



Royal Commission
into Institutional Responses
to Child Sexual Abuse

Statement

Name	Philip Graham D'AMMOND
Address	Known to the Commission
Occupation	Unemployed
Date	29 July 2016

1. This statement made by me accurately sets out the evidence that I am prepared to give to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The statement is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. Where direct speech is referred to in this statement, it is provided in words or words to the effect of those, which to the best of my recollection, were used at the time.
2. My name is Philip Graham D'Ammond. I was born in Newcastle, New South Wales (NSW). I am 54 years old. I used to work as a concreter but I am now unemployed and on a disability pension.
3. I was given up at birth and fostered as a baby by Dr Phyllis D'Ammond who was then 62 years old. Dr D'Ammond also fostered two other older boys, and a younger girl. Dr D'Ammond was violent and regularly gave me the strap and emotionally abused me. I used to stutter and she would lock me in the toilet until I said a whole sentence without a stutter. One time, I couldn't do it and I started head-butting the wall out of frustration. As punishment, Dr D'Ammond stitched my head up without anaesthetic and locked me in the shed. Dr D'Ammond demanded I call her "mum". It was so good to go to school to get away from her and my brothers.

Signature: 

Witness: 

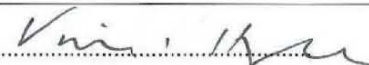
St Alban's Boys Home

4. About 1971, when I was 9 years old, I got sent to St Alban's Boys Home (**St Alban's**) after I got blamed for stealing money and burning a neighbour's house down, which I didn't do. The Home was in Cessnock, operated by the Church of England. My mum sent me to St Alban's and I was there for about nine months. It was good there. The Matron was Dulcie Barry and she looked after us with her husband Ron. I was in a dormitory of eight boys who were my age, we went to school and played cricket. I hadn't experienced playing normal kid's stuff before. I liked it at St Alban's. After nine months at St Alban's, I returned back home to my mum.
5. In the winter of 1975, when I was 13 years old, my mother was dying from stroke. A neighbour was looking after me and then the Church turned up. I was sent to Court and was made a ward of the state. I was committed to St Alban's, not to be re-fostered again, until I was 16. My younger sister was sent to St Elizabeth's at Singleton, NSW and I haven't seen her since. My brothers stayed at home as they were older than me. I have no contact with them.
6. At St Alban's, there were different women who also worked at the Home besides the Matron and Ron. It was strict and regimented. We had jobs to do like working in the kitchen, dusting and polishing the floor. I saw the same boys from 1971 still there when I returned in 1975. There were 32 boys in total and eight boys per dorm arranged in age group. This second time at St Alban's was emotionally different and daunting, because I knew Dr D'Ammond was paralysed and wasn't going to come and get me. Even though my mother was a bitch, I still missed her.
7. There was a youth worker at St Alban's from Kurri Kurri, James Michael Brown, who I called Jimmy. He loved it when I called him "my old man". Jimmy was aged about 25 years old then.
8. In August 1975, during the first school holidays, all the other kids were going to relatives to stay. I was going to be the only one left at St Alban's with nowhere to go for the holidays. I would've had to stay at the Home by myself with the Matron. On the night before the last day of school,

Signature:.....



Witness:.....



the Matron introduced me to Jimmy and she said to me, "*Phil, this is James. He is offering to take you for the school holidays. Do you want to go with James?*" The first thing Jimmy said to me was about my nice smile and he also said, "*you've got the best skin I've ever seen*". That should have raised alarm bells but I was just a kid. The Matron had no trouble allowing me to go with Jimmy as the Matron was encouraged to get rid of everyone for the holidays.

9. Jimmy raced hot-rods on the speedway and had dirt bikes, so of course I said 'yes' to him taking me. He had me hook, line and sinker. It sounded good to me. He talked about tracks on the dirt bikes, pits with me at the raceway and writing my name as the pit crew.
10. I would see Father Peter Rushton (**Rushton**) every Tuesday morning for morning chapel with all the boys. He came across as a fat, jolly man at first. It wasn't until I saw Rushton and Jimmy at church that I figured out they were friends. I believe that Jimmy got his credibility from Rushton as the Matron knew that Jimmy was practising to be a priest in Morpeth. I see Rushton as the tradesman and Jimmy as his apprentice. Rushton infiltrated St Alban's by being a priest and brought Jimmy in.
11. Rushton was not around for long at St Alban's as he moved to Wallsend. Father Michael Cooper took over from Rushton.

Sexual abuse by James Brown

12. Jimmy picked me up after the last day of school in around August 1975, when I was 13 years old. He took me to his home at Kurri Kurri which is about 20 minutes away from Cessnock. Jimmy lived in a flat. There was only one bedroom, which had a double bed in it, and a lounge room, kitchen and a bathroom. Jimmy was six foot two at the time.
13. On the first night that I stayed at Jimmy's, within 20 minutes of being at his home, Jimmy offered me alcohol which I took. By the time it was bedtime, I was drunk. Jimmy took me into the bedroom. I was in my pyjamas in the bed. I was facing the wall going to sleep and Jimmy hopped

Signature: _____

Witness: _____

into bed and started cuddling me from behind. Jimmy grabbed me on the outside of my pyjamas and started rubbing my penis. I felt scared and wet myself. I got out of bed, freaking out at him and I tried to lock myself in the bathroom. Jimmy said to me, *"I wasn't trying to do anything"*.

14. This sexual abuse went on every day for the next two weeks, and it got worse. It was mainly oral. I didn't know what was happening. Jimmy would say to me, *"you are not a very affectionate person are you Phil?"* Jimmy then tried to get me to do the same thing to him. Jimmy said to me, *"it's okay, me and [REDACTED] do this all the time"* and *[REDACTED] used to suck it for me. There's nothing wrong with doing it."* I knew Jimmy was referring to another boy named [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] who was a bit older than me and who I knew through Jimmy.

15. I didn't know Kurri Kurri, I didn't think to ring up the Matron, and I didn't know what to do. During the day, it was about working on the hot rods and going shopping, but at night Jimmy would assault me. By the time the two weeks was up I thought I couldn't tell anyone, and being gay was taboo in the 70's (not that I was). Even when I went back to St Alban's I didn't tell the Matron. I now think she would have protected me if she had known, but at the time I couldn't tell her. The Matron didn't really get to know the real me, I was always putting up a front.

Sexual abuse by James Brown – 1975-1977

16. About three weeks after the school holidays, the Matron came up to me and asked me, *"Do you want to go out with Jim on the weekend?"*, I said *"Yes"*. Jimmy then started taking me out on the weekends regularly. The way Jimmy did this was to promise buying me a bike. There were many times I wanted to say no but I couldn't come up with a good logical reason because I know the Matron and Jimmy would have asked me why I didn't want to go.
17. I would try my best to get out of going with Jimmy. I would muck up at the Home so the Matron would ground me and not let me leave for the weekend. In 1977, Jimmy became a Board member of St Alban's and then it didn't seem to matter what I did. I tried to be naughty but it

Signature: 

Witness: 

didn't work. Jimmy bragged about being a Board member. I didn't know what that meant other than they had meetings and dressed in suits. Even when I upended someone into a rosebush in front of the Matron, Jimmy just went to the Board and I was out again the next week with him. On each occasion I was with Jimmy, he abused me.

18. In about September 1975, when I was staying at Jimmy's house on a weekend, Father Michael Cooper came to the house for dinner. Jimmy would ask me if I wanted a drink, if I was comfortable, it was like he putting me up on a pedestal to show off what he had but didn't want to share me with Father Michael. I wasn't worried about Father Michael he was married with kids. After Father Michael left, Jimmy and I went to bed and he abused me. On one occasion in 1975, Jimmy organised for Father Michael to pick me up for a weekend. Father Michael drove me home and he gave me a cigarette because he knew I smoked. He rubbed me on the inside of my leg. I spun around and tried to turn my back onto him. Father Michael did not try anything with me ever again.
19. In the 1975 Christmas holidays, Jimmy took me away for two weeks to Queensland. We stayed in the one room at a Motel and he abused me. In 1976, I went back to Jimmy's place every weekend and school holidays. He had bought a new house at Kurri Kurri with one bedroom with a double bunk and a double bed. The abuse went on the whole time. 1975 and 1976 were the bad years. I did not tell anyone and I had no one to tell.
20. During the 1977 May school holidays, another boy from the Home named [REDACTED], who was about 15 years old, moved into Jimmy's house for a few months. I knew [REDACTED] as he would sleep in the bed next to me at St Alban's. When we were at Jimmy's house, I would sleep in the top bunk and [REDACTED] and Jimmy would sleep together in the double bed. I saw Jimmy having anal sex with [REDACTED]. When [REDACTED] was at home, Jimmy would leave me alone but if [REDACTED] was out working, Jimmy would abuse me. [REDACTED] and I never spoke about the abuse by Jimmy, I don't know why.

Signature: 

Witness: 

21. Around 1977, I had stopped Jimmy him abusing me by showing my interest in girls, hinting that I was not gay and that I had moved on. I never had words with Jimmy about him abusing me.

Father Peter Rushton and Father Michael Cooper

22. Sometime in 1976 when I was 14 years old, Jimmy took me to Rushton's house in Wallsend. Jimmy left me alone in a room with Rushton, and Rushton told me to come and sit on his knee. I swore at Rushton because that would get me out of trouble sometimes. Rushton then groped and cuddled me. I know Jimmy was still somewhere else in the house.
23. In 1976 and 1977, sometimes Father Michael would come to Jimmy's house and watch hard core pornographic videos that Jimmy had. He would do this while I was in the room with him. I would get out of there and say I would go ride my bike. Jimmy always offered me alcohol and drugs like pot, hash and acid. I was 16 years old when I first went to rehab.
24. In 1977, when I was 15 years old, I was at Jimmy's house during a visit and was working outside on a motorbike that Jimmy had bought for me. I came into the house to see Jimmy watching a pornographic movie. It wasn't really a regular occurrence but had happened even on the first night I stayed with Jimmy when I was 13 years old. Shortly after, Jimmy brought out some cream that REDA had bought and grabbed me on the outside of my pants, on my genitals. He told me "I want to put it on you". Then Jimmy pulled down my pants and performed oral sex on me.
25. That was the last time that Jimmy abused me because I began to jack up to him or piss him off when he tried to abuse me. This was done more by body language, not words. He would go to a youth group in Kurri Kurri where there was another boy there for him. I was 15 and did not want him to do this to me anymore.
26. One time only I punched Jimmy. He was lying on his bed masturbating and I walked past and he said come and watch this. I was 15 years old at the time. I was pissed off. I told him to get fucked and I kicked him in the groin and punched him. That was the only violence there was. From then

Signature: 

Witness: 

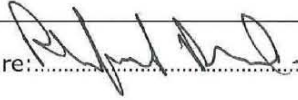
on, I was a pain in his arse, he was stuck with me and I would run amuck. I continued to live there but I stayed in the laundry area of the house while Jimmy and REDA stayed in the bedroom.

Life after St Alban's and staying with Brown

27. In December 1977, when I was 15 years old and 10 months, I left St Alban's. In order for me to go to Kurri Kurri High School, Jimmy decided to become my legal guardian, which he did. I went to live with him at his house permanently. I didn't get a say in the matter.
28. I stayed with Jimmy and REDA for about another two years until I was 17 years old and had finished fourth form. I stayed with Jimmy because I had no family to go to and he gave me motorbikes and took me on holidays. While I lived with Jimmy, I was using marijuana and LSD. Drug abuse later became a way for me to avoid facing reality and memories of Jimmy's abuse.
29. After REDA moved out in 1978, another boy named REDACTED who was the same age as me, frequented the house a lot.

Life after leaving Brown's house

30. I lived with Jimmy until I was about 17 or 18 years old. My birth mother had made contact with me, and my friends had started asking me, "was your old man gay?", I thought this was a good time to get out. I then moved to Sydney.
31. My birth mother was nasty to me and blamed me for her marriage falling apart. Our relationship did not last long.
32. I got a painting and decorating apprenticeship. It didn't last. Over the next ten years or so, I got involved in crime and did time in jail. I became addicted to drugs and went to rehab 25 times.
33. When I was in Cessnock jail, Jimmy visited me. He was at least someone for me. He was even the MC at my wedding. I didn't want to be in the world on my own and this was a dilemma about reporting on him. I would catch up with Jimmy whenever I visited Kurri Kurri. At times, there were four or five young guys at Jimmy's house that I had never seen before. I never saw

Signature: 

Witness: 

Jimmy abusing the boys. Jimmy would bring boys with him when he visited me in jail. Jimmy had a job as a Manager of an electrical company and he was always involved with the Church.

34. In 1989, Jimmy came to visit me in Muswellbrook and I could see he was down. Jimmy and I had a conversation and he told me, *"I've moved to the Baptist Church, they are all talking about me and making feel uncomfortable at the Kurri Anglican Church."* I put two and two together with this. The Anglican Church knew about him and he just moved down the road to the Baptist Church in [REDACTED] Kurri Kurri.

35. All the time I was living with Jimmy, he worked within the Church of England at Weston as a youth worker and he also worked in the Kurri Kurri youth group. I knew Jimmy was never a priest but could do things like give sermons, give out the wine and baptise, but I am not sure if he could do marriages. I never went to Church at Kurri Kurri so only saw Jimmy at Weston.

Reporting sexual abuse and criminal proceedings

36. When my daughter was one year old in about 1992, Jimmy saw me walking her and made a nasty comment to me about my wife marrying me and having a kid with me. After this confrontation, something triggered in my mind and that is when I started planning on trying to stop Jimmy doing what he was doing. I knew he was still abusing boys.
37. On 9 April 1996, I made a complaint to Newcastle Police about the abuse I suffered from Jimmy when I was a kid. In June 1996, I told the police I didn't want to proceed with the matter whilst I was in gaol. In 1996, after I wrote my police statement, the Newcastle Police gave the Wood Royal Commission my details and I was contacted by them. The interview did not go well and I thought it was suspect. I signed a statement with the Wood Royal Commission but heard nothing further from them.

Signature: 

Witness: 

38. In 1997, I made reports to Cessnock, Newcastle, Maitland, Kurri Kurri and Burwood police stations. No one ever called me back. I then went to a local politician in Sydney and my case against Jimmy was reopened.
39. The matter proceeded to court in 1997. The court case wasn't successful. It went to committal and I gave evidence. The barrister for Jimmy used to be the Bishop's private legal adviser Paul Rosser. He was aggressive and hammered me. He made me out to be like the devil saying I was just looking for money. He went hard representing Jimmy. The defence went through each charge and just ripped me apart. I thought it would be a lot easier, and I lost because the DPP told me that they didn't think we could win in a trial and so I decided not to go ahead with it.
40. I felt defeated. One of the defence questions was how could Jimmy give oral sex when he had a broken leg. They also discredited me because of my background. Looking back, I was really naïve. There was a suppression order on Jimmy so I knew other victims wouldn't have been able to come forward.

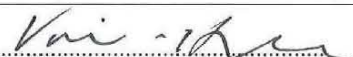
Conviction of James Brown

41. In 2010, I heard a news report about a man from Kurri Kurri being arrested for child sex offences. I straightaway went back to the police because I knew it was Jimmy. Detective Greg Harding from Maitland Police was very helpful to me. I didn't need to make another police statement. Detective Harding also gave me the details of Michael Elliott and told me to give him a call for support. Detective Harding said Michael was the ethics and standards committee person for the Church. After a few weeks, I called Michael and he was very supportive of me.
42. In 2011, Jimmy was charged with sexual abuse of me and other boys. On 27 July 2011, with the help of the victims of crime counsellor Jacki, I wrote a victim impact statement about the effects and impact of the sexual abuse. The statement was handed to the lawyers and the Judge read out my victim impact statement.

Signature: _____



Witness: _____



43. In 2012, Jimmy was convicted of abusing other victims including me over many years. Jimmy pleaded guilty so it didn't go to trial but he was in the witness box for his sentencing. I attended Court for Jimmy's sentencing and later for his appeal. He got 20 years jail. There were about 22 victims altogether that had come forward. Paul Rosser represented Jimmy again.

Civil claim

44. In 2011, I saw a psychologist for the Victim's Compensation Tribunal. This got started by my caseworker as I was homeless and after the news report came out about Jimmy, she said I should be getting compensation for this. She put an application in on my behalf. I then got a list of lawyers and psychologists to pick from.
45. In November 2011, with the help of Michael Elliott I made a claim for compensation with the Anglican Diocese of Newcastle. Michael gave me advice and pointed me in the right direction.
46. In 2013, I attended mediation with the Anglican Diocese. There was a barrister, lawyer and the Church's business manager there and no one would even look at me in the room, they all had their eyes down. The Anglican Diocese gave me financial compensation. It was never about the money for me though, it was about the apology from the Church. I had to remind them about the apology after it finished. It was a written apology and it didn't feel heartfelt.

Impact of sexual abuse

47. Jimmy introduced me to alcohol when I was 13 years old. I was using drugs he supplied while I lived with him. After I left the house, I started using heroin. Drug and alcohol abuse continued to be a way for me to avoid facing reality and the memories of Jimmy's abuse.
48. I experienced a huge emotional conflict because I desperately wanted to be out of St Alban's, however the only way I seemed to be able to do that was to be in the company of a paedophile.

Signature: _____

Witness: _____

Homosexuality was taboo and this made me even more scared that people would find out about Jimmy and then think I was gay.

49. I had no good role model to learn how to express my emotions honestly in close relationships. I learnt to hide my emotions with Jimmy because I feared he would see it as a weakness and a reason to attack me sexually. I still conceal my emotions today as an automatic reflex. When I am emotional, I react violently or at least become very angry. I cannot cope with intimacy in my personal relationships, so if a girlfriend starts to get close to me I set up ways to sabotage the relationship and leave. I feel crushed that I have hurt so many people as a result of the abuse.
50. Over the years, I have had six jail sentences totalling 18 years. I have been involved in acts of violence including armed robbery, multiple common assaults, malicious wounding with intent to cause grievous bodily harm. I was harbouring a lot of pent up anger towards Jimmy and I misdirected it at others. I have now received counselling for anger management and the trauma of sexual abuse.
51. I did not think I could tell anybody about Jimmy's abuse. At the time, I thought I would not be believed by the Matron at St Alban's. I thought I just had to comply with Jimmy's behaviour to survive. I did not know I had any rights or that I could say no. I felt dirty and ashamed, and I worried that no one would believe me because it was my word against his.

Recommendations for the Royal Commission

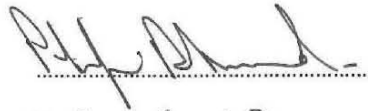
52. For me personally, the most important recommendation is for medical and scientific research to be conducted into the causes of paedophilia. We need to educate kids on what to look out for and for parents to know what to look at for. We need awareness on how paedophiles work.
53. The church needs to learn to live by the law of the land and not their own laws. They seem to make it up as they go.
54. There needs to be improvements in the way survivors access mental health services:

Signature: 

Witness: 

- a. A survivor should be able to access their preferred and trusted mental health professional, when they need as opposed to having to wait a long time for an appointment;
 - b. Medicare should remove all funding limits for survivors
 - c. Additional training should be provided to General Practitioners and mental health professionals about how to assist survivors of child sexual abuse.
55. Before a survivor makes a police statement, they should be required to see a psychologist (preferably a number of sessions) to put in place strategies on how to cope with the process and legal system.

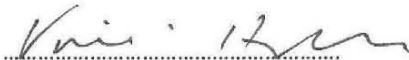
Signed:



Date:

24-7-16


Witness:



Date:

24-7-16

Signature:



Witness:

