



Royal Commission
into Institutional Responses
to Child Sexual Abuse

Statement

Name John FARRAGHER
Address Known to Commission
Occupation ...
Date ...

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 1923* (NSW) section 8 for the production of a signed copy.
4. I am the founder of John Farragher Removals Pty Ltd which I commenced in 1983. The business was sold IN 2014 and I have no further involvement in it.
5. In 1998 my company was approached and employed by the Anglican Church to move a priest from the Rectory in Church St, Maitland. However, I don't recall where the priest was moving to. My staff quoted and once approved arranged to carry out the relocation. Accordingly our removal team was dispatched to the rectory to complete the pack and relocation.
6. On the first day on this removal , I was contacted by my HR Manager, Jim Jackson, who told me that his staff were upset and disgusted with material discovered on site during the prepack and had walked off the job after finding child pornography. They called Jim as soon as they found it. This was located in a bedroom , under the bed, but

Signature:

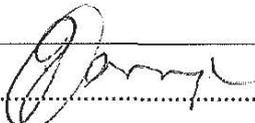
...

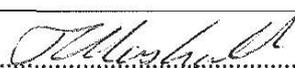
Witness:

...

I don't know how it was stored. After a discussion with Jim over the incident , Jim suggested that he would call the Anglican priest he knew based at Muswellbrook as they were friends and would advise him of the incident.

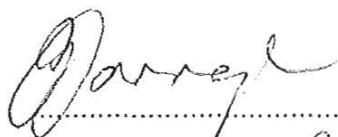
7. I left things with Jim to sort out. I believe there was an agreement reached that the church would remove the child pornography before the move continued. This was done and my employees returned the next day to complete the move although it was a different moving crew.
8. I was contacted later that day or next day by Bishop HERFT, the conversation covered the incident and finding of the photographs and next steps . I was surprised and disappointed by the tone of the conversation since Bishop Herft seemed to be concentrating on controlling any potential reputational damage and or 'putting the fire out' instead of the fact that Rushton had child pornography in his house , the implications this had and the welfare and upset of our removal team on site. He requested that I not to go to the media. He wasn't intimidating or threatening during the call. It just seemed like he was in damage control.
9. I didn't sign anything, but it is possible I was asked to. I just don't remember. If I was asked to sign something I wouldn't have anyway. It would have been a verbal agreement.
10. I contacted the company's solicitors, being Tony Deegan of Sparke Helmore to discuss the incident . This was to seek some advice on how we should handle this situation. I do not recall exact content of that conversation or if any instructions were given to Tony. I don't recall if any further investigation or if any statements were taken from my employees at that time.

Signature: 

Witness: 

11. I am certain that the material was child pornography as our employees on this job were long term experienced removalist who had worked in the industry for many years and would not be easily offended. Their reaction to the offensive material that they came across whilst carrying out their duties upset and offended them in this instance. , this indicates to me that this was more than general pornography.

Signed:



Date:

August 2nd 2016

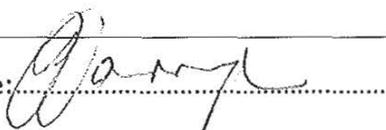
Witness:



Date:

August 2nd 2016

Signature:



Witness:

