



Royal Commission
into Institutional Responses
to Child Sexual Abuse

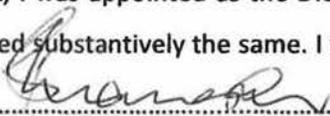
Statement

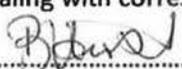
Name Timothy Samuel Mawson
Address Known to the Royal Commission
Occupation Retired
Date 31 July 2016

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. 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. This statement has been prepared on the basis that the Commission will issue a Notice to Produce under *Royal Commissions Act 1902* (Cth) section 2(3A) for the production of a signed copy.

Background

4. My name is Timothy Samuel Mawson and I was born on REDACTED 1947.
5. I am the son of an Anglican Rector and have been involved in the Anglican Church since childhood. I followed a career in local government from 1965 to 1968. In 1968, I commenced duties in the Anglican Diocese of Newcastle (the **Diocese**) as an Administrative Assistant. This role developed and became more onerous as the years passed and the Diocese grew.
6. In 1981, I was appointed as the Diocesan Secretary. While my title changed my role remained substantively the same. I was responsible for dealing with correspondence,

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- records management, attending to minutes at meetings, and administrative duties mainly related to parish property and insurance. I was responsible for processing the documentation for insurance claims (generally for property damage) on behalf of the Diocese and ensured that payments were made to the parishes.
7. I also provided administrative support for the Diocesan synod each year. This involved preparing the synod business paper, which was a compilation of reports from long-standing committees in the Diocese.
 8. During the course of my employ, I was exposed to the day to day running of the Diocese and I reported to the then Diocesan Registrar, Peter Mitchell (**Mitchell**). In January 2002, Mitchell's role as the Diocesan Registrar was terminated following his misappropriation of church funds. Consequently, I was appointed Acting Registrar for a temporary period from 2002 to 2003. My duties as the Acting Registrar were very much the same as Diocesan Secretary, the role was just a bit more onerous. I had more administrative responsibilities and more meetings to attend, including meetings relating to the trustees of church property.
 9. In 2003, Bruce Hockman was appointed Diocesan Registrar and my role reverted to Diocesan Secretary, until I retired in 2008.

Diocesan record keeping practices

10. During the course of my employment with the Diocese, it became apparent to me that record keeping practices were lax. I would often go looking for a document, only to find that it was not there. I did not mean that documents were missing in a criminal sense, but rather I felt that filing and correspondence was not managed as well as it should have been. I formed the view that people within the Diocese did not understand the importance of keeping proper records.
11. Part of my role involved reviewing minutes going back decades for property decisions that had been made. While I did notice that documents were sometimes missing

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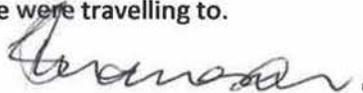
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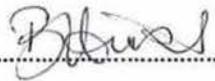
from Diocesan files, I considered the content recorded in minutes more problematic than the keeping of minutes. I often found that there was no continuity in the minutes. They did not follow through on a particular subject the way I expected. I never raised this with anyone at the time but made an effort to record minutes more comprehensively during my time at the Diocese.

12. From the early 1980s to the late 1990s, the Diocesan offices relocated a number of times. From the first 13 years of my employment, I had never seen a document outage or destruction take place. However, over time I became suspicious of Mitchell's behaviour because he was involving himself in the movement of files when this was not his responsibility. He appeared to be actively looking to discard files of financial relevance and I found it peculiar that financial records were being destroyed under Mitchell's instruction.
13. In about 2001, Bishop Roger Herft instructed me to prevent Mitchell from accessing the Diocesan records which were stored offsite. I was aware that Mitchell's conduct was the subject of investigations by the Diocese at this time. Under the Bishop's direction, I arranged to change the access codes. The storage manager later informed me that Mitchell had attended the storage facility in an attempt to access the Diocesan records but had been denied access.

Conversation between Keith Allen and Peter Mitchell

14. Due to my role I was sometimes required to attend budget meetings outside of the office. I would sometimes attend these meetings in the company of Mitchell and Keith Allen (Allen). At this time, Allen was a trustee of church property, a member of the Diocesan Council, and a senior member of Synod. Separate to his roles within the Diocese, he also held a professional role as a solicitor.
15. On one occasion when I travelled in a vehicle to a meeting with Mitchell and Allen, I have a clear memory of a statement that was made. I cannot recall when this was or where we were travelling to.

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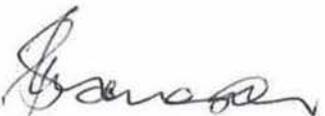
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16. On this occasion, I was seated in the back of the car while Mitchell was driving and Allen was in the front passenger seat. I remember that they were engaging in conversation and appeared to have forgotten that I was in the back seat. I recall Mitchell saying, *"Yeah, it's funny how those documents went missing"*. Allen did not say anything in response but murmured in agreement. They seemed to snigger and then the conversation moved on.
17. At this time, I had no idea what they were talking about. I thought it was a peculiar statement by Mitchell but I did not ask what it was about, nor did I tell anyone about the conversation that I had overheard at that time.
18. At some stage, I learnt about the criminal proceedings against CKC. I had very limited knowledge about those proceedings but I am aware that Allen acted as CKC's solicitor in those proceedings.
19. Due to gossip circulating around the Diocese, the specific details of which I cannot recall, I later formed the view that the conversation between Mitchell and Allen that I had overheard may have been related to CKC's criminal proceedings.

Conversation with Michael Elliott

20. In about mid-2009, I received a call from Michael Elliott (**Elliott**) out of the blue. I understood that Elliot was the Professional Standards Director. I had never met Elliott before but believe he was given my name by the Diocesan Business Manager, John Cleary. I understood that Elliott rang me in relation to gaps in Diocesan files and records. He was rather circumspect but appeared to have been looking for particular information and had noticed that papers were missing.
21. I made a general statement to Elliott about my observations about missing documents from Diocesan files and the lack of continuity in the minutes.

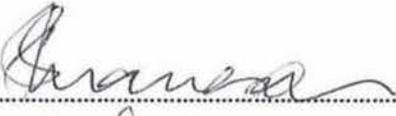
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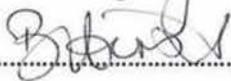
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22. During the course of this conversation, I think Elliott may have raised Mitchell and I told him about the conversation between Mitchell and Allen that I had overheard in the car many years ago.

Signed: 

Date: 31 July 2016

Witness: 

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