

OATHS ACT 1867
STATUTORY DECLARATION
SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENT

QUEENSLAND

TO WIT

I, **Victoria Young**, c/o Roberts & Kane Solicitors, level 4, 239 George St, Brisbane in the State of Queensland do solemnly and sincerely declare that:

The following supplementary statement is provided in response to correspondence from the Barrett Adolescent Centre Commission of Inquiry to Roberts & Kane Solicitors dated 20 January 2016 requiring me to provide a supplementary statement responding to additional questions.

The references to "questions" are to those in the Notice to Provide a Written Statement dated 1 October 2015 previously issued to me.

Response to Schedule of Further Questions

Professional Experience

1. Further to questions 2, 4 and your CV:

- (a) In response to question 2 you state "I commenced there [at the BAC] on 10 June 2013, initially on a 3 month contract which was extended until I finished at the BAC on 23 January 2014." In response to question 4 you state "I was employed at the BAC for 7 months". Your CV states "July 2013-Jan 2014: Registered Nurse, The Park Centre for Mental Health Wacol. Contract (6 months) at Barrett Adolescent Unit." Please clarify the periods in which you were employed at the BAC.

- i. To clarify I commenced at the BAC on 10 June 2013, initially on a 3 month

Signed: ... 

contract which was extended until I finished at the BAC on 23 January 2014.

- ii. I worked at the BAC for about 7 months.

Closure Decision

2. Further to question 12:

(a) You state that you "heard" that the BAC was being moved and "heard" that it was going to close. From who and how did you hear these matters?

- i. It was common knowledge that the BAC was moving to Redlands and openly talked about by many staff members at The Park.
- ii. I cannot know recall precisely who I heard this from.
- iii. When I started my contract at the BAC in June 2013 there was talk among the BAC staff about it closing. I cannot recall precisely who I heard this from.

Redeployment

3. Further to question 13:

(a) You state, "As I did not attend the meeting, I received a telephone call on the same day as the meeting from the Director of Nursing Will Brennan who talked to me about redeployment and a possible closure date. I don't recall the exact date proposed by him for closure but I think it was during January 2014. I told him that I had a permanent position in the permanent pool at The Park which meant I did not need to consider redeployment."

- i. **Prior to William Brennan contacting you, had you been in contact with William Brennan professionally? If so, please provide details.**

- (1) The first and only time I met William Brennan was when I was working at The Park. In or about March 2012, he attended a brief morning tea to welcome the nurses commencing in the graduate nurse program, of which I

Signed: . 

was one. I was briefly introduced to him together with my peers.

(2) This was the only contact I had with him prior to receiving his telephone call.

ii. **To your knowledge, did all of the other nurses employed at the BAC (at the time) attend the meeting? If not, who was not present?**

(1) I am unable to answer the question as I was not present at the meeting and cannot say whether all the other nurses employed at the BAC attended the meeting.

iii. **To your knowledge, did William Brennan personally contact any of the other nurses about their redeployment?**

(1) I do recall another nurse (who also missed the meeting) received a phone call from William Brennan. I cannot now recall the name of this nurse.

Dr Sadler & Dr Brennan

4. Further to question 11:

(a) **You state, "There was also a change in the senior management of the BAC during the transition phase with the Director of the BAC, Dr Sadler, suddenly leaving his position and being replaced by Dr Brennan."**

i. **Did you have any concerns about Dr Sadler leaving at this point in time?**

(1) I cannot now recall whether I had any specific concerns about Dr Sadler leaving apart from the obvious disruption it caused.

(2) At the time I was focused on ensuring that the routine day to day care of the adolescents at the BAC continued.

ii. **If you had such concerns, did you voice them to anyone and, if so, to whom**

Signed: 

and how?

(1) I don't recall voicing any concerns.

Transitional Arrangements

5. Further to questions 26 and 29:

(a) In relation to question 26, please identify the "staff involved in the transition planning" and the members of the "planning team".

- i. The staff involved in the transition planning and the members of the planning team are one and the same.
- ii. I was not part of the transition planning team and to the best of my knowledge the team consisted of Clinical Nurses Susan Daniel and Vanessa Clayworth and the Clinical Director Dr Sadler followed by Dr Brennan. There may have been others involved in transition planning but they were not made known to me.

(b) In relation to question 29, please identify the person/s who told you that there were challenges in finding suitable accommodation or facilitates for BAC patients and what (if any) of these challenges were identified to you.

- i. I believe it was Vanessa Clayworth who told me that there were challenges in finding suitable accommodation or facilities for BAC patients.
- ii. The challenges identified to me related to the transition planning team having to find suitable places on short notice given the limited existing services and accommodation in Queensland for adolescents with complex needs.
- iii. I recall Vanessa Clayworth giving a very brief informal update to several nurses, including me, on her efforts to find suitable placements for some of the adolescents. I cannot now recall which adolescents or the specific details of the update she provided. I was left with the impression that finding available, appropriate accommodation for some of the BAC adolescents in the existing

Signed: 

timeframe presented 'challenges'. I was also left with the impression that there were limited existing accommodation options suitable for some of the adolescents at the BAC.

Support

6. Further to question 30:

- (a) Please identify which patients you overheard voicing feelings of abandonment (see para 30(b)) and which patients engaged in acting out and rebellious behaviour (see para 30(c)).**

i.



- ii. I believe other patients voiced feelings of abandonment but I cannot now recall those patients.

- (b) To your knowledge, what (if anything) was done to address distress amongst patients and patients' families, and support nursing staff? If something was done, who was involved in addressing the issue?**

- i. All the staff at the BAC during the last few months before closure informally addressed the distress amongst patients on a daily basis. This was part of the job and the staff did their best to support the patients.
- ii. In relation to the patients' families, I was present in the nurses' office when nursing staff provided support and reassurance to family members who telephoned seeking updates on their children. Apart from this I am not aware of any formal support provided to the families.
- iii. I do not now recall whether any support was provided to the nursing staff.

Signed: 

(c) You state "There was low morale about securing future employment as many of the nursing staff were trying to find jobs at [a] time when there had been significant job losses and redundancies in the health sector." Did staff searching for jobs and low morale about their future employment affect staff performance? If so, how?

- i. I don't recall 'low morale and staff searching for other jobs' affecting actual staff performance. As I remember it, all nursing staff performed to the expected standard.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true, and by virtue of the provisions of the Oaths Act 1867.

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Victoria Young

Taken and declared before me at Brisbane this 17th day of February 2016

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Judith Simpson, Solicitor