

Special Inquiry into St Andrew's Hostel

Hearing

Held at: Courtroom 4, Level 18,
111 St Georges Terrace, Perth

Tuesday, 10 April 2012 at 10.05am
(Day 15)

Before: The Hon Peter Blaxell

1 HIS HONOUR: Now I will take appearances. We have
2 Ms Keeling here, I think. Is that correct?
3
4 MS KEELING: Yes.
5
6 HIS HONOUR: You are representing Mr Alan Parks?
7
8 MS KEELING: Yes.
9
10 HIS HONOUR: And Mr Dean Ellis, you are representing
11 Ms Elizabeth Stroud?
12
13 MR ELLIS: If it please the Inquiry, I do so appear.
14
15 HIS HONOUR: Very good. Thank you. Yes, Mr Urquhart?
16
17 MR URQUHART: Thank you, sir. The first witness this
18 morning will be Alan Parks and I call him now, please.
19
20 HIS HONOUR: Yes. Mr Parks, can you come over here,
21 thank you.
22
23 <ALAN HERBERT PARKS, sworn:
24
25 <EXAMINATION-IN-CHIEF BY MR URQUHART:
26
27 MR URQUHART: Q. Mr Parks, do you have a middle name?
28 A. Yes, Herbert.
29 Q. Herbert. Thank you. You are 76 years old?
30 A. Yes.
31
32 Q. You currently live in Narrogin?
33 A. Yes.
34
35 Q. You are retired now?
36 A. Yes.
37
38 Q. What was your previous occupation?
39 A. Farmer.
40
41 Q. Where were you farming?
42 A. East Pingrup.
43
44 Q. About how far is that from Katanning?
45 A. 128 kilometres.
46
47 Q. Right, sir. That's rather exact then. Do you have

1 three sons?
2 A. Yes.
3
4 Q. Did they attend the Katanning St Andrew's hostel?
5 A. Yes.
6
7 Q. As I understand it, that was from 1978 onwards?
8 A. Yes.
9
10 Q. Our records show, Mr Parks, that you were a member of
11 the Katanning hostel board for a number of years. Does
12 this sound about right to you, that you were elected to the
13 board in June of 1979?
14 A. No, it was September - if I remember, August or
15 September '78.
16
17 Q. All right. It is just that we have had a look at the
18 minutes of the board meetings and it would seem it was
19 around the middle of 1979. But, in any event, it is either
20 - to your recollection, it's 1978 or 1979?
21 A. Yes.
22
23 Q. Is it your recollection that you remained on the board
24 continuously until March of 1992?
25 A. That's right.
26
27 Q. Does that sound about right? I know this is a long
28 time ago, but do you recall being the deputy chairman of
29 the board from June through to December of 1980?
30 A. No, I was --
31
32 Q. If you can't, that is all right.
33 A. No, I don't remember being deputy.
34
35 Q. Okay then. But more importantly, can you remember
36 being chairman?
37 A. Yes.
38
39 Q. Do these dates sound about right, that you were
40 chairman of the board from February of 1981 through to
41 March of 1984?
42 A. Be roughly right, yes.
43
44 Q. Then again, there was a second stint as chairman from
45 May 1987 through to February of 1990? Does that sound
46 about right?
47 A. Possibly. No, I couldn't guarantee that.

1
2 Q. But fair to say that you were chairman in the early
3 80s --
4 A. Yes.
5
6 Q. -- for several years?
7 A. Two - there were three two-year terms I did.
8
9 Q. Then you had another stint in the late 80s, from 1987
10 onwards to the beginning of 1990?
11 A. Yes, probably. Yes.
12
13 Q. Mr Parks, how did you come to be on the board
14 originally, either in 1978 or 1979?
15 A. I was at a - Stan Featherstone, a friend from up the
16 road or a farmer from up the road, asked me if I would like
17 to take his place on the board. I thought --
18
19 Q. That is Featherstone?
20 A. Featherstone, yes, and I thought about it for about a
21 month and then said yes, I'd give it a go.
22
23 Q. Why did you agree to do it?
24 A. Well, because my sons were going to the hostel and I
25 was to be a parent member.
26
27 Q. Were you to be a parent member for your region --
28 A. Yes, from --
29
30 Q. -- for Pingrup?
31 A. From out east, yes.
32
33 Q. I was going to ask you how you recall becoming deputy
34 chairman, but you don't have a memory of that --
35 A. No.
36
37 Q. -- so that's fine. But what about your two stints as
38 chairman, starting with the first one. How did it come
39 about that you became chairman?
40 A. Well, they asked me if I'd take a turn at being
41 chairman and I thought about it and I thought, well, I
42 might as well have a go, and that was it.
43
44 Q. When you say "they", who were "they"?
45 A. The board members.
46
47 Q. Can you remember whether anybody else nominated as

1 well or was nominated, or was it just you?
2 A. Just me.
3
4 Q. So it was a case of it was just your turn, was it,
5 or --
6 A. Virtually.
7
8 Q. What about the second stint in the late 80s?
9 A. Well, I was nominated for that and accepted it.
10
11 Q. Did you want to be chairman again?
12 A. Oh, I'm not sure. Probably. I don't know about
13 wanting to be, but I was willing to be.
14
15 Q. I see. It's clear, Mr Parks - whether you began on
16 the board in 1978 or 1979 - that you were on there for a
17 considerable period of time?
18 A. Yes.
19
20 Q. Why was that?
21 A. Well, I enjoyed it. I enjoyed being part of the
22 system.
23
24 Q. Just on that, what did you understand your
25 responsibilities to be as a board member?
26 A. Well, to assist whenever was necessary, to run the
27 meetings and assist the hostel and the - or the warden, if
28 need be.
29
30 Q. Right.
31 A. And that was about it.
32
33 Q. Assist the warden in what regard?
34 A. Well, if he asked for assistance in raising funds or
35 getting pressure on the authority to buy new - replace
36 furniture, and that type of thing.
37
38 Q. When you say "the authority", you are referring to the
39 country high school hostels authority?
40 A. Yes.
41
42 Q. Did the responsibility of the board, in your view,
43 extend to looking after the welfare of those students who
44 were at the hostel?
45 A. Well, not really.
46
47 Q. Why is that?

1 A. Well, Dennis was the warden and he had the hire and
2 fire power and he ran the hostel what we considered to be
3 reasonably well.
4
5 Q. So you believed that the responsibility of looking
6 after the welfare of the children started and remained with
7 Dennis McKenna?
8 A. Pretty well.
9
10 Q. Not the board?
11 A. No. Well, the board, I guess, were responsible to see
12 - for seeing that Dennis ran things smoothly.
13
14 Q. Were you about to say "behaved" then?
15 A. No, not really.
16
17 Q. So, running things smoothly?
18 A. Yeah.
19
20 Q. Did that also extend to ensuring that the students
21 were properly looked after?
22 A. Yes.
23
24 Q. What would you say to the suggestion that the board,
25 during the time that you were a member of it, was
26 neglectful in its obligations towards making sure the
27 children at the hostel were properly looked after?
28 A. No, I don't think they were neglectful.
29
30 Q. You don't?
31 A. No, I don't.
32
33 Q. Did you think that the board did everything it could
34 to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the children?
35 A. Yes.
36
37 Q. What about now, with the advantage of hindsight --
38 A. Oh.
39
40 Q. -- do you still maintain that position?
41 A. Well, things should have been different, for sure.
42
43 Q. Sorry?
44 A. Things should have been different, for sure.
45
46 Q. In what --
47 A. I think, to be honest, we relied - because Dennis was

1 running the hostel so well, I think we didn't probably take
2 enough notice.
3
4 Q. Take enough notice of what?
5 A. Of how it was being run; go a bit deeper into it.
6
7 Q. You said you believed it was running smoothly?
8 A. Mmm, yes.
9
10 Q. How then, by looking more closely, could you see?
11 A. Well, probably spent more time - I could have spent
12 more time at the hostel, anyway. That may have helped. I
13 may have picked up on something.
14
15 Q. When you say "spent more time at the hostel", do you
16 mean, what, like speaking to students or just being there?
17 A. No, just being there and pick up on anything that,
18 sort of, come out of it.
19
20 Q. How do you think you would have been able to pick up
21 on things?
22 A. Well, just word of mouth; listening in, I may have
23 heard something.
24
25 Q. From who?
26 A. Students, probably.
27
28 Q. Parents?
29 A. Maybe.
30
31 Q. When you say that, do you mean actually approaching
32 students and asking them if they have any problems?
33 A. No, just listening to the students talking and
34 (indistinct) perhaps getting their confidence.
35
36 Q. When you say talking to them, what, going up and
37 speaking to them or --
38 A. Yes. Just generally being there, speaking to -
39 talking to the students, I may have picked up something
40 but, otherwise, no.
41
42 Q. Do you recall in your time there whether any board
43 member did actually do that?
44 A. No.
45
46 Q. Did you think that was not part of the
47 responsibilities of the board?

1 A. No, not really. The students - management of the
2 students was left to Dennis McKenna.
3
4 Q. Mr Parks, when you became a board member, did you
5 receive any training --
6 A. No.
7
8 Q. -- about the board's functions?
9 A. No, none.
10
11 Q. Were you provided any written material?
12 A. None.
13
14 Q. Anything such as guidelines?
15 A. No.
16
17 Q. Procedures to follow?
18 A. No, no. After I became chairman the first time, I had
19 got the board to agree to draw up a rules of procedure.
20
21 Q. I see.
22 A. And I remember it saying that if you missed two
23 meetings and you didn't have a good reason to miss the
24 third, that you would forfeit your position on the board.
25 I remember that bit of it.
26
27 Q. Do you recall anything else about these rules of
28 procedure?
29 A. Not really, no.
30
31 Q. Did you have a procedure as to how to deal with any
32 complaint that might be made?
33 A. No. Any complaint that was made would be discussed in
34 a board meeting.
35
36 Q. Going back to when you were appointed or nominated as
37 a board member, did you at least receive a copy of the
38 letter of arrangement that existed between the authority
39 and the board?
40 A. No.
41
42 Q. Did you know --
43 A. I didn't know it existed.
44
45 Q. At any stage, did you discover that there was a letter
46 of arrangement in existence between the board and the
47 authority?

1 A. No.
2
3 Q. That this letter was a document which sets out the
4 board's responsibilities?
5 A. I don't remember seeing it.
6
7 Q. How then were you to learn about the board's functions
8 and responsibilities?
9 A. Well, pick it up as you went along and off the other
10 members.
11
12 Q. With respect to the board's meetings, can I ask you
13 how often they took place?
14 A. Once a month for ten months of the year.
15
16 Q. Would that be from February through to December, or
17 thereabouts?
18 A. Yes.
19
20 Q. Where would they take place?
21 A. Well, up until '88 or '89, they took place at the
22 hostel; originally in Dennis's unit and then - they were
23 night meetings, and then we changed to day meetings and had
24 them in the rec room at the main hostel.
25
26 Q. When you say "the rec room", is that --
27 A. Yes, that's rec room, music room - the hostel.
28
29 Q. Was that the recreational shed or was that somewhere
30 different?
31 A. No, no. This was called the rec room, yes.
32
33 Q. Which dormitory was that in; do you remember?
34 A. It was opposite the dining hall.
35
36 Q. Yes.
37 A. Yes. As you went into the hostel, there was a set of
38 steps on your left; you went up those.
39
40 Q. Yes, I am familiar with that. Who would attend these
41 meetings other than board members? Would anybody else
42 attend?
43 A. Mainly Dennis.
44
45 Q. Yes?
46 A. He would attend most meetings. No-one else other than
47 at the very end, we had a parent representative come in to

1 the meetings, but that only happened two or three times.
2
3 Q. When you say "at the very end", was this after Dennis
4 McKenna had been charged?
5 A. Yes, yes.
6
7 Q. What about anybody from the authority, would they
8 attend meetings from time to time?
9 A. Rarely but, yes, they did.
10
11 Q. Can you recall who they were?
12 A. Colin Philpott is the only one that I can ever
13 remember. There was another representative from the hostel
14 authority that used to visit the hostels, but I don't
15 remember him ever sitting in on a meeting.
16
17 Q. You don't know his name?
18 A. No, I'm sorry.
19
20 Q. If I was to suggest to you Peter Bachelard-Lammas or
21 Peter Lammas, would that ring a bell?
22 A. Yes, that rings a bell.
23
24 Q. Can you just describe him for us? About how old was
25 he? I know we are talking about a span of the --
26 A. Oh, God.
27
28 Q. -- 80s.
29 A. He would've had to be in his 30s. He wasn't an old
30 man, he was a younger chap.
31
32 Q. His build?
33 A. Fairly light build.
34
35 Q. Mr Parks, would there be an agenda for these meetings?
36 A. Not really. They were all run along the similar
37 lines.
38
39 Q. What lines were they?
40 A. Oh well, you would have - I'm not sure just what order
41 they were in, but you would discuss what had happened at
42 the hostel - well, Dennis would bring that up, or if there
43 was anything else in the mail, correspondence, you would
44 deal with that, and so forth, and then the big one was
45 always finance.
46
47 Q. I will ask you about finance in a moment. There was

1 not, from your recollection, an agenda as such? There
2 would not actually be sent out or posted to you a document
3 which sets out what items --
4 A. No.
5
6 Q. -- are going to be discussed?
7 A. No.
8
9 Q. Were minutes kept?
10 A. Yes.
11
12 Q. Who would keep those? Who would actually record the
13 minutes?
14 A. Well, they would be handed to Dennis and the secretary
15 at the hostel printed them out and then they were sent out
16 to members.
17
18 Q. But can you recall who would have the responsibility
19 of actually writing down what was being said during the
20 meeting?
21 A. No, I couldn't tell you.
22
23 Q. But that would be - would it be a board member?
24 A. A board member, yes.
25
26 Q. Would it ever be Dennis?
27 A. I don't think so, no.
28
29 Q. You mentioned there that those notations or notes
30 would then be handed to Dennis McKenna?
31 A. Yes, yes.
32
33 Q. What would happen to them then?
34 A. They would go to the secretary of the hostel to be
35 printed out and sent out to the members.
36
37 Q. The person responsible for sending it to the secretary
38 would be Dennis McKenna?
39 A. Yes.
40
41 Q. They would then be posted out to --
42 A. The board members.
43
44 Q. -- the board members?
45 A. Yes.
46
47 Q. Over the years that you were a member, were you always

1 satisfied as to the accuracy of the minutes or the detail?
2 A. Well, in the middle of '91 I went back through all the
3 minutes because I had kept them in a folder - there was
4 about 90 pages of them - and they didn't tell a story.
5 There were no names mentioned of students who were put out
6 of the hostel, things like that, and it surprised me that
7 there was nothing there, there was no names other than one
8 case very early in the piece and, to me, they just didn't
9 tell the true story.

10
11 Q. Why was it that you decided to look back at them in
12 1991?

13 A. I think I was looking for names.

14
15 HIS HONOUR: Q. Can I just ask you, Mr Parks, when you
16 say you thought that they just did not tell the true story,
17 do you mean that they did not accurately reflect what was
18 discussed at the meetings or that they --

19 A. No, I just felt that a lot of the material hadn't been
20 printed that went on at the meetings.

21
22 MR URQUHART: Q. Did you ever raise that at the time?
23 Say you would get minutes of a meeting from the month
24 before; did you ever recall looking at those and thinking,
25 well, that's not an accurate account?

26 A. Possibly, yes.

27
28 Q. Did you do anything about it?

29 A. Oh, we mentioned it at a board meeting.

30
31 Q. You mentioned it?

32 A. Yes, I'm sure we did.

33
34 Q. But I gather from what you are saying that it did not
35 change?

36 A. It didn't seem to change. It may have changed for a
37 while but it didn't show up in the minutes.

38
39 Q. Who do you attribute that responsibility to, the
40 person taking the minutes or the person who was then
41 responsible for typing up the minutes, or can't you say?

42 A. Well, I wouldn't know, to be honest, whether they were
43 actually written by the secretary and handed to Dennis, or
44 what, no.

45
46 Q. I can tell you now, Mr Parks, with respect to the
47 expulsion of students, there are names mentioned from time

1 to time, both in the warden's report - are you familiar
2 with the warden's report?
3 A. Yes.
4
5 Q. Yes?
6 A. Yes, I knew he had to make one for the authority.
7
8 Q. There is also mention of names in the minutes.
9 A. Well, I don't remember the names being in my minutes.
10
11 Q. I suppose the question for you is are you able to say
12 how often expulsions would occur?
13 A. Oh, they were rare.
14
15 Q. They were rare?
16 A. Mmm.
17
18 Q. Was there anything else you noticed that was not in
19 the minutes that should have been, apart from the matters
20 relating to expulsions?
21 A. Not really.
22
23 Q. I want to ask you something about Dennis McKenna now,
24 Mr Parks. I gather you got to know him well --
25 A. Yes.
26
27 Q. -- in the time that you were a board member through to
28 the end?
29 A. Yes.
30
31 Q. Did you know him before you became a board member?
32 A. No.
33
34 Q. Had you ever met him before you became a board member?
35 A. No. My wife had but I hadn't.
36
37 Q. What was your opinion then of Dennis McKenna up until
38 the time of his trial in Albany, which was June of 1991?
39 A. Well, I thought he did a lot of good for the students
40 in the hostel. He seemed to - everyone seemed happy.
41
42 Q. Yes? What about your personal opinion of him; would
43 you describe yourself as a friend of his?
44 A. Not a bosom pal. Friend maybe, but not that close.
45
46 Q. Do you recall, though, that you actually gave what is
47 called character evidence on his behalf --

1 A. Yes.
2
3 Q. -- at his trial in 1991?
4 A. Yes.
5
6 Q. Can you just tell us how that came about?
7 A. Well, the media were pulling the hostel apart and
8 because I felt that Dennis had done a lot of good, I went
9 down and seen his solicitor.
10
11 Q. Yes?
12 A. And told him that Dennis had done a lot of good and I
13 couldn't see how the crime had been covered up so well for
14 so long, and I also told him that Dennis had met me at the
15 bottom of the rec shed - or rec room steps and told me that
16 a lad had tried to put his hand down his tracky pants and
17 he had moved away and the student had tried again later.
18
19 Q. Why did you think that was relevant?
20 A. Well, Michael Hilder was one of the lads that used to
21 go at that time to Dennis's unit for meetings.
22
23 Q. How did you know that?
24 A. Dennis had told us and it was just common knowledge
25 that students went to his unit and into the lounge and had
26 meetings.
27
28 Q. "Meetings" about what?
29 A. Well, we were led to believe it was football and sport
30 and to watch videos on sport.
31
32 Q. Is that what Dennis McKenna told you?
33 A. Yes.
34
35 Q. How did you know that Michael Hilder was one of those
36 students?
37 A. Well, mainly because that group of boys were the ones
38 that were going there.
39
40 Q. When you say "that group of boys", who --
41 A. Yes, there were seven or eight that used to go to
42 Dennis's flat, from what I can gather, yes.
43
44 Q. Is this something that the students told you or what
45 Dennis told you?
46 A. I think it just became common knowledge that they had
47 these meetings, and the board knew that they were having

1 the meetings.
2
3 Q. Was this at night-time?
4 A. I couldn't tell you when. I think they were, yes,
5 evenings.
6
7 Q. Was the board at all, or you yourself, concerned about
8 this at all?
9 A. No, not really, not the way it was put to us.
10
11 Q. It was put to you as what, that this was --
12 A. Just they were sorting out football for the following
13 weekend or sport, and used to watch movies on football and
14 sport.
15
16 Q. I will ask you more about the Michael Hilder matter a
17 bit later on, if I can?
18 A. Yes.
19
20 Q. Thank you for telling us that you advised Dennis
21 McKenna's solicitor of that. I know it is 20 years ago or
22 more, but you actually gave evidence at his trial?
23 A. Yes.
24
25 Q. Did you state words to the effect that you always
26 found him to have a very high moral standing and outlook?
27 A. Yes.
28
29 Q. Does that sound about right --
30 A. Yes.
31
32 Q. -- as to what you said?
33 A. Yes.
34
35 Q. Just with respect to the board's opinion of
36 Mr McKenna, was it your view that how you regarded him was
37 shared by fellow board members?
38 A. I would say so, yes.
39
40 Q. I know it is a long time ago, but do you recall
41 discussion at a board meeting in which a motion was moved
42 that Dennis McKenna should be rewarded for the six years
43 that he had spent as warden of the hostel and that he
44 should be offered a trip of his own choice as to where he
45 would like to go, and that a motion was put forward that
46 the parents should actually make a donation?
47 A. No, I don't remember that.

1
2 Q. I am just going to show you some board minutes. This,
3 sir, is the board meeting that was held on 19 August 1981.
4 I understand we should have a barcode number for it. It's
5 barcode number 0332. Mr Parks, if everything is operating
6 correctly, we might be able to get it up on the screen in a
7 moment - or maybe not. Do you have some hardcopies?
8 Whilst that's being done, have we got some hardcopies,
9 Madam Associate - 0322. Now, Mr Parks, I'm going to show
10 you - I'm going to hand you a hard copy, because you might
11 have some difficulty reading that from where you are?
12 A. Yes.

13
14 Q. We can see it's a St Andrew's Hostel Board Meeting
15 held on 19 August 1981. According to the minutes, you were
16 in attendance, because we can see that on the top line --
17 A. Yes.

18
19 Q. -- next to the heading "Present." You can see that?
20 A. Yes.

21
22 Q. If we go down a bit, please, we're going to go down to
23 the bottom of the page. There, "General Business":

24
25 (1) Board meeting for September 1981 be
26 passed over;
27 (2) Birthday greeting to Dennis McKenna for
28 six years service to the hostel;
29 (3) Discussion held on possibility of
30 sending Dennis McKenna on trip of his
31 choice during holidays in January 1982.

32
33 Then motion:

34
35 That parents be requested to make a
36 donation of \$20 towards meeting the costs
37 of this trip, asking them to consider his
38 services to the hostel during the past
39 six years.

40
41 Moved - G Harris; seconded - K Stephens.
42 Carried.

43
44 Does that help jog your memory, or not?

45 A. No, it doesn't. That doesn't help one bit.

46
47 MR URQUHART: All right, then. Well, I'm also going to

1 refer you to the minutes of a special meeting which was
2 held just a week later. Before we do that, I shall tender
3 that document, sir, 0332.
4

5 HIS HONOUR: What's the exhibit number? 40. So it's
6 exhibit 40.
7

8 **EXHIBIT #40 ST ANDREW'S HOSTEL BOARD MEETING HELD ON**
9 **19/8/1981, BARCODED 0322**

10
11 MR URQUHART: And I will just get my copy back from you,
12 thanks, Mr Parks. Madam Associate, if we can have a look
13 now at some minutes of a Special Meeting, 28 August 1981 -
14 and that would be 0056, sir, is the barcode.
15

16 Q. So, Mr Parks, this is a Special Meeting just a week
17 later. You were present at that as well, according to
18 the minutes?

19 A. Yes.
20

21 Q. One matter that was discussed concerned a case arising
22 out of a - one of P Stephens' children who was hit by the
23 school bus.

24 A. Yes.
25

26 Q. Do you have a recollection of that?

27 A. I don't know whether he --
28

29 Q. Yes.

30 A. -- whether he got crushed between the bus and the
31 post --
32

33 Q. That's it.

34 A. -- or whether his foot run over.
35

36 Q. Yes, yes, that's right. So that's - part of that
37 business - I'll take you through to what's under the
38 heading "Motion":
39

40 Motion as detailed in item 3 of "General
41 Business of Meetings", of meeting held 19
42 August 1981, and item 3 was that motion
43 that I referred you to about \$20 donation
44 be rescinded.
45

46 Moved - C Harris; seconded - L Segal.
47 Carried.

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47

Okay. So that motion that parents were going to be asked for a \$20 donation was rescinded. Again, does this help you with your recollection of this?

A. No, no --

Q. Yes, because I was --

A. -- but going up a little bit, the Keith Stephens - it says here:

Keith Steven to greet the stand-down.

Well, at that meeting Keith brought his solicitor along.

Q. Yes.

A. He was very upset at being asked to stand down until such time as the case was heard.

Q. I see.

A. Yes.

Q. As in being stood down as a Board member?

A. Yes, temporarily until the case was sorted out.

Q. So you can remember that part of this particular meeting?

A. Yes, I remember that because I ran the meeting and Keith was very upset.

Q. All right. Yes, because you were Chairman at this time?

A. Yes.

Q. But you don't know anything about this - this motion to rescind the previous motion?

A. No, I don't remember the vote taking place; but, yes, it did.

Q. Yes, yes. I was going to ask you whether, if you did recall, why it was that the motion that was passed just nine days earlier had been rescinded?

A. No, I don't know.

MR URQUHART: All right, then. I tender that document now, sir.

EXHIBIT #41 MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ST

1 **ANDREW'S HOSTEL, DATED 28/8/1981, BARCODED 0056**

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MR URQUHART: Q. Now, Mr Parks, I'm going to ask you something about your son being at the school and at the hostel. I understand your eldest son, Steven, started in 1978 and he finished in 1981, at the end of fourth year. Does that sound about right?

A. Hang on; yes, yes. Yes.

Q. And then your second son, Todd - he started in 1980?

A. Yes.

Q. And then he was expelled in March 1982 --

A. That's right.

Q. -- for stealing canteen money --

A. Yes.

Q. -- it was alleged; yes?

A. Yes.

Q. And he was expelled by Dennis McKenna; is that right?

A. Yes, yes.

Q. Did you ask your son at the time whether in fact there was any truth to that allegation that he'd stolen canteen money?

A. Yes, I did, and he denied it.

Q. Yes.

A. But he wouldn't tell me anything else. He just - and to this day he's still very bitter when you mention Dennis McKenna.

Q. So he denied it?

A. Yes.

Q. All right. So did you believe him?

A. Yes, I did.

Q. Right. So --

A. And bussed home - but when Dennis said he was putting him out, I told him that Todd had his own money. He went back with \$50 of his own cash in the pocket, nothing to do with the hostel, and Dennis wouldn't believe it, wouldn't have a bar of it.

1 Q. All right. So there's this impasse that had been
2 reached between the two of you. Do you recall this matter
3 being before the Board, about your son's expulsion?
4 A. No, I didn't attend the Board meeting.
5
6 Q. Yes, I know that, because you excused yourself; is
7 that right?
8 A. Yes. I was asked to, by Dennis.
9
10 Q. Yes. And you just accepted that?
11 A. Yes.
12
13 Q. Well, then, who then was able to put forward your
14 son's version to the Board when the Board discussed --
15 A. I don't think anyone - I don't think anyone would.
16
17 Q. Well, you did now find out, didn't you, that the Board
18 just simply agreed with what Dennis McKenna had said about
19 the matter?
20 A. Well, I assumed that, yes.
21
22 Q. So why did you take this attitude, Mr Parks? Your son
23 had told you he hadn't done it. There was an explanation
24 for him having it, a sum of money - I suppose a large sum
25 of money back then - in his possession.
26 A. Yes.
27
28 Q. Yet you still allowed your son to be expelled?
29 A. Well, I couldn't see that if we left Todd there, if
30 we'd argued over it and Todd had stayed, that he would have
31 got - he wouldn't have been treated right.
32
33 Q. By?
34 A. Dennis McKenna. So we took him out. I knew - and
35 also Todd wasn't happy with being at the hostel. He never
36 liked the hostel, and we sent him then - it cost us a bit,
37 but we sent him Jerramungup.
38
39 Q. Yes. When you say it cost you a bit, you had to
40 forfeit the term - the balance of term's fee?
41 A. Yes. Then we had to travel 60km a day to meet the
42 school bus, to collect Todd and take him to it.
43
44 Q. It was the case that you just simply accepted the
45 decision of the warden?
46 A. Possibly, yes.
47

1 Q. Even though there were grounds for disputing --
2 A. Yes.
3
4 Q. -- that decision that he made?
5 A. Yes.
6
7 Q. Was this just an example then, Mr Parks, of the
8 authority that Dennis McKenna was able to exercise?
9 A. Possibly.
10
11 Q. And here is you, as Chairman of the Board, accepting
12 the decision.
13 A. Yes.
14
15 Q. Do you agree that was going to set a fairly dangerous
16 precedent?
17 A. Well, my thinking was that Todd was put out as an
18 example to other students to stay in line. I believe that.
19
20 Q. Because he was the son of the Chairman of the Board?
21 A. Yes, and the what's a name if others didn't behave,
22 they'd be turfed out.
23
24 Q. You don't agree that that's the correct way of a
25 warden to exercise his authority, do you?
26 A. No, I don't agree with it.
27
28 Q. Did you agree with it at the time?
29 A. Not really. I didn't - didn't really think of it at
30 the time he was kicked out, but it sort of grew on me
31 afterwards, that Todd was put out for a reason.
32
33 HIS HONOUR: Q. What do you mean by that - he was put
34 out for a reason? What do you mean by that? It grew on
35 you that you thought in hindsight that he was put out for a
36 reason?
37 A. Well, probably just to keep the other students in
38 line.
39
40 MR URQUHART: Q. So he was just simply used as a
41 scapegoat?
42 A. Yes, I reckon.
43
44 Q. You said when you asked Todd about it, he denied that
45 he stole any money, but he didn't give any further
46 information to you?
47 A. No, he just clammed up.

1
2 Q. In more recent times, has he provided you with some
3 more information about this?
4 A. On Christmas Day this last year, he was talking to his
5 young brother, youngest brother, and they were talking
6 about this case, and Todd opened up and said that Dennis -
7 he had an argument with Dennis McKenna because he caught
8 him going through his wardrobe.
9
10 Q. He caught Dennis McKenna going through --
11 A. His wardrobe.
12
13 Q. -- his wardrobe, yes.
14 A. In the afternoon when school came out, or as they got
15 back to the hostel, and later five fifth year students came
16 and grabbed him and hauled him down the passage to Dennis's
17 office to tell him he was out.
18
19 Q. When you say "out", you mean expelled?
20 A. Expelled.
21
22 Q. And is that what happened? Was he expelled there and
23 then? Did --
24 A. Yes, pretty well, yes. That was in the evening, and I
25 was told next morning when I got there, I was told to take
26 him home, he was out.
27
28 Q. And did you believe that Dennis McKenna had the
29 authority to expel a student just like that?
30 A. Yes, pretty well.
31
32 Q. Did you understand it though, that an expulsion by a
33 warden had to be ratified by the Board?
34 A. No.
35
36 Q. No?
37 A. No.
38
39 Q. You never knew that in all the time that you were --
40 A. Well --
41
42 Q. -- on the Board?
43 A. Well, I believe there were others put out without
44 being ratified by the Board.
45
46 Q. That hadn't been, do you say?
47 A. Yes.

1
2 Q. You never questioned that?
3 A. Not really.
4
5 HIS HONOUR: Q. Is that the way expulsions always
6 happened - that Dennis would make the decision, and that
7 was it?
8 A. Yes, pretty well, yes. He'd - there would be an
9 expulsion, and he'd come along to the next meeting and
10 explain why the child was put out or sent home or whatever,
11 and his words were always plausible and passed.
12
13 MR URQUHART: Q. In your time on the Board for all
14 those years, it seemed 13 or 14, did the Board ever
15 question Dennis McKenna's decision to expel a student?
16 A. Well, it was brought up occasionally when - with some
17 of his rulings, and where a child was sent home or whatever
18 he would be questioned on it, but most times he would tell
19 the Board.
20
21 Q. He would just tell the Board, he wouldn't be --
22 A. He'd tell the Board why he'd taken the action he had.
23
24 Q. And did the Board most times just accept that?
25 A. Yes. Had no reason to disbelieve him.
26
27 Q. But what about getting the point of view of the
28 student?
29 A. Well, I don't remember the parents ever being asked to
30 come along or anything at all.
31
32 Q. But who would ask them? Who do you think was the
33 responsibility for asking them?
34 A. Well, it probably would have been the Board's, but it
35 didn't happen.
36
37 Q. And just dealing with your sons, your third and
38 youngest son Nigel; is that right - did he start boarding
39 at the hostel in 1983?
40 A. Yes.
41
42 Q. Did you have any concerns sending him to the hostel in
43 light of what happened to his older brother?
44 A. No, not really.
45
46 Q. And why is that?
47 A. I come to accept that Todd was put out and because he

1 hadn't told me the real story, what was behind it, so it
2 would have been more inconvenient to send Nigel to
3 Narrogin, but had we known as much as we know now, we
4 probably would have.

5
6 HIS HONOUR: Q. Did you ever ask Todd last Christmas why
7 he hadn't told you that before?

8 A. No, I didn't ask him, but I sort of did say to him
9 that it would have been nice if you'd have spoke up, but he
10 wouldn't tell us the full story then. He said, "No, I've
11 said enough", and that's it.

12
13 Q. That's at Christmas time?

14 A. Yes.

15
16 Q. So he still hasn't told you the full story?

17 A. No.

18
19 HIS HONOUR: Right.

20
21 MR URQUHART: Q. Do you think, Mr Parks, it would have
22 made a difference to what you did if, in fact, he had told
23 you about --

24 A. I am sure it would have.

25
26 Q. You would have done something about it then?

27 A. Yes, yes.

28
29 Q. If that meant standing up to Dennis McKenna?

30 A. It wouldn't have worried me one iota standing up to
31 Dennis.

32
33 Q. Well, it's just that, Mr Parks, it seems that the
34 Board never did actually stand up to him with respect to
35 the expulsion of students?

36 A. No, not really.

37
38 Q. Do you recall if the Board ever undertook its own
39 investigations regarding the expulsion of a student?

40 A. No, I don't think so, no.

41
42 Q. Did you ever notice in all the years that you were a
43 Board member, that there seemed to have been an awful lot
44 of alleged stealing from the canteen by students?

45 A. Well, I know there was first them discussions on it
46 about money being used to play the games that were there,
47 taken, and that was stopped. I'm not quite sure how he

1 stopped it, but there was money being - they weren't making
2 any money out of the canteen, to be honest. That's what it
3 was. So there had to be students involved in transferring
4 money from the canteen back through the gaming machine.
5

6 Q. I see. So because the canteen wasn't making any
7 profit, you believed that when Dennis McKenna would say
8 "Student X, student Y, student Z had been caught stealing
9 money from the canteen" - yes.

10 A. Yes, we would believe it, but there had to be others,
11 but if not, the money was stopped anyway. I'm not sure how
12 he stopped it, but it was nipped in the bud.
13

14 Q. What, he stopped the thieving from the canteen?

15 A. Yes, yes. I don't know how - how they stopped it, but
16 apparently something was done about it.
17

18 Q. Looking back on it now, there could be other
19 explanations as to why the canteen always had a shortfall
20 of money?

21 A. Possibly.
22

23 Q. These meetings that you heard Dennis McKenna having
24 with students in his unit, did you ever hear that those
25 meetings also allowed students to help themselves to items
26 in the canteen?

27 A. No.
28

29 Q. Did you ever hear in your time as a Board member, that
30 those meetings also involved Dennis McKenna providing
31 alcohol to students?

32 A. No, no.
33

34 Q. And that the movies or films that were shown to
35 students weren't just sporting videos or films, but
36 actually involved pornographic films?

37 A. No, we didn't know about that. If we had of, we would
38 have done something about it.
39

40 Q. Now, Mr Parks, I want to talk to you, something about
41 staff members at the hostel, whilst you were a Board
42 member. It's apparent that whilst you were a Board member,
43 from the late '70s through to 1990, there were no less than
44 six relatives of Dennis McKenna who worked at the hostel?

45 A. That's right, yes.
46

47 Q. How did that happen?

1 A. Well, his sister-in-law - I don't know, she was there.
2 Just game on. His brother Wayne was a - he was - Dennis
3 employed him. Then when Wayne left, Neil came.
4
5 Q. Yes.
6 A. And also while Neil was there, Troy was there, the
7 younger brother, for a short time, but Dennis employed
8 them.
9
10 Q. All of them?
11 A. Yes.
12
13 Q. Yes. Did the Board ever question his hiring of his
14 family relatives?
15 A. Not to the best of my knowledge.
16
17 Q. What if I suggest to you he never did?
18 A. Never did.
19
20 Q. And why was that?
21 A. Well, there was no reason - no real reason to. We had
22 faith in Dennis, and that was it.
23
24 Q. Who did you believe had the responsibility for hiring
25 and, indeed, firing staff?
26 A. Dennis and the Authority.
27
28 Q. And when you say "the Authority" --
29 A. Hostel Authority.
30
31 Q. What about the Board?
32 A. The Board didn't have the hire and fire rights, as far
33 as I knew.
34
35 Q. Well, I referred to the letter of engagement a little
36 earlier, a letter of engagement that existed between the
37 Board and the Authority.
38 A. Yes.
39
40 Q. The very first authority or power that the Board has
41 set out in that letter of engagement is actually that the
42 Board has a responsibility of engaging and dismissing
43 staff?
44 A. No. We weren't told that.
45
46 Q. As far as you were concerned, that was Dennis
47 McKenna's --

1 A. Yes.
2
3 Q. -- responsibility?
4 A. And Dennis, as far as I know, came under the
5 Authority, directly under the Authority, and if there was
6 any dispute over employment or anything like that, that it
7 went back through the Authority. And if we weren't happy
8 with it, we'd report it to the Authority.
9
10 Q. And were you ever unhappy or concerned about the
11 number of McKennas working at the hostel?
12 A. Well, possibly when Troy was there, because there was
13 two supervisors working there that were McKennas, at one
14 time.
15
16 Q. Yes. And did you do anything about that?
17 A. No, because Troy left before - he wasn't there that
18 long.
19
20 Q. Sir, I'd just like to show you a copy of a Warden
21 Report of 18 February 1981 - and it's 0059, sir, is the
22 barcode number. They'll come up in a moment, Mr Parks.
23 A. Thank you.
24
25 Q. I'll just hand you a hard copy. There you go. This
26 is one of those Warden Reports that Mr McKenna would have
27 to provide at every meeting. So it's the St Andrew's
28 Hostel Katanning Warden's Report, 18 February 1981. Now, I
29 just want to take you down to the bottom of that page, and
30 I've actually highlighted it for you on your copy. As is
31 next to staff:
32
33 Shelley Walsh will be leaving March 13 to
34 be married. She is being replaced by
35 Christine McKenna, (yes, another one),
36 married with three children, residing in
37 the house. Her husband Graham is working
38 at the Broomehill Shire and will help out
39 when required.
40
41 And then - I don't need to show you this in light of your
42 evidence, but then there's the St Andrew's Hostel Minutes
43 for that day. The Warden's Report was accepted on the
44 motion of Mr Sewell and seconded by Mrs Teune, I think it
45 is. So --
46 A. Yes.
47

1 Q. -- this was accepted. Is that an example of just how
2 the hiring of staff was done by Mr McKenna? It was just
3 simply presented as a fait accompli, as it were, to the
4 Board?

5 A. Yes.

6

7 Q. So was the Board ever aware of whether he had
8 advertised these positions or interviewed applicants or
9 anything like that?

10 A. Not really, no.

11

12 Q. Was the Board ever aware of what qualifications his
13 relatives had to hold these positions?

14 A. No.

15

16 Q. Was any questions ever asked by the Board about that?

17 A. Well, possibly. I can't remember offhand exactly, but
18 I'm pretty sure there was a couple of times when it came
19 up.

20

21 Q. Right. But did the Board ever say, "We're not happy
22 with all" --

23 A. No.

24

25 Q. -- "these relatives of yours working at the hostel"?

26 A. No.

27

28 MR URQUHART: I tender that document, please, sir.

29

30 HIS HONOUR: The last two exhibits we got the numbers
31 wrong. What I said was exhibit 40 should have been
32 exhibit 44. It will be changed to that number.

33

34 **EXHIBIT #44 ST ANDREW'S HOSTEL BOARD MEETING HELD ON**
35 **19/8/1981, BARCODED 0322 (MISTAKENLY MARKED AS EXHIBIT 40)**

36

37 HIS HONOUR: Exhibit 41 should have been 45.

38

39 **EXHIBIT #45 MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ST**
40 **ANDREW'S HOSTEL, DATED 28/8/1981, BARCODED 0056 (MISTAKENLY**
41 **MARKED AS EXHIBIT 41)**

42

43 HIS HONOUR: And this present exhibit will be 46.

44

45 **EXHIBIT #46 ST ANDREW'S HOSTEL WARDEN'S REPORT DATED**
46 **18/2/81, BARCODED 0059**

47

1 MR URQUHART: Thank you, sir.
2
3 Q. Mr Parks, can I ask you this question - if you think
4 it's too general, by all means say so. Are you able to say
5 what level of control Dennis McKenna had over the Board?
6 A. I don't know that he had control over the Board. I
7 think the Board used to take his word possibly a little too
8 literally.
9
10 Q. Yes. Was he very persuasive in his submissions as to
11 what he'd done or what should be done?
12 A. He was persuasive, all right. Yes.
13
14 Q. See, if I was to say to you from an examination of
15 the minutes that the Inquiry have got from the Board during
16 your time there - and we haven't got them all, but we've
17 got a large number of them - the material in the Warden's
18 Report seemed to me was never questioned, that the warden's
19 was just simply accepted.
20 A. Yes, pretty well. There may have been a question, but
21 no, they were generally accepted
22
23 Q. I said to you I was going to ask you something about
24 this, and that was the finances of the hostel during your
25 time as a board member. During the course of those years
26 when you were a board member, was the hostel in a
27 financially sound position?
28 A. Not really, no. It used to go into over - from 1980,
29 if I remember rightly, about three parts of the way through
30 the year, you'd would be into overdraft.
31
32 Q. Can you provide some explanation as to why it would go
33 into overdraft?
34 A. Well, the authority always said that the food that was
35 bought was too expensive, that there were cheap - it could
36 have been bought cheaper.
37
38 Q. Yes?
39 A. You know, the students be fed cheaper food, and also
40 questioned some of the other spending.
41
42 Q. Spending by whom?
43 A. By the hostel, generally, by Dennis.
44
45 Q. So it was by Dennis?
46 A. Mmm, and the board would have to sanction some of the
47 spending, but a lot of it he just went ahead and bought the

1 foodstuff, and whatever.
2
3 Q. Would, from time to time, the board give him
4 directions as to --
5 A. Yes.
6
7 Q. -- what to do?
8 A. One particular case was the rec room carpet was pretty
9 tatty and Dennis was asked to go and get quotes and to come
10 back to the next meeting and we would discuss whether we
11 bought it or not. When I turned up at the meeting, there
12 was the nice new carpet laid and when I asked how come,
13 apparently he had got a good deal - what was considered a
14 good deal - spoke to a couple of the board members and went
15 ahead and bought it and had it laid.
16
17 Q. Contrary to what the board had told him to do?
18 A. Yes. We had words over it.
19
20 Q. The outcome of those words?
21 A. Well, it was too - the carpet was down and it was too
22 late to do anything about it.
23
24 Q. But did he change his ways after that?
25 A. No.
26
27 Q. So there were other occasions after that on which he
28 would make unauthorised expenditure?
29 A. Yes. Another instance was with the foodstuff, he
30 could get from the co-op 10 percent discount on a big
31 order, but we were on the point of going into overdraft and
32 I moved that we skip it, that we just buy what we wanted as
33 we wanted it, because overdraft interest is about
34 19 percent and I couldn't see why we needed to go into
35 overdraft on an order like that straight away.
36
37 Q. Yes?
38 A. So (indistinct) he didn't buy that order. The board
39 (indistinct) said no, don't buy it.
40
41 Q. Did he listen to the board on that occasion?
42 A. Yes, he did.
43
44 HIS HONOUR: Q. Did you say the overdraft interest rate
45 was 19 percent?
46 A. Mmm.
47

1 Q. So it was back at the recession --
2 A. Yes.
3
4 Q. -- that we had to have, or whatever it was?
5 A. Yes.
6
7 MR URQUHART: Q. Did the authority ever raise any
8 concerns with you about the hostel's expenditure?
9 A. Yes, with the board and me personally.
10
11 Q. With you internally, can you recall who it was from
12 the authority?
13 A. Colin Philpott.
14
15 Q. Colin Philpott?
16 A. Yes.
17
18 Q. He was the chairman of the authority at the time?
19 A. Yes. The authority came down to Katanning to a
20 meeting and also came down to an anniversary at the school
21 and that day he told me that if it kept up, he'd give
22 consideration to taking the finance away from Dennis.
23
24 Q. Can you recall on how many occasions Mr Philpott spoke
25 to you about that --
26 A. Spoke to me personally.
27
28 Q. -- taking the finances?
29 A. Me personally, about three times and to the hostel -
30 and to the board, several times.
31
32 Q. How was it done with the board? How was that
33 representation made to the board?
34 A. I'm not sure but I'm pretty sure it was in writing and
35 also when he visited.
36
37 Q. Was that ever done? Was the financial responsibility
38 ever taken away from --
39 A. No.
40
41 Q. -- Dennis McKenna?
42 A. No.
43
44 Q. Who do you think would have had the authority to do
45 that, if that decision was made?
46 A. The hostel authority.
47

1 Q. Not the board?
2 A. No.
3
4 Q. Why did you not think the board would have that
5 authority?
6 A. I don't think they had the strength.
7
8 Q. It didn't have the strength?
9 A. Mmm.
10
11 Q. But did you think the board had the power to do it, if
12 it wanted to?
13 A. I don't really know.
14
15 Q. When you said you didn't think the board had the
16 strength --
17 A. Well, the board were virtually - I think somebody did
18 tell us one time that we were reduced to a committee more
19 than a board, that we didn't have board powers to fire and
20 hire, but I can't tell you who - how it came about and who
21 said it.
22
23 Q. Well, with a process of elimination, who would it most
24 likely have been or where would that most likely have come
25 from?
26 A. I'm not sure where it came from.
27
28 Q. But you recall an occasion when that was raised?
29 A. Yes.
30
31 Q. Was it Dennis McKenna who suggested that? If you
32 can't remember, you can't remember.
33 A. No, I can't remember. I don't think it was.
34
35 Q. Those examples that you have given us - for example,
36 the one about Dennis McKenna ignoring what the board had
37 said about getting the carpet quotes --
38 A. Mmm.
39
40 Q. -- the example of how he would spend money so that the
41 board went into overdraft, again this comes back to the
42 question I asked you a little bit earlier: was it the case
43 that he did exercise a considerable amount of control over
44 the board?
45 A. Possibly yes.
46
47 Q. Were you aware that - if the board could fire a warden

1 if it believed it had good reasons for doing so?
2 A. Would it have done so?
3
4 Q. No, did you believe that the board had the authority
5 to fire a warden if it - if they --
6 A. No.
7
8 Q. You didn't think that?
9 A. No.
10
11 Q. Hypothetically, if the board was not happy with a
12 warden's performance, what did you think the board had to
13 do?
14 A. Go to the authority.
15
16 Q. Then it would be up to the authority?
17 A. Yes, to take action.
18
19 Q. Why did you think that, Mr Parks? Why did you think
20 that was the process?
21 A. I don't know. I suppose that's what I think we were
22 led to believe.
23
24 Q. By whom?
25 A. Well, probably Dennis. I don't know.
26
27 Q. You mentioned how you put in place a procedure for the
28 board and gave the example of if a board member had missed
29 three meetings in a row without good reason, they could be
30 asked to leave. Can I ask you what process was in place
31 during your time as a board member if a complaint was
32 lodged against a hostel employee?
33 A. Yes. Could you repeat that?
34
35 Q. What process was in place if there was a complaint
36 lodged against a hostel staff member?
37 A. I'm not sure. The board would discuss it and it would
38 be (indistinct) to the authority, I guess.
39
40 Q. Would it depend on whether it was a written complaint
41 or an oral complaint?
42 A. No, it wouldn't have mattered.
43
44 Q. You say the board would discuss it?
45 A. Yes.
46
47 Q. Would that be done at a board meeting?

1 A. Yes.
2
3 Q. Would anything go beyond just a discussion?
4 A. Well, it depended on - it would depend on what the
5 complaint was.
6
7 Q. Did you ever receive, or did the board ever receive a
8 complaint?
9 A. Yes, in writing, yes.
10
11 Q. It did?
12 A. Yes.
13
14 Q. On how many occasions did the board receive a
15 complaint in writing?
16 A. Oh, I can only remember one.
17
18 Q. What was that about?
19 A. The student, a girl, had been put out of the hostel
20 for - sent home for a week when they were studying for
21 exams, or thereabouts, and her parents wrote a letter to
22 the board. It was handed in by a member, the letter was
23 given to the member.
24
25 Q. Yes?
26 A. And put on the table at the meeting. The board
27 suggested to Dennis that he have a meeting with the parents
28 and the student and to be sure he had another member of the
29 staff there with him when he did it, and as far as I know,
30 it happened.
31
32 Q. That happened?
33 A. Mmm.
34
35 Q. Was the matter resolved?
36 A. From what I can gather.
37
38 Q. Mr Parks, when the board discussed that complaint at
39 the meeting, was Dennis McKenna present?
40 A. I couldn't say for sure. I think he would have been.
41
42 Q. Wouldn't that have been a case where the matter should
43 have been discussed in his absence?
44 A. Well, I'm not sure whether he was there or not, no.
45
46 Q. Was this at a time when you were chairman, can you
47 remember?

1 A. I'm not sure. I could have been.
2
3 Q. Was that - from what you were saying, that the student
4 was suspended just before exams, can you remember if that
5 was towards the end of the year exams or was it end of term
6 exams?
7 A. I think it was in the girl's - it could have been in
8 the girl's final year, that was. I pretty well - end of
9 term exams. I'm not sure about that. I know the parents
10 were very upset by it.
11
12 Q. I would just like to show you now some minutes of a
13 board meeting from 16 April 1980. It is barcode number
14 0320. Mr Parks, you have been handed a copy. So this was
15 a time before you were chairman. I just want to take you
16 through to item 1 of general business. General business,
17 1:
18 Following discussion of a complaint by a
19 parent, it was resolved on the motion of
20 Mr Thompson, seconded by Mrs Brown, that
21 the board has confidence in the warden and
22 thanks him for involving the children in
23 activities outside the hostel.
24
25 Q. Do you see that?
26 A. Yes.
27
28 Q. Those minutes don't really tell us much about what the
29 complaint was, do they?
30 A. No.
31
32 Q. Would this be an example of what you believed when -
33 an example of the shortcomings of the minutes, in that it
34 doesn't set out in much detail what it's about?
35 A. I would say so.
36
37 Q. I don't suppose now, 32 years later, you have a
38 recollection of what this is about?
39 A. None. None whatsoever.
40
41 Q. These board minutes aren't going to help you much
42 either?
43 A. No.
44
45 MR URQUHART: Yes. Thank you. I tender that document,
46 please, sir.
47

1 HIS HONOUR: That is exhibit 47.

2

3 EXHIBIT #47 MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING 16 APRIL 1980,
4 DOCUMENT BARCODED 0320

5

6 MR URQUHART: Q. Mr Parks, what I am going to suggest to
7 you is that over the years that you were a board member,
8 you became aware that, at the very least, Dennis McKenna
9 was involved in what could be best described as suspect
10 behaviour.

11 A. No.

12

13 Q. You don't agree with that?

14 A. No.

15

16 Q. You have earlier told us about what Dennis McKenna had
17 said to you regarding Mr Michael Hilder; that was on the
18 steps of the rec shed?

19 A. He didn't say Michael Hilder.

20

21 Q. I see.

22 A. A student.

23

24 Q. He said "a student"?

25 A. Yes.

26

27 Q. How was it that you came to attribute that student to
28 the name of Michael Hilder?

29 A. I didn't.

30

31 Q. You didn't?

32 A. No, no. I didn't know who the student was and I
33 didn't even know if there was a student. I wasn't sure
34 even if it was - what he was putting over, whether he was
35 putting it over on me.

36

37 Q. Do you remember --

38

39 HIS HONOUR: Just to clarify, when was that incident?

40

41 MR URQUHART: Q. Do you recall when that was now, when it
42 was that --

43 A. No, I couldn't tell you what year. '85, perhaps.

44

45 Q. Okay. I thought you were earlier giving evidence that
46 you related this incident to Michael Hilder. No.

47

1 Q. Am I wrong about that?
2 A. You're wrong, yes. Yes, you're wrong. I never said
3 that Michael Hilder was the student that did it, ever,
4 because I didn't know.
5
6 Q. Do you remember being asked about this incident, when
7 Dennis McKenna spoke to you, at his trial in 1991?
8 A. Dennis McKenna didn't speak to me at his trial.
9
10 Q. No, no. But you were asked by his lawyer --
11 A. Oh yes.
12
13 Q. -- regarding this. Do you remember that? If you
14 don't, I have some transcript here that might assist you.
15 A. Yes. Well, I've read the transcript of the court
16 case.
17
18 Q. That's right.
19 A. Yes.
20
21 Q. We provided that to you last week, didn't we?
22 A. Yes.
23
24 Q. Yes. Well, do you remember - this is at the bottom of
25 page 237. Do you remember reading this when Mr Singleton,
26 Dennis McKenna's lawyer, asked you:
27
28 Q. Was there an incident Mr McKenna came to
29 you and spoke to you about?
30 A. Yes.
31
32 Q. Concerning a student?
33 A. Over the years he has spoken to me on
34 several occasions about various incidents
35 but the one I assume you --
36
37 Q. Regarding a student called Hilder?
38 A. Yes. It was in 1979, as far as I can
39 remember. It may have been a little later.
40 I was at the hostel early one morning and
41 as I was leaving the hostel by the door
42 from the rec room, Dennis came out of the
43 normal entrance and met me and asked if he
44 could speak to me about a delicate matter.
45 He was quite upset and he had told me that
46 a student, the night before, had tried to
47 put his hand down inside his trousers. He

1 had moved away from the student and at
2 another point, the student had come up
3 alongside him or moved along the settee and
4 tried - attempted to put his hand in his
5 trousers a second time.
6
7 A. Mmm, that's right.
8
9 Q. So you said back in 1991 that this was in 1979 that
10 Mr McKenna spoke to you about this matter. I know you said
11 a moment ago it was 1985, but would your memory of when
12 this incident was --
13 A. Well, I'm --
14
15 Q. -- have been better back then in 1991?
16 A. It would have been. Should have been.
17
18 Q. Yes. It would suggest there that you agreed with
19 Mr Singleton when he said regarding a student called
20 Hilder?
21 A. Yes. Well, I was totally confused.
22
23 Q. Nevertheless, is that your recollection now of what
24 Dennis McKenna said to you?
25 A. That a student did try to --
26
27 Q. Yes?
28 A. Yes.
29
30 Q. Then you said in 1991:
31
32 It was in 1979, as far as I can remember.
33 It may have been a little later.
34
35 A. Oh.
36
37 HIS HONOUR: Q. At the time of that incident in 1979 - if
38 that is when it was - did Dennis ask you to do something
39 about that? You weren't the chairman then, were you?
40 A. No, I don't think so no.
41
42 Q. Did he ask you to do anything about that?
43 A. No, he didn't. He just told me and left it at that,
44 and I went off downtown and as we were going out past the
45 airport afterwards, my wife asked me what was wrong and -
46 because I never discussed hostel business outside the
47 hostel, and I told her because it seemed so strange that he

1 told me what he said.
2
3 MR URQUHART: Q. It was strange, wasn't it?
4 A. It was, yes. I didn't know whether I was going -
5 whether it was - to believe him or not.
6
7 Q. Why do you think he would make up something like that
8 to you?
9 A. I don't know.
10
11 Q. Did you do anything about it other than tell your
12 wife?
13 A. No.
14
15 Q. Why was that?
16 A. I don't know. Just didn't.
17
18 Q. Yes, I know, but can you offer any explanation as to
19 why you didn't?
20 A. Don't have one.
21
22 Q. Do you not think it's a matter that should be raised
23 with others?
24 A. I don't remember discussing it with anyone.
25
26 Q. I may have spoken to Garth Addis, but I don't
27 remember.
28
29 Q. You don't remember raising it with the board?
30 A. No, I'm pretty sure it doesn't come up at a board
31 meeting.
32
33 Q. Do you think now that you owed to have raised it with
34 the board? Do you think now, looking back, that you should
35 have raised it with the board?
36 A. Well, I should have mentioned it, yes.
37
38 Q. What about finding out who the student was; I gather
39 you asked Dennis McKenna that?
40 A. He never said.
41
42 Q. No, but did you ask him who the student was?
43 A. I don't remember whether I did or I didn't.
44
45 Q. Well, do you agree that if it was true, this is
46 something that the parents of the student should be told
47 about?

1 A. Well, if he had named a name.
2
3 Q. Yes?
4 A. Named the student, yes.
5
6 Q. When he didn't name the student --
7 A. No.
8
9 Q. -- it didn't cross your mind to ask him who it was?
10 A. No. I was pretty well stunned by the fact that he
11 even spoke to me about it, the way he put it to me.
12
13 Q. Subsequently, after you recovered from being stunned,
14 did you approach him --
15 A. No.
16
17 Q. -- and speak to him further about it?
18 A. No.
19
20 Q. Didn't you want to find out precisely what had
21 happened?
22 A. No, not really.
23
24 Q. Why was that?
25 A. I don't know. It was just something Dennis had said
26 and it seemed strange --
27
28 Q. Yes.
29 A. -- and that was it.
30
31 Q. I am agreeing with you it seems strange and that is
32 why I am asking you why you didn't do anything further
33 about it.
34 A. I don't really know why.
35
36 Q. It seemed from the account that you gave at his trial
37 that it happened in his unit. Is that how you recall it?
38 A. Yes.
39
40 Q. Did you think at all to counsel Mr McKenna about the
41 appropriateness of having students in his unit?
42 A. No. At that time, he was trusted.
43
44 Q. He was trusted?
45 A. Mmm.
46
47 Q. Were you aware if Mr McKenna instigated any

1 disciplinary action against the student?
2 A. No, no.
3
4 Q. Can I take you now to a time around 1980. As I
5 understand, did you become aware around that time about
6 something that had happened at the head office of the
7 authority?
8 A. Yes.
9
10 Q. What can you tell us about that?
11 A. 1980?
12
13 Q. Yes.
14 A. No, not in 1980.
15
16 Q. Well, when was it?
17 A. In '82 I remember --
18
19 Q. 1982. Okay.
20 A. Yes. Noel Parkin is supposed to have gone to the
21 authority and caused a stink; that's how it was put to us.
22
23 Q. Put to?
24 A. The board.
25
26 Q. By whom?
27 A. Dennis.
28
29 Q. So he actually told you about this?
30 A. Yes.
31
32 Q. Is that what, essentially, he said?
33 A. Yes.
34
35 Q. That Noel Parkin --
36 A. Well, he didn't name Noel to start with, he just said
37 a parent had been to the authority and caused a stir.
38
39 Q. Yes?
40 A. And he later said that it was Noel Parkin.
41
42 Q. Was this raised at a board meeting?
43 A. Yes.
44
45 Q. Did any board member try to find out more information
46 about this?
47 A. I don't know. I don't know whether any board member

1 did anything about it or not, or whether the board did
2 anything.
3
4 Q. Well, you knew Mr Parkin had sons at the hostel?
5 A. Yes, yes.
6
7 Q. He caused a stir at the authority's head office?
8 A. Yes.
9
10 Q. Seemingly about the hostel?
11 A. Yes. That was after his son was put out.
12
13 Q. Yes, and when you say "put out", his son was expelled?
14 A. Yes.
15
16 Q. Are you talking about Bradley or Brad?
17 A. Oh, I'm not sure which one of his boys it was.
18
19 Q. Was this stir - well, he created a stir. Did you know
20 - but you didn't know what it was about?
21 A. Not at that time.
22
23 Q. Did you later become aware of what it was about?
24 A. Yes, we were made aware of it.
25
26 Q. How much later was that?
27 A. Oh, probably the next meeting.
28
29 Q. The next meeting?
30 A. Mmm.
31
32 Q. What did you find out about it at the next meeting?
33 A. That Noel had been to the authority's office and made
34 such a noise that they were getting the police in to have
35 him removed.
36
37 Q. Who conveyed this information to you at the next
38 meeting?
39 A. Dennis. We got it through Dennis. We guess it came
40 from head office.
41
42 Q. Again, did anybody - did he say what the stir was
43 about?
44 A. I don't remember. I don't remember whether they -
45 whether it was brought up or not. I think it was, yes.
46
47 Q. You think it was?

1 A. Yes, I'm pretty sure it was.
2
3 Q. But you can't remember what it was?
4 A. No.
5
6 Q. Mr Parkin has told us at the Inquiry that the stir he
7 was causing at the head office was that he was accusing
8 Mr Dennis McKenna of sexually interfering with boys.
9 A. Mmm-hmm.
10
11 Q. Does that jog your memory as to what you were told
12 this stir was about?
13 A. No, we weren't told what it was about, not by Dennis,
14 no. That came out later.
15
16 Q. When did it come out later?
17 A. Well, I think one of the board members brought it up
18 and said that Noel had been going around telling people
19 that Dennis was interfering with boys.
20
21 Q. Can you remember when that was, Mr Parks?
22 A. I couldn't say offhand.
23
24 Q. Was it before Dennis McKenna had been charged in 1990?
25 A. Oh, it was well before, yes. It was around about the
26 time that Todd was put out. I'd say around '82.
27
28 Q. It was around about the time that, sorry, who was put
29 out?
30 A. Around the time Todd was put out. A bit later after
31 Todd was put out in '82.
32
33 Q. Todd, you're saying? Yes?
34 A. And Bradley had been - or one of Noel's boys had been
35 expelled.
36
37 Q. Yes?
38 A. And that was it.
39
40 Q. Was this at a time when you were chairman of the board
41 that this board member told you that?
42 A. I'm not sure. I think I might have been. I may have
43 been.
44
45 Q. I am talking about your first stint at chairman?
46 A. Yes, it may have been. In '82, yes, it would have
47 been.

1
2 Q. Because you were --
3 A. '81 and '82, I was chairman.
4
5 Q. '81 and '82, and even, according to our records '83 as
6 well.
7 A. No, you only did two-year terms.
8
9 Q. All right, then. Well, it's reflected in the minutes,
10 isn't it, because the Chairman would usually be announced
11 at the AGM --
12 A. Yes.
13
14 Q. -- that was held --
15 A. Yes.
16
17 Q. -- in February --
18 A. Yes.
19
20 Q. -- of each year, normally?
21 A. Yes.
22
23 Q. Yes. Okay. Leaving that aside, can you remember
24 which Board member it was who raised this?
25 A. Garth Addis. Garth Addis, I'm pretty sure it was.
26
27 Q. And was this at a Board meeting?
28 A. Yes.
29
30 Q. Do you recall if Dennis McKenna was there?
31 A. I don't think so. Not when it was raised, no.
32
33 Q. So the Board's been told that Noel Parkin is making
34 allegations --
35 A. Yes.
36
37 Q. -- that Dennis McKenna is sexually interfering with
38 boys?
39 A. Mm.
40
41 Q. Did you understand that to be boys at the hostel?
42 A. Yes.
43
44 Q. What did the Board do about that?
45 A. I'm not sure whether they contacted the Authority or
46 not.
47

1 Q. Well, if you were the Chairman of the Board --
2 A. Would have passed it on to - to the Country Hostel
3 Authority.
4
5 Q. Do you know if that was done though?
6 A. Couldn't tell you. Can't say. I don't recall.
7
8 Q. Did you not think that the Board itself should
9 undertake some investigations of its own?
10 A. Well, I don't think the Board believed it.
11
12 Q. Is that why it may well have been the case that it was
13 never referred on to the Authority?
14 A. I would say so. Probably, yes.
15
16 Q. So the Board seemed to take the position that it
17 didn't believe it, without ever undertaking any of its own
18 inquiries?
19 A. Well, I'd say they didn't believe it. I don't know
20 about inquiries.
21
22 Q. Including you. You didn't believe it?
23 A. No, I didn't believe it.
24
25 Q. How would you know whether there's any truth to it or
26 not, unless it's investigated?
27 A. I wouldn't know.
28
29 Q. Sorry?
30 A. I wouldn't have known. I wouldn't know.
31
32 HIS HONOUR: Q. Did you ever speak to Mr Parkin about
33 it?
34 A. Hm.
35
36 Q. Did you ever speak to Mr Parkin about that?
37 A. No. He claims he rang me, and with a pretty strong
38 phone call, but I don't remember. I'm pretty sure I never
39 received a phone call.
40
41 Q. So he rang you?
42 A. I'm pretty sure I never received a phone call from
43 Noel Parkin. I'm pretty sure I would have remembered
44 something of that call, but I don't remember a thing about
45 a phone call.
46
47 MR URQUHART: Okay.

1
2 Q. You now say that the Board was told about the very
3 subject matter that Mr Parkin was complaining about. Would
4 it be unfair to suggest at the very least you, as Chairman
5 of the Board, should have contacted Mr Parkin?
6 A. Not really. Noel could be very abusive and that, so
7 no, I didn't contact him.
8
9 Q. Because you were concerned he might be abusive towards
10 you?
11 A. Yes, and the fact that he'd go on a lot about it,
12 because his son was put out and that was it, we took
13 Dennis's word for what he'd said.
14
15 Q. What, regarding the son being put out?
16 A. Yes.
17
18 Q. What about this matter? What about this matter of him
19 sexually interfering with hostel boys? Did anyone from the
20 Board, to your knowledge, speak to him about it?
21 A. Not that I know of.
22
23 Q. Again --
24 A. Garth Addis may have, but I certainly didn't.
25
26 Q. And can I suggest to you, you as Chairman of the
27 Board, it was your responsibility to do that, to either -
28 you speak to him, or have somebody else from the Board
29 speak to him?
30 A. I spoke to him - I did speak to him after Bradley was
31 put out. I rang him up and told him that because a student
32 was put out, it didn't mean they were criminals.
33
34 Q. Yes. I'm moving on from there. I'm more concerned
35 about these allegations that he was sexually interfering
36 with boys. It seems to me, Mr Parks, from what you're
37 saying, the Board just simply --
38 A. I don't think the Board believed it.
39
40 Q. Yes. So the Board just put its head in the sand?
41 A. Pretty well.
42
43 Q. We know hindsight is a wonderful thing, but the
44 allegations that Mr Parkin was making we now know as to be
45 entirely true?
46 A. That's right.
47

1 Q. And so from what you're saying, the Board didn't even
2 bother to follow it up with Mr Parkin, to your
3 recollection?
4 A. To my recollection I don't think it was ever followed
5 up with Noel.
6
7 Q. Wasn't followed up with Noel. It doesn't appear that
8 the Board even spoke to Dennis McKenna about it - yes?
9 A. Yes, it would have been mentioned. I'm pretty sure it
10 would have been.
11
12 Q. You're pretty sure it would have been, but you --
13 A. Yes. And he would have denied it.
14
15 Q. Yes. And it doesn't seem, and I suggest to you, that
16 any complaint or notice was given to the Authority about it
17 either?
18 A. No, the Authority already knew that Noel was
19 complaining.
20
21 Q. You see, if someone simply made a call to Mr Parkin,
22 they could have asked him, "Do you know of these boys?",
23 and if he was able to provide a name of these boys, then
24 those boys could be spoken to, couldn't they?
25 A. Well - could I have that again, please? Hang on.
26
27 Q. See, the inquiries that the Board could make would be
28 relatively simple. Someone could ring Mr Parkin and say,
29 "Do you know the names of any of these boys?", and if he
30 could provide information in that regard, a Board member
31 could then, with the boy's parents, speak to the boy about
32 it and see if there was any truth to the allegations?
33 A. Well, Noel - Noel said in his report that he rang me
34 and told me what was going on, and I cut him off.
35
36 Q. Yes.
37 A. Now, that is something that I wouldn't have done.
38
39 Q. Well, Mr Parks, you would have done it, wouldn't of
40 you, if you didn't believe him?
41 A. Well, I would have listened to what he had to say, but
42 I'm pretty sure he never rang me.
43
44 Q. But, you see, you've already told us that Board,
45 including yourself, didn't believe the allegations?
46 A. No, because there was only - only Noel's at that time
47 that was being bandied around.

1
2 HIS HONOUR: Would it be convenient to have a short break?
3
4 MR URQUHART: Yes, it probably will be, thank you, sir.
5
6 HIS HONOUR: I think we need one. I'll just take a short
7 break, only five or 10 minutes.
8
9 SHORT ADJOURNMENT
10
11 HIS HONOUR: Take a seat, thank you. Yes, Mr Urquhart?
12
13 MR URQUHART: Q. Mr Parks, I want to ask you something
14 now, going back to the early 1980s, but I understand that
15 you can recall a phone call you received late one night
16 from Wayne McKenna, Dennis --
17 A. Yes.
18
19 Q. -- McKenna's younger brother, and this was at a time
20 when Wayne was working at the hostel?
21 A. Yes.
22
23 Q. Yes. Can you tell us about that, please?
24 A. Well, it was about - late at night, 11 o'clock, I woke
25 up to answer the phone and it was Wayne. And he - he
26 didn't go into details, but he told me that Dennis, from
27 what I can remember - told me that Dennis was picking on a
28 student. This student had come in - I don't know whether -
29 what the story was fully, but apparently he'd been
30 elsewhere and had a disability of some kind - I don't know
31 whether it was a learning disability or what, and Dennis
32 wasn't treating him as well as he should have been.
33
34 Q. Right. Did he tell you the student's name at the
35 time?
36 A. Yes. He - he did, but I don't - I can't recall the
37 student's name.
38
39 Q. Okay. And you mentioned something about how the
40 student had been elsewhere. You said that --
41 A. Yes, come into the hostel during the year.
42 Dennis - Dennis had discussed it with the Board, that this
43 student was coming in on trial.
44
45 Q. I see. So he hadn't started at the beginning of the
46 year --
47 A. No.

1
2 Q. -- it was some time into the year?
3 A. No.
4
5 Q. And do you recall that this was some time in the early
6 '80s?
7 A. I couldn't tell you just when it was, but it would be
8 because it was before Neil McKenna came to the hostel.
9
10 Q. Before Neil McKenna came to the hostel?
11 A. Yes.
12
13 Q. And had Wayne McKenna ever rung you at home before?
14 A. No.
15
16 Q. And therefore had never rung you at that late hour?
17 A. No.
18
19 Q. And from what he said to you, or what did he - did he
20 ask you to do anything about it?
21 A. No, he just said he's letting me know.
22
23 Q. Right. And do you know where Dennis McKenna was at
24 this time?
25 A. I think he was in Perth.
26
27 Q. And how did you know that?
28 A. Well, I think he told us he was going to Perth or he
29 would be in Perth --
30
31 Q. I see.
32 A. -- for that, or he was having the weekend off or
33 whatever.
34
35 Q. Now, do you remember doing something next time you
36 went to the hostel, regarding what Wayne McKenna had told
37 you?
38 A. No. I spoke to Dennis the next time I went in.
39
40 Q. Yes.
41 A. And I asked him how the lad was going and he said,
42 "Has someone been talking?", and I said, "No, I'm just
43 curious - just wondering how the boy's going", and he said,
44 "Oh, he's going fine." And I left it at that and kept my
45 eyes and ears open, and never heard anything after that.
46 So whether it continued on or not, I'm not 100% sure.
47

1 Q. So when you had that conversation with Dennis McKenna,
2 you actually were able to name who the boy was?
3 A. No, I didn't name the boy.
4
5 Q. So how did you - how did he know then what boy you
6 were talking about, when you - when you said, "How's" --
7 A. Well, I don't know whether he did. He just very
8 bluntly said, "Has someone been talking?", and I said,
9 "No." --
10
11 Q. Okay. Hold on, Mr Parks. You --
12 A. -- but I probably could have, I don't remember --
13
14 Q. Right.
15 A. -- whether I named the person or not.
16
17 Q. But Wayne had given you the name?
18 A. Yes.
19
20 Q. Right. Did you think of speaking to the boy?
21 A. No, not at this stage, no.
22
23 Q. Why not?
24 A. Never entered my head.
25
26 Q. Well, we have the warden's very own brother ringing
27 you late at night expressing what seems to be his concern.
28 Would it appear to you that he seemed concerned --
29 A. Yes.
30
31 Q. -- when he rang you or not?
32 A. Yes.
33
34 Q. So the warden's own brother is letting you know that.
35 Would you agree with me that him ringing you at that late
36 hour on your home line, that he believed, it seemed to you
37 that he believed it was serious?
38 A. No, he didn't - didn't indicate it was serious, but he
39 just said that he was being picked on.
40
41 Q. By Dennis?
42 A. Yes.
43
44 Q. Did you raise it with the Board?
45 A. No. I spoke to Garth Addis about it, mentioned it to
46 Garth, and that's all.
47

1 Q. Do you say Garth was on the Board at that time?
2 A. I'm not sure whether he was or not. No, I'm not sure.
3
4 Q. Yes.
5 A. No, but I would have - if I mentioned it to Garth, it
6 would have been outside the hostel --
7
8 Q. I see, right.
9 A. -- because he's --
10
11 Q. I was going to say to you, our records show that Mr
12 Addis didn't join the Board until 1985.
13 A. That's right.
14
15 Q. Yes.
16 A. Yes.
17
18 Q. You didn't raise it with the Authority?
19 A. No.
20
21 Q. And if this happened some time between 1981 and 1983,
22 you were the Chairman?
23 A. Mm-hmm.
24
25 Q. Yes.
26 A. Yes.
27
28 Q. So did you just simply accept Dennis McKenna's
29 assurances that everything was fine?
30 A. Not fully. I had doubts. That's why I sort of left
31 it in abeyance and kept my ears and eyes open, hoping that
32 if it was going on further, that I'd hear something, and
33 then I would have taken it to the Board.
34
35 Q. But from whom?
36 A. Well, from - from staff, or - or Wayne.
37
38 Q. Or Wayne?
39 A. Yes.
40
41 Q. So did you ever bother to contact Wayne to get a
42 follow-up as to whether it was continuing or not?
43 A. Not purposely, no. I talked - spoke to him, used to
44 talk to him, but it was never mentioned again.
45
46 Q. So you waited for him or another staff member to
47 mention it to you?

1 A. Yes, or - yes.
2
3 Q. But before you would do something about it?
4 A. Mm.
5
6 Q. Can I ask, Mr Parks, why it needed Wayne McKenna or
7 somebody else to have this matter raised twice with you,
8 why wasn't once enough?
9 A. Well, I thought if I went and spoke to Dennis about
10 it, that maybe he'd realise that, you know, that he was
11 being - well, caught out, perhaps you could put it. I
12 don't know.
13
14 HIS HONOUR: I don't understand that comment.
15
16 Q. Do you say you spoke to Dennis, you thought Dennis
17 might think he's caught out? What do you --
18 A. Yes.
19
20 Q. What do you mean by that?
21 A. Well, I thought by me mentioning it to him, that he
22 might realise that someone was sort of querying the health
23 of the boy and he would back off and drop - drop the idea.
24
25 MR URQUHART: Q. But you said to us a moment ago that
26 when Dennis McKenna asked you, "Has someone been talking?",
27 you said, "No"?
28 A. That's right.
29
30 Q. Well, wouldn't it have been better to have said, "Yes,
31 someone is talking about this" --
32 A. Well, as it turns out now, yes, but at the time it
33 never crossed my mind to agree.
34
35 Q. See, if he's mistreating this student in any way, he's
36 hardly going to admit it to you, is he?
37 A. He wouldn't admit it --
38
39 Q. Yes.
40 A. -- but he might, because I spoke to him, he might back
41 off.
42
43 Q. Don't you think you had a responsibility to
44 investigate this further?
45 A. As it turns out now, yes.
46
47 Q. No, what about back then though?

1 A. Well, I didn't think of it. It didn't seem serious
2 enough.
3
4 Q. Can you recall what happened to this student?
5 A. No.
6
7 Q. Do you recall whether or not he might have been a
8 student that had been - or that Mr McKenna wanted expelled
9 from the hostel?
10 A. I don't recall whether he was expelled or what
11 happened to him.
12
13 MR URQUHART: I'm just going to show you some minutes of a
14 Board meeting and a Warden Report. Sir, these are
15 exhibits - I think it will be exhibit 28 - 0417 is the
16 barcode. I want to make sure, sir, before anything's
17 placed up on the document examiner, that someone's name has
18 been removed or blacked out. I understand we were going to
19 make those arrangements. If not, I have a black pen here,
20 and we can take care of it.
21
22 HIS HONOUR: Now, do you want the witness to see the name
23 though, without mentioning it?
24
25 MR URQUHART: Yes, I do want the witness to be shown an
26 unredacted copy.
27
28 HIS HONOUR: Yes.
29
30 MR URQUHART: If I can just check with Madam Associate -
31 it hasn't been put up. Okay. So do we have some copies
32 then of that exhibit? There should be two-paged Minutes,
33 and the Warden's Report, part of exhibit 28.
34
35 ASSOCIATE: Yes, it is 28, that's correct, but I don't
36 have any copies of it.
37
38 MR URQUHART: You don't have copies. No copies at all?
39
40 ASSOCIATE: No.
41
42 HIS HONOUR: Do you want to move on to something else
43 while some copies are obtained?
44
45 MR URQUHART: I think we can do it this way, sir. It
46 shouldn't take too long.
47

1 HIS HONOUR: All right.
2
3 MR URQUHART: Whilst that's being done, Mr Parks, I'm just
4 going to show you some documents now. It's Minutes of a
5 Board Meeting from 20 July 1983, which is exhibit 28, and a
6 Warden's Report of 20 July 1983, which is exhibit 29.
7
8 Q. And I would just like you to have a look and just read
9 to yourself the highlighted portions on those two
10 documents, but not to mention any names, if that's all
11 right?
12 A. Mm-hmm.
13
14 Q. Thank you. It might be best if you have a look at the
15 Warden's Report first, and then see what the Board decided
16 to do. So it's the third document there. Pass it over to
17 the third document. It is the third one, thank you. Have
18 a look there.
19 A. Yes.
20
21 Q. You can see that you are, according to the Minutes -
22 you were present at the meeting on 20 July 1983. All
23 right?
24 A. Yes.
25
26 Q. Now, we are not going to mention the boy's name whose
27 surname begins with "S", okay?
28 A. Yes, yes.
29
30 Q. But you know who I'm talking about there. He was in
31 Year 10?
32 A. Yes.
33
34 Q. And was causing problems according to Dennis McKenna?
35 A. Yes.
36
37 Q. And that it was then resolved on the motion of Mr
38 Wilkinson, seconded by Mr Harris, that the boys, and there
39 was another boy's name mentioned:
40
41 And "S" will have to leave. Parents to be
42 advised accordingly.
43
44 Do you see that?
45 A. Yes.
46
47 Q. Okay. Now, I don't want you to mention "S"s --

1 A. Name.
2
3 Q. -- name, okay, but I just want to ask you whether that
4 may jog your memory as to the name of the boy Wayne McKenna
5 mentioned to you when he made this late night phone call to
6 you?
7 A. It could be. I'm pretty sure it could be.
8
9 Q. And why --
10 A. I'm not certain of it, and I'm --
11
12 Q. It does sound --
13 A. It sounds very much like it.
14
15 Q. Okay. See that boy "S", he was at the hostel in 1982
16 and 1983.
17 A. Yes.
18
19 Q. And he began after first term started in 1982.
20 A. Mm-hmm.
21
22 Q. And it may well be that he did have some learning
23 difficulties.
24 A. Yes.
25
26 Q. All right.
27 A. I only remember the one student coming in under those
28 terms.
29
30 Q. You do. Okay.
31 A. Yes.
32
33 Q. "S" has also made a statement to the Inquiry just this
34 year alleging that he had been sexually abused by Dennis
35 McKenna whilst he was at the hostel. Okay. So you can't
36 say for certain whether that surname was the one mentioned
37 by --
38 A. No, I can't, no.
39
40 Q. -- Wayne, but it rings a bell?
41 A. It rings a bell.
42
43 Q. Okay.
44 A. The circumstances of him being there rings a bell.
45
46 Q. Okay. Thank you. We can hand that back now to Madam
47 Associate. Thank you for that. Now, you've told us about

1 the fact that you don't recall Mr Parkin speaking to you
2 over the phone and saying that Dennis McKenna had been
3 sexually interfering with boys?
4 A. That's right.
5
6 Q. But you do know that a Mr David Trezise is saying
7 something - has said something about what he said to you?
8 A. That's right.
9
10 Q. You know Mr Trezise, do you?
11 A. Yes.
12
13 Q. And you've known him for a number of years?
14 A. Yes.
15
16 Q. And is that through the fact that you both live near
17 each other, or how?
18 A. No, whats-a-name - his parents live next door to us.
19
20 Q. I see. And as I understand it, Mr Trezise - from what
21 you've told investigators who interviewed you recently,
22 from the Inquiry, that you accepted Mr Trezise's help, you
23 constructed a dam catchment --
24 A. Yes.
25
26 Q. -- on your property. And that I think you've actually
27 noted in your diary that that was in April 1986?
28 A. Yes.
29
30 Q. Am I right in saying that you were aware that he had a
31 dispute with the Board at that time regarding payment of
32 his daughter's fees at the hostel?
33 A. Yes.
34
35 Q. And he distinctly recalls you and he had a discussion
36 whilst he was constructing that dam catchment, whilst he
37 was sitting on the grader, in the driver's seat, and that
38 you had climbed onto it, and you and he then had a
39 discussion?
40 A. I don't remember even getting on the grader.
41
42 Q. Okay. I'll just remind you what it was he says, okay.
43 A. Yes.
44
45 Q. It's at page 544, sir, of the transcript. He was
46 asked at line 9 on that page:
47

1 Q. Can you recall a specific occasion
2 that you raised this with Mr Parks?
3 A. Yes, some time after that, I'm not
4 sure exactly the year or time. Mr Parks
5 might be able to enlighten you, but I was
6 constructing a dam catchment on his
7 property and he jumped up on the grader and
8 we discussed the catchment, and after we'd
9 spoken about that I reminded him of our
10 discussion.

11
12 Q. Can you recall what you said to him?
13 A. Yes, that John Jolly gave me that
14 information and he should --

15
16 Q. Did you tell Mr Parks what that
17 information was?
18 A. Yes, yes, I told him, you know, that
19 McKenna was fiddling with boys, and I
20 trusted John implicitly and that either
21 they just had - they'd had letters or were
22 getting letters from us, and there was also
23 a mention of that in the letters which was
24 referring to Bill McPharlin's letter.

25
26 Q. Can you recall Mr Parks' response to
27 that?
28 A. He didn't really respond. I got the
29 impression that they had closed ranks and
30 they weren't going to talk about it.

31
32 Okay. What do you say about that account of the
33 conversation he had with you?

34 A. I don't remember it. I don't remember it at all. I
35 know he was there, because it was written in my diary. I
36 wouldn't have remembered otherwise.

37
38 Q. Yes. Are you saying he might well have had this
39 conversation with you and you can't remember?

40 A. No. I won't deny he didn't do it, but I just don't
41 remember the conversation.

42
43 Q. You see, if he had told you something like that - bear
44 in mind 1986, whilst you weren't Chairman, you were still a
45 Board member - what do you think you should have done with
46 that information?

47 A. Well, I would have spoke to a Board member at least.

1
2 Q. Can you recall whether you spoke to a Board member?
3 A. No, I don't remember the conversation.
4
5 Q. No. But from what you've told us, you'd already been
6 aware of something that had already been raised, it would
7 seem, at the Board, about Dennis McKenna sexually
8 interfering with boys?
9 A. Not that I can recall.
10
11 Q. You told --
12 A. I don't remember the - no, I just don't remember -
13 recall Dennis being accused of interfering with boys.
14
15 Q. So you don't --
16 A. Don't remember it.
17
18 Q. You don't remember Ms Trezise telling you that?
19 A. No.
20
21 Q. Yes. But you'd already received this information by
22 this stage, hadn't you? You've been telling us about it a
23 little earlier, before we had the break.
24
25 HIS HONOUR: In reference to the Parkin thing.
26
27 MR URQUHART: Yes.
28
29 HIS HONOUR: Yes.
30
31 MR URQUHART: Q. In reference to the Parkin thing, you
32 were - you became aware that what was being alleged by Mr
33 Parkin was that Dennis McKenna was sexually interfering
34 with boys?
35 A. Yes, we heard that --
36
37 Q. Yes.
38 A. -- yes, from Dennis, through a Board meeting.
39
40 Q. Yes.
41 A. Yes.
42
43 Q. So now according to Mr Trezise's recollection, he's
44 told you about something similar.
45 A. Mm-hmm, yes.
46
47 Q. Yes.

1 A. And I don't - I don't remember him - that conversation
2 at all.
3
4 Q. You see, I'm going to suggest to you that given what
5 you've told us about what you believe of the allegations
6 being made by Mr Parkin, that if Mr Trezise said something
7 along similar lines to you, you - you would not have
8 believed him either?
9 A. No, if I (indistinct) I would have - if I'd remembered
10 I would have taken it further.
11
12 Q. You might have or you would have?
13 A. I think I would have.
14
15 Q. Well --
16 A. But I don't remember the conversation or doing
17 anything about it.
18
19 Q. So when you say "taking it further", raising it as an
20 agenda item at a Board meeting?
21 A. Well, that's what I would have done, yes.
22
23 Q. And the Board meetings that we've got, there was never
24 anything raised about Mr Trezise saying something to you
25 about Dennis McKenna fiddling with boys?
26 A. No, I don't remember the conversation taking place.
27
28 Q. Okay. He also mentions the fact that he refers to a
29 letter by Bill McPharlin. Do you know who Bill McPharlin
30 is?
31 A. Yes, I knew Bill McPharlin.
32
33 Q. Did you know him as --
34 A. Yes.
35
36 Q. I think he had stepsons at the school?
37 A. Yes, yes.
38
39 Q. And his partner was Glenys Franklin?
40 A. Flanigan.
41
42 Q. Flanigan, sorry, yes. Thanks for correcting me. So
43 you knew Mr McPharlin and Ms Flanigan?
44 A. Yes.
45
46 Q. I'm just going to show you now exhibit 8, which is
47 barcode 0299. Can we get that up on the screen, Madam

1 Associate. Have you finished reading that?
2 A. Yes.
3
4 Q. And I'll just explain for the transcript, it's
5 exhibit 8, which is a handwritten letter by Mr McPharlin
6 and Ms Flanigan dated 22 August 1985. Can you recall at
7 the time when you were a Board member, ever seeing a copy
8 of that letter?
9 A. No, no.
10
11 Q. Might have you been shown it, you just simply can't
12 remember now?
13 A. I can't remember ever seeing this letter --
14
15 Q. Okay.
16 A. -- or a copy.
17
18 Q. I'm going to suggest it appeared to have been before
19 the Board some time in 1986. Okay. I just want to take
20 you to what the last sentence reads there:
21
22 The children were removed because they both
23 complained of suspicious suggestions made
24 to them by the housemaster, one Dennis
25 McKenna.
26
27 A. Mmm-hmm.
28
29 Q. I know you can't recall seeing that letter whilst you
30 were a Board member, but can I ask you if the Board did
31 have a copy of that letter in front of them in the mid
32 1980s, what do you believe it should have done, if
33 anything, in relation to that last sentence?
34 A. I don't know. I thought they'd taken their children
35 out just because of Lake Grace School --
36
37 Q. Yes, okay.
38 A. -- and the bus ran there, and they just removed their
39 kids to send them up there. There was - to my mind, I just
40 don't remember this ever coming up in a meeting.
41
42 Q. All right. I know that. You've already said that,
43 but had that correspondence been before the Board, making
44 an allegation that the children were removed because they
45 both complained of suspicious suggestions made to them by
46 the housemaster, Dennis McKenna, do you think that --
47 A. Well, it would have - I would say the Board would have

1 notified the Hostel Authority about his actions, what's
2 been - you know, the accusation.
3
4 Q. And do you believe that's all the Board needed to do?
5 A. Well, I would say that's probably what it would have
6 done, yes.
7
8 Q. And you don't believe it was necessary for the Board
9 to undertake its own inquiries or investigations?
10 A. Well, they may have, yes.
11
12 Q. And what should of they involved?
13 A. We would have had to find out who the parents were.
14
15 Q. Well, you knew that. They were Mr McPharlin and Ms
16 Flanigan?
17 A. Yes, well, I don't remember this letter ever coming up
18 in a meeting.
19
20 Q. I'm just - I'm just making the assumption that the
21 Board did have a copy of that letter. I'm just asking you
22 what do you think the Board should have done? You
23 mentioned refer it to the Authority.
24 A. Well, they would have had to tell the Authority just
25 what was being said.
26
27 Q. Yes.
28 A. And ask them to check it out, or the Authority would
29 have given the Board the order to check it out.
30
31 Q. Okay. So you say it was up to the Authority to decide
32 what the manner of investigation should be?
33 A. Yes.
34
35 Q. And you believe the Board need have only undertaken
36 its own inquiries or investigations if the Authority asked
37 it to do that?
38 A. Well, I'd say they would - would have done it under
39 instructions from the Authority.
40
41 Q. Sorry?
42 A. Under the instructions from the Authority they would
43 have done it.
44
45 Q. But you say the Board had to wait for instructions
46 from the authority before --
47 A. Well, they would have referred it to the Authority

1 first up --
2
3 Q. Yes.
4 A. -- and then taken it from there.
5
6 Q. So you don't think that the Board should undertake its
7 own investigations and then prepare a report for the
8 authority?
9 A. Well, they didn't work that way, no.
10
11 Q. I know you say it didn't work that way, I just want to
12 know how it was that you thought that that was the process?
13 You've said earlier that you've been --
14 A. Well, it seemed to be the process from day one when I
15 was there.
16
17 Q. All right. You can hand that back, thanks, Mr Parks.
18 Can I ask you something about whether you recall a family
19 at the hostel, when you were a Board member, who had twin
20 boys?
21 A. Yes.
22
23 Q. And do you recall something that was brought to your
24 attention regarding those twin boys?
25 A. I heard from the grapevine that the "P" family
26 were upset over something, no idea what it was. So --
27
28 Q. Is it the "P" family?
29 A. I think it is.
30
31 Q. Right. Did they have twin boys at the hostel?
32 A. Yes.
33
34 Q. Yes. And can you recall when this came up,
35 approximately?
36 A. In '86 I'm pretty sure; towards the end of '86.
37
38 Q. And so what did you hear on the grapevine?
39 A. That they were upset over something, I don't know
40 what. So I went to the - and I went to the hostel. I
41 approached Dennis. He was with the representative from the
42 Authority at the back of the dining room, talking. And I
43 asked him if he heard anything, and he said, "No", he
44 hadn't, "all was fine". And the next day I got a phone
45 call.
46
47 Q. Before we go there --

1 A. Yes.
2
3 Q. -- I will ask you about the phone call. Now, just
4 stay there with who Dennis McKenna was with. You said it
5 was someone from the Authority ?
6 A. The representative from the Authority.
7
8 Q. Was it Mr Philpott?
9 A. No, no, the other chap.
10
11 Q. Was it the other chap who would come to meetings from
12 time to time?
13 A. No, he'd visit the hostel from time to time, not come
14 to meetings.
15
16 Q. Didn't come to meetings. Sorry, chap who, in his 30s,
17 slim build --
18 A. Yes, yes.
19
20 Q. -- who would come to the hostel? So Mr McKenna was
21 with him?
22 A. Yes.
23
24 Q. And when you said you asked Mr McKenna whether he
25 heard anything, did you say - did you refer to the "P"
26 boys?
27 A. Yes, yes.
28
29 Q. And he said, "No, everything's fine"?
30 A. Yes.
31
32 Q. And was that the extent of the conversation?
33 A. That was it, because I was intruding on their private
34 conversation, so I left.
35
36 Q. Have you seen Mr McKenna with that gentleman before,
37 on other occasions?
38 A. Yes, yes.
39
40 Q. How did they seem to get on with each other?
41 A. They seemed to get on reasonably well.
42
43 Q. You were about to say something that happened the next
44 day?
45 A. Yes, I received a phone call - I think it was from the
46 Chairman of the ICPA.
47

1 Q. Which stands for?
2 A. Isolated Parents and Children's Association.
3
4 Q. Right.
5 A. And he threatened me with taking me to court.
6
7 Q. About what?
8 A. That's what I never ever found out. Whats-a-name told
9 me that he was thinking of taking me to court for what I
10 had said and done, and never told - wouldn't tell me what
11 it was. He just went on and on and in the end I said to
12 him, "Hang on a minute, I didn't say anything, I just asked
13 Dennis, and I have a witness", and he just ended the
14 conversation by saying that he - whats-a-name, just watch
15 what I said in the future or did in the future, and hung
16 up.
17
18 Q. So what sort of telephone call was it? What was --
19 A. Very sharp.
20
21 Q. So you said you didn't know what - what it was that he
22 was accusing you of saying or doing?
23 A. That's right.
24
25 Q. Did it have something to do with your - did you find
26 it had something to do with your conversation with Dennis
27 McKenna the previous day?
28 A. Well, for him to ring up like he did, it would have
29 had to have been, because how else would he have found out.
30
31 Q. But did he mention what it was about?
32 A. No. That's the strange bit of it.
33
34 Q. I know it's a long time ago, but was it as general as
35 you've just described it now?
36 A. Yes. He accused me of whats-a-name, saying or doing
37 something, but he didn't say what; just said if I did it
38 again, look out, sort of thing.
39
40 Q. And why did you think it had to do with a conversation
41 you had with Dennis McKenna the previous day?
42 A. Well, who else - I hadn't spoken to the "P" family or
43 about them, how else did they get hold of it, so they
44 assumed it was Dennis.
45
46 Q. How did you know it was to do with what the parents of
47 the twin boys were upset about?

1 A. He told me.
2
3 Q. He --
4 A. He said that - what I'd said about the "P" family.
5
6 Q. I see. So this person, who was the Chairman of the --
7 A. Hostel, the ICPA.
8
9 Q. -- the ICPA, told you that?
10 A. Yes.
11
12 Q. I see. So you did know it was to do with this matter,
13 the "P" matter?
14 A. Yes.
15
16 Q. Had you ever had dealings with this person before?
17 A. No.
18
19 Q. Or since?
20 A. Since I've met him, yes.
21
22 Q. All right.
23 A. Barry Walsh, I think it was. Yes, a meeting through
24 Landcare, years after.
25
26 Q. And how did you know it was the same Barry Walsh?
27 A. I didn't.
28
29 Q. I see.
30 A. No, I found out that Barry Walsh was the Chairman of
31 the ICPA, but that was after.
32
33 Q. And did you ever speak to him about this telephone
34 call?
35 A. No, no, because I didn't meet him until years after.
36
37 Q. And what was your reaction after you finished this
38 telephone call with this man?
39 A. Angry.
40
41 Q. Right.
42 A. Upset, yes. Didn't like it at all.
43
44 Q. Did you investigate this matter further, about what
45 the parents of the twin boys were upset about?
46 A. No.
47

1 Q. Can I ask why not?
2 A. I just didn't do it. I was upset, and I - whats-a-name,
3 Dennis, was on the outer as far as we were concerned or I
4 was concerned, and that was it.
5
6 Q. Did it have anything to do with this phone call that
7 you got, that you didn't take the matter any further?
8 A. From the ICPA?
9
10 Q. Yes.
11 A. No, no.
12
13 Q. And, finally, with respect to anything you'd heard
14 that was of a negative nature about Dennis McKenna, can you
15 recall of something happening at the Tambellup Hotel?
16 A. Yes, a young lad was there. I came in for a Lion's
17 meeting, running late.
18
19 Q. Do you recall when this was about? What time or what
20 year rather, roughly?
21 A. No, I couldn't tell you. It would have to be '85,
22 possibly thereabouts.
23
24 Q. Okay.
25 A. And he was there with the shearers, and they were just
26 leaving and whats-a-name - and he stopped and asked me if I
27 was Steven Parks' dad, and I said, "Yes", and he said, "Are
28 you still on the Board?", and I said, "Yes", and he said,
29 "Is that McKenna - is that bastard McKenna still there?"
30 And I said, "Yes", and he said - I don't know what he
31 actually said after that, but he said something and went
32 out the door.
33
34 Q. So you never had an opportunity of finding out --
35 A. No. I often wished I'd ignored the Lion's meeting and
36 chased it up a bit further.
37
38 Q. And you wished that subsequent to Dennis McKenna --
39 A. Well, I --
40
41 Q. -- being charged; is that right - or even before that?
42 A. Just gather some further information from the lad.
43
44 Q. Yes. Now, did one of your sons say to you who this
45 boy actually was, or this man was, or what's happened to
46 him?
47 A. He did. Well, he didn't know for sure. I explained

1 the lad to him, and he said he was pretty sure it was a
2 certain lad.
3
4 Q. Yes.
5 A. And I couldn't tell you the lad's name, but I know he
6 was - had a freckly face and was thickset.
7
8 Q. And are you aware from your son and from your own
9 knowledge that, in fact, he was - he died in a car
10 accident?
11 A. Yes, from what Nigel said.
12
13 Q. That's Nigel, your son?
14 A. Yes.
15
16 Q. Right. And there was - there were actually two
17 ex-students from the hostel involved in that accident?
18 A. As far as I know.
19
20 Q. And they both died?
21 A. Yes.
22
23 Q. If I was to say these two names to you, would you be
24 able to recall if --
25 A. No, I wouldn't.
26
27 Q. Robert Barratt?
28 A. I remember the name.
29
30 Q. Richard Sewell?
31 A. Yes, I remember him too.
32
33 Q. Right.
34 A. The names.
35
36 Q. The names?
37 A. I can't place the boys, but I remember the names.
38
39 Q. So you don't know whether it was one of those two boys
40 who spoke to you?
41 A. No, I couldn't tell you.
42
43 Q. Now, Mr Parks, can I just ask you this - had a boy - I
44 want your view on this. Had a boy at the hostel and his
45 parents complained to the high school principal that Dennis
46 McKenna had sexually abused the boy, would have you
47 expected this to be an item on the Board's next meeting?

1 A. Yes, it was mentioned at the meeting.
2
3 Q. It should have been mentioned at the meeting?
4 A. It was.
5
6 Q. It was?
7 A. Yes.
8
9 Q. Are you referring to a meeting that occurred after
10 Dennis McKenna was charged?
11 A. No, this was before, yes. It would be '89 - no, it
12 would be late '90 before he was charged.
13
14 Q. Before he was charged?
15 A. Yes.
16
17 Q. Sorry. Are you actually aware that that was discussed
18 at a --
19 A. Yes.
20
21 Q. -- at a meeting?
22 A. Well, we were told first of all by Dennis that there
23 was a student over at - causing problems at the high
24 school.
25
26 Q. Yes.
27
28 A. And that was it. And then later Todd Jefferis's name
29 was mentioned.
30
31 Q. Yes. When you say "later", do you mean later at the
32 meeting?
33 A. No, I think it was next meeting. A month or so later,
34 month later.
35
36 Q. All right. Well, we do know that Mr Jefferis and
37 first his mum and then his stepmother and his father made a
38 complaint to, firstly, Mr Murray, the high school
39 principal, and then to Mr Addis, who was the then Chairman
40 of the hostel, and that was in the first week of August
41 1990.
42 A. Mm-hmm.
43
44 Q. Okay. Now, I'm looking at the minutes - and I can
45 show them to you - for the Minutes of the meeting of the
46 Board on Thursday, 23 August 1990, and there's no mention
47 of this matter involving Todd Jefferis's complaint.

1 A. No, we were told about it by Dennis, but that was all.
2
3 Q. Do you think that should have been recorded in
4 the minutes?
5 A. Yes, it should have been.
6
7 Q. And I'm also looking at the next Minutes of the
8 meetings, 27 September 1990, and once more there's no
9 mention in the Minutes regarding that matter?
10 A. There should have been.
11
12 Q. Do you recall the matter being discussed at one or
13 both of those - actually, both of those meetings?
14 A. It was. It was brought up at both meetings. The
15 second meeting was when - when we learnt it was actually
16 Todd Jefferis.
17
18 Q. I see. And when you say "the second meeting", do you
19 recall that as - does that second meeting stand out in your
20 mind as to what happened during the course of it?
21 Something happened to Dennis McKenna during the course of
22 that second meeting?
23 A. No, I don't recall.
24
25 Q. Okay. Do you recall being at a meeting when he was
26 removed or taken out?
27 A. Arrested?
28
29 Q. Yes.
30 A. Yes.
31
32 Q. Yes.
33 A. Yes, that was at Reidy House.
34
35 Q. Yes.
36 A. Not at the hostel.
37
38 Q. No, no. Is that at one of those two meetings in which
39 Todd Jefferis's name was mentioned?
40 A. Yes.
41
42 Q. Can I ask you this - was it normally the job of the
43 Secretary to record the minutes, to take notes of --
44 A. Yes.
45
46 Q. -- what was being said?
47 A. Yes.

1
2 Q. Was that normally the position?
3 A. That was normally the position, yes.
4
5 Q. After that meeting which Dennis McKenna had to leave
6 by the invitation of the police, do you recall seeing him
7 after that meeting had finished?
8 A. Yes, when the meeting finished the Board members
9 walked outside. We wondered what was going on, and as a
10 group we walked out of the meeting and Dennis came across
11 from the police station across the street and told us he'd
12 been arrested.
13
14 Q. And did he say what for?
15 A. Yes, paedophilia, he was a paedophile.
16
17 Q. And what was your reaction to that?
18 A. Surprised. Very surprised.
19
20 Q. But why? Why were you surprised, given the fact that
21 you had received information years earlier about that?
22 A. Well, it surprised us because of whatsaname - well, I
23 don't really know. It just surprised us that he'd been
24 picked up.
25
26 Q. Did you believe it?
27 A. I didn't know --
28
29 Q. Did you believe that the charges were true?
30 A. I didn't know whether to believe it or not?
31
32 Q. Well, you - and I know, I know it's difficult now,
33 because we know he has been convicted --
34 A. Yes.
35
36 Q. -- of a number of offences, but I suggest to you that
37 back then you didn't believe it because you were quite
38 prepared to be a character witness for him at his trial the
39 following year?
40 A. It wasn't Dennis I was worried about at that stage, it
41 was the hostel, the name. The students were being expected
42 to go from the hostel over to the high school and study as
43 though nothing was going on, and all this material was
44 being printed, and the hostel was being ripped to pieces,
45 you could say.
46
47 Q. So you were concerned about the reputation of the

1 hostel?
2 A. The hostel more than anything, yes.
3
4 Q. Getting back to my original question: I'm going to
5 suggest to you that you didn't actually believe the
6 allegations when you first heard of them?
7 A. Well, I was probably hoping that they weren't --
8
9 Q. What position - can you recall what position the Board
10 took regarding Dennis McKenna after he was charged?
11 A. Well, we - whats-a-name, we - I got home and the wife
12 took a phone call to say there was a Special Meeting that
13 night at Ian Murray's, and - at 8 o'clock, and I went back
14 to Nyabing, and then went with Garth Addis to the meeting.
15
16 Q. Right. And was Dennis McKenna at that meeting?
17 A. Yes.
18
19 Q. And what was determined at that meeting?
20 A. Well, whats-a-name - we were told that Dennis would -
21 Dennis wasn't allowed back to the hostel without a police
22 escort, and that he was going back the next morning to get
23 some of his clothes and gear, and I suggested that the
24 first thing we had to do was to ring Colin Philpott, and
25 let Colin know.
26
27 Q. And was that done?
28 A. Yes. Ian Murray and one of the other members went and
29 rang Colin Philpott.
30
31 Q. And can you recall where Dennis McKenna stayed that
32 night?
33 A. Yes, he stayed with Ian Murray.
34
35 Q. Did you or Mr Addis or Mr Murray offer any support to
36 Dennis McKenna on that night?
37 A. Well, he offered to put him up for the night.
38
39 Q. Yes. But what about support of a more general nature?
40 A. No, I don't think so, no. I don't - don't remember.
41
42 Q. Do you remember an Extraordinary Meeting a proper
43 Extraordinary Meeting with all the Board members, taking
44 place on 15 October, so about nearly three weeks after
45 Dennis McKenna was charged?
46 A. There was a public - well, a parent meeting.
47

1 Q. Right.
2 A. And myself, Garth Addis and Colin Philpott attended
3 that as a group. I don't know who else from the Board was
4 there, but there were others there in the audience.
5
6 Q. I see. All right. But I'm going to ask you about
7 whether there was another meeting held, and I might just
8 show you a document that's barcoded number 0062, which is
9 the minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting of the Board which
10 was held at St Andrew's on Monday, 16 October 1990, okay.
11 Now, does that jog your memory?
12 A. Yes.
13
14 Q. Was that separate to that other meeting you mentioned
15 a moment ago?
16 A. It had to be.
17
18 Q. Yes. So - and you're down as an attendee?
19 A. Yes.
20
21 Q. Together with Mr Addis and other Board members, and
22 also the visitors, Mr C Philpott and Mr R Cairnes?
23 A. Yes.
24
25 Q. And we can see from the "General Business" that it was
26 to do with what's been described as "The D McKenna affair".
27 I just want to go down to the fourth paragraph there.
28 Paragraph 1 of "General Business":
29
30 After an expression of opinion of Board
31 members, the matter was left in the hands
32 of the CHSHA to make a final decision.
33
34 Can you recall what the expression of opinion was by the
35 Board members?
36 A. I don't remember, but it says here the Board expressed
37 its complete support for Mr Dennis McKenna.
38
39 Q. And, indeed, is that your recollection of the attitude
40 the Board took?
41 A. I assume - I can only assume it did. I don't
42 remember.
43
44 Q. Okay.
45 A. No.
46
47 Q. Mr Parks, were you aware at this stage that the

1 student that Dennis McKenna had been charged with sexually
2 interfering was actual Michael Hilder?

3 A. No.

4
5 Q. When did you subsequently find out?

6 A. Not - not long after that he - that he was - like
7 released.

8
9 Q. I see.

10 A. Yes. I can't - no, I can't recall whether it was at
11 the meeting at Ian Murray's, or when it was.

12
13 MR URQUHART: Okay. I tender that document, please, sir.

14
15 **EXHIBIT #48 MINUTES OF EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE ST**
16 **ANDREW'S HOSTEL BOARD HELD ON MONDAY, 16/10/1990, BARCODED**
17 **0062**

18
19 MR URQUHART: Q. Can you recall what - you've told us
20 that you said there that the Board expressed its complete
21 support of Dennis McKenna. Do you recall what the position
22 that was taken by the Authority was at that stage?

23 A. I think the Authority was supporting him.

24
25 Q. Now, can you recall who the acting warden who replaced
26 Dennis McKenna?

27 A. Yes, Neil McKenna.

28
29 Q. How did he come to be appointed?

30 A. Well, the - the Board met with Colin Philpott after
31 the parent meeting, and we wanted the Hostel Authority to
32 transfer someone else in, out of the system.

33
34 Q. Yes.

35 A. They said they had no one that they could transfer in,
36 and we talked about it for quite a while, and then we had
37 to look closer to home, and the only one we had at that
38 time who had already ran the - held the - line, that second
39 position, was Neil McKenna, so he was - he was put in --

40
41 Q. And do you --

42 A. -- which wasn't a good decision.

43
44 Q. No. Well, can I ask you first: whose decision was it?

45 A. The Board's, and Colin Philpott.

46
47 Q. And you agree it wasn't a good decision?

1 A. Yes. Well --
2
3 Q. Yes. It's --
4 A. -- but there was no one else.
5
6 Q. And why do you say it wasn't a good decision?
7 A. Well, it was an obvious - the whats-a-name, McKenna
8 name, wasn't popular with a lot of people.
9
10 Q. Yes. So did you press the Authority when they said
11 they didn't have anybody else to replace him from outside?
12 A. Yes, we did. We talked about it for quite a bit, and
13 they just had no one on their books they could send in or
14 take from another hostel. I feel they could have, but it
15 didn't happen.
16
17 Q. Can you recall who it was who suggested then the name
18 of Neil McKenna?
19 A. No, I couldn't tell you.
20
21 Q. Do you recall who it was who replaced Neil McKenna the
22 following year?
23 A. No.
24
25 Q. See, on 10 September 1991 - so this is in the last
26 few months of you being a Board member - we know that a Con
27 Burro was appointed. Does that ring a bell?
28 A. Yes, he had a motorbike.
29
30 Q. Okay. And so can you recall how he was appointed?
31 A. No, no.
32
33 Q. And now that I've told you who the name was, do you
34 think he was an appropriate replacement for Neil McKenna?
35 A. I don't really know.
36
37 Q. You don't know him?
38 A. No, I don't know whether he was a suitable
39 replacement.
40
41 Q. Well, were you aware that he was the very next person
42 after you gave evidence at Dennis McKenna's trial, that he
43 was the very next person who gave good character evidence
44 for Dennis McKenna?
45 A. No.
46
47 Q. You don't?

1 A. No, because when I was excused from the court, I went
2 straight home.
3
4 Q. All right.
5 A. Drove back to Pingrup.
6
7 Q. I gather you may well have walked past each other, but
8 never mind. But now that I've told you that, do you think
9 he was a suitable replacement because - bearing in mind
10 this is just three months after Dennis McKenna had been
11 convicted?
12 A. Well, I think at that stage anyone would have been
13 suitable.
14
15 Q. You don't think he's still too close to the McKenna
16 name?
17 A. No, I never - I never knew he was that close.
18
19 Q. Okay. Following Dennis McKenna's convictions, can you
20 recall whether the Board made any attempt to see if there
21 were other students who had been sexually abused by him?
22 A. Not that I can recall.
23
24 Q. Are you aware that there was a separate dwelling on
25 the hostel grounds for the warden?
26 A. Yes.
27
28 Q. Are you aware that Dennis McKenna never stayed in
29 that dwelling whilst he was warden?
30 A. Yes.
31
32 Q. Did you ever question him about that?
33 A. No, no, because Wayne - Wayne stayed there with his
34 wife and two children. She had the second one while they
35 were there.
36
37 Q. Yes.
38 A. Yes.
39
40 Q. After Wayne left though?
41 A. And then Wayne left and Neil and Wendy went and lived
42 there.
43
44 Q. Given what we've gone through now, Mr Parks - this is
45 my last question about all the information you had gathered
46 regarding Dennis McKenna over all those years that you were
47 a Board member - do you think now that you should have done

1 more --
2 A. Yes.
3
4 Q. -- in investigating what he was up to?
5 A. Yes, I do.
6
7 Q. And are you saying that now with the - obviously with
8 the advantage of hindsight?
9 A. Probably.
10
11 Q. But it didn't cross your mind at the time --
12 A. No.
13
14 Q. -- that some further inquiries ought to have been
15 undertaken?
16 A. No.
17
18 Q. Do you have any explanation for that?
19 A. Not really, no.
20
21 Q. Was it the case that you just simply believed that
22 Dennis McKenna would never do something like this?
23 A. Well, we didn't expect it.
24
25 Q. Right. So is that the reason?
26 A. Yes, didn't expect --
27
28 Q. This was something --
29 A. -- because the hostel - everything seemed to be
30 running so well, that it was something you wouldn't
31 suspect.
32
33 MR URQUHART: Thank you. Thank you, Mr Parks.
34
35 HIS HONOUR: Now, Mr Hammond, have you got questions?
36
37 MR HAMMOND: Yes, just a few questions, your Honour.
38
39 <CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR HAMMOND:
40
41 MR HAMMOND: Q. Mr Parks, had you served on boards
42 previously to serving on the hostel Board?
43 A. No.
44
45 Q. So you had no previous experience elsewhere as a Board
46 member?
47 A. No.

1
2 Q. And you made comment to Mr Urquhart that the media was
3 pulling the hostel apart - this was at the time, I imagine
4 that Dennis was charged?
5 A. Yes, yes.
6
7 Q. You still - and you went to the trial of Dennis
8 McKenna after he had been convicted, to give character
9 evidence?
10 A. Yes.
11
12 Q. Is it the case that even at that point that you gave
13 the character evidence, you still didn't believe that Mr
14 McKenna was guilty?
15 A. I was doubtful.
16
17 Q. Even after the conviction?
18 A. No, after he was convicted - whats-a-name, I come to
19 believe it.
20
21 Q. At the time he was charged and notwithstanding all
22 those incidents that Mr Urquhart has taken you through, you
23 were doubtful as to his guilt?
24 A. Yes.
25
26 Q. And in relation to your son Todd, who you described as
27 being a scapegoat for the hostel, was that something you
28 were prepared to allow that to happen for the good of the
29 hostel, that he be a scapegoat?
30 A. No, I wouldn't have wanted him to be, but I reckon he
31 was.
32
33 Q. And you thought he was even at the time of the
34 incident involving your son, Todd?
35 A. Mm.
36
37 Q. Did you serve on the Board with someone called Mr
38 Satchell Peacock?
39 A. Yes.
40
41 Q. And do you remember Mr Peacock being asked to go to
42 the hostel and check up on Mr McKenna at night?
43 A. No.
44
45 Q. That was never raised with you?
46 A. No, not that I can remember.
47

1 Q. Is it possible it was raised with you and you've now
2 forgotten?
3 A. I can't - can't answer that, I'm sorry.
4
5 Q. But it would be quite incredible if you've forgotten
6 that, wouldn't it - that someone from the Board's being
7 asked to go to the hostel and check up on Mr McKenna at
8 night?
9 A. It would be unusual.
10
11 Q. But it's something that you're saying to the Inquiry
12 that that could have happened?
13 A. Well, it possibly did.
14
15 Q. But you don't have any recollection today?
16 A. No, no.
17
18 Q. Would it be fair to say that looking back you had what
19 I would term blind trust in Mr McKenna as warden of the
20 hostel?
21 A. Possibly.
22
23 Q. And that some of the allegations that were put to you
24 through the years as so horrific that you really didn't
25 want to think they were true?
26 A. No, I wouldn't say that.
27
28 MR HAMMOND: I've got no further questions, thank you,
29 sir.
30
31 HIS HONOUR: Mr Jenkin, you've got no questions.
32
33 MR JENKIN: No, thank you, sir.
34
35 HIS HONOUR: All right. All right. Ms Keeley, do you
36 wish to ask questions?
37
38 MS KEELING: Thank you, your Honour, yes.
39
40 <CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS KEELING:
41
42 MS KEELING: Q. Mr Parks, how did you see the role of
43 the Board in the way that the hostel system ran?
44 A. Well, it was representing probably in part the
45 authorities role, looking - tried to control the finance -
46 yes, I don't really know.
47

1 Q. Did you see that the Board had - or did you consider
2 that the Board had any powers, independent of the
3 Authority?

4 A. Not a lot, no.

5

6 Q. And when you say "not a lot", what do you mean?

7 A. Well, very little.

8

9 Q. So you view that your role was to do the bidding of
10 the Authority?

11 A. Yes.

12

13 Q. So would it be fair then to say that once Mr Parkin
14 had attended at the Authority and caused a stink - I think
15 the words were - that the Board's view was that the
16 Authority had already knew and had discounted whatever Mr
17 Parkin had to say?

18 A. I would say so.

19

20 Q. Could that be why you didn't take any further action
21 in relation to that?

22 A. Possibly.

23

24 Q. Can you recall Mr Trezise coming to your farm?

25 A. Yes.

26

27 Q. What is your recollection of that day?

28 A. Well, I remember him being there with the bulldozer,
29 but if it hadn't of been written in my diary, I wouldn't -
30 I don't remember him being there, other than that.

31

32 Q. Do you recall getting on - you don't recall getting
33 onto the tractor - the grader?

34 A. I don't recall being on the machine, because they
35 weren't a - I was a plant operator before I went farming,
36 and graders were a dangerous machine to ride on. They
37 didn't have a passenger seat. You had to hang onto the
38 side of the frame, and if it hit anything, you got hurt.
39 Simple as that.

40

41 Q. So your view is that it was unlikely that you got on
42 that grader?

43 A. I can't see why I would have, not under the experience
44 I'd had with graders.

45

46 Q. So when you say you don't recall this conversation
47 with Mr Trezise, are you saying that it's - that you view

1 it unlikely that it happened?
2 A. It possibly happened, but I don't remember it.
3
4 Q. When Mr Urquhart asked you about Mr Parkin, about
5 whether or not you'd asked Mr Parkin to give the names of
6 any children that he knew had been abused, would you have
7 seen that as being your role on the Board?
8 A. Yes, if Mr Parkin gave me names.
9
10 Q. No, no, would you have seen - would you have viewed it
11 as your authority for the Board - the Board's role to
12 conduct an independent Inquiry, independent of the
13 Authority, in relation to --
14 A. Possibly. I couldn't say fully, but the Board would
15 possibly check it out.
16
17 Q. No, I'm asking you what you thought your role was at
18 the time?
19 A. Well --
20
21 Q. Would it be fair to say it was to wait for
22 instructions from the Authority?
23 A. I would say so.
24
25 MS KEELING: Okay. Thank you. No further questions.
26
27 HIS HONOUR: Nothing arising, Mr Urquhart?
28
29 MR URQUHART: No, thank you, sir.
30
31 HIS HONOUR: Thank you, Mr Parks, that completes your
32 evidence, you're free to go.
33
34 THE WITNESS: Thank you.
35
36 HIS HONOUR: We'll adjourn now until 2.15.
37
38 **LUNCHEON ADJOURNMENT**
39
40 **UPON RESUMPTION:**
41
42 HIS HONOUR: Now, I will take a new appearance. Mr King,
43 you are here today for Mr Hammond, instead of Mr Hammond.
44 That is very good. Yes, thank you. Mr Urquhart?
45
46 MR URQUHART: Thank you, sir. The final witness for today
47 will be Elizabeth Stroud.

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<ELIZABETH JANE STROUD, sworn:

MR ELLIS: Your Honour, before we commence, might I just ask my friend, Mr Urquhart - Ms Stroud has provided the Inquiry with a statement. We were just wondering whether that statement will be read into evidence or if Mr Urquhart will just ask some questions on the statement.

HIS HONOUR: I think you will probably find Mr Urquhart is going to ask some questions. Is that correct?

MR URQUHART: Yes, I am, sir.

HIS HONOUR: All right.

MR URQUHART: (Indistinct) Ms Stroud's statement, although I only have an unsigned copy at this stage. But if Ms Stroud wishes to sign and date a copy, then that is obviously material that the Inquiry can take into account without necessarily me canvassing every single paragraph that is in that statement.

HIS HONOUR: Right. Would you like that to happen?

MR ELLIS: Yes. We can provide that today, your Honour.

HIS HONOUR: That will be very good. We will proceed on that assumption. Yes?

MR URQUHART: Thank you, sir.

<EXAMINATION-IN-CHIEF BY MR URQUHART:

MR URQUHART: Q. Ms Stroud, do you have a middle name?

A. Elizabeth Jane.

Q. Jane?

A. Yes.

Q. Is it just spelt J-a-n-e?

A. Yes.

Q. Are you currently a director of an organisation called Discovery Learning?

A. Yes, that's correct.

1 Q. What does that organisation do?
2 A. We provide training, development and facilitation
3 services, primarily to the mining and resource sector.
4
5 Q. Do your clients also include a number of West
6 Australian government departments?
7 A. We have worked with West Australian governments.
8
9 Q. And their departments?
10 A. Yes.
11
12 Q. What are some of those departments?
13 A. Premier and Cabinet, Treasury, Ministry for Planning,
14 Department of Environment, DEC and the Zoo.
15
16 Q. South-West Development Commission?
17 A. South-West Development Commission.
18
19 Q. Department of Water?
20 A. Yes.
21
22 Q. Department of Agriculture and Food?
23 A. Yes.
24
25 Q. Any others?
26 A. Not that I can recall right now.
27
28 Q. Department of Training and Workforce Development?
29 A. I worked for the Department of Employment, Education
30 and Training.
31
32 Q. Is that a client of yours at the moment?
33 A. No.
34
35 Q. Could it be a potential client, though?
36 A. I would never say no to a potential client.
37
38 Q. You just heard some exchanges between myself and your
39 counsel and His Honour, regarding an 18-page statement that
40 you prepared for the Inquiry?
41 A. Yes, that's correct.
42
43 Q. Have you currently signed a copy of that statement?
44 A. I was unable to sign it because I was working in
45 Zambia at the time.
46
47 Q. But you will be able to do that?

1 A. Absolutely.
2
3 Q. Thank you. Ms Stroud, I want to ask you now about
4 questions more relevant to this Inquiry. In 1985, was it
5 the case that you were employed by the then department for
6 employment and training?
7 A. Yes, it is.
8
9 Q. Was that specifically to assist in a government
10 program that you called Westrek?
11 A. Yes, it was.
12
13 Q. Was that similar to a project that had operated in
14 Canada?
15 A. Yes, by the name of Katimavik.
16
17 Q. In a nutshell, Ms Stroud, are you able to tell us what
18 were the goals of this project, the Westrek project rather
19 than the Canadian one?
20 A. Yes. West trek was established in the International
21 Year of the Youth, meant as a development program for young
22 people, with the hope of advancing their employment
23 opportunities.
24
25 Q. "Young people"? Was there an age bracket?
26 A. Oh, I am struggling. Maybe, by memory, 16 to 20 or 17
27 to 21 or something.
28
29 Q. Although it was not the case that this related to all
30 the participants in the project, were some, at least, those
31 from disadvantaged backgrounds?
32 A. Yes.
33
34 Q. Those youths who may have been in trouble with the
35 law?
36 A. I don't believe any participant had been involved with
37 the law prior to being in the program.
38
39 Q. Was it the case that this program was going to
40 concentrate on rural areas?
41 A. Yes.
42
43 Q. Were you part of those people who presented this to
44 the government as an initiative they could adopt?
45 A. Yes. I had worked with the Katimavik program in
46 Canada as a group leader and then as a trainer of the group
47 leaders, and during International Year of the Youth, I had

1 made submissions to Employment - the department for funding
2 in a current job and I spoke with some people in the
3 department about Katimavik and they invited me in to help
4 write a proposal, a submission to Premier and Cabinet for
5 the establishment of Westrek.

6

7 Q. Who were those people from the department?

8 A. Peter Kenyon and Ian Carter.

9

10 Q. Now, looking back or, indeed, maybe at the time, was
11 it evident to you that the government's acceptance of this
12 program was at least partly politically motivated?

13 A. Oh, I don't think it was a coincidence, International
14 Year of the Youth, that the State government funded a
15 program.

16

17 Q. Would you agree then that it was, to an extent,
18 politically motivated?

19 A. I believe it certainly was, yes.

20

21 Q. Was there a program that was very quickly implemented?

22 A. Yes.

23

24 Q. Arguably, maybe, implemented too quickly?

25 A. Oh, I think there were challenges in establishing it.
26 However, it did get off the ground and was successful in
27 its pilot year.

28

29 Q. Was it announced with much fanfare by the government,
30 do you recall?

31 A. There were certainly political announcements and -
32 well, yes.

33

34 Q. Were you aware that there was an election due in the
35 State early the following year?

36 A. Yes.

37

38 Q. Would you agree that it was important to the
39 government that it was seen as a success?

40 A. I believe every government program is important to be
41 seen as a success.

42

43 Q. Well, let's just stay with this one, for the moment,
44 Ms Stroud.

45 A. Sorry. Yes.

46

47 Q. And particularly so for this one?

1 A. As a government program, yes.
2
3 Q. Am I right in saying that this project's success was
4 dependent upon the cooperation of the rural centres where
5 the participants were based?
6 A. I believe the relationship between the host
7 communities and the project were important to its success.
8
9 Q. Indeed, was it dependent upon the cooperation of those
10 rural centres; that was the question?
11 A. Can you define "cooperation", please.
12
13 Q. Well, they would be keen - it was necessary, was it
14 not, for these rural centres to co-operate with the scheme?
15 For example, it would be the rural centres, either through
16 the council or a committee that had been created, that
17 would recommend projects for the Westrek participants to
18 do?
19 A. As the popularity of the program expanded in latter
20 years, communities initiated or approached Westrek, which
21 was then a foundation. Initially it was through other
22 initiatives and other workers in the communities suggesting
23 projects and the councils expressed interest or the
24 committees.
25
26 Q. I will ask the question another way: unless you had
27 the cooperation of these towns where Westrek participants
28 were based, the project was not likely to be successful?
29 A. Well, it's a partnership so there has to be a
30 cooperation, yes.
31
32 Q. Can you recall the townships where this program
33 started? I'm talking about 1985.
34 A. Carnarvon, Murchison Station, Geraldton, Katanning,
35 Norseman and Bunbury.
36
37 Q. Do you recall how it was that those town centres were
38 collected?
39 A. I was not a part of that decision. I was told that
40 the projects were going to be in those sites.
41
42 Q. Do you know who it was who determined the sites for
43 these projects?
44 A. I believe it would have been Ian Carter or Peter
45 Kenyon.
46
47 Q. In conjunction with the government?

1 A. Yes.
2
3 Q. Did you notice anything about the centres in which a
4 lot of these projects commenced?
5 A. That they were all marginal seats, yes.
6
7 Q. Did each town have a Westrek committee?
8 A. Yes.
9
10 Q. Did each town also have appointed what was called a
11 community liaison officer?
12 A. Not in my time with the program.
13
14 Q. What was your time in the program?
15 A. The first 12 months.
16
17 Q. They might have been called a different name but
18 wasn't there someone who resided in the town who the
19 Westrek group or group leaders would work with insofar as
20 the coordination of projects were concerned?
21 A. It did vary depending on the community. In most
22 instances, it was the chairperson of that local community
23 that had the primary role in discussions with the Westrek
24 team leaders.
25
26 Q. The chairperson of what?
27 A. Of the local community - committee.
28
29 Q. Were you aware of who the chairperson was of the
30 Katanning Westrek committee?
31 A. Mrs Ainslie Evans.
32
33 Q. Is that the name of someone that you have always
34 remembered?
35 A. I think I - well, I don't think I can answer that, if
36 it was somebody I always remembered.
37
38 Q. Do you remember Maggie Dawkins ringing you up late
39 last year and asking you if you could remember Mrs Evans
40 name?
41 A. I remember Maggie ringing me in November last year -
42 oh, in September last year.
43
44 Q. I am asking you then, in that September conversation -
45 which we will go to later - do you recall her asking you if
46 you could remember the name of the person who was the
47 community liaison officer in Katanning?

1 A. I'm not sure if Maggie asked me if I remembered
2 Ainslie Evans and she called her by name or if I mentioned
3 her name.
4
5 Q. Can you remember if she asked you what her name was?
6 A. No, I don't recall that.
7
8 Q. If she was to ask you who the name was of that
9 community liaison officer, would you have been able to
10 recall that it was Ainslie Evans?
11 A. Yes, I think I would have.
12
13 Q. Would you rate this Westrek program as a success?
14 A. Yes.
15
16 Q. Did it continue to operate beyond 1986?
17 A. Yes, it did.
18
19 Q. To the same degree that it had operated in 1985?
20 A. It, in fact, expanded.
21
22 Q. Were you involved in its operation in 1986?
23 A. I left in March of '86.
24
25 Q. What position did you take up then?
26 A. The administrator of women's healthcare house.
27
28 Q. What department did that fall under?
29 A. It was an NGO funded through the Health Department.
30
31 Q. I will show you an exhibit now, Ms Stroud. It is
32 exhibit 5.
33 A. Thank you.
34
35 Q. Will you just have a look at that.
36 A. Yes.
37
38 Q. Do you agree that that is an accurate chart of your
39 recollection of the positions held?
40 A. Yes, reasonably.
41
42 Q. Reasonably?
43 A. I'm not sure about Tarquin Bowers position there, but
44 I agree with where my position is, yes.
45
46 Q. You are referring to Tarquin Bowers there as the
47 recreation officer?

1 A. Yes.
2
3 Q. Insofar as a chain of command - if I can call it that
4 - is concerned, we start off with Mike Cross, who was the
5 Director-General --
6 A. Yes.
7
8 Q. -- of the Department of Employment & Training. Going
9 down to the employment division, which was initially called
10 CEIU, the director Peter Kenyon?
11 A. Yes.
12
13 Q. Down from there, deputy director, manager, coordinator
14 position is Ian Carter?
15 A. Yes.
16
17 Q. From there, the Westrek program, the manager and
18 executive officer being Peter Sherlock?
19 A. Yes.
20
21 Q. Then down from that, your job description is training
22 and field officer?
23 A. Yes.
24
25 Q. You agree with that?
26 A. Yes.
27
28 Q. You are not so sure about Tarquin Bowers?
29 A. Yes.
30
31 Q. Going down to projects and community, with a male and
32 female group leader?
33 A. Yes.
34
35 Q. Then the bottom rung, as it were, sets out four
36 regions where the Westrek program operated, but there were
37 some more that you recall?
38 A. Wyndham was a latter program, and the installation of
39 male and female group leaders, are you referring to the
40 civic communities, i.e. Maggie (Maruff) Dawkins?
41
42 Q. Yes, that's right.
43 A. Yes, okay.
44
45 Q. Yes?
46 A. Yes.
47

1 Q. There were some others. I think you mentioned
2 Carnarvon a moment ago?
3 A. Yes.
4
5 Q. Judging from that then, whoever were the male and
6 female group leaders, their immediate supervisor - well,
7 there is one or two listed there, but one of them was
8 yourself?
9 A. Yes.
10
11 Q. Would you agree with that?
12 A. Yes.
13
14 Q. Thank you. You can hand that back now.
15 A. Thank you.
16
17 Q. Ms Stroud, were you responsible for training the group
18 leaders before the program began?
19 A. Yes.
20
21 Q. I am talking about 1985.
22 A. Yes.
23
24 Q. Is it your recollection that the group leaders
25 allocated to Katanning were Maggie Maruff and "I"?
26 A. Initially just Maggie and after a few weeks of
27 operation, it was felt that there should be a second group
28 leader put in place, so the second group leaders were
29 appointed.
30
31 Q. Was that for all projects in each town or was it just
32 Katanning?
33 A. No, I believe it was everywhere and there was one
34 married couple in Bunbury.
35
36 Q. Bunbury, yes.
37 A. Yes.
38
39 Q. It was the case, was it not, that group leaders and
40 the participants were all to reside under the one roof?
41 A. Yes.
42
43 Q. In accommodation within the town site?
44 A. Yes.
45
46 Q. In Katanning, can you recall that the accommodation
47 that was arranged was an old convent?

1 A. Yes.
2
3 Q. Do you remember the name of that building?
4 A. No.
5
6 Q. Kartanup, does that ring a bell?
7 A. It rings no bell.
8
9 Q. Do you accept that it was an old convent?
10 A. Yes, yes.
11
12 Q. Can you recall whose responsibility it was within the
13 Westrek staff to organise accommodation for participants?
14 A. It was actually the responsibility of the community to
15 allocate or to locate accommodation.
16
17 Q. Would that have to be cleared or okayed by management
18 at Westrek or the management responsible for the Westrek
19 program?
20 A. I don't remember that, I'm sorry.
21
22 Q. Would you agree that the accommodation was an
23 essential component of the Westrek program?
24 A. Accommodation is an important aspect of the program.
25
26 Q. Yes. If participants could not be accommodated --
27 A. Then they could not remain in the town.
28
29 Q. Exactly.
30 A. It was a requirement of the project that they could be
31 housed.
32
33 Q. So it was, in fact, an essential component, wasn't it?
34 A. Yes.
35
36 Q. I understand, Ms Stroud, that you have read Maggie
37 Maruff - who is now, of course, Mrs Maggie Dawkins -
38 evidence which was given in February of this year?
39 A. Yes.
40
41 Q. Amongst other things - and I will just stay with this
42 one at the moment - you take issue with much of what
43 Ms Dawkins says was your involvement in her attempts to
44 tell Westrek staff about Dennis McKenna's sexual abuse of
45 an ex-student at the Katanning hostel?
46 A. Yes.
47

1 Q. Would that be fair to say?
2 A. Yes.
3
4 Q. Are you able to say how many times you spoke to - and
5 I am going to call her Mrs Dawkins rather than Ms Maruff,
6 okay?
7 A. Yes.
8
9 Q. Are you able to say how many times you spoke to
10 Mrs Dawkins while she was at Katanning?
11 A. Very few times and I'm sure that through the whole
12 program, it would be a maximum of three or four times.
13
14 Q. With respect to the issue of her removal from the
15 Katanning project, can you recall how many times you spoke
16 to her?
17 A. I did not speak to Maggie at all about her removal
18 from the program. That decision was not in my area of
19 control.
20
21 Q. It might not have been in your area of control, but
22 are you saying --
23 A. And I did not speak to her about it.
24
25 Q. You did not speak to her?
26 A. No.
27
28 Q. Would you agree with this: if a group leader needed
29 some advice about their role, logically, they would make a
30 call to the person who had trained them?
31 A. That's a difficult question to answer in this context.
32
33 Q. Sorry, in what context?
34 A. In the context that Maggie preferred to deal with
35 people that were the decision-makers and tended not to
36 discuss things with me but to go direct to the superiors
37 for your conversations.
38
39 Q. Ms Stroud, I am not asking you about Maggie Dawkins, I
40 am just asking if a group leader needed some advice about
41 their role --
42 A. I don't wish to be argumentative but it leads into the
43 behaviours of all group leaders and I believe there is an
44 anomaly to that situation; some group leaders rang me and
45 one group leader preferred to deal with someone in a higher
46 authority.
47

1 Q. Are you saying this: with respect to all group
2 leaders, bar one, involved in this Westrek program in 1985,
3 if they needed some advice about their role, they would
4 make a call to you?
5 A. I don't believe there was a really clearly established
6 hierarchy within the office. People would ring up and they
7 would speak to myself or they would speak to Peter
8 Sherlock.
9
10 Q. Does that include or exclude Maggie Dawkins?
11 A. Maggie Dawkins would speak to Peter Sherlock.
12
13 Q. Are you saying that whenever Maggie Dawkins had a
14 question regarding her role as a group leader, she always
15 rang Peter Sherlock?
16 A. Yes.
17
18 Q. Never you?
19 A. Yes, that is correct.
20
21 Q. Did she say to you - how did you find that out, in
22 fact, what you say her policy was, to deal with someone
23 higher up rather than you?
24 A. I believe her behaviour has made it very apparent that
25 she preferred to speak to someone with authority to make
26 decisions.
27
28 Q. What about just seeking advice about her role; that is
29 not a decision-making process?
30 A. I don't believe that I ever had a conversation with
31 Maggie about her role as a group leader.
32
33 Q. Ever?
34 A. Only at the training.
35
36 Q. Only at the training?
37 A. Yes, that is correct.
38
39 Q. Are you saying then that if she needed a matter
40 clarified that she received training about, she would
41 bypass you and speak to Mr Sherlock?
42 A. Yes, that's exactly what I'm saying.
43
44 Q. Even though Mr Sherlock might not necessarily know the
45 answer?
46 A. Yes, that's what I'm saying.
47

1 Q. In 1985, were you aware of the name of a person who
2 lived in Katanning by the name of Dennis McKenna?
3 A. No, I wasn't.
4
5 Q. Did you have any dealings with him?
6 A. None whatsoever.
7
8 Q. Mrs Dawkins evidence is this: she recalls that
9 Ainslie Evans and Dennis McKenna would simply walk into the
10 Kartanup building unannounced; she also says she got you
11 and then Mr Sherlock to intervene. Have you read her
12 evidence in that regard?
13 A. Yes, I have and I disagree with it. That was the
14 first that I had heard of that issue.
15
16 Q. Are you saying there is simply no way that she
17 contacted you regarding that matter?
18 A. Yes, I am.
19
20 Q. It is not simply a case of you not recalling, it is a
21 case of you having an absolute clear recollection that she
22 never discussed that matter with you?
23 A. I believe that I would remember something like that
24 and I do not recall.
25
26 Q. Why would it be that you would remember something like
27 that?
28 A. Because it would have been outside of what would
29 happen normally in a project site and if we had the
30 chairperson or community members dropping into the
31 accommodation, it would actually be perceived as a support
32 to the program.
33
34 Q. Can I ask you this: if any other group leader had
35 that sort of problem, would you have expected them to
36 contact you?
37 A. I would have expected them to try and resolve a
38 community issue in the community, because that was a part
39 of their role, and if there were further - if there were
40 issues that could not be resolved within the community,
41 that they seek support from the office.
42
43 Q. Yes?
44 A. At that time, Peter Sherlock was dealing with the
45 community sponsors of the program.
46
47 Q. What do you mean "at that time"?

1 A. Well, once Peter Sherlock was on the ground, I
2 diverted to building resources for the program because
3 there was a gap in resources to support the learning
4 outcomes, and Peter Sherlock tended to deal with the
5 community committees and organisations that were supporting
6 the program.
7
8 Q. Prior to him taking over, would you agree that this
9 was your responsibility?
10 A. Yes. Peter came on very short into the - very near
11 the beginning of the program, I think.
12
13 Q. But you are not saying that this is a query you could
14 not have handled?
15 A. Oh, I think if I had - if it had been raised, I would
16 have simply rung Ainslie Evans and asked what her opinion
17 was and why was it happening.
18
19 Q. Mrs Dawkins also says she raised with you a suspicion
20 she had that one of her participants, a young man, and
21 Dennis McKenna may have been in a sexual relationship. Do
22 you recall her speaking to you about that subject matter?
23 A. Absolutely not.
24
25 Q. This participant was 23 years of age, or thereabouts;
26 so he was not a minor, he was actually a young adult.
27 Again, does this jog your memory at all?
28 A. No, it doesn't.
29
30 Q. Are you saying that you don't recall that or that it
31 definitely did not happen?
32 A. It definitely did not happen.
33
34 Q. As I understand it, sexual relationships amongst
35 Westrek participants were not permitted. Is that right?
36 A. The rules explained at the camp were that sexual
37 relationships between group leaders or participants was not
38 acceptable and that if people formed sexual relationships,
39 that they would be asked to leave the program.
40
41 Q. Are you saying then that group leaders were not
42 allowed to have sexual relationships with each other?
43 A. Well, obviously the married couple. Initially there
44 was just one group leader in each location.
45
46 Q. Yes.
47 A. So that's not an issue. When the second group leaders

1 were appointed, it was suggested that it was - it was
2 identified as a rule of the program.
3
4 Q. Hold on. "It was suggested that it was" --
5 A. No, it was - I correct myself. It was actually stated
6 that group leaders were not to form sexual relationships.
7
8 Q. And how was that stated?
9 A. I believe it was communicated to all group leaders,
10 all second group leaders when they came on.
11
12 Q. I see. So you're saying this rule extended just
13 beyond Westrek participants?
14 A. Yes.
15
16 Q. Are you sure about that?
17 A. Yes.
18
19 Q. In any event, sexual relationships between a
20 participant and someone outside the Westrek program wasn't
21 banned, was it?
22 A. I don't think that we had - no, I don't believe that
23 it was explicitly stated.
24
25 Q. Well, it couldn't be banned really, could it?
26 A. Well, not with an adult, no.
27
28 Q. No. Now, as at 1985, did you have any moral objection
29 to two consenting men having a sexual relationship?
30 A. No.
31
32 Q. You see, Mrs Dawkins recalls you advising her, when
33 she raised this problem with you, or this concern that she
34 had, that you advised her to exercise sexual tolerance.
35 Now, if she had raised this with you, that is exactly the
36 response you would have given, would you not have?
37 A. Whether it be same-sex relationship or a heterosexual,
38 I would have had a concern with a participant forming a
39 sexual relationship in a community --
40
41 Q. Why?
42 A. -- where there is a program.
43
44 Q. Why?
45 A. I'm not sure why. It just would not feel comfortable
46 to me, but I'm not sure why.
47

1 Q. Well, why would it feel uncomfortable to you as part
2 of the management of the Westrek program, if it was
3 consensual?
4 A. I guess because of the perception of the program;
5 people getting involved and being distracted from the focus
6 of the program, which is - will to contribute to community
7 outcomes and work in the project; and be available after
8 work hours with the learning outcomes.
9
10 Q. Ms Stroud, are you saying that participants would be
11 distracted from the program if they had a relationship with
12 somebody outside of the program?
13 A. Yes, I believe so.
14
15 Q. Because it would reflect poorly, or possibly, on their
16 work?
17 A. The function of the program was that they signed up
18 for a six month period to be committed to the program, and
19 working and taking part in sharing household
20 responsibilities and commitment to the learnings outcomes,
21 which would have been several evenings a week and during
22 the weekends.
23
24 Q. They didn't sign up to abstain from sex, did they?
25 A. No.
26
27 Q. And we're talking about young adults in many instances
28 here, aren't we?
29 A. Yes.
30
31 Q. So did you expect them to abstain from any sexual
32 relationship with somebody outside of the program for
33 six months?
34 A. To be honest, I don't think we actually considered
35 participants having time to build relationships with the
36 outside people. Maybe that was an oversight of the program
37 in setting the program up. We were focussed on making sure
38 that the relationships were safe for all participants in
39 the house.
40
41 Q. So let me get this right, Ms Stroud, that if
42 Mrs Dawkins had asked you and raised this concern with you
43 about a participant engaged in a sexual relationship with
44 someone outside of the program, what would you have told
45 her to do?
46 A. I would have asked if it was impacting on their
47 participation in the program, or if it was disruptive to

1 other participants in the program.
2
3 Q. And if the answer was no to both those questions?
4 A. Hypothetically, as an adult, and now it is in
5 retrospect.
6
7 Q. Sorry, have you finished answering the question or are
8 you continuing?
9 A. Well, I guess you can't argue if they're consenting
10 adults and it is not compromising their participation in
11 work or learning outcomes or disruptive to other
12 participants in the house.
13
14 Q. You would have advised Ms Dawkins that she should
15 tolerate that sexual relationship if --
16 A. If the other aspects of the program were being
17 addressed, but I assure you we did not have that
18 conversation.
19
20 Q. Ms Stroud, am I right in saying that you're not
21 disputing that an ex-student from the Katanning Hostel
22 confided in Maggie Dawkins while she was a group leader at
23 Katanning, about him being sexually abused by Dennis
24 McKenna?
25 A. That is correct.
26
27 Q. Am I right in saying that you're not suggesting that
28 Maggie Dawkins kept this information to herself?
29 A. That's correct.
30
31 Q. Am I right in saying that you are not disputing that
32 she raised this matter with management who were involved in
33 the Westrek program at the Department of Employment and
34 Training?
35 A. Yes, she did.
36
37 Q. And am I also right in saying you're not disputing
38 that no one at the department, to your knowledge, followed
39 up with any other authority about what was being done by
40 way of investigating those allegations?
41 A. I'm not aware of it, no.
42
43 Q. As I understand it, you do dispute Mrs Dawkins'
44 account that after she spoke to the officer-in-charge of
45 the Katanning Police Station, she raised her concerns with
46 you?
47 A. I believe Maggie rang Peter Sherlock's phone. I

1 answered the phone.
2
3 Q. All right. No, I'm going to ask you --
4 A. And, yes --
5
6 Q. Don't worry, I'm going to ask you in a moment what
7 your recollection is.
8 A. Sorry, please repeat the question?
9
10 Q. I'll give you that opportunity. Yes, you dispute that
11 she specifically rang you after she had spoken to the
12 officer-in-charge of the Katanning Police Station?
13 A. Yes.
14
15 Q. And specifically rang you for the purposes of asking
16 you what she should do?
17 A. Yes.
18
19 Q. Right. Okay. We will - I can assure you, Ms Stroud -
20 get you to explain what your recollection is about this
21 matter, okay.
22 A. Yes. Thank you.
23
24 Q. You won't be denied the opportunity of doing that, but
25 I'm just going to ask you this: accepting for the moment
26 that Mrs Dawkins did do that, that she did contact you for
27 the purpose of speaking to you about her concerns, okay,
28 what would your advice have been had she told you words to
29 the effect of, "Elizabeth, an ex-student from St Andrew's
30 Hostel has told me he was sexually abused by the warden,
31 and he wants me to do something about it. I've spoken to
32 the police sergeant here and he said maybe I should contact
33 my supervisor, so what should I do?" Now, just
34 hypothetically, if she said something like that to you,
35 what would have your advice been?
36 A. Hypothetically I would have asked her to document it
37 and return to the police.
38
39 Q. And if she said that, "The police officer doesn't seem
40 to be very interested and, indeed, that the police officer
41 has said I should contact my supervisor"?
42 A. I think that's hypothetical, but doesn't bear
43 relevance on the reality of what happened.
44
45 Q. Well, Ms Stroud, I'm asking you for the moment to
46 accept that it's a hypothetical, okay, and in that context
47 in which she says to you the police officer has said,

1 "Contact your supervisor", what would you have done?
2 A. Hypothetically, I guess - I mean, what I would have
3 said if that had happened then - now I - now, from where I
4 sit today, I would have said, "Take it to other police, why
5 are you not talking to John Dawkins or Kim Beazley and
6 using people with authority to address the issue, and take
7 it further with the police would be the logical place,
8 outside of the community".
9
10 Q. And, again, you seem to miss the point. The police
11 officer has told her to contact her supervisor?
12 A. No, I said clearly to contact the police outside of
13 the community.
14
15 Q. Well, where?
16 A. Perth. I mean, hypothetically, if there was a sexual
17 abuse organisation, to also go to the sexual abuse
18 organisation, a sexual assault referral centre or to a
19 Police Department that dealt with sexual offences.
20
21 Q. Okay.
22 A. Hypothetically.
23
24 Q. Bearing in mind that she's in Katanning --
25 A. Yes.
26
27 Q. -- as I understand it the only people you knew or the
28 only person you knew in Katanning apart from "I"
29 and Ms Dawkins was Ainslie Evans - am I right there?
30 A. Yes, that's correct.
31
32 Q. Wouldn't the logical advice from you might well have
33 been, bearing in mind this is 1985, to go and speak to
34 Ainslie Evans?
35 A. To me it would have been a legal matter that should
36 have been addressed by the police. I would have
37 recommended the police.
38
39 Q. Well, why did you say a moment ago that now you'd also
40 recommend that she take it up with Mr Dawkins or Mr
41 Beazley?
42 A. If the police were not prepared to listen, then she
43 could have a stronger political influence.
44
45 Q. By taking it up with two members of parliament that
46 she knew?
47 A. Yes.

1
2 Q. Federal members?
3 A. Yes.
4
5 Q. About an allegation of child sexual abuse?
6 A. Yes. John Dawkins, in particular, I believe, was the
7 Federal Minister supporting the Minister for Youth Affairs.
8
9 Q. You're not seriously suggesting that a procedure
10 should be taken that whenever someone hears of a child
11 sexual abuse allegation, they should go to a politician?
12 A. Well, this was a hypothetical situation, and the first
13 port of call would be the police or sexual assault referral
14 centre, and if not, see a member of parliament.
15
16 Q. What about the Department of Child Welfare?
17 A. Sure.
18
19 Q. What about the Department of Education in this
20 instance, if, in fact, it appears to be a warden who's
21 doing this?
22 A. Yes, but the question was hypothetically what would I
23 have recommended, and I've made my suggestions, yes.
24
25 Q. I know you've read Mrs Dawkins' evidence. You may or
26 may not be able to recall this, but her account of you
27 suggesting that she take it up with Ainslie Evans was
28 something that she thought was appropriate, all right, so
29 she's not - she's not criticising you for that.
30 A. I do not believe I made that statement. When I can
31 explain my interpretation of it I will explain why.
32
33 Q. Okay. Certainly. We'll do that in a moment.
34 A. Okay.
35
36 Q. I'm just staying with this for the moment. So
37 Mrs Dawkins is not critical of that suggestion that she
38 made. Do you think, yourself, that that would have been an
39 appropriate suggestion --
40 A. No.
41
42 Q. -- in the circumstances?
43 A. No.
44
45 Q. Is that the reason, Ms Stroud, why you are denying it
46 now?
47 A. No. There is no denial now.

1
2 Q. All right. So what do you say Mrs Dawkins said to you
3 regarding this matter?
4 A. I believe that Mrs Dawkins rang Peter Sherlock's phone
5 and I answered it, and she said that a young boy had come
6 forward in the community, that he had been sexually abused
7 by Dennis McKenna and that she had gone to the police and
8 she had gone to Ainslie Evans, and have Peter Sherlock ring
9 her, please, and that was the end of the conversation. And
10 my response to Maggie, and I remember I asked her, "Have
11 you documented this?" And that was the end of the phone
12 call.
13
14 Q. All right. So on your recollection she actually said
15 that this was abuse that was of a sexual nature?
16 A. Yes.
17
18 Q. And that she named Dennis McKenna?
19 A. Yes.
20
21 Q. Did you ask her who Dennis McKenna was?
22 A. The phone conversation, as I recall it, was a very
23 short conversation where she made her statement and
24 requested that Peter Sherlock return her call.
25
26 Q. Ms Stroud, the question is did you ask her who
27 Dennis --
28 A. No.
29
30 Q. -- McKenna was, given --
31 A. No.
32
33 Q. -- the fact that - I understand from your evidence you
34 had no idea who he was at this stage?
35 A. No, I - I think I probably knew who he was; so, yes, I
36 knew that he was in Katanning at the hostel, probably.
37
38 Q. All right. So were you also aware that he was on the
39 Westrek Committee?
40 A. No, I wasn't. I had no memory of that.
41
42 Q. Right.
43 A. I didn't deal with the committees.
44
45 Q. Okay. But - so you're now saying that you were aware
46 of someone by the name of Dennis McKenna?
47 A. Yes.

1
2 Q. Before this phone conversation with Maggie?
3 A. Yes, I was aware of names in all the communities.
4
5 Q. So I'm going to suggest to you you actually knew who
6 she was talking about because she'd earlier rung you up
7 complaining about Dennis McKenna's barging in to Kartanup
8 House unannounced?
9 A. As stated before, no, that is not true.
10
11 Q. So how did you come to know about the identity of
12 Dennis McKenna before this phone call?
13 A. Because he was a community member, and people's names
14 are raised.
15
16 Q. He's a community member and names are raised?
17 A. And you're saying he was on the committee, so at some
18 point I may have heard that.
19
20 Q. Sorry.
21 A. I cannot be - I cannot be accurate about it. My
22 assumption, or hypothetically, would be that because he was
23 on the committee I would have heard his name.
24
25 Q. So what did you tell Peter Sherlock?
26 A. "Peter ring Maggie, she" - and explained and repeated
27 Maggie's message, and Peter would have rung Maggie back.
28
29 Q. It's a very serious allegation, wasn't it, that she
30 was making?
31 A. Absolutely.
32
33 Q. Did you follow it up with Mr Sherlock?
34 A. I passed a message on and I am sure that Peter rang
35 Mrs Dawkins back.
36
37 Q. But did you follow it up with him?
38 A. No.
39
40 Q. Weren't you interested?
41 A. It was not out of lack of interest. I have no other
42 memory of it than that. That is my absolute memory of the
43 situation.
44
45 Q. Did you believe that Maggie Dawkins genuinely had this
46 information?
47 A. Yes. I can't believe - I can't foresee that someone

1 would make up a story like that.
2
3 Q. So if that's the case, I gather you had no reason to
4 doubt the voracity of the allegation?
5 A. That's correct.
6
7 Q. But you say that this - this member of the community
8 who you're assuming you might well have known because he
9 was on the Westrek Committee, a serious allegation of child
10 abuse has been made against him, and you didn't bother to
11 follow it up with Peter Sherlock, what Maggie said to him
12 about it.
13 A. I don't believe it's a matter of not bothering, but
14 no, I didn't.
15
16 Q. What was her response when you asked her if she had
17 documented this evidence.
18 A. My recall of the situation is that she said, "Have
19 Peter ring me", and hung up.
20
21 Q. Yes. But you've also added that you asked her?
22 A. I asked one question and I remember asking her, "Have
23 you documented this?", and Maggie was hanging up as she was
24 saying, "Have Peter ring me."
25
26 Q. Why did you ask her to do that?
27 A. Because I felt that if it was - if - well, I guess I
28 asked her because I believe that stories change over time.
29
30 Q. Yes.
31 A. And then if somebody comes with a serious allegation,
32 that it is worth documenting so you have factual consistent
33 information.
34
35 Q. So you thought it serious enough that she do that?
36 A. Absolutely.
37
38 Q. Did you ask her how she found out about this?
39 A. There was no other conversation.
40
41 Q. So you're saying it wasn't a case of you picking up Mr
42 Sherlock's phone, Maggie asking to speak to him, and you
43 saying, "He's not here", and then she just simply said,
44 "Well, can you get him", to call her back?
45 A. No, I picked up his phone and she said she wanted to
46 speak to Peter, and I said he was out at a meeting or
47 whatever, and he - and she said, "Tell Peter to ring me",

1 and, "A young boy has come and said that he has been
2 sexually abused by Dennis McKenna and I've been to the
3 police and I've spoken to Ainslie Evans, have Peter ring
4 me".

5

6 Q. So she's essentially repeating --

7 A. That --

8

9 Q. -- to you what she intended saying to Mr Sherlock?

10 A. Yes.

11

12 Q. And she volunteered that information without you
13 asking her what you want to speak to him about?

14 A. Absolutely.

15

16 Q. You don't think that sounds a little odd?

17 A. At the time, no.

18

19 Q. What about now, Ms Stroud?

20 A. Look, if hindsight was foresight, I think we would
21 manage a lot of things differently. I believed at the time
22 that I had fulfilled my duties in transferring the message
23 to Peter, and Peter dealing with Mrs Dawkins.

24

25 Q. No, I'm just talking about, Ms Stroud, a person
26 ringing up, wanting to speak to somebody else --

27 A. At the time, yes, I felt that I had done enough.

28

29 Q. No, no, stay with me for a moment, let me finish.
30 You're saying that at this stage, effectively, Mrs Dawkins
31 doesn't want anything to do with you; correct - is that
32 right?

33 A. Yes.

34

35 Q. Instead of her just leaving a message, "Get Mr
36 Sherlock to ring me", she actually recounts to you what it
37 is she wants to speak to him about, and she just simply
38 volunteers that information.

39 A. Yes.

40

41 Q. This is what I'm saying, is that it sounds a little
42 odd. Do you agree or disagree with that?

43 A. Knowing the characters and knowing - and being in the
44 program, that did not feel weird at all to me in dealing
45 with situations.

46

47 Q. I'm just staying with the manner in which you've

1 countered that conversation, that she's volunteering what
2 she wants to say to somebody else, but she's actually
3 stating it to you.

4 A. Yes, and as I've stated in the context of the
5 relationship, it is not strange to me at all that that's
6 how the communication was transferred.

7

8 Q. Do you agree that there's absolutely no reason
9 whatsoever for her to recount to you what it was that she
10 wanted to speak to Peter Sherlock about?

11 A. Yes.

12

13 Q. You see, Ms Stroud, I want to suggest to you that what
14 happened was - is that Mrs Dawkins rang you and sought your
15 advice in exactly the manner in which she gave evidence
16 about. Do you agree or disagree with that?

17 A. I disagree.

18

19 Q. Do you agree with me that it's a more consistent and
20 logical account than the one that you've given?

21 A. No, I wouldn't.

22

23 Q. Do you recall that within a very short space of time
24 of you hearing about this allegation that Maggie Dawkins
25 was making, that she was transferred to the Westrek program
26 in Bunbury?

27 A. Yes, that was the timing. However, there were
28 initiations prior to this being raised.

29

30 Q. All right. I'll ask you about those, don't worry, but
31 I'm just asking you about that. So you do agree with that?

32 A. Yes.

33

34 Q. I'm going to suggest that within a matter of days?

35 A. I have no memory of that.

36

37 Q. And wasn't it the case that you advised Mrs Dawkins
38 that she was to be moved?

39 A. No, I did not.

40

41 Q. Are you saying categorically that you definitely did
42 not do that?

43 A. Yes, I am.

44

45 Q. It's not a question of you saying it possibly
46 happened, but you can't recall, you're saying, "No way"?

47 A. That is correct.

1
2 Q. See, I'm not saying that you made the decision to have
3 her transferred. All I'm suggesting to you is that you are
4 the one that told her?
5 A. No, that is not correct.
6
7 Q. So when she says that, she's wrong about that --
8 A. Absolutely.
9
10 Q. And why is it that you can say with such certainty
11 that that's the case?
12 A. Why? Because it was identified in the office that
13 Maggie was difficult to deal with and that there were
14 political motivations, and that Mike Cross, who is now
15 deceased, wanted her to be moved, and she wished to be
16 dealt with by the superiors.
17
18 Q. You were a superior to her?
19 A. By the boss, by whatever Peter Sherlock's title was.
20
21 Q. So why couldn't it be the case that you just simply
22 advised her that she was to be moved to Bunbury?
23 A. Because at that time Peter Sherlock was completely
24 dealing with the issues surrounding Maggie in the Katanning
25 community, and it had become a departmental issue where
26 Mike Cross, and I believe Ian Carter and Peter Sherlock did
27 have a meeting and the decision was made - I believe that
28 Peter Sherlock tried to make - have Maggie removed from the
29 program prior to the issue of her making the phone call to
30 the office, and that Mike Cross said that she will not be
31 removed.
32
33 Q. Look, I appreciate all that. I'm not disputing any of
34 that, I just want to know why it is that given that
35 background, it could not have been the case that you would
36 have rung Maggie Dawkins and said, "Look, management has
37 decided to move you from Katanning to Bunbury"?
38 A. It was felt that somebody with more experience deal
39 with Maggie.
40
41 HIS HONOUR: Q. Can I just ask you something there?
42 A. Yes.
43
44 Q. You said that you believed Peter Sherlock tried to
45 have her removed from the program, removed from the program
46 altogether?
47 A. Yes.

1
2 Q. Right.
3 A. And Mike Cross, who is the director, said that she
4 could not be removed and that he had to manage her.
5
6 MR URQUHART: Q. And you were aware of that information
7 before you took this telephone message from Maggie
8 Dawkins - the telephone message to call Peter Sherlock or
9 have Peter Sherlock call her?
10 A. I don't believe I can answer that accurately.
11
12 Q. Well, if, in fact, I was going to put to you that she
13 was moved within 48 hours of her raising the McKenna
14 allegations to Westrek management, if that was the case,
15 would you agree with me that you'd heard prior to that that
16 Mike Cross had given that direction to Mr Sherlock?
17 A. That bears logic but I cannot honestly say that I
18 remember that, that it was a fact that that's fact.
19
20 Q. Ms Stroud, do you at least accept that you were told
21 by Westrek management or someone at Westrek at head office
22 that Dennis McKenna had contacted someone in management?
23 A. No. I have no recollection of that.
24
25 Q. And that he was very angry about the accusations
26 Maggie Dawkins was making against him?
27 A. I was not aware of that, no. I was not aware of it at
28 the time, no.
29
30 Q. Are you sure about that?
31 A. Yes.
32
33 Q. And that he was threatening to withdraw the
34 accommodation at Kartanup from Westrek unless Maggie
35 Dawkins was immediately moved?
36 A. I have no memory of that, I'm sorry.
37
38 Q. Wasn't it the case that your desk and Mr Sherlock's
39 desk were in an open plan area?
40 A. Yes.
41
42 Q. And that your desk was just a matter of metres away
43 from his?
44 A. Less than a matter of metres, yes.
45
46 Q. You don't recall Mr Sherlock discussing with you a
47 telephone call that he had had with Dennis McKenna?

1 A. No, I do not.
2
3 Q. This threat that he made - assuming that it was made -
4 to withdraw the Westrek participants from Kartanup house,
5 would you agree with me that that would have serious
6 ramifications for the program in Katanning?
7 A. Hypothetically, yes, it would.
8
9 Q. Well, not just hypothetically, but it would be the
10 case --
11 A. If you --
12
13 Q. -- if the participants --
14 A. If you cannot accommodate people in a community, they
15 cannot remain in a community.
16
17 Q. It would not be good for the image of Westrek, would
18 it?
19 A. No.
20
21 Q. As I understand it, you agree that you had a very good
22 working relationship with Mr Sherlock?
23 A. Yes, yes.
24
25 Q. Someone threatening to remove participants from the
26 accommodation that Westrek had would be a serious matter
27 that would have to be resolved?
28 A. Absolutely. I believe it would reflect very poorly on
29 both the community and the program.
30
31 Q. Are you saying, Ms Stroud, that Mrs Dawkins departure
32 from Katanning had absolutely nothing to do with her
33 allegation against Dennis McKenna?
34 A. I have no recollection of the association. I cannot
35 be certain and I cannot be categorically certain either
36 way.
37
38 Q. Isn't your statement that you provided to the Inquiry
39 a little more straightforward than that? Haven't you said
40 in that statement that it did not have anything to do with
41 her allegations against Dennis McKenna?
42 A. Yes. I guess if that's in writing, yes, I did say
43 that.
44
45 Q. Now, I said to you that I would discuss this with you.
46 What do you say were the reasons for her being moved from
47 Katanning to be Bunbury?

1 A. Consistent inappropriate behaviours.
2
3 Q. Yes? Such as?
4 A. Alcohol consumption, inappropriate amounts of alcohol
5 consumption, minors being invited into the bar, and
6 Katanning seemed to have numerous issues around the
7 worksite; they were constantly problematic, constantly
8 challenges being put out from Mrs Dawkins to the community.
9
10 Q. Where was this information coming from?
11 A. The alcohol abuse --
12
13 Q. Yes?
14 -- was reported by someone in the community back to
15 the office, and I am unclear as to who.
16
17 Q. Might it have been Ainslie Evans?
18 A. I'm really not certain. It could have been Ainslie
19 Evans and I cannot a hundred percent say that.
20
21 Q. When we talk about alcohol consumption, what, by
22 participants, by group leaders - by whom?
23 A. By both parties.
24
25 Q. Again, was alcohol consumption banned?
26 A. People under the legal age were required not to drink
27 and it was reported that all participants and the group
28 leaders consumed a rather large amount of alcohol and then
29 drove up and down the main street of town, making a lot of
30 noise.
31
32 Q. Do you know whether this complaint was made in writing
33 or was it verbal?
34 A. I'm not certain. I believe at the time it probably -
35 and my guess would be that it would be a phone
36 conversation. I cannot be certain.
37
38 Q. But not a phone conversation that you had?
39 A. No.
40
41 Q. Do you know who relayed this information on to you?
42 A. I believe that Mrs Dawkins and the Katanning community
43 was - there was a lot of conversation about that community,
44 in particular, having constant disruption and challenges.
45
46 Q. I am just staying with who relayed it --
47 A. I can't remember.

1
2 Q. You can't remember?
3 A. No.
4
5 Q. You mentioned worksite problems?
6 A. Yes.
7
8 Q. Can you remember who conveyed that to management?
9 A. No, I can't.
10
11 Q. Do you know whether that was in writing or by a phone
12 call?
13 A. No, I don't.
14
15 Q. Do you know who it was who conveyed --
16 A. No, I don't.
17
18 Q. -- that to you?
19 A. No.
20
21 Q. What were the worksite problems?
22 A. I can't remember details.
23
24 Q. You also mentioned that there were challenges from
25 Mrs Dawkins to the community? Did I get that right?
26 A. Yes.
27
28 Q. Again, were those complaints conveyed to you?
29 A. No.
30
31 Q. Do you know who --
32 Hearsay in the office.
33
34 Q. "Hearsay in the office"?
35 A. Yes.
36
37 Q. Do you know who spoke to you about that within the
38 office?
39 A. No, I don't.
40
41 Q. Can you give an example of what these "challenges"
42 were?
43 A. My memory is that there were other community projects,
44 regional projects, run through other community workers
45 through the department and that every time group leaders -
46 those officers would go out into communities neighbouring
47 Katanning or into Katanning, there was negative feedback

1 about the participation of Westrek and there were always
2 stories coming back from the other - I can't remember what
3 they would be called - employment officers, and it was
4 always an emotive story about something happening in
5 Katanning, but I cannot recall the detail.

6
7 Q. Can you give us any example?

8 A. Participants and group leaders drunk, mooning or
9 baring their backsides out the windows of the van, drinking
10 and high consumption of alcohol and disposal of empty
11 alcohol canisters from the hostel, late arrive - late going
12 to work, the quality of work, the lack of participation in
13 learning programs.

14
15 Q. It sounds like the Westrek program in Katanning was a
16 flop?

17 A. It had its challenges, yes.

18
19 Q. It sounds like it was not being very successful at all
20 under the stewardship of Mrs Dawkins. Is that right?

21 A. Was it a flop?

22
23 Q. No, I am asking you now, it did not seem to be a very
24 successful project at all under the leadership of
25 Mrs Dawkins?

26 A. It would have been the least successful project at the
27 time, yes.

28
29 Q. By far? Is that right?

30 A. I don't believe I can really - I'm not sure how to
31 answer that, to be honest.

32
33 Q. Well, you are making the accusations, Ms Stroud. It
34 sounds to me, from that description you have given, that it
35 was a flop. Do you agree with that description?

36 A. That would not be terminology that I would choose,
37 personally.

38
39 Q. What would you use?

40 A. I would say that the project had its challenges and
41 that it was problematic and that there was a huge
42 commitment to keep the program on track.

43
44 Q. You don't know who were making all these complaints to
45 Westrek management?

46 A. No, I don't.

47

1 Q. It may have been Ainslie Evans?
2 A. It could have been, yes.
3
4 Q. It may have been Dennis McKenna?
5 A. Yes, it could have been.
6
7 Q. Would there have been a written record on the file
8 about these complaints?
9 A. I am uncertain of that.
10
11 Q. Why would you be uncertain about that, Ms Stroud?
12 A. Because I was focused on resource development and I
13 don't recall any employment records, other than interview
14 forms.
15
16 Q. No, no, I am just talking about a written record
17 somewhere on the Westrek files?
18 A. I have no memory of that.
19
20 Q. Surely some written records would be made of these
21 serious complaints?
22 A. I have no memory of that.
23
24 Q. Would you expect there to be a written record of these
25 complaints?
26 A. I think nowadays, yes.
27
28 Q. Why not back in 1985?
29 A. Perhaps there was less focus or diligence on
30 documentation then.
31
32 Q. Why?
33 A. It's speculation really because I can't remember.
34
35 Q. What would you have done if Mrs Evans had rung you and
36 made this complaint about the Westrek program in Katanning?
37 A. I would have passed it on to Peter Sherlock or Ian
38 Carter.
39
40 Q. Would you have made a note of it?
41 A. I would have verbally passed it on to Peter Sherlock
42 or Ian Carter.
43
44 Q. You would not have made a file note and sent it to
45 them?
46 A. Probably not, no.
47

1 Q. Why not?
2 A. It is more expedient to communicate it to someone
3 face-to-face.
4
5 Q. But wouldn't you want a written record, just like you
6 asked Mrs Dawkins to make a written record of what she had
7 been told by this ex-student?
8 A. I don't believe I have anywhere to go to answer that.
9 You can't refute that.
10
11 Q. Well, the answer is if you practised what you
12 preached, you would have made a note?
13 A. And I don't believe that I received any direct
14 messages.
15
16 Q. I am not asking you whether you received any direct
17 messages, I was just asking if you had. Did you ever speak
18 to Maggie Dawkins about this litany of complaints against
19 her?
20 A. No.
21
22 Q. Do you know whether anybody else did, to your personal
23 knowledge?
24 A. I believe that there was a meeting initiated by Mike
25 Cross that Peter Sherlock and Ian Carter and maybe Janet
26 Homes a Court were present at, but I'm not certain that
27 Janet was there.
28
29 Q. This was after Maggie had been moved, was it not?
30 A. I don't have a memory of that - of when.
31
32 Q. I may have already asked you this, Ms Stroud, but I
33 will just clarify it again: do you accept that it was
34 necessary for the success of the Westrek program that a
35 good working relationship be maintained with the community
36 liaison officer?
37 A. Yes.
38
39 Q. And that a good working relationship be maintained
40 with the public servant managing the residence where the
41 participants were staying?
42 A. I think yes, if I understand that correctly.
43
44 Q. Do you accept that back then in 1985, you knew
45 Mrs Dawkins would be aware of the political importance of
46 the Westrek program?
47 A. I believe she would be aware of it, yes.

1
2 Q. And that she would be aware that any negativity
3 surrounding the project could have political consequences?
4 A. I believe intellectually she would have known that.
5
6 Q. You knew which side of politics she was aligned with
7 back then?
8 A. Yes.
9
10 Q. You see, Mrs Dawkins says that you and Mr Sherlock
11 took that approach - that is, that she was politically
12 savvy - when you both met her shortly after she had been
13 assigned to Bunbury. Do you recall a meeting taking place
14 between yourself and Mr Sherlock and Mrs Dawkins after she
15 had been assigned to Bunbury?
16 A. Absolutely not. I did not meet with Maggie after she
17 had moved from Katanning.
18
19 Q. Once again, this is not something that you are just
20 saying you cannot recall; you are actually categorically
21 denying that?
22 A. That is correct.
23
24 Q. When you were involved in this Westrek program,
25 Ms Stroud, I gather you would regard any offence being
26 committed upon a participant as a Westrek concern?
27 A. Absolutely.
28
29 Q. Similarly, any offending whilst in Westrek by a
30 participant would be a Westrek concern?
31 A. Absolutely.
32
33 Q. What about offending that had nothing to do with a
34 Westrek participant, either as the victim or the offender
35 or even as a witness, would you regard that as being of
36 little or no concern to Westrek?
37 A. I'm not sure I understand that question. Can you ask
38 it in another manner, please?
39
40 Q. The sexual abuse of a former secondary student by a
41 warden at a government hostel, was that, in your view, a
42 Westrek concern?
43 A. I believe it's a personal concern.
44
45 Q. What about a Westrek concern?
46 A. Yes.
47

1 Q. Are you saying that that is a concern of Westrek or
2 not?
3 A. Well, I think that's a difficult question --
4
5 Q. Well, Ms Stroud --
6 A. -- to answer and I --
7
8 Q. -- it is not, in the context of this Inquiry and the
9 evidence that you know Mrs Dawkins has given; it is not a
10 difficult question at all.
11 A. Well, from where I sit - not to be argumentative - it
12 is a difficult question to answer with a straight yes or
13 no. I believe it's every human being's concern if a child
14 is being abused and you cannot separate the employees of a
15 government department or any institution from another human
16 being, and in the context of being a human being, I believe
17 it is of grave concern.
18
19 Q. But Ms Stroud, you do not even have a recollection of
20 following up with Mr Sherlock his conversation with Maggie
21 Dawkins about precisely that allegation.
22 A. That is correct.
23
24 Q. So I am going to suggest to you that you were not very
25 concerned about that at all, insofar as your position at
26 Westrek was concerned. Are you thinking of an answer?
27 A. I didn't understand that was a question. What is the
28 question?
29
30 Q. Well, Ms Stroud, I am simply putting to you the fact
31 that you have no recollection of following up this serious
32 allegation that Maggie Dawkins was making, you did not
33 follow it up with Peter Sherlock, so, in fact, you were not
34 very concerned about it at all?
35 A. I refute that in that it was made very clear that the
36 police - Maggie had contacted the police, she had contacted
37 a community person and I believed at the time I had met my
38 responsibilities in passing the message on to my superior.
39
40 Q. But you have just said a moment ago that as a member
41 of the community, it is something that you should be
42 concerned about. Put your member of the community hat on
43 for a moment. Why didn't you follow it up with
44 Mr Sherlock?
45 A. I can't answer that. I don't know.
46
47 Q. Wasn't that the major difference between Maggie

1 Dawkins and Westrek management, including yourself; that
2 is, Mrs Dawkins wanted some action taken and management
3 believed it was not their concern? Isn't that position?
4 A. No, I don't agree with that.

5
6 Q. I just want to make sure, Ms Stroud, that you have
7 given a full answer to the question I asked you about what
8 you say the reasons were for Mrs Dawkins being moved from
9 Katanning. You told us about the consistent inappropriate
10 behaviour regarding alcohol consumption, that there were
11 minors from the Westrek program in a bar, you have spoken
12 about the worksite problems and also the challenges from
13 Maggie Dawkins to the community. Can you recall whether
14 there were any other areas?

15 A. No. I believe that - on that hearsay, I believe that
16 is why she was removed from the community.

17
18 Q. Thank you. I suggest to you that due to her
19 persistence about Westrek management doing something about
20 this allegation that she had heard and that after she was
21 in Bunbury, you asked her to write down what she had been
22 told by this ex-student. That is, it was after she had
23 moved to Bunbury that you told her or suggested to her that
24 she write an account down?

25 A. No, that is not correct. I had nothing to do with
26 Maggie when she moved to Bunbury, and I - from very early
27 on in the program, as soon as Peter Sherlock was appointed,
28 Maggie dealt with Peter, and I did not have a conversation
29 with Maggie once she had been moved.

30
31 Q. You tell us that she had all her dealings with
32 Mr Sherlock. Nevertheless, when you say you took this
33 telephone message from her, you still asked her whether she
34 had made --

35 A. I asked her, "Maggie, have you documented things?
36 Have you documented the conversation with the young boy?"

37
38 Q. As I understand it, this was the only advice that you
39 say you gave Maggie Dawkins during the entire time she was
40 at Katanning?

41 A. That is correct.

42
43 Q. I suggest to you that, as a matter of fact, the
44 circumstances about her documenting her account arose in
45 the manner in which she says it did. Do you recall what
46 she says about how that arose?

47 A. No, I don't.

1
2 Q. I will remind you of it. She says it was at a meeting
3 after she had been transferred to Bunbury between yourself,
4 her and Mr Sherlock; she was again raising her concerns
5 about something being done regarding these allegations and
6 she says that you suggested to her that she write it down
7 and the plan was that copies would be provided to you and
8 Mr Sherlock, and Mr Sherlock would then see what he could
9 do about raising it with the relevant authorities?
10 A. I have no memory of that. I refute that.
11
12 Q. So it is not a case of having no memory, you are
13 actually stating that that --
14 A. I do not agree with that.
15
16 Q. Ms Stroud, is it the case that you do not agree with
17 that because it may reflect poorly on you?
18 A. No.
19
20 Q. Because your account of you saying to Maggie Dawkins
21 that she should document her evidence is completely at odds
22 with what she says are the circumstances in which that was
23 raised. Do you agree with that, at least?
24 A. I absolutely believe we see things differently.
25
26 Q. Yes. Do you agree with me that, with respect to your
27 version, you could not be criticised for saying what you
28 did? Do you agree with that?
29 A. For what I said?
30
31 Q. Yes.
32 A. Yes.
33
34 Q. Whereas things could be interpreted differently if it
35 happened in the way in which Mrs Dawkins says it did. Do
36 you agree with that?
37 A. It could be interpreted differently, yes.
38
39 Q. I gather from what you heard Mr Cross had said to
40 Mr Sherlock regarding Mrs Dawkins, that politically she
41 could not be dismissed or fired from the Westrek program.
42 Have I got that right?
43 A. Yes.
44
45 Q. I suggest that if you were told in 1985 by management
46 that the plan was to fire or dismiss her, that would be a
47 surprise to you?

1 A. Absolutely. I don't believe that anyone in the
2 department could make that - no-one could do that. Our
3 hands were tied.
4
5 Q. Could I ask you something about Patricia Thomson. I
6 understand you have read her evidence too, haven't you?
7 A. Yes, I have.
8
9 Q. Do you remember that Patricia Thomson was a lady who
10 was a group leader --
11 A. Yes.
12
13 Q. -- for Westrek up north?
14 A. No, she was in Norseman.
15
16 Q. Norseman, thank you. She came back early and she was
17 assigned duties at head office?
18 A. Yes. She was removed for mental health issues and was
19 assigned duties in the Perth office.
20
21 Q. Was it necessary for you to give a reason why she was
22 reassigned just then?
23 A. No.
24
25 Q. No. She had a desk close to yours at head office,
26 didn't she?
27 A. Yes. We were all within a very, very confined space.
28
29 Q. It was close enough for her to hear you on the phone?
30 A. Absolutely. Every conversation was heard by everyone.
31
32 Q. Do you recall her evidence - this is at page 335,
33 sir.
34 A. Yes, I do.
35
36 Q. Where she overheard you say to someone on the other
37 end, "What, be fired? Maggie be fired? Fire her?" Do you
38 remember that? Do you remember her --
39 A. I - I --
40
41 Q. First, do you remember that evidence that she gave?
42 A. I remember the evidence, and I refute it.
43
44 Q. Right. Because I'm going to suggest to you you were
45 speaking to a superior, and you were surprised to hear that
46 that was the plan?
47 A. No, that's not my recollection at all. I refute that.

1
2 Q. But you don't refute that if you were told that by a
3 superior, you would be surprised?
4 A. Yes, I would have been absolutely surprised.
5
6 Q. Well, it's just, Ms Stroud, it seems remarkably
7 coincidental that Ms Thompson would hear you react in that
8 way to a suggestion from someone on the other end of the
9 line that Maggie Dawkins was to be fired?
10 A. I'm not sure how Patricia heard both sides of the -
11 both lines on the conversation to know that it was about
12 Maggie, and I do not remember any phone conversation about
13 anyone being fired in my entire time.
14
15 Q. Ms Stroud, I'll remind you what she overheard. She
16 heard you say, "What, be fired? Maggie, be fired? Fire
17 her?"
18 A. No, I would not - categorically I disagree. I would
19 not have made that statement in an open-plan office.
20
21 Q. Why?
22 A. Because Patricia and Maggie were very close friends
23 and I would not have said that for risk of escalation and
24 Patricia ringing Maggie right away.
25
26 Q. Which is exactly what she did, didn't she?
27 A. Well, I absolutely refute that, I did not make that
28 statement.
29
30 Q. Was there a plan at some stage to have Maggie Dawkins
31 fired, which was quickly changed?
32 A. To the best of my knowledge, Peter Sherlock had asked
33 for her to be removed. Whether that meant fired or brought
34 into the office I'm uncertain, and Mike Cross said, "She
35 will be a team leader, and you need to manage her."
36
37 Q. My question was: did you hear that there was a plan
38 that she was potentially going to be fired?
39 A. No. I believed that - it was - I found out about
40 Maggie and the situation afterwards. I was not privy to
41 those conversations at all.
42
43 Q. Did you hear --
44 A. They were conversations between Ian Carter, Peter
45 Sherlock and Mike Cross.
46
47 Q. Did you hear that your supervisors were going to ask

1 Maggie Dawkins to voluntarily resign as distinct from
2 firing her?
3 A. No, I didn't.
4
5 Q. At all?
6 A. No. That is correct, not at all. I was not aware
7 that she was going to be asked to resign.
8
9 Q. Do you agree with me at least that that would be one
10 way of solving the problem with Maggie?
11 A. If there had been - if - hypothetically it would be a
12 good situation if you knew the person would be compliant.
13
14 Q. Hypothetically it would be a good situation if you
15 knew the person would be compliant?
16 A. And tender their resignation.
17
18 Q. But the question I asked you - wouldn't that solve the
19 problems if she voluntarily resigned?
20 A. Hypothetically, in a hypothetical situation, yes, that
21 would.
22
23 Q. Ms Stroud, I'm going to ask you to have a look at an
24 exhibit. It's exhibit 4, and it's a newspaper article
25 which appeared in the 'Great Southern Herald', which is the
26 local newspaper for Katanning, and it was on Wednesday, 26
27 June 1991. Have we got --
28 A. I would need reading glasses to read this, sorry.
29
30 Q. And I gather those on your head aren't your reading
31 glasses?
32 A. You are correct.
33
34 Q. Yes, there we go.
35 A. Sorry.
36
37 Q. Okay. That's all right.
38
39 HIS HONOUR: Q. Are they in your bag?
40 A. No, I didn't bring them.
41
42 MR URQUHART: Okay.
43
44 Q. We'll just wait until this gets up on the screen and
45 I'll just read out to you --
46 A. Okay.
47

1 Q. -- those passages I'd like to take you to and, yes --
2 A. Sorry.
3
4 Q. Don't worry about reading the screen, I can't even
5 read it from here. All right. You see, this is a letter
6 that was written by Ms Dawkins to the Katanning newspaper
7 after Dennis McKenna had been convicted of sexual offences
8 against ex-students at the hostel in 1991, okay. I'm just
9 putting this in context --
10 A. Yes.
11
12 Q. -- context for you. And under the heading "Hurried
13 Departure Explained", Mrs Dawkins writes this:
14
15 It is with considerable relief that I write
16 to explain my premature departure from
17 Katanning in 1985. I was a Westrek Group
18 Leader for the pilot program initiated by
19 the Department of Employment and Training.
20 In 1985 a young man told me of his time at
21 the St Andrew's Hostel. I wanted the
22 claims of sexual abuse by Dennis McKenna
23 investigated by the appropriate
24 authorities.
25
26 Then she says:
27
28 I turned to my supervisor in Perth and a
29 Katanning Shire Councillor --
30
31 And I'm going to suggest to you that the supervisor in
32 Perth was, in fact, you. I gather you deny that do you?
33 A. Yes, I do.
34
35 Q. :
36
37 I was told by the Councillor that the young
38 man was of questionable character and that
39 such claims were ludicrous. The Councillor
40 also said - the words still ring in my ears
41 - "How could a former Citizen of the Year
42 be accused of such unspeakable things?"
43 For my trouble I was literally run out of
44 town by McKenna. He telephoned my
45 supervisor in Perth and threatened to
46 withdraw the Westrek accommodation at
47 Kartanup. This would have effectively have

1 closed down the project. I was given
2 48 hours to leave Katanning.

3

4 Now, Ms Stroud, I want to suggest to you that, in fact, it
5 was you who advised Ms Dawkins that Dennis McKenna had rung
6 Westrek management stating that he would withdraw the
7 Westrek accommodation in Kartanup unless she moved - unless
8 she was moved. I gather you deny that?

9 A. Absolutely. I had no idea that Dennis McKenna had
10 rung anyone in head office.

11

12 Q. Do you know if anybody else rang head office stating
13 that Maggie Dawkins had to be moved?

14 A. No, I don't.

15

16 Q. There's also an article on that same page, Ms Stroud,
17 that's not written by Maggie Dawkins, it's written by a
18 journalist at the 'Great Southern Herald', a lady by the
19 name of Pat Fraser. I just want to ask you if you can shed
20 any light on this. She writes: "Mrs Dawkins" - sir, just
21 for the benefit, it's the bottom of the fourth column of
22 that story that appears above Ms Dawkins' letter with the
23 heading, "Court Reveals Dark Secret of the Katanning
24 Citizen of the Year" - last line on the fourth column:

25

26 Mrs Dawkins claims that Mr McKenna
27 engineered her removal from the Westrek
28 program when her question of his treatment
29 of a young boy became too probing. It was
30 later revealed to her that McKenna had
31 threatened to withdraw the Kartanup Hostel
32 from Westrek's youth unless she was removed
33 from Katanning within 48 hours.

34 Authorities quickly arranged for Ms Maruff
35 to be removed to a Westrek project Bunbury.
36 Mrs Dawkins is angry that her character was
37 smeared by the incident, and that
38 authorities were prepared to believe
39 McKenna and not her.

40

41 Then it goes on to say - and Ms Stroud this is what I want
42 to ask you about:

43

44 But authorities involved say that although
45 they believed Ms Maruff, they were anxious
46 to keep the program, which was in its pilot
47 stage, running smoothly.

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Now, would you accept the contents of that last sentence:

But authorities say that although they believe Ms Maruff, they were anxious to keep the program, which was in its pilot stage, running smoothly.

A. To me that has a twisted context, and - and as a separate statement people from the department are - were anxious to keep the program running smoothly, is a true comment. In the context of covering up abuse to keep it running smoothly - categorically no.

Q. No, that's not the suggestion at all in that last sentence:

But authorities involved say although they believed Ms Maruff --

You don't take issue with that, do you, personally --

A. No, I believe --

Q. -- that you believe --

A. -- Maggie was moved to Bunbury because the group leaders from Bunbury acted inappropriately and were, in fact, dismissed from the program, which opened up an opportunity to move Maggie.

Q. Thank you. I've finished with that. I want to ask you something now about some telephone conversations you had with Mrs Dawkins in September and October of last year, Ms Stroud. I understand you were fully aware of what I'm talking about there?

A. Yes.

Q. Yes. Now, with respect to the September phone call --

A. Yes.

Q. -- do you at least agree with Mrs Dawkins' description of that phone call as being warm and friendly?

A. I was standing at a training centre in Zambia with clients around me, and I was shocked, and my recount of the conversation - I was cordial and polite. I was standing around clients, and I said that I could not really speak to her at the moment. I was polite, and the conversation ended. She asked me - she - well, you haven't ask me what

1 she said to me, so --
2
3 Q. Are you saying the conversation was very brief?
4 A. We probably spoke for four minutes.
5
6 Q. Right.
7 A. Three or four minutes.
8
9 Q. Well, she says that she asked you if you could recall
10 the Katanning Councillor's name, and you said immediately
11 Ainslie Evans, as I understand. You don't have a
12 recollection of that?
13 A. We spoke about a lot of names, and --
14
15 Q. I'm talking about the first conversation.
16 A. Well, we spoke quite a lot of names in the first
17 conversation as well. And I cannot argue against that,
18 that I didn't say Ainslie Evans right away.
19
20 Q. And she also says that you and she agreed on key
21 points regarding circumstances of her departure from
22 Katanning. Now, I gather you don't agree --
23 A. No.
24
25 Q. -- with that?
26 A. No, we didn't discuss her departure at that time. I
27 had to go back into the training session and said to her,
28 "Sorry," I had to go.
29
30 Q. So what do you say? Do you say that was the extent of
31 your conversation?
32 A. No, I can recount some of the conversation for you if
33 you like.
34
35 Q. Yes, please.
36 A. Maggie asked me - she said, "Elizabeth, I remember it
37 was you and Janet Holmes a Court came down and you and
38 Janet and I sat on the front lawn and I told you about it"
39 and I said --
40
41 Q. Sorry, about what --
42 A. -- "No, Maggie" --
43
44 Q. Sorry, about what?
45 A. -- "and I told you about the boy telling us that he
46 was abused, the young man."
47

1 Q. Yes.
2 A. And I said, "No, Maggie, Janet and I never drove to
3 Katanning together. I don't believe that's true." And she
4 said, "Well, then it was you and that other guy, Peter",
5 and I said, "No, I don't believe that." Maggie, you rang
6 Peter's phone, and I told her my story. And I just said,
7 "Look, Maggie, that's not true, I'm not in a position to
8 speak right now, but you rang Peter's phone, and I answered
9 it, and you gave me a brief message. I've got to go back
10 into training, I'm sorry".

11
12 Q. And is - that was it?

13 A. Yes, and Maggie appeared very confused about who she
14 told, when she told, and was asking me, "I am sure it was
15 you and Janet." And when I said it categorically wasn't,
16 then she said, "I am sure it was you and Peter", and I sat
17 down and I said, "No, it wasn't, it was on the phone when I
18 was in head office." And that was the conversation in
19 September.

20
21 Q. Now, Ms Stroud, it was the case that you had been down
22 to Katanning whilst the Westrek program was up and running
23 there?

24 A. Yes, I believe I went to Katanning once, early on.

25
26 Q. When Maggie Dawkins was a group leader?

27 A. Yes, very early on in the program I went once, and I
28 believe I went once before the participants and group
29 leaders were in place.

30
31 Q. And when the group leaders and participants were in
32 place for that visit you actually stayed the night, didn't
33 you?

34 A. Yes, I did.

35
36 Q. Right. And what did you say a moment ago, a little
37 while ago now, that there was rules regarding alcohol
38 consumption in the residences?

39 A. That people under aged were not allowed to drink, and
40 that drinking was to be in moderation.

41
42 Q. Was drinking in moderation carried out on that night
43 when you stayed there?

44 A. I don't recall any alcohol being consumed.

45
46 Q. Did you speak to any of your ex-Westrek colleagues
47 after you had this initial phone call with Mrs Dawkins back

1 in September last year?
2 A. Yes, I did.
3
4 Q. Who did you speak to?
5 A. I spoke to Janet Holmes a Court.
6
7 Q. Yes.
8 A. Ian Carter and Peter Kenyon, and later on I spoke with
9 Peter Sherlock.
10
11 Q. And what did you speak to Ian Carter about?
12 A. While I was in - I was either in Zambia or Laos, and
13 someone said to me - I believe I was sitting in an airport
14 and I got a message from someone saying, "Are you okay,
15 you've been quoted in the paper?" Or, "Your name is in the
16 paper", and I rang Ian to ask Ian, when I got back from
17 overseas - I believe I'd been working in Laos - and I rang
18 Ian when I got back and asked Ian what was happening.
19
20 Q. So hold on, have you kept in contact with Mr Carter
21 since 1985?
22 A. No, no, from when I left Westrek I had really nothing
23 to do with any of them until this event.
24
25 Q. So who was the message from someone?
26 A. I received an email from Robyn Daniels, a friend, and
27 she had scanned the article and sent it to me, fully
28 understanding that I could be overseas, as I spend a lot of
29 time overseas.
30
31 Q. Okay.
32 A. And I read the article and when I got back I rang Ian
33 Carter.
34
35 Q. And why did you do that?
36 A. Because I wanted to understand what was happening,
37 what he had heard, what was going on.
38
39 Q. And what had he heard?
40 A. And he said that he hadn't heard a lot, but it was
41 horrible, and we had a five minute conversation and then
42 decided that it was probably better not to talk, and left
43 it at that.
44
45 Q. What was it that was horrible?
46 A. Well, the whole event of the abuse going on for so
47 long, and so many people being damaged in the process.

1
2 Q. Were you aware that Dennis McKenna had been actually
3 convicted in 1991 of sexual offences against boys?
4 A. No, I wasn't.
5
6 Q. Were you in Western Australia at the time?
7 A. My chances of being in Western Australia are probably
8 60/40 - 60 against, 40 for.
9
10 Q. Even back in 1991?
11 A. Yes.
12
13 Q. Is that the only telephone conversation or
14 conversation you had with Mr Carter since September last
15 year?
16 A. No. I believe I rang him after my second phone
17 conversation with Maggie.
18
19 Q. Yes. We'll get to the second conversation in a
20 moment, but what conversations did you have with Mr Carter
21 on that occasion?
22 A. Mr Carter then informed me that he had sought legal
23 advice and that he was not going to speak to anyone, and I
24 respected that and said sorry that I had bothered you, and
25 he said, "We'll look forward to a glass of wine at the end
26 of all of this", and that was the end of the phone
27 conversation.
28
29 Q. Let me just get this right. Was that the first time
30 you'd spoken to Ian Carter - I'm talking about after the
31 September phone call, since --
32 A. Yes.
33
34 Q. -- you worked with him back in the mid '80s?
35 A. That is correct.
36
37 Q. Now, given the fact that, as I understand what you
38 said about the - at the end of that first phone call, it
39 was decided that you wouldn't speak about it, why did you
40 ring him up again a second time?
41 A. I think I'm confused. The first time I think we had a
42 general conversation and I asked him if he knew where Peter
43 Sherlock was, and had he spoken to Janet about it, or what
44 did - and what was his understanding of what was happening,
45 and I think the second time he informed me that he had
46 sought legal advice and was suggested that we not speak.
47

1 Q. And why did you ring him up the second time?
2 A. Just wanting to understand what was happening.
3
4 Q. Why do you think he knew what would be happening?
5 A. Because he's in Perth and I'm overseas.
6
7 Q. Yes. What was happening in regards to what?
8 A. Well, what was happening with the Inquiry.
9
10 Q. You had access to the Internet, did you not, overseas?
11 A. Intermittent internet depending on where I am.
12 Sometimes I have very good, sometimes I have very
13 intermittent.
14
15 Q. What did you think Mr Carter would know over and above
16 what you could glean from Internet news sites?
17 A. I don't know.
18
19 Q. So why ring him?
20 A. I'm not sure. I rang him to talk to him about it, to
21 say, "What's happening?"
22
23 Q. You mentioned you also spoke to Peter Kenyon?
24 A. Yes.
25
26 Q. When was that in relation to the first phone call?
27 A. The first phone call --
28
29 Q. Of Maggie Dawkins?
30 A. Well, I didn't know where Peter Kenyon was, and I'm
31 not sure whether Peter Kenyon contacted me. I spoke with
32 him, I believe it would be this year.
33
34 Q. And what was discussed?
35 A. We discussed our recollection of things.
36
37 Q. And why was that?
38 A. I think for me soul searching, and wanting to make
39 sure that my memory was - was a fair and just one.
40
41 Q. Did your memory accord with his?
42 A. No, I believe he saw some things differently.
43
44 Q. Well, this was after the second phone call you had
45 with Mr Carter, wasn't it?
46 A. Yes, a long time after.
47

1 Q. Yes.
2 A. It would have been - when would I have spoken to him?
3
4 Q. All right, that's okay. Mr Carter had told you that
5 he had sought legal advice and it was best if you and he
6 didn't speak to each other about this?
7 A. Yes, that's correct.
8
9 Q. But you nevertheless proceeded to call Peter Kenyon to
10 speak to him about it?
11 A. I'm not sure if Peter rang me.
12
13 Q. All right.
14 A. I'm not sure if Peter rang me or if I rang Peter.
15
16 Q. But either way, you didn't convey to Mr Kenyon, did
17 you, that it would be best if you and he didn't speak about
18 it?
19 A. No, I didn't.
20
21 Q. In fact, you spoke, it would sound, quite freely about
22 it?
23 A. Yes, we did have a conversation about it.
24
25 Q. And was it specifically to do with Maggie Dawkins?
26 A. Yes, we did speak about Maggie. We spoke about all
27 the projects. We spoke about the political environment.
28 We had a very wide conversation about it; but, yes, we did
29 speak about Maggie.
30
31 Q. How many times did you speak to Peter Kenyon?
32 A. Maybe twice.
33
34 Q. Did you meet him at all?
35 A. Yes.
36
37 Q. And what was the purpose of the meeting?
38 A. We got together and had a coffee, one, because of
39 synergies in both of our businesses, and we also got
40 together just to talk about our memories of it. And it was
41 after we'd been through business synergies and after we'd
42 been through - for me, soul-searching, and looking at -
43 trying to remember from such a long time ago.
44
45 Q. And was your memory assisted by what Mr Kenyon could
46 recall?
47 A. Was it assisted? Some things were affirmed, and some

1 things we felt differently about, and some things - yes, I
2 guess some things we felt consistent about, and some things
3 we did not.
4

5 Q. What things did you feel different about?
6 A. I don't think I saw the same enormity of the
7 circumstance in Katanning as Peter did and, I mean, as
8 well, where Peter was more removed from the program than
9 Ian, just by nature of position, although Peter was pulled
10 in whenever there was a political conversation or a
11 high-level departmental conversation.
12

13 Q. Anything else that you had differences about?
14 A. Not that I can recall, no.
15

16 Q. Had you spoken to Peter Kenyon at any time prior to
17 these telephone calls and since the mid '80s?
18 A. No.
19

20 Q. You also mentioned you spoke to Peter Sherlock?
21 A. Yes.
22

23 Q. How many times did you speak to him?
24 A. We played a lot of phone tag, and I believe I had two
25 conversations with Peter - one very short one and, yes, I
26 think twice I spoke with Peter.
27

28 Q. And these telephone calls, were they some time this
29 year as well?
30 A. Yes, they were.
31

32 Q. So, again, after the second phone call you had with
33 Ian Carter?
34 A. I believe - yes, long after.
35

36 Q. And, again, am I understanding it correctly the
37 purposes of these conversations were to discuss precisely
38 this matter?
39 A. Yes, it was.
40

41 Q. And to go through each other's recollections?
42 A. Yes, we did.
43

44 Q. And, again, had you spoken to Mr Sherlock at any time
45 between then and the mid 1980s?
46 A. No.
47

1 Q. Did you make the first phone call to him?
2 A. Yes, I did. I - who asked me. I think Maggie asked
3 me where Peter was, and I had no idea, and then I just did
4 a Google search.
5
6 Q. And, again, you discussed each other's recollections;
7 is that right?
8 A. Yes.
9
10 Q. And for what purpose?
11 A. Again, for me it's - it's soul-searching and wanting -
12 yes, soul-searching and wanting to verify my memory or - of
13 the situation.
14
15 Q. I don't quite understand you when you say it was a
16 soul searching exercise for you --
17 A. Well, I wanted to.
18
19 Q. -- what was so soul-searching about this?
20 A. Well, I wanted to, I guess, ensure that my recant or
21 my memory of the situation was accurate.
22
23 Q. Did you mention to him about this phone message that
24 you gave to him from Maggie Dawkins?
25 A. I can't remember the detail, but quite possibly, yes.
26
27 Q. Was it the case that he agreed that's how it happened?
28 A. I don't think we laboured on the detail of situations,
29 no.
30
31 Q. What were you labouring on?
32 A. Look, to be very honest, we agreed - you know, we had
33 a laugh about a whole lot of things, and we talked a lot
34 about the program in general, and how quickly it was set
35 up, and the hope that, you know, from the - the hope that
36 John Dawkins would then become a funder of the program,
37 that it would be put into a foundation, how long it went
38 for, how long he stayed with his involvement.
39
40 Q. Ms Dawkins, I don't think the purpose of this
41 telephone call was to have a Westrek reunion. Wasn't the
42 purpose of this telephone conversation to speak about your
43 recollections of this --
44 A. Yes, I'm saying that --
45
46
47 Q. -- matter to do with Maggie Dawkins?

1 A. Yes, I absolutely accept that the phone call was
2 motivated to discuss or recount with Maggie Dawkins.
3
4 Q. And?
5 A. And then we had a general conversation about Westrek
6 and our lives.
7
8 Q. Was it the case that a central part of this
9 conversation was to emphasise the reasons why Maggie
10 Dawkins left Katanning?
11 A. No, it wasn't to emphasise that.
12
13 Q. Did that come up in the conversation?
14 A. Yes, it did.
15
16 Q. It is a rather relevant point though, isn't it, I
17 would suggest to you, the conversations with all these
18 three men?
19 A. Yes.
20
21 Q. Because you had already read in the paper, had you
22 not, that she was saying she was thrown out of Katanning
23 because of the allegations she was making against Dennis
24 McKenna? Isn't that right?
25 A. I had read the article, yes.
26
27 Q. Yes. Would you agree with me if that was the reason,
28 then that would reflect poorly on Westrek management?
29 A. If that was the reason, yes, it would reflect poorly
30 on Westrek management.
31
32 Q. I suggest to you a central reason why you wanted to
33 speak to each of these three men was to see what their
34 version of events were as to why it was Maggie Dawkins was
35 moved from Katanning?
36 A. It wasn't completely motivated by why Maggie Dawkins
37 left Katanning, it was motivated by wanting to talk to
38 other people involved in this situation.
39
40 Q. Predominantly motivated then, Ms Stroud?
41 A. Absolutely, by wanting to talk about the accusations
42 that Maggie was making and what other people's thoughts
43 were, and I believe it was a naive thing to do --
44
45 Q. What was a naive thing to do?
46 A. -- in retrospect, to ring other people involved in it.
47

1 Q. You are saying it was a naive thing for you to do?
2 A. Yes. I believe, sitting here today and the impression
3 that that can give, it was naive of me to make those phone
4 calls.
5
6 Q. Well, why did you make those phone calls after Ian
7 Carter had told you it was best if you and he not speak
8 about it?
9 A. Because I felt that that is what he was advised from
10 his lawyer and I - and that was Ian's choice.
11
12 Q. Didn't you think it was good advice?
13 A. In hindsight, yes.
14
15 Q. Why not at the time?
16 A. I can't answer that.
17
18 Q. Well, try.
19 A. Because I didn't think of it at the time. I mean,
20 there is no answer for that other than because I didn't
21 think of it at the time.
22
23 Q. Other than, Ms Stroud, you were very keen and anxious
24 to find out what the others had to say about this saga?
25 A. I would say I was very keen, yes.
26
27 Q. Did you hear of any complaints regarding Maggie
28 Dawkins conduct in Bunbury?
29 A. I was very removed from the program at that time.
30
31 Q. The question was --
32 A. No.
33
34 Q. -- did you hear of any complaints?
35 A. No, I didn't. No.
36
37 Q. Given the account of her behaviour at Katanning that
38 you had heard when you were at Westrek, I gather she would
39 be one group leader that, in your view, should never have
40 got a reference letter?
41 A. Absolutely.
42
43 Q. That painted a glowing picture of her involvement in
44 the Westrek program?
45 A. Absolutely.
46
47 Q. However, it seems from what you are saying that her

1 file at the department, or the department files - insofar
2 as Westrek was concerned - would not necessarily be replete
3 with negative comments?
4 A. I'm not aware of any files.
5
6 Q. You were not in the Department of Employment &
7 Training in 1987, were you?
8 A. In - when?
9
10 Q. 1987.
11 A. No, I wasn't.
12
13 Q. Would it surprise you to hear that that department
14 offered Mrs Dawkins employment that year?
15 A. I would be very surprised. Was she offered by the
16 Federal department or the State department? There would be
17 a distinct difference.
18
19 Q. Were you aware that the agreement that the Westrek
20 participants could stay at Kartanup, that that agreement
21 was with the Katanning hostel board? Were you aware of
22 that?
23 A. No.
24
25 Q. 10 A
26
27 Q. Would it also surprise you that whilst Maggie Dawkins
28 was group leader in Katanning, the local paper featured and
29 article that praised the Westrek program as a success?
30 A. Does it surprise me?
31
32 Q. Mmm.
33 A. No, that wouldn't surprise me.
34
35 Q. But it wasn't --
36 A. I believe that something like that could happen in a
37 rural community that would be politically motivated.
38
39 Q. What would be?
40 A. Well, a community seeking funds from government
41 departments and sponsorships would be very keen to see that
42 their project was perceived well and was a success.
43
44 Q. Notwithstanding all the problems that you say they
45 were having with Maggie Dawkins?
46 A. I believe a rural community at the time and the funds
47 that were available, would be very keen to be perceived to

1 have managed their project well.
2
3 Q. So the towns people who were involved in this program
4 would just simply make things up to be reported in the
5 local newspaper?
6 A. Perhaps not "make things up" but perhaps remember the
7 better points, yes.
8
9 Q. But there weren't too many of them, were there,
10 Ms Stroud, on your account?
11 A. There are always positive things that come out of an
12 experience and I believe every project would have had its
13 benefits for the community.
14
15 Q. Would you agree with this proposition, that the
16 Westrek project under Mrs Dawkins management in Katanning
17 had achieved all it set out to do?
18 A. I can't answer that. I don't know that it had.
19
20 Q. From the feedback you were given, would you agree with
21 that?
22 A. I don't believe I received huge amounts of feedback.
23 I believe there were problems with the perception of some
24 of the work for the participants, that there was a lot - a
25 huge focus on manual labour.
26
27 Q. I just want to finally ask you about the second
28 telephone call that you had with Mrs Dawkins. As I
29 understand your evidence, it was October 2011. Does that
30 sound about right?
31 A. Yes, absolutely.
32
33 Q. She says that you appeared tense. Were you tense in
34 that telephone conversation?
35 A. I had just had bilateral knee replacements ten days
36 before and I had just returned home from the hospital, so I
37 don't know if you would call it "tense" or in pain but I
38 certainly - I recall the conversation very clearly.
39
40 Q. She says that she got a very different reception to
41 the one she got the previous month. Do you agree or
42 disagree with that?
43 A. I believe the context of the phone conversation was
44 very different.
45
46 Q. You have read what her account is, haven't you?
47 A. Yes.

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Q. This is at page 246 of the transcript.

A. Yes.

Q. I will just read this out to you:

I called Elizabeth a second time, this time on her work landline in Perth a few weeks later and received a very different reception. She appeared tense and warned me that 'they' were out to bring my reputation into disrepute. I would be portrayed as unprofessional and unreliable if I named my superiors, either in the media or in court. Elizabeth asked me to think very carefully about the personal cost of having my character impugned. She told me that they now had contrived alternative reasons for having me removed from Katanning. Elizabeth Stroud now said she was hazy about details we had agreed with only a few weeks before and it was now a case of being so long ago.

A. I categorically disagree. Would you like me to recount the conversation?

Q. Before you do that, let me just ask you this: she says that "they were out to bring my reputation into disrepute". Do you deny that you said that to her?

A. I absolutely deny that I said "they" were. I reminded Maggie --

Q. Hold on, hold on. Did you say that, what, you would bring her reputation into disrepute?

A. No.

Q. Well, you have done that, haven't you, in your evidence today?

A. I have recounted what I believe to be the truth and I can explain to you what I said to Maggie that day very clearly.

Q. Wait on. Wait on a moment. But you have brought her reputation into disrepute by your evidence this afternoon, haven't you?

A. I believe that I have made accurate statements of my

1 recollection of the past.
2
3 Q. Ms Stroud, that is not the question. The question is
4 - and do you want me to say it a third time or would you
5 like to answer it?
6 A. If you want to call it her reputation is called - yes.
7
8 Q. Yes, you have?
9 A. Yes.
10
11 Q. She also says that you told her she would be portrayed
12 as unprofessional and unreliable "if I named my superiors,
13 either in the media or in court". You have portrayed her
14 as unprofessional, haven't you?
15 A. I have portrayed her accurately.
16
17 Q. You have portrayed her as unprofessional, is the
18 question, Ms Stroud?
19 A. Yes.
20
21 Q. You have also portrayed her as unreliable, haven't
22 you?
23 A. Yes.
24
25 Q. "Elizabeth asked me to think very carefully about the
26 personal cost of having my character impugned." Do you
27 agree with me that in your evidence this afternoon you have
28 impugned her character?
29 A. I did not state that to Maggie on the phone.
30
31 Q. That is not the question --
32 A. And - yes.
33
34 Q. -- I asked you.
35 A. Yes.
36
37 Q. The question is: do you agree that your evidence this
38 afternoon has impugned this lady's character?
39 A. Yes. Would you like my account of her phone call?
40
41 Q. All right then. Yes, indeed. I said I would give you
42 every opportunity of doing that and I will ask you now.
43 What do you say were the contents of this telephone call?
44 A. Maggie started again with, "You do remember, you and
45 Janet came to Katanning, Elizabeth, remember? You were the
46 only one that was supportive of me.", and I said, "Maggie,
47 stop there. The only situation I remember with you and

1 Janet Homes a Court is when you were drunk and threw food
2 at her when she was speaking at an event." Maggie's
3 response was, "Well, we were all terribly young then,
4 Elizabeth." I said, "Maggie, I cannot speak of you as a
5 professional person, nor do I think anyone else will, all
6 of us having witnessed you throwing food at Janet Homes a
7 Court in a public function in which you were participants.
8 I've told you what I remember. I do not remember anything
9 else, I do not remember what you are saying. We have
10 different stories on this, Maggie. My memory is very
11 different and I don't want you to keep ringing me." That
12 was my conversation with her and Maggie got angry with me.
13 "You're changing your mind. You remember. You were the
14 only one that supported me." I said to Maggie, "We feel
15 differently about this. This is my memory, this is what
16 I'm sticking to. Please do not ring me again." That was
17 the end of my conversation with Maggie.
18

19 Q. Did she say, either in the first or second
20 conversations, what she was saying that you did by way of
21 supporting her?

22 A. All she kept saying is, "You were the only one that
23 would listen. You were the only one that was supporting
24 me. When you came to Katanning and I told you" - and she
25 kept trying to find an anchor that it was Janet or I, or
26 Peter or I that came to Katanning and she told us
27 face-to-face, and I just refuted what she said and kept
28 restating, "Maggie, this is my memory, this is what
29 happened. You know as well as I do that you didn't
30 communicate with me, that Peter Sherlock was the one that
31 dealt with Katanning, dealt with the committees. This is
32 my memory Maggie and I don't believe you will be perceived
33 by people - anyone, as a professional team leader with the
34 program." Our second phone conversation, Maggie was get
35 more and more frustrated and more and more assertive,
36 trying to get - bring me around to her recount of the story
37 and I just pushed back and said, "No, that is not an
38 accurate recount from me."
39

40 Q. Are you saying her recount of the story was that she
41 told you something when you visited Katanning with either
42 Janet Homes a Court or Peter Sherlock?

43 A. Yes. She kept asserting that Janet Homes a Court and
44 I sat on the front lawn in Katanning and she explained it
45 to both of us and that she had confidence that I was going
46 to take it forward.
47

1 Q. Explained what?
2 A. Explained that a young man had been sexually abused by
3 Dennis McKenna, and I said, "You absolutely did not tell
4 Janet Homes a Court and I, sitting on the front lawn in
5 Katanning." She said, "I remember it was you and somebody"
6 and then it was "you and Peter Sherlock", and I said, "No,
7 you did not tell us while we were in Katanning, Maggie.
8 You rang the office." I said, "Look, this is what" - "my
9 memory of you is throwing the food at Janet in a public
10 forum and, Maggie, I can't respect that. Just stop ringing
11 me. I don't want to have" - "I don't want you ringing me.
12 I am not" - "I don't see things how you see it.", and went
13 over and over with her a number of times to stop ringing
14 me, and I think in the end I just said, "Maggie, I'm
15 hanging up now. Goodbye."
16
17 Q. Were any names mentioned other than Janet Holmes a
18 Court and Peter Sherlock?
19 A. Yes. Maggie asked me if I knew where Ian was, if I
20 knew where Peter Sherlock was, she made mention to Mike
21 Cross and she asked me who other people were that were
22 involved in the program.
23
24 Q. Did you tell her?
25 A. I gave her names of other people in the department.
26 They weren't of interest. I believe the names that I gave
27 were Sandy Johnston, who was a roving employment person who
28 worked in that area. I believe I gave her a guy's name by
29 the name of 'Chook', and I don't know his real name.
30
31 Q. Did you refer to anybody by way of nicknames?
32 A. No. No, not to be as she recounted it.
33
34 Q. "As she recounted it"? In what context was that?
35 A. In the phone conversation, I do not remember any
36 nicknames being used for people.
37
38 Q. Tweedledee or Tweedledum? I know they are not
39 particularly nice names to give someone, but wasn't it the
40 case that there were some people in the department who had
41 those nicknames?
42 A. I have no memory of it. Ian and Peter had nicknames
43 but they were far from that.
44
45 Q. Don't you have some vague recollection of two
46 gentlemen in Mike Cross's office --
47 A. In Mike Cross --

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Q. -- who were referred to by those names?

A. Yes, I was just - in Mike Cross's office there were two guys that dealt - I believe one guy was finance and I believe there were some nicknames and they could have been Tweedledee and Tweedledum. They weren't people that I had anything to do with, and it's a very, very vague memory of those names, but I do not recall Maggie and I having that conversation. I do not remember that as part of the conversation.

Q. The names Peter Kenyon and Ian Carter, they were mentioned in this conversation?

A. Yes. Peter, Ian, Janet, "I", Sandy Johnston and 'Chook', I believe, were the names that I remember in the conversation.

Q. Do you say you questioned Maggie Dawkins in your telephone conversation with her in one of those telephone conversations last year, that she could have pursued this matter further?

A. In one conversation I believe I asked her why she did not continue to pursue it with the police or through John Dawkins, being the Federal Minister involved in youth affairs.

Q. All right. I've already asked you about raising it with a Federal Member of Parliament regarding a state criminal charge, but leaving that to one side, is it your account that on your version she didn't do enough?

A. I don't know in my heart if I can answer that. I mean, she went to the police.

Q. Well, what about at the time that you had this telephone conversation with her. I get the impression from what you're saying and what's in your statement, that at least at that stage you didn't think she'd done enough?

A. At that stage - in hindsight, when I spoke with her, I said, "Why didn't you continue to push it with the police or with, you know, the influential powers that you had with Ministers?"

Q. Ms Stroud, I want to finish up with this: do you accept Maggie Dawkins, being a 27-year-old woman who was simply a group leader for this Westrek program - do you accept she did enough if she had done the following: one - I'm going to say these steps to you and also stress to you

1 that this was in circumstances in which the young man
2 making the complaint did not want to go to the police,
3 okay. So do you think she'd done enough if she'd done
4 this: that she raised it with the officer-in-charge of the
5 Katanning Police Station; that she raised it with a shire
6 councillor at Katanning - Ainslie Evans; and that she
7 raised it with management at Westrek - namely you, Peter
8 Sherlock, Peter Kenyon and Ian Carter, and that upon
9 raising that with Westrek management, she had got a promise
10 that efforts would be made to give a written account to the
11 appropriate authorities that she had provided to Westrek
12 management. If all of that happened, would you accept the
13 proposition that she had done enough, or not?

14 A. If all of that happened, yes, I would.

15
16 MR URQUHART: Thank you.

17
18 HIS HONOUR: Right. Now, Mr Jenkin, do you have any
19 questions?

20
21 MR JENKIN: No, thank you, sir.

22
23 HIS HONOUR: Mr King?

24
25 MR KING: No, sir.

26
27 HIS HONOUR: Right. Now, do you wish to ask some
28 questions, Mr Ellis.

29
30 MR ELLIS: Thank you.

31
32 <CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR ELLIS:

33
34 MR ELLIS: Q. Can I take you back to the beginning of
35 the questions you were asked by Mr Urquhart, Ms Stroud.
36 You have contracts with other Government Departments. Is
37 there a conflict of interest in you giving evidence today,
38 in terms of your contracts and money you get from
39 Government Departments?

40 A. I don't believe so, no.

41
42 Q. Okay. Thank you. Now, a lot of questions you were
43 asked were about Ms Dawkins. I think it becomes clear your
44 relationship with Ms Dawkins. Did you have a friendly and
45 open relationship with Ms Dawkins?

46 A. No.

47

1 Q. So would you call it a conflicted relationship?
2 A. A what?
3
4 Q. A conflicted - you know, difficult?
5 A. Conflicted - yes.
6
7 Q. Okay. If I can take you - if you can recall this
8 diagram you were shown here.
9 A. Yes.
10
11 Q. This diagram here?
12 A. Yes.
13
14 Q. Now, were you, in your day-to-day everyday garden
15 variety activities that you were employed to do - were you
16 Peter Sherlock's assistant or deputy?
17 A. Yes.
18
19 Q. And - but you didn't - did you approve - when somebody
20 goes on holidays, did you approve their annual leave?
21 A. No.
22
23 Q. Did you do performance management on anybody?
24 A. No.
25
26 Q. Did you discuss their sick leave or --
27 A. No.
28
29 Q. -- personal things? So what was your role with actual
30 personnel management, if you like, with people like Ms
31 Dawkins, and the people of Bunbury, Northern and so on?
32 A. The only thing, involved in the initial interview of
33 people. I had no direct involvement in performance
34 management of people. My role shifted to establishing
35 resources for the programs based on the learning outcomes.
36
37 Q. So if you didn't have a hands-on day-to-day management
38 role of the personnel issues, people's day-to-day lives as
39 an employee of an organisation, you couldn't really
40 describe yourself as Mr Sherlock's deputy or associate,
41 could you?
42 A. I don't believe that there are real titles or defined
43 roles. Everybody was running extremely quickly, trying to
44 keep resources coming in from new programs being developed,
45 the management of existing programs.
46
47 Q. Okay. So you didn't have a personnel management role

1 with Ms Dawkins?
2 A. No.
3
4 Q. But nonetheless your relationship with her as a fellow
5 worker or a co-employee of the organisation was conflicted,
6 as you've just said. So on the day you answered the phone,
7 the fatal day you picked up the phone and it's her voice in
8 there, what's going through your mind?
9 A. "What's going to happen now?"
10
11 Q. Why would you say that? What do you mean by that?
12 A. There were - every time, you know - whenever there was
13 something to deal with Maggie, it always - it tended to be
14 emotive or a challenge. And I just felt like it would be a
15 phone call that Peter would be better versed to handle than
16 I would be.
17
18 Q. Okay. So again if I can take you back to the very
19 beginning, the very inception of the Westrek program.
20 A. Yes.
21
22 Q. You had an idea, you had some initial discussion,
23 people thought it might be a good thing, it was modelled on
24 the Canadian program. The wheels turned in
25 Western Australia, and the program was created. You were
26 initially the director, if you like, the manager or
27 executive officer; is that correct?
28 A. Well, I was the only one that had intimate experience
29 with the program, and my experience in Canada had been in
30 facilitating a specific project site, and then training
31 project leaders. The program in Canada had some very
32 distinct differences to the one in Australia.
33
34 Q. But in any event, you - the initial position you had
35 with the program from day one, if you like, you weren't in
36 that position very long, where you?
37 A. No, I mean, I think from the beginning I was titled a
38 project officer.
39
40 Q. Why weren't you in that position for very long?
41 A. Well, I think basically the department felt that they
42 needed a political figurehead, someone that was - had more
43 experience in dealing with governments and boards.
44
45 Q. And dealing with large groups of employees?
46 A. Yes. I had no experience in dealing with large groups
47 of employees.

1
2 Q. Okay. So you were actually, if you like, demoted, or
3 the fact that your wages weren't reduced, but you were
4 demoted from something like the manager down to a training
5 or a field officer?
6 A. Yes. I never fell demoted. I think for me, when
7 Peter Sherlock came in it was relief, because I couldn't do
8 all of what I was doing.
9
10 Q. Okay. So the day - once again that fatal day, Peter's
11 phone rings, you pick up the phone, it's Maggie's voice,
12 and you said a moment ago what went through your mind. Did
13 you see yourself as having a supervisory role over what
14 Maggie did and how she behaved?
15 A. No.
16
17 Q. Who did?
18 A. Peter --
19
20 Q. Okay.
21 A. -- Sherlock.
22
23 Q. So when Maggie said to you, "Get Peter to call me."
24 Do you think that reflects the chain of command in place at
25 the time?
26 A. Yes.
27
28 Q. Did you think it sounded odd that Maggie - you didn't
29 supervise Maggie Dawkins in a personnel counselling sort of
30 role, do you think it was odd that she would ask for the
31 person who did, in fact, have that role?
32 A. No.
33
34 Q. Now, Mr Urquhart asked you some questions about
35 conversations you had with Mr Carter and Mr Sherlock and so
36 on. Now, in any of those conversations, did you collude
37 with either of those people to confect your evidence at
38 this Tribunal?
39 A. No, absolutely not.
40
41 Q. Did you say to them or they say to you, "Look, you say
42 this and I'll say that"?
43 A. Absolutely not.
44
45 Q. Okay. Were you shocked and upset to read the
46 newspaper article published in 'The West Australian' on 24
47 February 2012 - that's the one there which essentially

1 reports --
2 A. Yes, I was very upset to have my name --
3
4 Q. -- a challenge to Maggie Dawkins' evidence?
5 A. Absolutely.
6
7 HIS HONOUR: Q. That's the report of Ms Dawkins'
8 evidence; is it?
9
10 MR ELLIS: Correct.
11
12 HIS HONOUR: Yes, right.
13
14 THE WITNESS: Yes.
15
16 MR ELLIS: This is the report, atypically reports Ms
17 Dawkins' evidence on the 23rd, I think it is, and 24th of -
18 23 and 24 February.
19
20 Q. So, Ms Stroud, you were saying you were upset?
21 A. Yes.
22
23 Q. Why were you upset?
24 A. I felt it was inaccurate recount and it brought my
25 character into question.
26
27 Q. And just tell me, before you read this, were you aware
28 of Dennis McKenna post - you know, your departure from the
29 program and, you know, you went off into life and did other
30 things throughout the '80s and '90s and so on. Were you
31 aware that he was charged? I think you said no earlier.
32 A. No, I don't think I was aware of it.
33
34 Q. So this is the first time. You said yourself, "Who?"
35 What was your reaction to the newspaper article about it
36 all?
37 A. I think I was just stunned, and I was hurt by the
38 comments that I would - I would be put in that position.
39
40 Q. So the three people that you mentioned you had
41 telephone conversations with - Mr Sherlock, Mr Carter and
42 Mr Kenyon - when you worked in the program, how did you get
43 on with them?
44 A. I think I'm just someone that lives under the wire, so
45 I - I think I got on well with everyone in the office.
46
47 Q. Okay. So you didn't have any bitter recriminations of

1 either of those people? Did you storm out and leave the
2 place in a huff, under a cloud or anything?
3 A. You never burn your bridges. Absolutely not.
4
5 Q. So the answer's no?
6 A. No.
7
8 Q. So when you read that article and you were upset by
9 it, was it natural for you to talk to people that you -
10 firstly, you had a - you felt you had a channelled
11 communication to, who you could share your ideas with, and
12 your feelings with?
13 A. Absolutely.
14
15 Q. And, again, I want to ask you again, did you, when you
16 had a conversation with any of those three people or all of
17 them, did you concoct or collude to confect your evidence
18 at this Tribunal?
19 A. Absolutely categorically, no.
20
21 Q. Well, Ainslie Evans - Ainslie Evans was the - was she
22 the shire president at the time?
23 A. I believe she was.
24
25 Q. And she was --
26 A. The chair of Westrek.
27
28 Q. The chair of the local Westrek community?
29 A. Yes.
30
31 Q. And I think you mentioned in your evidence-in-chief
32 that you had some quiet concerns about what the program
33 meant to Katanning, given that it appeared to be shoehorn
34 in there for political purposes and marginal seats issues.
35 Is that correct?
36 A. Yes, I would say so.
37
38 Q. And what does that actually mean when you say you're
39 concerned about what Katanning thought of this. What does
40 it actually mean in practical terms?
41 A. Well, I think at the time the Department of
42 Employment, Education and Training was offering money for
43 communities and communities that were challenged with
44 employment opportunities. There were a range of - I don't
45 know how many programs. The office was a very exciting
46 place to be, and there was a lot of money for struggling
47 rural communities.

1
2 Q. So in simple terms, what --
3
4 HIS HONOUR: Q. What was the overall budget, do you
5 remember?
6 A. I --
7
8 Q. It was in the millions, obviously.
9 A. I don't know, I had nothing to do with the budget,
10 sorry.
11
12 MR ELLIS: Q. So in simple terms, here was a program
13 which was essentially your brain child because of your
14 experience in Canada with the Katimavik program. You had
15 conversations with people in Perth, they picked up on it,
16 and for whatever reason it flowered and flourished?
17 A. Yes.
18
19 Q. And it was your baby, and it was kicked off in - I'll
20 use the word "demoted", but I don't mean that in a
21 pejorative sense, but you were moved down the ladder a
22 little, somebody else was put in your place, but is it the
23 case that the program, that is the Westrek program,
24 continued to, in existence, in terms of how it was
25 conducted, how its outcomes were perceived et cetera, et
26 cetera, were they of the Katimavik models?
27 A. No.
28
29 Q. They deviated from the Katimavik models?
30 A. No.
31
32 Q. They deviate from the Katimavik?
33 A. Yes.
34
35 Q. Okay. So at the time these events were occurring in
36 Katanning, as you say in terms of Ms Dawkins' conduct and
37 behaviour and so on, the program that was happening
38 essentially was not of the model that - or what - your
39 brainchild you had in mind originally, was it?
40 A. That's correct.
41
42 Q. Yes. So when you were demoted, if I use that phrase,
43 you didn't worry too much because by then the monster, if I
44 can use that phrase again, had changed into something else
45 - your baby had turned into something else, hadn't it?
46 A. Yes. I mean, I would have not called it a monster, I
47 think the program --

1
2 Q. No, I use that word --
3 A. -- value-added.
4
5 Q. I withdraw that. What I'm trying to get at is the
6 point is that you had your concerns about what Katanning -
7 what Katanning thought and its relationship, if you like,
8 through the program was that they were just looking for
9 cheap labour to paint rocks; is that right?
10 A. There was an element of that in Katanning.
11
12 Q. So you lost some confidence and faith in what you were
13 actually doing as a person in terms of your commitment and
14 contribution to society by that time?
15 A. My understanding of development was very different to
16 what the program was, and it was vastly different from the
17 program in Canada. And I learned a huge amount being
18 involved in the Westrek program, which I really valued.
19 The program in Canada was mature when I came into the
20 program, so my experience in a mature program and
21 transferring that into developing a program was vastly
22 different.
23
24 Q. So in an intellectual and philosophical and
25 theoretical sense, the baby you begat had turned into
26 something else, and at the same time overlaying down or
27 surrounding that was all these shenanigans going on about
28 people's conduct, getting booze for them, forming
29 relationships, appropriate or otherwise, and the whole
30 thing, and there's Maggie making it, as you put it, making
31 a fool of herself in the community and bringing the whole
32 thing to disrepute?
33 A. Yes.
34
35 Q. So at the time when this blew up and you read that
36 article, there's Maggie Dawkins saying the whole thing is
37 your fault and you took some objection - exception to that;
38 is that correct - is that correct?
39
40 MR URQUHART: I don't know whether the article says that.
41
42 THE WITNESS: Yes, I don't believe the article says that
43 it's all my fault.
44
45 MR ELLIS: I withdraw that.
46
47 THE WITNESS: Yes.

1
2 MR ELLIS: But the point I'm trying to make is this is the
3 mindset Ms Stroud had when she felt she needed to talk to
4 her friends, her past friends about it.
5
6 HIS HONOUR: Well, that sounds like a submission, and
7 we're giving evidence at this stage.
8
9 MR ELLIS: I have one more set of questions, your Honour,
10 then I'll finish.
11
12 Q. It's been put to you that you brought, in your
13 evidence today, that you brought Maggie Dawkins' reputation
14 into disrepute; is that correct?
15 A. Yes.
16
17 Q. Is that your understanding of how it's been put to
18 you?
19 A. Yes.
20
21 Q. Is it more accurate to say that you actually haven't
22 brought her reputation into disrepute, all you've done is
23 described her reputation and her conduct which was
24 disreputable at the time, in your view?
25 A. I believe that I described her actions, not her
26 reputation.
27
28 Q. One last question. Mr Urquhart referred to you to a
29 newspaper article that was written in the 'Katanning
30 Times', Katanning newspaper, at which --
31
32 MR URQUHART: The 'Great Southern Herald'.
33
34 MR ELLIS: Thanks.
35
36 MR URQUHART: It's actually called the 'Great Southern
37 Herald'.
38
39 MR ELLIS: Thank you very much for correcting me on that,
40 Mr Urquhart.
41
42 Q. Anyway, the report appears to say that the program was
43 (indistinct). Have you read that newspaper article?
44 A. No, I haven't. I haven't seen it until today.
45
46 Q. So we don't know if it actually mentioned Maggie
47 Dawkins herself in glowing terms, do we?

1 A. (No audible answer).
2
3 MR ELLIS: No. I have nothing further.
4
5 HIS HONOUR: All right. Nothing else from you, Mr
6 Urquhart?
7
8 MR URQUHART: Two questions, sir.
9
10 HIS HONOUR: All right.
11
12 <RE-EXAMINATION BY MR URQUHART:
13
14 MR URQUHART: Q. Did you have a supervisory role over
15 the other group leaders, Ms Stroud?
16 A. Not once Peter Sherlock came in, no.
17
18 Q. And after you read that Western Australian article on
19 or about 24 February regarding Maggie Dawkins' evidence --
20 A. Yes.
21
22 Q. -- is that - did you speak to Peter Kenyon after you
23 read that article?
24 A. Yes, I did.
25
26 Q. And did you also speak to Peter Sherlock after you
27 read that article?
28 A. Yes, I did.
29
30 Q. But you didn't speak to Ian Carter because he had told
31 you that it's best if you not speak to him?
32 A. I'm not sure if I spoke - if that's when he told me
33 after that article. I can't recall the exact timing. I'd
34 just returned from my fourth trip overseas, and I have been
35 in and out of the country, and my timing this year is hazy.
36
37 MR URQUHART: That's fine. That's all that matters, thank
38 you, sir.
39
40 HIS HONOUR: All right. Well, that completes your
41 evidence, thank you, and you are now free to leave.
42
43 THE WITNESS: Thank you.
44
45 <THE WITNESS WITHDREW
46
47 HIS HONOUR: Now, we are adjourning until 10 o'clock

1 tomorrow.

2

3 MR URQUHART: 10 o'clock, sir, where there'll be a video
4 link.

5

6 HIS HONOUR: Before I do adjourn, unfortunately there has
7 been a system failing with the numbering of exhibits and I
8 have to renumber the exhibits which were received today.
9 So exhibits 44 to 48 inclusive, renumber those exhibits 40
10 to 44 inclusive.

11

12 **EXHIBIT #40 (FORMERLY MARKED EXHIBIT #44) ST ANDREW'S**
13 **HOSTEL BOARD MEETING HELD ON 19/8/1981, BARCODED 0322**

14

15 **EXHIBIT #41 (FORMERLY MARKED EXHIBIT #45) MINUTES OF**
16 **SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ST ANDREW'S HOSTEL, DATED**
17 **28/8/1981, BARCODED 0056**

18

19 **EXHIBIT #42 (FORMERLY MARKED EXHIBIT #46) ST ANDREW'S**
20 **HOSTEL WARDEN'S REPORT DATED 18/2/81, BARCODED 0059.**

21

22 **EXHIBIT #43 (FORMERLY MARKED EXHIBIT #47) MINUTES OF BOARD**
23 **MEETING 16/4/1980, DOCUMENT BARCODED 0320**

24

25 **EXHIBIT #44 (FORMERLY MARKED EXHIBIT #48) MINUTES OF**
26 **EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE ST ANDREW'S HOSTEL BOARD HELD**
27 **ON MONDAY, 16/10/1990, BARCODED 0062**

28

29 HIS HONOUR: I'm sorry for that confusion. But there are
30 technical reasons why it occurred, but that rectifies the
31 situation. Very well, we shall adjourn until 10 o'clock
32 tomorrow.

33

34 **AT 4.55PM THE HEARING ADJOURNED TO**
35 **WEDNESDAY, 11 APRIL 2012**

36

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