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**Special Commission of Inquiry into matters relating to the police investigation of certain child sexual abuse allegations in the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle.**

BI of ADDRESS REDACTED states on  
Oath:-

1. I recall an evening in either 1997 or 1998 being at my home in Glen Oak when I received a telephone call from Father Robert Searle the priest at Nelson Bay.
2. Father Searle said words to the effect that my son AH was on the footpath opposite the presbytery in Nelson Bay.
3. He also said that AH appeared to be very drunk, was screaming out at the presbytery and was upsetting the neighbours.
4. I believe Father Searle also added that AH had thrown a beer bottle at the presbytery.
5. I recall saying to Father Searle that if there was concern about safety or disturbing the neighbours, he should call the police to have AH removed. I also suggested that Father Searle could call my wife BJ who was at the Dungog presbytery attending a parish meeting at that time.
6. I believe Father Searle did call BJ as she called me shortly thereafter to talk about AH being outside the Nelson Bay presbytery.
7. I was not able to drive to Nelson Bay at that time and I advised Father Searle that I would endeavour to find a driver
8. I contacted my neighbour REDACTED, who then drove me to the Nelson Bay presbytery. I believe I called Father Searle to tell him I was coming. The journey took about one hour.
9. When REDACTED and I arrived at the Nelson Bay presbytery, AH I was not there.

JP

- 10. ~~REDACTED~~ waited in the car and I spoke to Father Searle in the presbytery. I do not recall his exact words but he repeated what he had said in our earlier telephone conversation. He also said that he had not called the police.
- 11. I do not recall that Father Searle told me any specific words that AH had used.
- 12. ~~REDACTED~~ and I then drove around Nelson Bay looking for AH but without success.

Dated at Raymond Terrace on <sup>13<sup>th</sup></sup> August 2013:

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**Signature:**

Certificate of witness      Signed

JP NSW 116319  
John Gordon

I certify the following matters concerning the person who made this statutory declaration (the declarant):

- 1. I saw the face of the declarant.
- 2. I have confirmed the declarant's identity using the following identity document:

NSW Drivers Licence  
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Signature of witness

Signed

JP NSW 116319 13/8/13

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