



SUPPLEMENTARY WITNESS STATEMENT OF DR CHARLIE ARTHUR BURTON

I, Dr Charlie Arthur Burton of [REDACTED] in the State of Tasmania, Manager Policy, Tasmania Council of Social Service Inc (TasCOSS), [REDACTED], do solemnly and sincerely declare that:

1. I am authorised by TasCOSS to make this statement on its behalf.
2. I make this statement on the basis of my own knowledge, save where otherwise stated. Where I make statements based on information provided by others, I believe such information to be true.
3. I previously made a witness statement to the Commission dated 12 April 2022. I refer to and hereby supplement that witness statement.

THE CHILD SAFETY SYSTEM

4. I wish to clarify a quote attributed to Dr Catherine Robinson at my appearance before the Commission on 5 May 2022, that the threshold for the removal of a child by Child Safety is the rape of a child by a parent. My comment was not a direct quote from Dr Robinson. It was a paraphrased statement of a comment made *to* her, in the course of research she was conducting into service responses to unaccompanied homeless children.
5. In a conversation about why homelessness alone does not seem to often be considered as grounds for placement in out of home care, this scenario was discussed as an example of the grave nature of abuse expected to result in the placement of an older child in out of home care. It was not offered by Dr Robinson as her assessment of actual Child Safety practices or of the circumstances which do result in the placement of children in out of home care.
6. Neither TasCOSS nor Dr Robinson believe the formal position of Child Safety is that the threshold for removal of a child is rape by a parent. We do not believe that this is general practice of Child Safety. The comment was intended to illustrate that several TasCOSS members, including Dr Robinson while an employee of Anglicare, believe that the Child Safety and out of home care systems have been under enormous pressure, such that for some children only the most serious harm results in a service response.

I make this solemn declaration under the *Oaths Act 2001* (Tas).

Declared at [place] [REDACTED]

on [date] 18 May 2022

[REDACTED]

Charlie Arthur Burton

Before me

[REDACTED]

[Full name of Justice, Commissioner for Declarations or Authorised Person]