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STATEMENT OF WITNESS

Statement of: Keith Ernest LePage Age: Over 18 years

This statement, consisting of 11 page(s) signed by me is true to the best of my knowledge and belief. I know that this statement is to be used for the purpose of a prosecution and that if it contains material which I know to be false or misleading, I will be guilty of an offence.

Dated the 20th of August 2004

Signed: [Handwritten signature of Keith Ernest LePage]

Witnessed by (name): A.S. GRIMALDI

of (address): CP - PAEDOPHILE TASK FORCE

Signature of Witness: [REDACTED]

I give this statement to Senior Constable [REDACTED] and Detective Senior Constable [REDACTED] both of the Paedophile Task Force at about 10:05 am on Tuesday 6th July 2004 at my offices located at [REDACTED] KENT TOWN.

My full name is Keith Ernest Le Page. I am 78 years of age and my date of birth is the [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I currently reside at [REDACTED] I am registered Psychiatrist. I

have the following qualifications:-

Bachelor in Medicine and Surgery - 1952;

Signed: [Handwritten signature of Keith Ernest LePage]

Signature witnessed by: [REDACTED]

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Diploma in Psychological Medicine – London, 1958;

Diploma in Child Health – Glasgow, 1960;

Diploma in Psychotherapy – Aberdeen University, 1968;

Fellow of College of Psychiatry

I first became aware of the Eden Park Boys' Home in 1961 as I was a psychiatric at the Child Guidance Clinic in Wakefield Street Adelaide. This was opened some time between October and December of 1960. This was for children between kinder garten years and adolescence and their families, aged from 2 years and onwards.

Some referrals to me would be through doctors, but it was a government clinic so people would also come and see me on their own initiative. I am not able to say how many of the clients were referrals or not.

When we first chose the Eden Park Boys' Home, it was as a result of visiting all the children's' homes around Adelaide with the view to placing children who had problems at home, or country children needing to come to the city for specialist treatment. I used a number of places on different occasions; the clinic used places such as the Walkerville boys' home, the Methodist children's home at Magill. There was an Anglican children's home at Fullarton, there was a Salvation Army girls' home in Carrington Street and another Boys' Home at Fullarton Road Kent Town. We used the Mount Barker Boys home predominantly. I can't think of any others.

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The reason for becoming aware of them I can't say. In those days, that was the first Child guidance clinic in South Australia. There was a small one at the children's hospital but that was staffed by private psychiatrists. This was the first full time clinic in South Australia.

There were no set criteria as to which boys' home they would attend. It would depend on, well I can't tell you how the decisions were made, and of course we couldn't send girls to Mount Barker as there were boys only. The girls would have gone predominantly to the children's home at Magill, Methodist Church.. The one advantage at Mount Barker was that it had a primary school and it was also residential. Most of the children that we sent there were uncontrollable at home, had tempers and frequently ran away from home. In those days the 'Attendance Branch' of the Education Department used to prosecute parents for any child who didn't attend school, and they had truancy officers. We used to have to place some of these children into the homes as a protection from being, or their parents from being prosecuted. Some of the boys may have been sent up their in the early days because of lack of supervision.

In 1963, the Mental health Services started a day school in the Wakefield Street clinic to try and accommodate that group of children for non school attendance and other mental disorders. Between 1963 and 1967, when I left the clinic, we had over 110 children attend the school, at the primary and secondary levels. That took care of many non school attendees.

I had dealings with Brigadier Lawler at the home - he was the Salvation Army person who was in charge of the Boys' Home and all of my dealings were through him because he was the superintendent, I think that was his title, at the home. The other advantage at the Mount

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Barker boys' home was that it had a primary school. That was run by a Mr. & Mrs. Hinze. They were Education Department teachers and were only involved with the running of the school. They had no other jurisdiction apart from the school.

Apart from Brigadier Lawler, there were also Captain Huxley and his wife, who were in charge of the boarding house, the residential side of the home. There was a Sergeant Ellis, who was a sought of roustabout. I don't know what his particular role was. He was not married. I think that the Huxley's left before I finished at the home, but I can't recall who replaced them.

Brigadier Lawler and his wife resided on the premises in the main home just inside the gate. Captain Huxley and his wife resided in the two storey house. I think that Sergeant Ellis also lived there. The Hinze's lived in the city and commuted to the home each day.

The Eden Park Boys' Home was actually a farm and it ran cattle and did other things there. There were a lot of older boys there. The boys that went there were from a variety of sources. The older boys would not attend school at the home; they would attend the Mount Barker High School. A lot of the older boys were also from the country so they would be working on the farm more so than the younger boys.

In about 1965 I think it was, the Children's Welfare Department advised the Salvation Army concerning the building of new dormitory quarters. They had quite a close liaison with the Salvation Army boys' home and they more or less took all their directions from the Welfare Department as to how they should run the residential part of the home.

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The ages of the boys at the home would range between mid primary school – grade four upwards and then to high school years. There would also be quite a section of school leavers. I don't think that they would have been as young as 5 or 6. I think that if they were as young as that that they would be at one of the homes around Adelaide where they had more women looking after them. They would have been between the ages of about 8 through to 16 years.

The supervisors at the home had no instructions as to how to deal with the children at the home. We had no authority as to how they ran the home. What I would do was attend at the home once a fortnight. I started doing this in about 1963 on wards. I would call and see Brigadier Lawler and have lunch with him. I would talk about each of the boys and what was going on. I would then go and talk to the teachers about any of the boys that they had who I had sent up, and ask about their progress. I would also speak to the Huxleys about the residential aspects. I would then speak to each of the boys individually. This would take place in what ever room they would provide me with. I would interview any of the boys that were sent by the doctors from our clinic. On average, after we got started, there would have been about two or three doctors at the clinic, but I wouldn't be involved in all of the decisions at to where to send the boys, only the ones who were my direct patients. The other doctors would decide independently on where to send their patients. But once they went there, because I visited there once a fortnight, it was my responsibility to monitor how the boys were going.

I would take the files up with me to the boys' home and make notes on their personal files. Those files were kept at the clinic, but I know that they no longer exist. I have tried several

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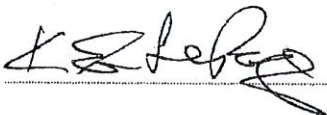
times to get files because different people had wanted information. I was told by different people a number of times that they had all been shredded or destroyed. I contacted what used to be called the Hospitals Department, Glenside Hospital. I can't remember how long ago I made the enquiries into those files. The last time may have been about 3 or 4 years ago when I had an old patient return wanting to know some information.

I didn't make notes when I spoke to any of the carers such as Brigadier Lawler, Captain & Mrs Huxley or Mr. and Mrs. Hinze. I never spoke with Sergeant Ellis about any of the issues as he wasn't involved with any of the decisions. I don't really know what his role at the home was. I used to see him around the place, but he wasn't a particularly intelligent person and he didn't seem to have a lot of responsibility.

When I did speak to the boys, I can't recall that any of them had spoken to me about or made any allegations of physical sexual assaults by any one at the home. I can't remember speaking to any of my patients about running away from the home. I don't think that any of my patients actually ran away from the home whilst I was there.

I can't recall if any of the boys were medicated when they went to the home. They may have been but that was in the very early days of the medication, in the early 1960's, there weren't many medications around. We used to prescribe medication to some children like, Tryptanol, which was an antidepressant and Melleril, which was a tranquiliser. They were used because some of the kids were feeling depressed, or if they were restless or anxious. But that was about all that was on the market.

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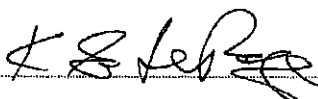
My overall feeling of the boys who were at the home was that they were unhappy children because they were out of control before they went there, and our objective was to try and improve their degree of self control in the hope that we can get them back home. Any improvement, and that was why I went to see Mr. and Mrs. Hinze and if there was any academic improvement and what they knew about how the boys were getting on at school, if there was any improvement and if they were well behaved. That was the kind of information I would also ask Brigadier Lawler, if they were adjusting in the home or if they were still having problems.

Brigadier Lawler knew them all personally because he was a bit like the old father figure. I know that he was fairly strict, but he used to take all of the boys fishing down at Milang, I think that they had shacks down there. He used to breed rabbits as well and would get the boys involved with that. He also used to make honey and would try to get the boys involved with a lot of practical things. I can't ever remember him or the Hinze's ever giving me feedback of a negative nature.

I didn't really see the Huxley's that much, although I would see Mrs Huxley each time I went there because she would let me into the room when I saw the boys.

I can't remember if I made any recommendations as to how the boys were dealt with as a result of my meetings with the brigadier, but I must have had some discussions with him about it because the boys' parents would ring us at the clinic and we would have to let the parents know what their practice was at the boys' home, but I can't remember the details, it was a long time ago. The people at the homes would know what the problems were because I

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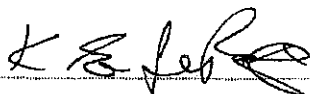
would outline them before the boys went there. We had to have communications with the home, first of all to see if they had a vacancy there and then secondly to tell them what the problems were with the boys and then thirdly to outline to them what our goals were to try and get the boys better. There were boys who were discharged from Mount Barker who went back to their homes.

I would make notes of my meetings with the boys, but they would be made after I spoke with Brigadier Lawler, Captain and Mrs Huxley, Mr. and Mrs. Hinze and the boys and we had a duty to inform the parents of the progress of the boys.

I don't know what kind of training people involved in the Salvation Army had. Mind you there wasn't much training around those days. My guess is that if they had any particular training, they would have trained on the job. It wasn't a consideration when looking for places to send the children as there weren't any other places that were available, we just used what was available otherwise the courts would have put the children into Welfare Department Homes.

With regards to the discipline at the boys' home, I knew that Brigadier Lawler was a disciplinarian but he wanted all the boys to conform to their, meaning the Salvation Army, way of life, and that if they did they could do their best for them. He was more of a disciplinarian than Captain Huxley. Captain Huxley was more able to empathise with the boys. I have heard since that Mr. Hinze was also a disciplinarian although I never heard of any complaints from the boys at that time. The boys seemed very relaxed in the classroom because I used to go in and watch at times when I did visit the boys at the home.

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I also had some of my boys who used to attend at the Mount Barker high School, and I would visit those boys at the high school on my way home and I would speak to their teachers or the Deputy Head Master and they would go in on transport from the boys' home to the school.

Until recently I had never heard of any harsh form of discipline at the home. It was not until one of my old patients came to see me and he told what used to go on at the home. I was surprised to hear about the violence and that I wasn't told about it by the boys at the time. I felt that I had a good relationship with all the boys. I am also surprised to learn that a lot of the boys were sexually assaulted at the home. I only found out about the sexual abuse about four or five years ago when one of my old patients told me about the harsh discipline at the boys home.

During my time at the Child Guidance Clinic between 1963 and 1967 I may have had 8 or 9 of boys at the home at any one time. When I left the clinic, I still had boys at the home and my files got passed on a Doctor Barbara MEYLER, who has since passed away.

I can remember a few of the boys that I had as patients. One of them was a REDACTED who was from Mount Gambier. There was also a REDACTED who I remember from the clinic - he attended the school at the clinic but I don't recall him going to the boys' home. I have a photograph of him at home from when he went to the school at the clinic, but I don't have a recollection of him going to the boys' home. I remember his mother too, I think that his father had died and he was a non school attendee. I remember him in the early years but I don't remember sending him to Mount Barker.

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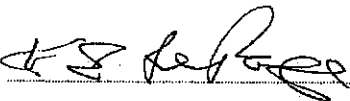
I'm not sure if **REDACTED** was my patient or if he was a patient of one of the other doctors. The other doctors at the clinic were a Doctor Je anette M offatt, a Doctor Bertine McIntosh and also a Doctor Ken Hopkirk, who went back to England in about 1965. There was also a Doctor Thompson, but I have forgotten his Christian name. He wasn't there for long, maybe about a year and he then went to either Victoria or Tasmania and he has since passed on also.

The boys would ^{not} be sent to the home if they couldn't be properly managed at the home. I know that, with **REDACTED**, he attended at the school at the clinic. I can only assume that he may have become out of control and went to the next stage which was residential.

The school at the clinic started at grade one and they attended at the age of six. They did start that young at times as some of these children had problems with separation from their parents. A lot of the mothers did not want to let go of their kids and sending the boys to the clinic school or even the home was a way of building up their confidence outside of the family environment.

When the boys at the home needed medical care they would have gone to the Mount Barker surgery, but I had no contact with the doctor at the surgery. I don't recall that it was ever brought to my attention that any of the boys had to go to the Mount Barker surgery, but that doesn't mean to say that they never attended there as the boys used to work on the property and I am sure that there would have been some types of injuries at the home.

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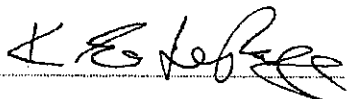
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The only file that I guess that Brigadier Lawler would have kept would have been with regards to the fees for the home or the boys' details, but I was never privy to these files. I never saw any files, I am just assuming that they had files on the particulars of the boys. I don't know if they maintained these files, as I said, we were just using their facilities.

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