

New South Wales Police

P.190

v2.6

STATEMENT in the matter of:

DFB

DFA

Place: Trinity Grammar

School, Summer Hill

Date : 18 October, 2000

Name: SCOTT, Robert John

Address: Trinity Grammar School, Ashfield

Tel. No.:

REDACTED

Occupation: Director of Christian Studies/House Master

STATES:-

1. This statement made by me accurately sets out the evidence which I would be prepared, if necessary, to give in court as a witness. The statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

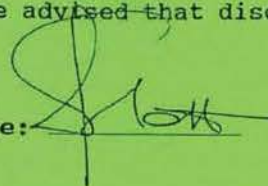
2. I am 50 years of age.

3. I have been at Trinity Grammar School for approximately 20 years. I am currently the Director of Christian Studies and Boarding House Master. I have been the Boarding House Master for about 2 and a half years. I live on site in the same building and on the same level as the boarding house dormitories. My residence is separate to the boys but nearby and most often the boys pass my residence to gain access to the boarding house. There are two other points of access to the dormitories. Under no circumstances are the day students or staff permitted access to the boarding house without permission from the house master. Before any boy is accepted into the boarding house an interview is conducted with the boy and his parents/guardians. The expectations of the boy, parents/guardians and the School are discussed. Each boy is given a handbook and a tour of the boarding house. I discuss the routines and the rules of the boarding house and request the boy or parents/guardians raise any issues. The expectations of the boarding house are explained and they are advised that discipline

REDACTED

Witness:

Signature:



Page No: 3

P.190A.

STATEMENT (continued) in the matter of:


Name: Michael John SPRATT

to investigate the noise or have stopped the boys rumbling. The rumbling I have seen has always been playful, as is often associated with boys. At no time has any boarder approached me and informed me that they have witnessed or been a victim of any wrong doing from other boarders. I am aware that if this was to occur that I would immediately notify the House Master.

9. On Thursday 19 October 2000, Detective FILEMAN shown me an A4 piece of paper, which contained four sketches of what appear to be wooden objects. Since commencing my employment as Design and Technology Teacher at Trinity I have never seen any of the students make implements which looked liked these.

10. The boarder, ^{DFA} [REDACTED] was a student in my Year 10 Wood Technics class for the first three terms of this year. At no time did I see ^{DFA} [REDACTED] making anything apart from his assigned project, which was a bedside cabinet. The procedure for constructing this cabinet only involved using a lathe to shape a small piece of timber with the measurements of 70mm x 70mm x 70mm. When using the lathe, all students are closely supervised.

Witness: [REDACTED]

Signature: 

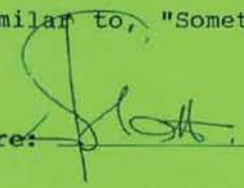
situated within the centre of the boarding house and he maintains a general oversight together with the Master on Duty. The House Captain 2000 is REDACTED . There is a Gap Student situated at the far end near the Year 7 and Year 8 dormitories. Gap students are students who have completed their final year of schooling in the United Kingdom and live on site as junior residents. Their duties include administration and supervision within the boarding house.

8. The dorm monitors within the Year 10 dormitory were REDACTED REDACTE and REDACTED . Both these boys no longer attend Trinity Grammar School having returned to their families overseas. The Year 10 dormitory can house 12 students including the monitor's beds. During the year the numbers within dormitories may vary. For example, some of the student's parents may be overseas for a term and the boys would come in for that term.

9. Should there be a minor problem within the dormitory, such as talking after lights out or during prep, the dorm monitors are to provide discipline for the boys. This is overseen by me and the monitors report directly to me. The discipline could include time out of the dorm and/or administration duties within the school. Monitors are instructed to report to me should their authority be disputed.

10. On Friday, 11 August, 2000 I was attending morning briefing in the staff common room which occurs towards the end of recess. During this time the staff meet to discuss various issues. The Head Master can address this meeting. I was called to the door by REDACTED REDACTED and REDACTED to advise me that an incident had taken place during recess involving REDACTED REDACTED CLB REDACTED said something similar to, "Something has

Witness: REDACTED

Signature: 

Page No: 2
STATEMENT (continued) in the matter of: DFB [REDACTED] DFA [REDACTED] P.190A.
Name: SCOTT,

will follow if those expectations are breached.

4. My role as Boarding House Master sees me in charge of administering the component parts of the boarding house, making sure the boys are safe and happy. I exercise pastoral care and I am the liaison point between the boys and their parents. I am responsible to watch over their academic progress. I attempt to be a father figure to the boys. I encourage them to come to me if they have any problems, for example if they have trouble getting to sport on Saturdays, if they require forms signed or to discuss subject choices.

5. Although I am not on duty 24 hours a day I am on call 24 hours day. My duties with the boys commence around 7.00am preparing them for school. I then teach during the day and coach sport in the afternoons. Each day there is a Master on Duty; a resident master who lives on site. The Master on Duty begins his duties (which include administration, general supervision and security) at 7am and concludes at 10.30pm. This person sometimes may be out of the house on official business, however can be immediately contacted by the boys via a mobile phone. This phone can be accessed by the boys by picking up a phone within the house area which diverts straight to the mobile.

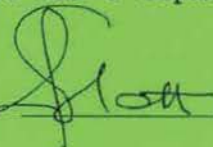
6. By and large the school has allowed the boarders to access their quarters during recess and lunch, following P.E. and in the case of seniors during study periods.

7. Each dorm has two senior boys from Year Eleven who operate as Dorm Monitors. These boys have been part of a Peer Support training program and have direct responsibility for maintaining order within the dorm. The House Captain has a separate room

Witness:

REDACTED

Signatures



Page No: 5

P.190A.

STATEMENT (continued) in the matter of: DFB [REDACTED] DFA [REDACTED]

Name: SCOTT,

secretary. I then went to the Marshall's office and asked him to withdraw the three alleged perpetrators from class. Whilst that was happening I went to the science block to advise Mr Green and suggested he should attend his office. When I returned the three alleged perpetrators were sitting separately and under the control of the Second Master, Mr Craig Sandwell. Each boy was filling out an incident report.

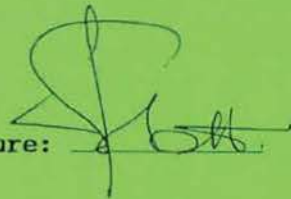
14. Peter Green came back a little later and we asked [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] to fill out an incident report. Peter and I began to interview all the boys in turn. At some stage the school counsellor, Kate Pearce was invited to join us.

15. We spoke to each boy separately. I think we spoke to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] first about what had happened. Looking now at an incident form completed by [REDACTED] on the 11.8.00 I am of the belief that [REDACTED] added the four lines at the bottom of the form after speaking with Kate Pearce. I can't recall seeing those words initially on that day. My main concern was obviously the section that started with "At the time..." I recall that [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] had hold of his ankles and [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] had hold of his arms. While [REDACTED] was being held it was then that his face was blackened and his trousers subsequently removed. In consultation with each other Peter Green and I formed the opinion that this was an incident of bullying.

16. When [REDACTED] was spoken to he was relaxed and seemed unperturbed about what had happened to him. As I recall [REDACTED] reported his matter as recorded in the incident form. [REDACTED] wasn't upset visibly and has not been upset since as far as I am aware.

Witness:

[REDACTED]

Signature: 

Page No: 4
 STATEMENT (continued) in the matter of: DFB / DFA
 Name: SCOTT,

P.190A.

happened up in the dorm and I think you had better come up there. CLB is on the floor crying and I think he has been hurt."

11. I said, "Do you know what's happened?" All three boys were offering little bits of information and one of them said, "He's had his face blackened." The boys indicated it was boot polish on his face. I said, "Do you know who is responsible?" The boys named CLA, DFD and DFC. The three boys and I then attended the boarding house. I am not sure whether CLB was in the Year 9 or Year 10 dorm however he was between the last two beds on the right of the dorm. I saw that his face was blackened with what appeared to be boot polish. I saw that his trousers were down and he was wearing boxer shorts. I am unsure whether his pants were fully off or just around his ankles. CLB was crying. He had his shirt and tie still on and was dishevelled.

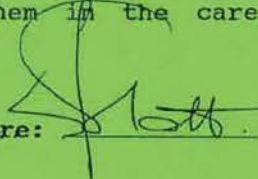
12. I asked CLB to stop crying, stand up and tell me what had happened. CLB put his trousers back on, straightened his shirt and he stopped crying. CLB told me that he had been rumbled by the three boys, CLA, DFD and DFC. I suggested we should go down stairs and talk about it. The three reporting boys, CLB and myself all spoke about what had happened. I am not sure who told me but one of them mentioned that REDACTED had been rumbled as well. I believe the three reporting boys went back to their classes. Prior to them leaving I thanked them for their quick response and their attempt to comfort CLB.

13. I think that REDACTED was still in the boarding house at the time and I wanted both REDACTED and CLB to be with me. I took them to Peter Green's office and left them in the care of his

Witness:

REDACTED

Signature:



Page No: 7 P.190A.
 STATEMENT (continued) in the matter of: DFB / DFA
 Name: SCOTT,

23. Late the same day I spoke with Peter Green. He requested that I search the boarding house for the wooden implement mentioned by CLB in the additional lines documented on his incident form. I did not find any such implement.

24. Towards the end of the second week of this term, around October 11th or 12th, I saw a wooden implement in the corner of the Year 10 dormitory near the shoe rack. Upon the piece of wood was writing which read, REDACTED Weapon". There was a former student within the school named REDACTED. He has since left the school. He was in Year 10 in 1999. I took possession of this piece of wood and placed it within my study. I gave it to the police when they were here doing their search.

25. Peter Green and I decided that CLA, DFD and DFC were to be suspended from the boarding house for the weekend and they were allowed to return on Monday evening. The parents of all boys were notified immediately and requested to collect the boys. DFD parents live overseas so we contacted his guardian and then later rang his parents direct.

26. Attached to my statement are the incident reports I recall seeing on the 11 August, 2000.

Witness:

REDACTED

Signature:

Witness:

Page No: 6 P.190A.
 STATEMENT (continued) in the matter of: DFB [REDACTED] DFA [REDACTED]
 Name: SCOTT,

17. After Peter and I spoke with REDACTED and CLB [REDACTED] we spoke with the three alleged perpetrators. I am unsure who we spoke to first. All three boys had been isolated from each other and had completed their incident forms independently. Peter Green and I examined each incident form before we interviewed the boys. If there was anything we needed to clarify we then re-spoke to each boy.

18. I have just re-read DFD [REDACTED] incident form and I recall most of the information recorded on the form, however I don't recall reading or talking about the second paragraph which concerns the 'wedgie'. Perhaps this occurred once CLB [REDACTED] left the dorm to get the 'piece of wood' from his dorm.

19. I remember talking to DFC [REDACTED] because we talked about the 'Lance Corporal' information. I believe our conversation with DFC [REDACTED] confirmed the information recorded on the form.

20. I was present with Peter Green when CLA [REDACTED] was spoken to. Having just re-read his incident form it documents the basic details about which we spoke to CLA [REDACTED].

21. These interviews were conducted over the course of the day. I was required to attend classes during some of that time, as I think was Peter Green. I am aware other students have completed incident forms however I was not present when they did so. Kate Pearce was also present during some of this time and spoke with REDACTED [REDACTED] and CLB [REDACTED] on their own.

22. Later in the day, CLB [REDACTED] REDACTED [REDACTED] were called to the school and were advised of the incident.

Witness:

S. Day
 S. DAY
 D. SGT.

Signature:

[Handwritten Signature]