

Name of Witness	Paulo PAULO
Date of Birth	[REDACTED]
Address and contact details	[REDACTED] Kholo. [REDACTED]
Occupation	Order Selector for Coles Myer Logistics (Casual) / (Full Time) Pastor
Officer taking statement	Detective Sergeant Glen CATCHPOLE
Date taken	11/05/2011

I, Paulo PAULO states;

1. I am [REDACTED] years of age and reside at [REDACTED] Kholo. During the flood event I was residing at [REDACTED] Riverview. I had resided at this residence for approximately ten years. My house didn't get flood damaged but my yard went under water, I lost our car and dog kennels. My neighbour next-door to me on my lower side, their house got flood damaged.
2. I am currently a volunteer for Riverview Neighbourhood House (RNH) – Vice President for Management Committee, Pastor of the local church Riverview Good News Church (RGNC). I have been involved in the following volunteer work in my community: President of the Pacific Islanders Parent Association (PIPA), Teaching religious education in Riverview Primary School, volunteer for Easter Monday Funday (E.M. F.) held by the Ipswich Awakening in Queens Park, Ipswich. I have also previously been a Rescue Officer in the SES in Sydney between 1987 – 1988 in relation to storm damage.

3. I have not been instructed by our local council or any government agency on evacuation plans for our area in case of a natural disaster. I do not know who my local disaster co-ordinator is.

Witness Signature. [REDACTED]

Signature of officer [REDACTED]

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400 George Street Brisbane
GPO Box 1738 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone 1300 309 634
Facsimile +61 7 3405 9750
www.floodcommission.qld.gov.au
ABN 65 959 415 158

Exhibit Number:

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Date:

20/05/11

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4. On Tuesday, 11th January, 2011 my wife, Lorinda PAULO received a phone call from our local Councillor's Office, Victor ATTWOOD, (Ipswich City Council Deputy Mayor), to prepare for a possible flooding and to be advised that the Riverview Community Centre (RCC) could become a possible Evacuation Centre. As the Vice President of the RNH, who runs the Community Centre, I'm a key holder and I am on call for the RNH for any emergency at the RCC. I was sent home early from work that day at 12MD and my wife and I went to the local shops to purchase torches, candles, batteries, etc. At approximately 7pm I packed up my family, with beddings as the flood was rapidly approaching the back paddock about 300m from our house. We went to the RCC and Christine McDONALD (Secretary of RNH Management Committee) and Kerry SILVER (Co-ordinator of Riverview Neighbourhood Watch - RNW) had just arrived and opened up the Centre. We had our first onsite meeting to discuss what to do and we decided to walk the streets of Riverview to warn the residents of the possible flooding and telling them that the RCC will be an Evacuation Centre. We all left our children at the hall with Cassie (volunteer of RNH) and Jan WARDLE (President of RNH Management Committee) and my wife went to the local nursing home (Riverview Gardens) to offer assistance as they were evacuating all the residents. Kerry and Christine went down part of Duncan St, Maxwell St and surrounding Streets near the creek and Brisbane St. I went with Cliff (volunteer for RNH) down Endeavour St, Riverview St, Mary – Anne St, Kevin St and part of Duncan St. Everyone met back at the hall and we used whatever resources from the RNH, RNW and RGNC to prepare for the possible influx of people. Kerry and Christine stayed at the hall whilst my wife and I drove around till 3am the next day, warning people up Old Ipswich Rd and Duncan St as the water was now crossing Duncan St rapidly. We emptied our fridge and freezer as the

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power by this time was cut. There was generator at RCC and everyone was bringing their frozen foods to the hall and placed them in the fridges there. I was one of three together with Christine MacDonald (RNH) and Kerry Silver (RNW), involved in the management committee co-ordinating the Riverview Community Flood Evacuation. My wife, who is an RN / Midwife was the first aid officer and was responsible for treating and sending people to hospital via ambulance and private transport. The RCC was an Evacuation Centre from Tuesday 11th January to Saturday 22nd January, and then it became a Recovery Centre for about a month and a Resource Centre for another month. I returned to work on Monday 24th January, 2011 and occasionally went back to help out whenever I was able to. Christine McDONALD and Kerry SILVER and the many volunteers were there the whole 2 ½ months in running the Centre from evacuation to recovery to resource. There is still ongoing help given to those who have suffered as a result of the flood. We had approximately eighty people sleeping at the Evacuation Centre during the flood event.

5. We were given approximately nine hours notice from the time of the first phone call from Victor ATTWOODS office, people started to arrive within an hour of the Centre opening. The community responded really well, everyone that could help, volunteered and everyone that had anything to give gave it as a donation to the Centre, there was an incredible spirit of unity, laughter and support for those that were affected by the flood.
6. In relation to what resources we had available to rely upon, at the beginning we depleted all church supplies that were stored at the Centre, then after that the community and different organisations brought in

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donations of food, clothing, furniture, bedding, white goods and monetary donations, etc.

7. We had people at the Evacuation Centre (Riverview Community Centre) from Tuesday night the 11th to Saturday the 22nd January. We fed them three meals a day for the evacuation period right through into the recovery stage from the donations that were given from everyone. They were able to shower etc at the Centre as it has all the amenities. The Centre was funded from the monetary donations that people from the community and politicians gave and from our own funds. We have not received any funding or reimbursement since the flood.

8. I did receive a warning prior to the flood event alerting me of an impending severe weather event. I received this message by a telephone call from our local Councillor's Office, Victor ATTWOOD before 12midday on Tuesday the 11th January of possible flooding and to prepare to open the Riverview Community Centre for evacuation. I also received warnings via the media and a SMS the following day (Wednesday) during the flood, the SMS warning was a bit late. I understood the warnings. I consider that the information contained in the warning was accurate and useful.

9. In my opinion I consider that in the event of a future incident the best method of warning people is to SMS, but a bit earlier than they did this time and to be more specific as to how serious the threat was, as when we approached residents of Riverview they didn't believe us when we told them and it would have had more impact if the Emergency Services, ie police, SES, army etc., had door knocked instead of us. I also consider that the forecasts provided by the Weather Bureau were adequate.

Witness Signature. [REDACTED]

Signature of officer [REDACTED]

10. In relation to preparation in our area for the flood, there wasn't any, we were not prepared at all. I was not assisted in the preparation for the flood by any Federal/State/Local Government Agencies. The Emergency Services also did not provide any assistance at the preparation stage. I don't consider that the community was adequately prepared for the flood event in January 2011.

11. In relation to the Emergency Services response to our area, on Wednesday the 12th, the SES turned up with generators, fuel and spot lights. The ambulance was called about four times throughout the evacuation stage. Emergency supplies for food, beds and bedding arrived from the Council. I didn't see the police until they were called for on the 22nd January for an incident apart from the time that they turned up looking for some people earlier in the evacuation.

12. I consider that the recovery process by the Federal/State/Local Government to be fantastic and very generous in giving to the evacuation and helping us to transition to recovery. The response was timely.

13. The resources that were made available to me included, Shane NEUMANN (Federal Member for Blair) gave us medical supplies, he organized for the flood recovery services to set up in the Riverview Community Centre for the victims (centre link services, lifeline counsellors, premier flood relief, Department of Community Services – DOCS), and gave money out of his own pocket to put in the kitty. Jo-Ann MILLER (State Member for Bundamba) gave money out of her purse, assisted with the placement of those that needed urgent housing, and offered her moral support. Victor ATTWOOD paid for a cold room to

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store all the perishable food, provided bedding, beds and much more. I'm aware that Shane NEUMANN, Jo-Ann MILLER and Victor ATTWOOD co-ordinated the response. I consider that the community response was adequate it was absolutely amazing.

14. Adequate measures were taken to maintain communication systems/power/water in our area. Power from generators was supplied, we were given boxes of bottled water, Origin Alliance gave us walkie talkies and mobile phones were made available from Telstra.
15. We were able to contact Emergency Services once the flood commenced. We had prompt response from the ambulance when they were required.
16. I consider that there was not adequate information provided to the community in relation to road closures, evacuation points, water storage, food supplies and medical supplies, there should be more information given out.
17. In relation to the recovery process, they were very quick to clear the roads, the power came back to half of Riverview including the Riverview Community Centre on the Thursday the 13th and the affected areas returned on Sunday the 16th. Communication never ceased.

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18.I consider that the recovery process by the Federal/State/Local Government to be sufficient. Also the recovery process by the Emergency Services has been sufficient.

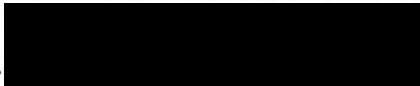


P PAULO

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 11/05/11 and contained in the pages numbered 1 to 7 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.

..........Signature

Signed at *Yamcrata*.....this *12th* day of *MAY*.....2011....

