



# NSW POLICE SERVICE

## STATEMENT OF A WITNESS

In the matter of:	james Patrick FLETCHER
Place:	Maitland Police Station
Date:	8 September, 2003

Name:	William John BURSTON
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### STATES:

1. This statement made by me accurately sets out the evidence which I would be prepared, if necessary, to give in court as a witness. The statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything, which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.
2. I am 67 years of age.
3. Further to a statement I made at the Maitland Police Station on the 20<sup>th</sup> of May 2003 I have attended the Maitland Police Station today at the request of Detective Sergeant FOX. He has asked me about a conversation I had with **BI** in Mayfield sometime in the week or so following the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June 2002. I do recall having a conversation with **BI** in his office at the Diocese Centre at Hamilton. This was not a formal meeting or anything, more just a conversation between people who work together & are friends. We exchanged a few words & I was obviously aware of the difficult time **BI** was going through following the allegations of his son **AH**. I said, "Jim denies that **AH** stayed at the presbytery, but my recollection is that he did because he spoke to me about it at the time." **BI** & I both seemed to be in agreement that **AH** had stayed there. There may have been some other minor conversation regarding this but I do not recall all of it now.

Witness:

Signature:

William John BURSTON

4. I believe it was Monday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June 2002 when I travelled to Branxton & saw both Father Jim SAUNDERS & Des HARRIGAN. It was at some point during that day when Jim & I were alone that the subject of AH having allegedly been sexually assault when he stayed at the Branxton Presbytery was raised. Jim said to me, "AH has never stayed overnight at the presbytery." I said, "I don't think that is true Jim. I remember you telling me that he had stayed after his attempted suicide." Jim replied something to the effect, "I don't remember that." Nothing much beyond was said, but this is the conversation that I later relayed to BI

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

William John BURSTON

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_

*[Handwritten signature]*  
P. Saunders  
D/Sgt  
8/9/03

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

*[Handwritten signature]*

William John BURSTON