

**Madam Chair,**

My name is Grahame Bruce Grundy.

My address is 22 Penong Street, Westlake, 4074.

I wish to say for the information of some who are here this morning and for some who are not, that I am here in the first place because I was asked to be here.

And I provided material to the Inquiry because I was asked to do so.

That material is no more than what is, and what has been, available to anyone on the globe with access to the Internet through The Justice Project web site.

That said I am happy, as far as I am able, to answer the Committee's questions.

My work is always up for scrutiny. I stand by the stories currently on the web as I do in connection with the thousands of related words we have written on the John Oxley matter over the years.

The task that I have as an academic is no more and no less than that which applies to all academics – whether they be in journalism, botany, microbiology, physics .. or whatever.

That task is the search for truth.

And so, to my detractors, who criticise me, I wish to say, I couldn't care less.

My search is not for circulation, nor listeners, nor viewers, nor mates, nor to lead the charge to trumpet the wonders of Queensland, or whatever it is that might direct their efforts – my journey is the search for truth.

And we are getting there. But there is much more to be done. And so the search goes on.

Those who assist me, volunteer to do so. They are not press-ganged into service.

And the comforting thing about that is, those who do so, share a sense of outrage at what has happened in this State in this case.

Which includes: abuse of children, including rape, and the very lives of kids in care being put at risk, suicide and attempted suicide, cover-up across the length and breadth of the bureaucracy, arrogance and indifference on the part of those who should, but do not, act according to the demands of the positions they hold or have held, crime, convenient double standards to ensure no is brought to account, the twisting of the law to the point where the law in this state has been reduced to the level of a bad joke. For the law itself has been brought into disrepute.

The reality is that today we have one law for some and one, much more severe, for the rest of us.

And a deeply disturbing matter is that nothing is done about these things.

No one here cares – the average little person may hang for something that is not even considered to be an offence when committed by those at the big end of town.

Everyone looks the other way. Including the politicians.

If I may summarise the recent material we have covered, because what we have covered in total involves tens of thousands of words.

The recent matters we have raised embrace:

- public officials being found not to have been in breach of the law for destroying or approving the destruction of material they knew or believed was needed for a legal proceeding;
- their actions being excused on the basis of an erroneous but convenient interpretation (or interpretations) of the law by the-then Criminal Justice Commission and the-then DPP (including over the years, no less than five and probably seven senior figures connected with the CJC, five of whom today hold high office in the legal and quasi-legal environment in this state);
- a citizen, on the other hand, being charged, committed and indicted to stand trial for doing less than the public officials did who did not stand trial;
- a girl in custody being taken into the bush (to a place off-limits to Aboriginal women) by her custodians and left alone with six boys, being raped, and, despite knowing what had happened to her, nothing was done;
- the existence of the records of that matter being denied even to the Police (until a story about what happened to her appeared in the press). In addition there is no reference to those records or to that incident in the report of a Royal Commission into the Abuse of Children in Church and State Institutions (which included John Oxley), nor the Inquiry that was established to investigate the paper trail involved in the John Oxley shredding affair. I suggest those records were withheld from those Inquiries. If they were not, then those who conducted those Inquiries might wish to explain why they did not mention such an important matter in their reports.
- portions of the file on that matter were improperly blacked out in the FOI process to conceal serious contents from the victim. Show exhibit.
- the woman concerned has continued to be a victim of the system. Despite her efforts to clear up outstanding matters before the courts,

her approach was rejected by parole authorities. Instead they subsequently arranged to take out a warrant for her immediate arrest (despite her having not been in trouble for several years) and to return her to custody immediately. She is given no consideration nor leniency for her transgressions. Those who transgress against her are excused.

- the warrant just mentioned, coincidentally, was sought shortly after the State was notified the woman had lodged a damages claim against it, and was executed to return her to jail for eight and a half months;
- what happened to the girl at the Lower Portals was an act of unconscionable bastardry. The files show her carers knew she had been a victim of sexual abuse prior to her being admitted to custody. And they took her away into the bush, told her to take her jeans off when she slipped in the water (as I have done) and left her alone with the boys and despite being aware of what happened they did nothing for her. And the Criminal Justice Commission says there was no official misconduct involved. Nothing that might see anyone disciplined or sacked. Which means of course that staff in such places could do the same again today. And there would be no problem. Which is yet another reason why I have such a high opinion of the Criminal Justice/Crime and Misconduct Commission.
- another John Oxley girl says she was raped in her cell/or room by a staff member and on weekend release at his home. She says any number of staff knew what happened. Because of the circumstances, if that matter had been properly dealt with, instead of being nicely sidestepped, we might have lifted the lid on the current foster care issue years ago. More to the point, if Heiner had reported, what happened to her may have been prevented.
- efforts to get at these and other matters in beautiful-one-day-perfect-the-next post-Fitzgerald Queensland are hampered or delayed at every turn. FOI officers exempt material they are not entitled to exempt. Bureaucrats in the courts, without any statutory basis for their actions, deny access to court records. Then they simply alter the facts (tell you lies in other words) to deny you access. Then they say they don't hold the records you are seeking and reduce to notion that the courts are courts of record to the level of farce. But they still refuse to hand over the records. The records might be damaging to their political masters.
- a man involved in a fight dies in the streets in the middle of the night with a shotgun blast to his chest. There is no inquest. Another man found with him, and the gun, and also suffering a shotgun wound is never interviewed about what happened. And ten years later he suddenly has a fit of the remorse and gives himself up for murder.

Coincidentally, the coincidences just keep coming, just after a story of what happened to the girl appears in the newspaper. The court doesn't have the record of his committal hearing. It is held by the DPP we are told. And so the Office of the DPP becomes the keeper of the official court record. The whole thing is an appalling joke.

Fitzgerald said .... . Nothing has changed.

Politicians dripping with hypocrisy have condemned the Governor General. Some have made half-hearted remarks. Most, aware of these matters have crept into burrows out of sight and said nothing.

Civil liberties supporters have said nothing. One pointed out that he couldn't say anything because one of those involved was a friend.

The legal profession has said nothing.

Apart from Mr MacAdam and Professor Field the legal academics have said nothing.

In particular the political scientists of no less than eight universities have said nothing. It's as if Fitzgerald had never happened.

And apart from Andrew Carroll and Steve Austin the media have either done little or done nothing at all – except scoff, of course.

And that is only the recent stuff we have covered.

Copies of which you have.

In answering your questions I may seek your forbearance should I need to consult my files ... a collection of which I have brought along with me.

I expect my words will be carefully examined and I do not want to be in a position of summarising or paraphrasing sensitive just to save time.

It may be appropriate to incorporate some of this material into the record so that there can be no question as to its accuracy.

Thank you Madam Chair.