



QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE
STATEMENT OF WITNESS



Occurrence #: _____
Statement no. _____ Date: _____

Statement of
Name of witness: MINNS, Christie Maree
Date of birth: _____ Age: _____ Occupation: School Principal

Police officer taking statement
Name: HOPE, Alastair Francis
Rank: Detective Senior Constable Reg. no.: 13755
Region/Command/Division: State Crime Operations Command Station: Task Force Galaxy

Statement:
Time Commenced: 10:30am
Thursday 27th January 2010.
Location: Grantham State School

Christie Maree MINNS states:

1. I am a _____ year-old married female currently residing at _____ Grantham. My telephone number is _____ my work number is _____ and my mobile number is _____. I am currently employed by the Department of Education and Training (Queensland).
2. My role within the Department of Education and Training is as the school principal of the Grantham State School, which is a primary school situated at the top of the hill on the high side of the railway tracks at Grantham. I have been employed in this role since January 2008. The school is situated approximately one kilometre from the centre of Grantham, the centre being the shops situated on Anzac Avenue, Grantham.
3. The Grantham State School is the only school within the town of Grantham. The school currently has 71 students enrolled and caters for students from prep to year seven.
4. I know that the town of Grantham regularly floods. I know this as I have witnessed the town to flood personally and I have closed the school on several occasions due to roads being cut off due to flooding. The school was closed on 3rd March 2010 due to flooding. I am not sure of the other dates.

Exhibit Number: _____
QFCI
Date: 29/4/11
JW

(Witness's signature)

(Justice of the Peace (Qual.)/
Commissioner for Declarations's signature)

(Signature of police officer
preparing statement)

CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: MINNS, Christie Maree

5. I would describe the community of Grantham to be within a lower socio-economic area, however the parents of the students are active in the school community and they care a lot for their children's health and wellbeing. Many of the parents attended the primary school as previous students and their families have lived in the Grantham area for many years.
6. As Grantham is a small town, I personally know many of the local residents and also, their families. Many of the residents, including residents without children attending the school know me as the school principal.
7. My home address is situated within the school yards within the centre of the school. As the school is well established, many of the residents of Grantham know where my house is situated.
8. I have lived at [REDACTED] since October 2008. I reside at this house with my husband of six and a half years, Rodney (Rod) William MINNS. Rodney is employed by the Queensland Police Service and is a Sergeant working at the Oxley Police Academy.
9. Grantham State School is an old building and the school has been established for approximately 106 years. The buildings are timber buildings and in a Queenslander style. The buildings are elevated with non built in vacant concreted space under the buildings.
10. In May 2010, I went maternity leave and my son, Harrison MINNS was born in June 2010. I was on unpaid leave from October 2010 until the 19th of January 2011. I returned to work officially on Thursday the 20th of January 2011.
11. I remember December 2010, during this time, when I was in Grantham I remember that it rained constantly, I do not specifically remember any time when it was not raining. I do not remember the exact dates or times but I do remember that the causeway under the railway bridge was regularly flooded.
12. On the 31st of December 2010, Rod, Harrison and I went on holidays to my parents holiday house at Tweed heads where we stayed for three nights. When we left Grantham, it was raining and the creek under the railway bridge was flooded and the water approaching towards William Street.
13. On Monday the 3rd of January 2011, we returned to home to Grantham and I saw that the creek under the railway bridge was still flooded and that the water was over the roadway.
14. On Tuesday the 4th of January 2011, Rod, Harrison and I went to stay at my sisters unit at Moorooka, where we stayed for three nights. When we left Grantham, the road under the railway bridge was still flooded.


[REDACTED]
(Witness's signature)


(Justice of the Peace (Qual.)/
Commissioner for Declarations's signature)


[REDACTED]
(Signature of police officer
preparing statement)

CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: MINNS, Christie Maree

15. On Friday the 7th of January 2011, we returned to Grantham and I saw that the creek and under the railway bridge was heavily flooded. I would describe the weather to be raining heavily and overcast. I remember driving past the HOOK residence which is situated on the corner of William Street and Gatton Helidon Road and I saw that Sean and Theresa HOOK were airing out property from under their house, which gave me the impression that they had been flooded.
16. I stopped and looked under the railway bridge and saw that the causeway was heavily flooded. I then spoke with two students, Kayla and Tamika IVES and they told me to not park my in William Street as the street flooded yesterday. We then drove home and parked the car at the school.
17. I remember Monday the 10th of January 2011; I remember that I woke at 5:00am as Rod got up to go to work. I remember that I heard a loud whooshing noise coming from outside. I had never heard this noise before, so I went outside to my back yard and I could see what looked like a big lake of water below the oval. I could see that all farming properties in Grantham were flooded and that the water was flowing beside the railway tracks. At this time, Rod was with me and he filmed this with the video camera.
18. During the day I cared for Harrison and Rod stayed home as he could not get to work as all the roads were flooded which closed the town off. Throughout the day, I checked on the flood levels, occasionally walking outside to see how the water was progressing.
19. At about 4:00-4:15 I was sitting in the house in the living room. I remember that I had the front door open and I was feeding Harrison. I remember that I children screaming 'Mrs Minns, Mrs Minns, help, someone is caught in a car'.
20. I then walked outside and saw that there were five children and one parent, Jamie Lee GREEN-SMITH. I said to them 'what's going on?' and they told me that someone was caught in a car down at the creek and that they needed help. I then told them to wait at the school and I would get help.
21. I then went looking for Rodney in the school yards and saw that Rodney was on the play fort at the bottom of the school and he was on the phone. I also saw that he was video taping the incident and I heard that he was telling someone what was happening.
22. I then rushed into the house and got the school keys to open up the school and rushed over to the main building and opened up the main admin building.


(Witness's signature)


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CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: MINNS, Christie Maree

23. When I went to the school I saw that there were people standing on Victor Street and they appeared to be in shock and crying. I recognised that it was Shandy WILKIN and her children who live on Railway Street, Grantham. I asked Shandy what happened and she told me that her house had been washed away. At this time a large amount of people began massing into Victor Street outside of the school, I recognised these people to be local residents and parents of children at the school, people were running up the school from the railway bridge towards the school.
24. I then told Shandy and her family to come inside the admin building and I spoke to her and gave her some water. At this time, Rod came inside and began helping people by giving them water and talking to them.
25. Rod then told me that he was going to compile a list of people coming to the school and I then got him a book and a pen. I then set up a table at the front of the admin building so that Rod could take names when people came in, people were telling Rod about people that were trapped and he was using he phone to call emergency services and tell them what was happening.
26. A large flow of people began coming into the school that night and they were coming, going and helping. Some of the people were injured with cuts, abrasions and some had broken limbs.
27. I arranged for bedding to be brought into the admin building. During this time people within the Grantham community began dropping off towels, bedding and food.
28. I believe that in total there were approximately 30 people who came to the school that day. I organised for people to use the phones and I organised for the supply of food to the people. At approximately 12:00am the flow of people ceased and they went to bed.
29. At approximately 3:00am I went to bed, Rod, Harrison and I slept in the school office, which is in the Admin building.
30. The next morning, the 1st of January at about 4:30am I awoke and more people, who were not there the night before, were outside standing on Victor Street. I spoke with them and I wrote their names down on a piece of paper which I later gave to Rod. At this time I could hear helicopters in the sky which I believed were rescuing people.
31. That day I assisted in general tasks, organising and directing families to help. I arranged for the open downstairs of the admin building to be a meal area where we barbequed food donated by the community. Both Rod and I were arranging for people to be airlifted by prioritising by their need. A number of police had arrived also and they were helping people into the Helicopters on the School oval.


(Witness's signature)

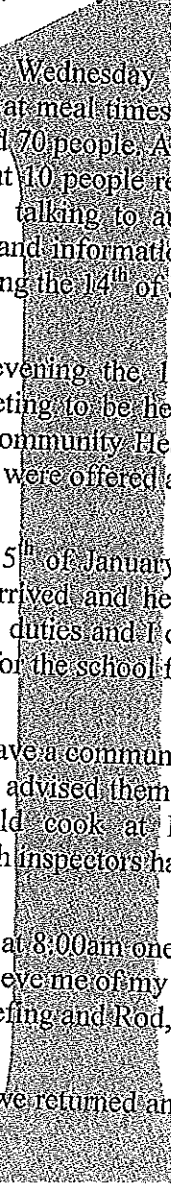
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CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: MINNS, Christie Maree

32. At about 1:00pm on this day, Rod spoke to me and he told me that he spoke to someone on the phone and they told him that there will be no more helicopter flights due to the weather.
33. At this stage, there were only six people left at the school who were without homes and they all stayed that night at the school.
34. The next day, Wednesday the 13th of January, large amounts of people began coming at meal times, I would estimate the number of people to be between 50 and 70 people. After meals, the people would generally disperse with only about 10 people remaining as a constant number. Because Rod was constantly talking to authorities on his mobile phone, he delivered general safety and information messages to people every meal time, until Thursday evening the 14th of January.
35. On Thursday evening the 14th of January, Rod and I organised for a community meeting to be held in the downstairs area of the school. We organised for Community Health workers to talk to the community about the services that were offered at the school to assist families.
36. On Friday the 15th of January, Sergeant Howard GLASS of the Helidon Police Station arrived and he took over as the community liaison. Rod discontinued any duties and I continued to assist on a minor level as I was still responsible for the school facilities.
37. On that night, I gave a community message in relation to general hygiene to the community. I advised them on general cleaning and suggested that the people who could cook at home should and advised them this as Queensland Health inspectors had concerns.
38. The next morning at 8:00am one of my work colleagues, Matt GURR came to my house to relieve me of my duties for the weekend as I needed a break. I gave him a debriefing and Rod, Harrison and I left town for the evening.
39. At about 5:00pm, we returned and I continued my duties with assistance of Matt GURR.
40. Matt and I arranged for a separate area to be established, separate to the school but within the school grounds for the community.
41. On Sunday the 16th of January, two large marquees were erected on the netball court with toilet and shower facilities for the community to use. All persons were then transferred to this area and after this time I have had no further involvement in the efforts.


(Witness's signature)


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CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: **MINNS, Christie Maree**

42. On the Thursday 20th of January 2011, school resumed for staff without students.

43. On Monday the 24th of January, all students returned to school as normal, and I continued my role as principal of the primary school.

44. Today on the 27th of January 2011, Detective HOPE attended the school where I gave this statement

[Redacted]

Christie Maree MINNS

Justices Act 1886

I acknowledge by virtue of section 110A(5)(c)(ii) of the Justices Act 1886 that:

- (1) This written statement by me dated 27/01/2011 and contained in the pages numbered 1 to 6 is true to the best of my knowledge and belief; and
- (2) I make this statement knowing that, if it were admitted as evidence, I may be liable to prosecution for stating in it anything that I know is false.

..... [Redacted] Signature

Signed at ...Grantham.....this...27th.....day of...January...2011....

[Redacted]

(Witness's signature)

(Justice of the Peace (Qual.)/
Commissioner for Declarations's signature)

[Redacted]

(Signature of police officer
preparing statement)