

STATEMENT OF ALLAN PENCHEFF

REDACTED

D.O.B: 13/09/1953

1. An overview of your involvement with the Jehovah's Witnesses Church, including but not limited to an overview of:
 - a. the congregations you have attended;
 - b. any roles you have held within the Church; and
 - c. your role as an elder in the Loganholme Congregation.

1.1. I have been one of Jehovah's Witnesses for the past 41 years.

1.2. During that time I have been a member of the following congregations: Newtown Sydney, Marrickville Sydney, Woodridge Brisbane, Loganholme Brisbane, Coorparoo Brisbane, Manly Brisbane.

1.3. During that time I have served as a publisher, ministerial servant and an elder.

1.4. In the Loganholme Congregation I served as an elder which involved sharing the general oversight of the congregation.

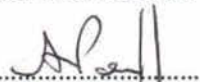
2. Your knowledge and understanding of the systems, policies and procedures in place within the Jehovah's Witness Church between 1992 and 2004 to:

- a. respond to allegations or complaints of child sexual abuse made within the Church; and
- b. prevent child sexual abuse within the Church; and
- c. identify child sexual abuse within the Church;

including but not limited to, your understanding of those systems, policies and procedures as they related to your role as an elder in the Church.


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- 2.1. During the period between 1992 and 2004, if an allegation of child sexual abuse came to the attention of the elders, the procedure was to contact the Australia Branch Office in Sydney to make them aware of it.
- 2.2. The elders then would form a judicial committee of 3 elders to meet with accused and the accusers, to determine the validity of the allegations. In the event that the allegations were substantiated, and the perpetrator had been deceptive or unrepentant about what he had done, he would be disfellowshipped from the congregation to protect the members of the congregation from them. The congregation was notified that the perpetrator had been disfellowshipped, but not of the grounds for disfellowshipping. If the perpetrator was found to be repentant, he would lose all privileges (for example be removed as an elder or ministerial servant), and be reproved.
- 2.3. To prevent child abuse, perpetrators would be disfellowshipped from the congregation and members of the congregation who may come into contact with the perpetrator would be discreetly warned by the elders about him.
- 2.4. Our organisation also published articles in our magazines the Watchtower and Awake, outlining steps that parents could take to prevent their children becoming victims of child sexual abuse.
3. **Any training that you have received, participated in, and/or delivered between 1992 and 2004 in relation to responding to allegations, prevention, and/or identification of child sexual abuse.**
 - 3.1. Our organisation provides training for elders annually on our role as elders including handling child sexual abuse cases in line with the above. In the period 1992 to 2004 I attended several training courses that clearly outlined what to do when child sexual abuse allegations are made.
 - 3.2. The Branch Office also provided letters on handling cases of child sexual abuse from time to time.
 - 3.3. As elders we investigate every allegation of child sexual abuse. We make every effort to protect our children from such. We abhor the sexual abuse of children and we will not protect any perpetrator of such repugnant acts from the consequences of their actions.


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4. A summary of your experience of responding to allegations of child sexual abuse within the Church.

4.1. To the best of my recollection I only have dealt with a couple of these cases as they are a very rare event amongst Jehovah's Witnesses. In each case the procedure outlined in 2. above was followed.

5. The response of the Loganholme Congregation to criminal proceedings against BCH BCH between about 2001 and 2004 in relation to allegations of child sexual abuse made by BCG at the Mareeba Congregation in 1989, with specific reference to:

- a. when, and in what circumstances, you became aware of the alleged abuse and the related criminal proceedings;
- b. any correspondence, including the substance of that correspondence, that you, alone and/or together with any other member of the Loganholme Congregation, had with the Legal and/or Service Departments of Watchtower Australia after you became aware of the alleged abuse and the related criminal proceedings;
- c. any discussion(s) or meeting(s) that you, alone and/or together with any other member of the Loganholme Congregation, were involved in, including the substance of those discussions or meetings, with any person about the alleged abuse and related criminal proceedings, including but not limited to any discussions or meetings with:
 - i) BCG
 - ii) BCH and/or
 - iii) any other member of the REDACTE family; and
- d. any correspondence, including the substance of that correspondence, that you, alone and/or together with any other member of the Loganholme Congregation, had with any other Jehovah's Witness Congregation and/or the Watchtower Australia relating to the allegation of child sexual abuse made by BCG

5.1. I became aware of the allegations being made against BCH at the time that the victims were taking legal action. I can't recall exactly where that information came from as it was a long time ago.



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- 5.2. I had a conversation with the Branch Office about what was taking place and what steps needed to be taken to protect the members of our congregation from any danger they may be in.
- 5.3. The body of elders in Loganholme Congregation then proceeded as outlined above at 2.
- 5.4. I have never met or spoken with BCG [REDACTED].
- 5.5. The body of elders of Loganholme Congregation appointed a judicial committee, of which I was a member. We met with BCH [REDACTED] and discussed the allegations being made against him. It became apparent to us that he was being deceptive, as he kept changing his story. As a result the judicial committee decided that he should be disfellowshipped for lying. This was prior to the court case being finalised.
- 5.6. The only other member of the REDACTED family that I have spoken with about this matter was REDACTED his second wife, at the time. She was not the mother of the daughters making the accusations. She said that she felt that the allegations were false.
- 5.7. I don't recall any correspondence regarding this matter apart from sending the Branch a report of the decision to disfellowship BCH [REDACTED]. I had spoken with the Branch Office about the allegations, and they had advised to proceed as outlined above at 2.
6. Your recollection of BCH [REDACTED] attendance at and membership of the Loganholme congregation until his disfellowshipping in 2003, including but not limited to:
- The period of his membership in the congregation;
 - His role within the congregation; and
 - Any privileges or restrictions applied to him by the Loganholme Congregation;
 - Any specific systems and/or procedures that the body of elders of the Loganholme congregation put in place in relation to his contact with children.
- 6.1. I cannot remember exactly how long BCH [REDACTED] was a member of the Loganholme Congregation but it was several years.
- 6.2. I don't recall if BCH [REDACTED] had any position of responsibility in the congregation.
- 6.3. When BCH [REDACTED] first arrived he was restricted from answering at our meetings and giving any talks from the platform. After about a year these restrictions were lifted.


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6.4. As far as I recall we were not aware of any reason to restrict his contact with children when he arrived. However after he was disfellowshipped no one in the congregation would have had any contact with [BCH], apart from his wife.

7. The decision of the Elders in the Loganholme Congregation to disfellowship [BCH] [BCH] in 2003 and the reasons for that decision.

7.1. We met with [BCH] and discussed the allegations being made against him. It became apparent that he was being deceptive as he kept changing his story. As a result he was disfellowshipped for lying prior to the court case being finalised.


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