ROYAL COMMISSION INTO INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSES TO
CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Submissions in reply to submissions of Counsel assisting in case study CS30, on
behalf of David Green

1. Mr Green was assistant superintendent at Turana in late 1965 and early 1966, and Superintendent between April 1968 and mid-1970. He took on the role of superintendent in his later 20s. He accepted that his level of appreciation of the possibility of adult initiated sexual abuse back in 1970 was not as great as it is now. He said that he trusted in the level of integrity of his officers.

2. In total, Turana accommodated approximately on average 280 to 300 boys. However there was a high turnover of between 25 and 50 boys and young men each week. Turana was overcrowded and this affected the whole institution. Mr Green made reports to the Department about the overcrowding but the response was to wait on the budget allocation process. He was ‘constantly discussing’ the issue of staffing of Turana and the capacity to manage demand during the late 1960s with the Deputy Director and Director of the Youth Welfare Division. He stated that the Department did not see increasing the number of staff or the capacity of Turana as the answer, a position held by many experts and professionals at this time. From the late 1960s every effort was being made to develop alternative programs for children and young people to avoid placement in the institutions.

3. Attempts were made to keep younger residents separate from older residents, and offenders separate from boys admitted for care and protection, but that given the overcrowding this was not always possible.

4. While some forms of rewards and punishments for residents were necessary to maintain control, to encourage behaviour improvements, rehabilitation, and personal development, Mr Green instructed his officers to stop using certain

---

1 TC 9074 128-140.
2 TC 9065 123-144.
3 TC 9060 118-137.
4 TC 9055 19-1121.
forms of punishment and relied upon the Chief Youth Officers to implement his instructions. He stated that by the 1970s the Department introduced a policy to appoint professional rather than career officers who had risen through the ranks and that there was more focus on the diverse needs of children and young people in care. Nevertheless, there was an absence of adequate mental health services at the time for boys with complex needs.  

5. Mr Green was aware of child-to-child sexual abuse allegations. He had an expectation that if a report of child-to-child sexual abuse was made, section staff, generally the Chief or Senior, would contact the medical officer and make other arrangements to look after the welfare of the boys and young men. There were a range of strategies in place for dealing with perpetrators including referral to police, transfer, penalties, counselling and referral to a psychiatrist.

6. Mr Green took available opportunities to interact with the boys and young men at Turana. He would generally visit one or two sections on his way home each evening. During those visits he spoke with staff, including Chiefs or Seniors, and checked the section Report Books to see the events of the day. He also spoke with any boys who requested to see him. He would also return to Turana at least one or two nights a week in the evening or just before 9pm and during this time he would catch up with the boys. He was available to visiting parents on either Saturday or Sunday each week.

7. Mr Green gave evidence that he was regularly called about problems at night, that he would circulate at night and try to be present. In relation to his relationship with the children and interactions with them, Mr Green stated that he tried to know all their names and be accessible to them if approached. Mr Green stated that his expectation of staff was that if a boy had a particular need or concern that he would be respectfully listened to and that an incident report would be made and action taken in respect of that report.

---

5 TC 9071 135-9072 15.  
6 TC 9057 11.  
7 TC 9059.  
8 TC 9056-9058.  
9 TC 9058.
8. Mr Green did not receive any reports about child sexual abuse perpetrated by an officer.\(^\text{10}\)

9. The finding of Counsel Assisting that the Turana manual not altered in terms of dealing with child sexual abuse between 1970 and 1981, it is important to note that Mr Green left in 1971 and was not responsible for the state of the Manual (and had no knowledge as to it) thereafter.\(^\text{11}\)

10. He stated that he was horrified and surprised by the evidence that when some children reported sexual abuse, nothing was done to ensure their welfare or protect them from abuse.\(^\text{12}\)

11. In relation to the summary of suggested available findings, it was clear that notwithstanding representations from Mr Green, there was Departmental budgetary pressure being applied which impacted adversely upon how Turana was being run.

12. It is also clear that Mr Green actively monitored the conduct of the staff at Turana and made changes to the discipline procedures by removing particular forms of punishment.

13. At paragraph 236 of the suggested available findings, Counsel assisting refers to Mr Green saying that his concerns about the lack of supervision of night included concerns that residents might engage in inappropriate sexualised behaviours, and that he gave evidence that a lack of alternative arrangements meant that staff had no option but to lock boys in dormitories to sleep, despite the known risk of child-to-child sexual abuse. Counsel also concluded that Mr Green said that he took no measures to safeguard children from being sexually abused by staff on duty at night, in this regard he had to trust the integrity of the officers.

14. Apart from relying on the reference to evidence given above, it is submitted that this statement is distorted because it lacks relevant context of the response and the question which preceded it. Mr Green was speaking to the problems of protecting inmates in dormitories where there could be up to 15 inmates locked in the same room. Counsel assisting then posited that no particular measures were put in place to safeguard the children from being sexually

\(^{10}\) TC 9061 130-9062 II.
\(^{11}\) TC 9071 – see answer at 19.
\(^{12}\) TC 9065 127-147.
abuse by the person who was in charge of night time supervision, the youth officer, to which Mr Green replied by saying: “As superintended I took no measures, I depended on the trust, and trusted and had to trust the integrity of the youth officers on duty at the time”.

13

15. In the context of the previous question this meant that Mr Green took no particular measures. There were procedures, such as the regular but announced visits of the Night Senior to each section, as referred to during evidence, but no particular measures specifically directed to dealing with an abusing officer. CCTV did not exist at the time. Mr Green made unannounced visits and tried to maintain presence to the extent someone in his position could (see above).

13 November 2015

Dribbin & Brown

Prepared by Dr Gideon Boas
William Crockett Chambers