

STATEMENT OF ARCHDEACON CONRAD PATTERSON

Name Conrad Patterson

Address REDACTED

Occupation Retired

Date

1. This statement made by me accurately sets out the evidence that I am able to give to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse ("the Royal Commission"). This statement is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.
2. I have read the letter from Mr Tony Giugni, Solicitor Assisting the Royal Commission, dated 21 December 2015 together with Attachment A and Schedule 1 which were annexed to the correspondence.
3. I have also read the Report of the Board of Inquiry into the handling of claims of sexual abuse and misconduct within the Anglican Diocese of Adelaide prepared by The Honourable Trevor Olsson and Dr Donna Chung dated 26 May 2004.
4. I was born on 21 December 1936.
5. I have a Bachelor of Arts Degree, Diploma of Education, Diploma of Teaching and Diploma of Theology.
6. I taught at Mitchell Park Boys' Technical High School between 1957 and 1960.
7. In 1961 I was ordained a Deacon in the Diocese of Willochra. I was then appointed Assistant Curate at Port Pirie from 1961 until 1963. I was also the Branch Governor of the CEBS Branch at St Paul's, Port Pirie. The Branch Governor was appointed by the parish priest and was the leader responsible for the leadership, administration and function of the branch.
8. In December 1962 I was ordained as a Priest. In 1963 I was subsequently appointed Priest-in-Charge at Peterborough where I remained until 1965.
9. In 1965 I was appointed Rector of Bordertown Parish until 1970.
10. In 1970 I was appointed Rector of Loxton until 1975. I then held similar positions at O'Halloran Hill between 1975 and 1977 and Morphett Vale between 1977 and 1984. I established CEBS at Morphett Vale in 1978.
11. I was Rector of Campbelltown between 1984 and 1993 and then held the position of Rector at Burnside between 1993 and 2000.
12. I was appointed Archdeacon of Torrens in 1993 where I remained until 2002. I remain Archdeacon emeritus since 2002.
13. I have held a number of locum tenens since 2002 and I am currently locum tenens at Woodville.
14. I have held a number of positions within the Anglican Church;

- o State Chairman of CEBS 1978-1983;
- o Vice-Chairman of CEBS 1984-1986;
- o State Council Member 1987-1988;
- o Chair for the elections at the annual meetings of CEBS in 2001 and 2002;
- o Elected National Chair of CEBS from 2005 until 2009.

Association with Mr Robert Brandenburg

15. Mr Brandenburg was the Chief Commissioner of CEBS (SA). My only association with Mr Brandenburg was in a formal capacity. As Chief Commissioner, Mr Brandenburg was the effective leader of the organisation. His principal contact with the branch would have been through the Branch Governor, the effective leader of the parish branch.
16. When I became a member of the CEBS State Council, Mr Brandenburg was on the Council in an ex officio position. Contact was only in a formal capacity.
17. I did not have a social relationship with Mr Brandenburg. I only became aware of any allegations against Mr Brandenburg through the media following his suicide. I have never had any association with Messrs Daniels, Hawkins, Elliot or Jacobs.

My understanding of the reasons for the deposition of Mr Brandenburg as Chief Commissioner in or around 1981

18. By 1981 CEBS (SA) was under considerable financial pressure. Numbers in branches were decreasing, hence membership fees were declining. In addition, the relationship of employer/employee was becoming more complex and expensive with the addition of such responsibilities as long service leave and workers compensation schemes. The maintenance of various CEBS camping properties was becoming increasingly burdensome. Local councils were requiring properties of this kind to be maintained to a higher standard and the organisation had neither the resources, the finances, nor the personnel to maintain them satisfactorily. The transfer of Mr Brandenburg's employment to Anglicare (SA) was accompanied by the transfer of the properties. This was done without any compensation to CEBS (SA). It is fair to say that the organisation regarded itself as hardly done by.
19. Mr Brandenburg's transfer to his new role in Anglicare as Campsites Manager meant that he had divided responsibilities as both Campsites Manager and CEBS Chief Commissioner. The latter appointment was terminated at the Annual Meeting of CEBS (SA) in 1981. My report to that meeting canvasses the entire matter at some length. The recommendations to terminate the appointment of a salaried Chief Commissioner were adopted at that meeting. [See Annual Reports 1980/81 Church of England Boys' Society South Australia - CEBS.0010.001.0001].

My understanding of the policies and procedures in CEBS relating to child abuse

20. Essentially, to my knowledge there were no policies in place relating specifically to child abuse.
21. The only document of which I am aware is "The General & Legal Responsibilities of a Leader" issued December 1983, attached. The only reference to matters relating to sexual offences against children occurs at the bottom of the page headed "The General and Legal Responsibilities of a CEBS Leader" which reads as follows:

It is also extremely unwise to find yourself in a position of being in any building or place with only one member of the branch.

You must also take care that you do not place yourself in any position that could be misconstrued.

[See booklet entitled 'The General & Legal Responsibilities of a Leader' - ANG.0146.001.0445].

Report of the Board of Inquiry into the handling of claims of sexual abuse and misconduct within the Anglican Diocese of Adelaide ('the report')

22. The first time I read the report was in preparation of my statement for the Commission [See report of the Board of Inquiry into the handling of claims of sexual abuse and misconduct within the Anglican Diocese of Adelaide - ANG.0044.001.0068].
23. I agree generally with the contents of the report as they refer to Robert Brandenburg. There is, however, an error in paragraph 215(1) of the report. The incident referred to occurred at the National Camp (VII) held in 1981 in Adelaide at the Seventh Day Adventist site in Reynella. It is unlikely the event occurred at Cockatoo Valley as this is a small and unserviced site near Williamstown. It has no residential accommodation and is unsuitable for any large number of campers.
24. One of the conditions of using the Seventh Day Adventist site in Reynella was that there would be an absolute ban on alcohol being brought to the site, let alone being consumed. Mr Brandenburg was caught on the site with alcohol and confronted by Mr Skein and myself. Mr Brandenburg was not removed because of that incident alone. Over time the relationship between CEBS and Mr Brandenburg became increasingly strained but the catalyst for his removal was due to the financial difficulties that CEBS were facing and could no longer afford Mr Brandenburg's employment in the position of Chief Commissioner as referred to in paragraph 16 above. Hence, his position was terminated. The position of Chief Commissioner was then filled by Mr Skein in an honorary capacity. I would describe Mr Brandenburg's departure as a managed change of personnel. The incident at Reynella contributed to further dissatisfaction in Mr Brandenburg which culminated in the appointment of a new Chief Commissioner.
25. Bishop Aspinall most likely attended the 1981 camp in his official capacity at some stage. However, his interaction with any of the campers on that occasion would have been limited and formal in nature.
26. I refer to paragraph 173 of the report of the Board of Inquiry. I first obtained a copy of the report on Tuesday 5 January 2016. I only became aware of this complaint on reading the report. The incident referred to was not reported to me or to CEBS (SA) at the time

Signed:



Date:

21 January 2016

Witness:

Miles Patterson

Date:

21st January, 2016