

# Statutory Declaration

## OATHS ACT 1900, NSW, EIGHTH SCHEDULE

---

I, Miriam Sybil WHITE, of an address known to Police, do solemnly and sincerely declare that:

1. I was a member of the New South Wales Police Force from 7 August 1986 to 6 January 2012.
2. My duties were all in the administrative field. They included Community Relations Maitland District, Highway Patrol Administrative Officer Maitland District, Court Process Officer Maitland Patrol, Patrol Administrative Officer Raymond Terrace Patrol, Human Resource Officer and Finance Officer Waratah Local Area Command, General Administrative Officer Waratah Local Area Command and then Port Stephens Local Area Command.
3. In July 2008 Port Stephens Local Area Command was created and I was appointed as the General Administrative Officer. My role included and was not exclusive to Financial Management and Human Resources. I was also involved in the oversight of property maintenance and on the building project team for the new police station at Raymond Terrace.
4. Included in the staffing of the new Command was Superintendent Charles Haggett as the Local Area Commander and Detective Chief Inspector Peter Fox as the Crime Manager.
5. In the temporary police station at Raymond Terrace, the officers for the administration and senior management team were located on the old indoor basketball court facility, made available to us by Port Stephens Council. The tea making and kitchen area was located downstairs, approximately 20 feet from Detective Fox's office and in view of the office which was elevated off the floor of the basketball court. The office was three steps up from the basketball court and the office window which faced the basketball court and tea making facility had a Venetian blind.

6. I had a close working relationship with Detective Fox in the time we worked together at Port Stephens Local Area Command, however I was not involved in administrative duties pertinent to his position.
7. Although I was not involved in Detective Fox's work, I was aware of his investigations into the Catholic Church abuses and in the period of time we were both at Port Stephens Command he did have several discussions with me about his concerns for victims and their families.
8. At no time during these discussions did Detective Fox go into any specifics about the enquiries nor did he divulge names of victims or their families to me.
9. On a Friday morning in late October 2010, I was at work and was making a cup of tea when I noticed the light on in Detective Fox's office. I could see the lights shining through the gaps in the Venetian blind.
10. At this time Detective Fox was on leave and Detective Sergeant Andrew Wheatley who was relieving Detective Fox and working from his office was not on duty on that day.
11. I walked over to check who was in the office and I saw Detective Chief Inspector Wayne Humphrey from Newcastle Local Area Command searching Detective Fox's desk. Superintendent Charles Haggett was also present standing in the open doorway. Superintendent Haggett had a master key to all offices within the building.
12. I asked both officers if I could help them.
13. When I entered the office Detective Humphrey then searched the filing cabinet.
14. I do not recall who responded first, however they did say they were looking for files in relation to the Catholic Church investigation.
15. I knew that these documents were locked in Detective Fox's safe located on the floor in the office next to the door, as he had previously informed me that this was where they were for safe keeping.
16. Detective Fox had the only key to the safe. I knew this as the handle had broken on a previous occasion and only one key was cut when the safe was repaired and Peter kept it on his person at all times.

17. I informed both Detective Humphrey and Commander Haggett that the documents were locked in the safe as Detective Fox had previously informed me of this.
18. A comment was made by Detective Humphrey that Detective Sergeant Wheatley should have had all keys to the office as he was relieving. I do not recall what else may have been discussed at that time.
19. As soon as I informed them that the documents were in the safe, both officers left and locked the office.
20. From the time I first saw the office light on through the closed Venetian blind from the tea making area until both officers left was approximately 5 minutes. I do not know how long they had been in the office prior to me seeing them. I did not see them enter the building.
21. The search was conducted in an orderly manner. All files were placed back where they had been originally either on the desk and in the filing cabinet. The office was left in a neat and tidy manner when the door was locked as we left.
22. At no time did either Detective Humphrey or Commander Haggett seem upset that I saw them conducting the search.
23. At no time did either Detective Humphrey or Commander Haggett instruct me that I was not to inform Detective Fox that they had been in his office looking for documents.
24. The following week either Monday or Tuesday, Detective Fox returned from leave and I went to his office and requested to speak to him with the door closed and I informed him that Detective Humphrey and Commander Haggett had been in his office looking for the Catholic Church documents on the previous Friday.
25. Peter had a wry smile on his face and told me he was glad he had everything locked away. I do not recall all of our conversation, but it was generally about what had happened and he was not at all happy that his office had been searched without his knowledge or consent.
26. I wish to state that at no time have I ever stated that Detective Fox's office was ransacked during the search, as has been reported in the media.

- 27. I have known all three officers for many years and have always enjoyed a very professional and excellent working relationship with them.
- 28. I have made this statement "Without Prejudice" to any of the officers mentioned in this Statutory Declaration.
- 29. I have nothing further to add.
- 30. I will be available to give evidence in Newcastle or Sydney when required. I will be unavailable for court prior to 5 August 2013. I understand that the contents of this statutory declaration may be disclosed for defence purposes.

I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true, and by virtue of the provisions of the *Oaths Act 1900*.

Declared at: Adelaide ..... on 26 June 2013 .....

[place] [date]

Signed

[signature of declarant]

in the presence of an authorised witness, who states:

I, Leanne Bosman ..... a Legal Practitioner .....

[name of authorised witness] [qualification of authorised witness]

certify the following matters concerning the making of this statutory declaration by the person who made it: [\* please cross out any text that does not apply]

- 1. ~~\*I saw the face of the person OR \*I did not see the face of the person because the person was wearing a face covering, but I am satisfied that the person had a special justification for not removing the covering, and~~

2. ~~\*I have known the person for at least 12 months OR~~ \*I have confirmed the person's identity using an identification document and the document I relied on was

..... Drivers Licence .....

[describe identification document relied on]

Signed

..... 26 June 2013 .....

[signature of authorised witness]

[date]