARIDGE was in the canteen area and BIW approached him and told him what the boys had said. Mr CLARIDGE became angry, took him to the office area and placed him in a room which he referred to as the punishment room.

Signed:

BLX



Date:

9 September 2015

Witness:



Date:

9 September 2015