

INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION

STATEMENT IN THE MATTER OF: Operation Gerda

PLACE: University of Sydney

NAME: Jordi Austin

ADDRESS: The University of Sydney, NSW 2006

OCCUPATION: Director Student Support Services

DATE: 11 July 2018

States: -

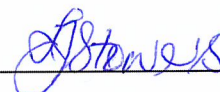
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1. This statement made by me accurately sets out the evidence which I would be prepared, if necessary, to give in Court as a witness. The statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief, and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.
 2. I am 47 years of age.
 3. I am the Director of Student Support Services at the University of Sydney.
 4. I joined the University in 2006 and commenced in the role of Director of Student Support Services in an acting capacity in 2011. I was formally appointed to that role 18 months later.
 5. My role entails the oversight, leadership and management of a number of student support services teams within the University, ranging from counselling and psychological services, disability services, student accommodation, career centre,

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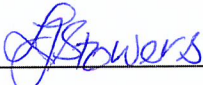
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chaplaincy, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander support team, orientation and transition. There are a number of initiatives in support of those programs. I also have responsibility for supporting international students in relation to critical incidents, to assist the University in complying with the *Education Services for Overseas Students (Cth) Act 2000* to ensure that we are capable of supporting overseas students if a critical incident occurs.

6. I am also the professional staff member as Fellow to the University Senate. I was elected to that position and I am now in my fifth year.
7. The University has an obligation to ensure that students are able to participate freely within a safe environment on campus. Physical security, including campus security, is important to the well-being of students.
8. The University has an interesting and diverse student body, with over 60,000 students from over 130 countries.
9. It is important, particularly for a lot of our international students, who perhaps have a different understanding of police from their own countries, that they feel safe on our campuses and that they know that there are people that they can turn to when they need some additional support.
10. We do have a visible campus security presence on campus. Through the University orientation programs, Student Support Services staff talk to students about why campus security are on campus, and explain to them that they should

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feel comfortable in approaching security staff for assistance. It is also explained to students that security personnel are on campus as a service to our student community to enable them to be on campus and to be comfortable.

11. The University has staff in a multitude of venues who are available to help students in seeking support appropriately. The University has the campus security team; their role in patrols is to be visible and accessible. We also have other staff who are charged with assisting students in raising complaints or in seeking additional support if they want Student Support Services to take a matter further within the University.

12. For students who have been the victim of an assault there are trained people in my team, student liaison officers, who are able to assist the student to understand what the channels are both internal and external to the University for pursuing the matter.

13. The student liaison officers will provide me, on a fortnightly basis, with updates on cases under management. Separately, if there has been a case that campus security have been involved with, for example an overnight incident on campus where a student wishes to seek additional support through counselling or the student liaison officers, a report will come through to me in the morning about the incident. If appropriate, my staff will then reach out to that student and make contact to ensure they are aware of all the sources of assistance that are available to them.

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- 14. The student liaison officers have been in place since November last year.
- 15. There is not a standard report that Student Support Services generates in terms of numbers of security incidents.
- 16. Complaints about a security bus running late or any lack of security controls would not come to my area.
- 17. The only survey that I am aware of that the University has undertaken that would be relevant to student safety is a survey Student Support Services conducted in 2015 in regards to sexual assault and harassment..
- 18. The recommendation from the 2015 survey to undertake a follow up review of security would have been a Campus Infrastructure Services matter. Student Support Services were not involved in implementing that recommendation.
- 19. We have ongoing and episodic contact with campus security about individual student cases.
- 20. I am aware there has been quite a lot of flux in the management of campus security in recent times, and that has precluded us from having a clear position on what student safety should be, beyond all of the mechanisms that we have built to ensure that students on campus have access to the support required.

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