



**Royal Commission**  
into Institutional Responses  
to Child Sexual Abuse

### Statement

Name

Occupation Publisher

Date 28.10.15

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. My full name is  and my date of birth is  1970.
3. I was born in  and am the youngest of four children. I have one elder brother and two elder sisters.
4. I moved with my family from  when I was 6 years old. My parents moved to Brisbane because they wanted their kids to have a good education.
5. I went to primary school at Everton Park Primary School from grade 2 to grade 7. I was an average academic student and I got on well with the teachers and other students. I had a good rapport with my cohort and was quite gifted in sports in particular, I was the cricket captain.
6. I commenced school at Brisbane Grammar in 1983. I am not sure of the exact details, however, I understand that my parents had to plead a case to the principal at the time, Mr Howell that I should be allowed to attend the school. I understand that the enrolments were full, but because we had cousins who were attending the school we were able to be offered a position. My parents wanted my brother and me to go to Grammar because I had an outstanding academic record.

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7. Although Grammar had a prestigious reputation, I was immediately confronted by the fact that I was ostracised by other students. I was frequently racially taunted and I would react, often violently. I hadn't experienced racism at this level before and it made me very angry.
8. As a result of this I soon became known around the school as a troublemaker and was disciplined frequently. I remember that I had a phenomenal amount of Saturday detentions and was placed on a 'red card' system early on at my time in Grammar. This is a system whereby I would have to receive a report from every teacher at the end of each period and if there was one bad comment I was likely to be suspended.

**"Treatment" with Lynch**

9. As I was not doing well academically, was not proving myself on the sporting field and having a lot of disciplinary issues at the school, it was recommended by Wayne Cochrane, who was the head of the lower school, that I see the school counsellor, Kevin Lynch.
10. I remember first attending upon Lynch during 1983 in my first year at Grammar. I am now not sure exactly when, but I think it would have been around the middle of the year.
11. I remember that his room was at the top of a tower type building and had yellow doors, they were extremely heavy doors with a large locks on them. I assume that the doors would have been sound proof. There were two doors one leading from the corridor into the room and one leading to the careers room. He would always lock the doors during our sessions.

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12. Lynch was also the careers counsellor and as such he had the room next door as well but I rarely saw him working in that room. The practice was that when you were waiting to see Lynch you would sit in the careers room and read brochures and once you had gone in and been 'treated' by Lynch you were ushered out the other door which led to the corridor. This set up meant that as you waited to see Lynch you wouldn't see who was coming out of the room.
13. I continued to see Lynch throughout my time at Brisbane Grammar. There was no marked improvement in my behaviour or academic record but Lynch told me, and I honestly believed, that his 'treatment' was giving me an 'edge' in life.
14. Lynch convinced me that his treatment method would make me academically and athletically superior and give me an advantage over my peers by harnessing the power of orgasms. In actual fact he was systematically hypnotising and then physically and sexually abusing me while I was under hypnosis.
15. From the very first session I had with Lynch he would hypnotise me and tell me that I could get an 'edge'. While I was under hypnosis Lynch would do sick things. He would slap me about the face to get me psyched up about 'winning' a metaphoric race, sometimes I would come out of 'treatment' with Lynch and would have a red face from the slapping.
16. Lynch's 'treatment' was built around his convincing me that I could harness the power of my orgasms to gain an 'edge'. He would regularly masturbate me to the point of ejaculation and sometimes would make me ingest my own semen. Other times he

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would use acupuncture needles and put them in my testicles or stick his thumb up my anus.

17. Even though I was hypnotised when this happened I knew what was happening. I let it happen because I believed Lynch when he told me that it was good for me, that it was going to give me an edge. I believed this well into my adult life. I had never seen a counsellor or psychologist before, I was just a kid, so I didn't question it, I assumed that this was a normal 'treatment' method.
18. I would see Lynch approximately 2 or 3 times a week. It was always during school hours and on school grounds until in years 10, 11 and 12 when Lynch had separated from his wife and had moved to an apartment in Windsor.
19. When Lynch separated from his wife I started seeing him for 'treatment' at his apartment outside of school hours as well as during school time. At the time I was running track and field and Lynch convinced me that I needed extra 'treatment' sessions to improve my performance on the sporting field.
20. My parents would drive me to the sessions at his house in Windsor on the weekend or otherwise I would catch a bus.
21. I remember that he would 'treat' me at his house in a spare bedroom which was filled with towels that were neatly folded like it was some sort of clinic.
22. On these occasions Lynch would also give me alcohol, we would drink rum and coke.
23. Sometimes it would feel like a session with Lynch had lasted five minutes when in actual fact an hour or more would have passed.

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24. I was so badly entrenched in Lynch's lie that he would assault me on almost every occasion I was with him.

**Did Brisbane Grammar Know? Or Were They Wilfully Ignorant?**

25. Now I look back with hindsight I believe that the set-up of Lynch's room and how you were ushered in and out of his room was effectively a secure conveyor belt of victims for Lynch. Because he set up his practice in this way you were never sure of who else was being treated by Lynch and as far as my experience was concerned this meant that victims would never discuss with each other what he was doing.

26. If there was no actual collaboration with Lynch's assaults, I still wonder why no one from the school bothered to have a look at the set up of Lynch's room, his conveyor belt for abuse, and ask the question why he would need two, huge, heavy doors and to lock them when he was seeing me.

27. There was a rumour circulating around the school that if you saw Lynch you were being jerked off. I cannot believe that the staff wouldn't have been aware of this rumour too.

28. It was Wayne Cochrane's role as the head of the lower school to ensure the welfare of me and the other students. He palmed me off to Lynch and in that process failed in his duty by not properly overseeing the process. He recognised that I was having problems yet he didn't bother to follow through by monitoring my ongoing wellbeing, he just left me with Lynch and that was it.

29. Also, I recall that Lynch always had a number of towels set up in his room and he would always have tissues available. He would use these to wipe up semen. Looking back at it

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now the obvious question are: who was stocking these tissues? Who was laundering these towels? And why didn't they stop to think that something was amiss with Lynch?

30. The problem was that Brisbane Grammar was essentially a business venture which traded on its reputation and was blind to anything which didn't accord with that vision. The message the school projected and marketed to the community was that any boy who went to Brisbane Grammar was at a significant advantage in life. Indeed, it seemed to be accepted that if for some reason your child didn't succeed then there's a pretty good chance that he was going to fail in life anyway. I believe this is still a doctrine which is ingrained in Brisbane society.

31. The authority figures at the school would brook no criticism. I remember one event in or around Grade 9 when my class was going to Noosa for an excursion. On the bus trip there was some form of ruckus and the bus driver formed the opinion that I was the instigator. I took this as racial vilification as I was the scapegoat for about 44 who students were involved in the incident. I remember that I went home that night and complained to my mother and she wrote a letter which was sent to the Principal, Mr Howell, shortly afterwards. He then called my mother and me into the office approximately a week later and said words to the effect that *"There is no racism at this school. If there is any blight on the name of this school it will be your academic record if this is taken further"*.

32. If there truly was ignorance of Lynch's paedophilic activity as opposed to actual collaboration, I believe it was wilful ignorance nonetheless, fuelled by a desire to above

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all protect the reputation of the school. I was badly let down by this culture of turning a blind eye and 'protecting the brand' and it is hard not to see it as a deliberate cover-up.

#### My Education

33. I graduated from Brisbane Grammar School at the end of Year 12 in 1987. I remember that my leaving certificate score was 785 out of 990. Despite all the supposed 'treatment' I was receiving the result I achieved did not give me many options for tertiary education.
34. I recall that my sister <sup>REDAC</sup> [REDACTED] got 885, my sister <sup>REDA</sup> [REDACTED] got 940 and my brother <sup>REDA</sup> [REDACTED] got 975. I think that the average which the school often boasted about was 885. I came out of Brisbane Grammar as a poorly educated and extremely angry young man with an utter resentment for authority and 'the establishment' of the Brisbane elite.
35. The only offer for tertiary study I got was from Gatten College which was an hour and a half drive outside of Brisbane. In the first term of my course at Gatten College I was constantly clashing with authority and seemed to particularly irritate one teacher in particular. Eventually there was an incident with him which led to me being academically suspended from the College and a mutual decision that I leave.
36. Following my academic suspension from Gatten College I started a TAFE Diploma in Advertising and Marketing which I stuck with for a while but never finished. At the end of 1989 I decided to move to Sydney because I was sick of Brisbane and all that it reminded me of.
37. I have not undertaken any further tertiary studies since this period.

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**My Career**

38. I arrived in Sydney probably around January 1990. I drove myself down in my Toyota Corolla with \$985 to my name.
39. I slept in my car for the first week around Beach Road in Rushcutters Bay and I used a public phone to set up job interviews.
40. All my life since school I have been driven to succeed in spite of my experiences at Brisbane Grammar. When I arrived in Sydney I started working in the magazine and publishing industry. I was trusting and naïve and was taken advantage of by a few employers, partly on account of what I term a lack of understanding of appropriate boundaries which I believe was ingrained in me by Lynch. One employer would blatantly withhold earnings from commissions I was entitled to and simply tell me that I was too young to be earning as much as I was entitled to. On another occasion I was dumped with all the liabilities of a company as it went bust because I was too trusting and was left to pick up the pieces.
41. After a series of swings between clashes with employers due to my anger issues and betrayals due to my trusting submissiveness I realised that I was unable to work for anyone but myself. I started my own publishing company in 2000 and have run and expanded that business since.
42. Now that I have my own company I am functioning on a better level, however, I feel that I still do business in a way which is plagued by problems with boundaries, aggression and trust.

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Statement of BQK [REDACTED] continued

43. I am a workaholic and I am constantly driven by the idea that I can't stop moving forward or working or else I will have to confront my demons. I liken this to being a Ferrari travelling at 120 k.p.h in second gear. Eventually I am going to blow.

#### Realisation re Lynch

44. In my 20s I realised that my life was out of control and sought treatment with a psychologist by the name of Ondine Shapiro in 1990. My anger was out of control, I was getting in physical fights with strangers on the street and drinking excessively.

45. I developed a good rapport with Ondine Shapiro and often spoke to her quite fondly of Lynch and how much of an influence he had been to me. Because my family relationships were dysfunctional Lynch became a father figure to me, so much so that I invited him to my 21<sup>st</sup> birthday and it was him, not my father, who gave a speech.

46. During Lynch's speech I recall that he described himself as a significant influence in my growth and development from the time he had met me at Brisbane Grammar. He also described me as the son he never had.

47. Up until around 1994 I had no idea that what Lynch was doing to me was inappropriate as I assumed that it was normal behaviour for a counsellor to do that kind of thing. He explained to me that he was giving me an edge and I believed him.

48. Once I had left school I kept visiting Lynch on occasions for 'treatment' and I kept in close contact with him, I saw him as a mentor and life guru to me.

49. I remember in around 1994 I read an article in the newspaper which was about children at a Catholic school being abused but not realising until they were adults. I remember

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thinking to myself and saying to my girlfriend at the time *"How could someone be so stupid not to realise that they were being sexually abused"*.

50. The next time I saw Ondine I brought the issue up with her and somehow that conversation turned to me explaining to her that Lynch had masturbated me and inserted acupuncture needles in my testicles. Ondine began crying and said that she was unable to treat me anymore as my case was too complex for her.
51. Ondine explained to me that what Lynch had done was not normal for a counsellor. Somehow I didn't believe her or was simply unwilling to admit that fact to myself. I still believed that it was just Lynch giving me an 'edge'.
52. I began drinking very heavily at this point. The next psychologist I spoke to about Lynch started questioning me about whether I enjoyed the sexual experiences with Lynch and I totally exploded at her with anger.
53. The next time I saw that psychologist I turned up, gave her a cheque for what I owed her, said *"You're lucky I'm not going to throw you through the wall"* and stormed out.
54. I don't think that the full realisation that I had been so profoundly assaulted dawned upon me until I heard that Lynch had suicided the day after he had been charged with sexual assaults against other Grammar and St Pauls students. This was in January 1997.
55. Now that I have made the full realisation I am constantly haunted by Lynch. If I go to bed sober I will have nightmares about Lynch and Brisbane Grammar.
56. I was unable to trust a medical professional to treat my psychological problems for a long time. How could I after the way Lynch had abused my trust? I kept trying to bury

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the problem or work through my issues myself, all with little or no success. I now have received good treatment and medication, but it was a long process to get here.

57. Despite my treatment, I am still consumed with anger, particularly towards Lynch and Brisbane Grammar. I often have fantasies about burning down the school to avenge my feelings of hurt and betrayal.

#### Litigation Against Brisbane Grammar

58. I first approached Shine Roche McGowan in late May 2000 after I read some newspaper reports; firstly about the possible effect of Kevin Lynch's sexual assaults upon another former student at Brisbane Grammar School, Nigel Parodi, and then follow up reports about how many other former students of Brisbane Grammar School were coming forward and complaining of similar assaults.

59. This is the first time that I was able to really admit to myself that I had been abused by Lynch and also the extent to which I had been let down by the establishment of Brisbane Grammar.

60. I found it very difficult to give instructions to Shines. Every time I thought about the assaults by Kevin Lynch and the school's role in that I became so angry. I eventually joined the class action Shines were bringing against Brisbane Grammar.

61. After I had been assessed by a doctor I was advised to participate along with all the other victims represented by Shines in a mediation process with the school which had been set up to take place in October 2002.

62. The mediation was held in Brisbane and there were a large number of other former students who were bringing claims against the school in attendance. I attended the

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mediation in the hope that the school would be there to listen to my experiences which I hoped would allow me to move on from the pain and anger I felt.

63. My brother travelled with me to the mediation in Brisbane to provide support and guidance as he feared me becoming self destructive or violent.

64. The mediation did nothing but prove to me what a farce the whole process was. It felt like a sausage factory where all the claimants were simply herded in and out with very little care or attention. I was told by my own legal representative to simply sit and listen to the mediator and accept the payment we were offered by the school for closure on the issue. I just could not do that.

65. I think I was offered around \$30,000. There was no room for negotiation let alone a chance for me to say my peace. I told them to stick their offer and left the mediation even more disenchanted by the whole thing than I ever was. I believe I was one of the only victims who did not accept the insulting offer made that day.

66. I got the distinct feeling that this thing was just an extension of 'the establishment' and that all the lawyers in Brisbane were part of a club which I was excluded from.

67. I wanted to pursue the school in Court but couldn't deal with the litigation or anything to do with Lynch myself. I asked my wife, my sister and my brother to help in chasing Shines, and I believe that they pursued that firm for some progression of my claim on many occasions.

68. Little seemed to ever happen. I think that Shines lost interest in pursuing my claim once it became too difficult. Everyone else had taken a quick settlement but I wanted to take

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on the school in Court because their initial response was offensive. The school just didn't get it. It was the same arrogant treatment that they had shown me as a student.

69. It was important to me that the school not get off lightly, I wanted to maximise the pain the school felt by ensuring they paid the highest amount a Court would make them pay if I took the claim to Court. I spent thousands of dollars paying a new barrister, Walter Sofronoff QC, to advise me how much the school would have to pay if I won in Court.

70. The advice I got from Mr Sofronoff and others was that the claim was worth more than what the school was offering me, but that obstacles like the limitation period meant that I would be unlikely to win if I pursued them in Court. I found this very disappointing as the school was essentially paying real victims next to nothing because they could get away with it.

71. As nothing seemed to be happening with Shines, in 2007 my family approached a new firm of solicitors to take over my case – Robert Bax and Associates.

72. For the next few years even less progress seemed to be made by Mr Bax. He was not even able to get a file out of Shines who, after lengthy correspondence about their fees, eventually advised Mr Bax that my file had been lost by them.

73. In sheer frustration I approached my current counsel, Mr Peter Skinner in late 2010, and through him was introduced to my current solicitors Carroll & O'Dea and in December of that year they agreed to act for me.

74. My new legal team managed to resurrect my claim, however, I still struggled to deal with the issues and would find myself periodically avoiding dealing with the claim or going on massive drinking benders whenever I had to confront the claim.

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75. At the end of 2013 I met a representative of Brisbane Grammar and their legal team with my lawyer and barrister to discuss the claim. It wasn't really a settlement discussion but it was indicated at that time that the school would be prepared to significantly increase their initial offer to settle my claim.

76. This still wasn't good enough. I wasn't concerned about the money so much as I was about the idea of not walking away without fighting against the school as hard as I could and making them suffer at least a portion of what I do.

77. I decided to speak to the Royal Commission about my experiences as I felt that despite all my efforts the school was still going to get off lightly.

78. Eventually a mediation was scheduled to take place in December 2014.

79. I settled my claim at that mediation.

80. When I received my cheque I put the money in a separate bank account and haven't touched the money since. I don't know what to do with it. I don't need it and pursuing Brisbane Grammar has never been about money for me. I settled my claim because I felt that the school finally, after almost 15 years, were showing that they were accountable and faced the prospect of shame and ridicule on par with the shame that victims of abuse feel.

81. In retrospect, what balanced the equation and gave me the comfort to settle when I did was that I could see that all the reasons I was given in the past about not being able to make Brisbane Grammar accountable - the statute of limitations and my unviable prospects of making them pay in Court - would soon be visited upon them through the good work of this Royal Commission.

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82. A large part of my battle since 2000 has been finding a way to make Brisbane Grammar feel at least some of the pain I do and to be able to ensure they have to answer to the public to explain themselves. I now hope that this Royal Commission is going to achieve the rest of what I was unable to do.

#### Ongoing Effects of the Abuse

83. Even though I have settled my claim against Brisbane Grammar, the pain doesn't go away. I have to live with the effects of it for the rest of my life.

84. I find myself often ruminating on the fact that Brisbane Grammar held itself out to be a prestigious school but somehow Kevin Lynch was able to commit his assaults on me and others at the school for a long period of time.

85. I also get angry when I think about the way that the school handled the issue once Lynch's behaviour became public.

86. I also feel angry about how my family made so many sacrifices to pay school fees to send me to the school.

87. To deal with these feelings I am a functioning alcoholic and I go on massive benders lasting up to a week when it gets too much. In conjunction with the physical effects that these bouts have on my body, I have a horrible feeling of emptiness and an inability to feel or make any decisions out of fear that my decision will be wrong.

88. I spend whole days in bed or not leaving the house to go to work. If I do go to work I find that I will start drinking by 11am and keep drinking until I get home. I have rarely come home sober for 10 years. I will often pass out and then wake up at 3 am then start working again.

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89. Another way I escape is to go to Fiji. When I am finding things too tough I will leave my wife and three kids and go to Fiji for a few weeks to detach. I have needed to go to Fiji quite a lot in the past few years. I know that this is hard on my wife and kids, but it's all I can do to remain a functioning human.

90. I married my wife the same month that Lynch committed suicide. Our relationship has been impacted by the revelation I made about Lynch shortly after and the ongoing psychological effects it has had on me.

91. I am also over-protective of my children as I want to ensure they don't ever have to go through what I have.

92. I effectively see myself as providing an infrastructure for my children's survival but can not and do not offer them anything emotionally.

93. I have been very fortunate to have the support of a wife and family and that I have been able to channel the fear and anger caused by the abuse into a drive to succeed in the business I created. On a superficial level I have everything that a person can ever want in life, however, I am plagued by the abuse and the effects that it has on me. That it will always have on me.

94. I was a child and I was betrayed by Lynch, but more so by Brisbane Grammar who allowed Lynch to do what he did and then perpetuated his lies by preferring to prop up their image at the expense of hearing the victims; by offering the victims insulting offers of settlement in an insulting settlement process and by refusing to deal with me with respect until they were faced with the prospect of having to answer to this Royal Commission.

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