

**Phone interview with Michael – Steve Austin ABC Morning  
Radio Brisbane  
7 November 2001**

I feel too many people are protecting their posteriors in the interest of self improvement at that time ... you know ... in getting on in the bureaucracy, government .. it was pure self interest.

**Q.** What do you know of the alleged rape of this young girl?

**A.** I cannot remember ... as I say ... this is going back about 1988 -- 87-88 ... I cannot remember if I was on duty or not ... everybody knew ... I wasn't told directly ... but we all knew ... we were summonsed down a couple of days later to Peter Coyne's office and we were told it would be handled internally, we were under the Secrecy Act and we were not to discuss it outside ... and they would handle it internally.

**Q.** What was the Secrecy Act that they cited as the reason why you couldn't speak?

**A.** That everybody who was a government employee in that sort of job, basically, you didn't discuss what went on outside of duty ... concerning the children.

**Q.** Did it surprise you when you were told that you could say nothing?

**A.** It did. It did .. because, quite frankly, I thought it would be taken to the highest level. I mean, rape is rape, isn't it ... and especially those children were in the care of ... us ... Peter Coyne being the manager.. and the other staff there ... they were in the protection ... OK, they weren't little angels, there were often nasty little children there, but the point is ... or, that is beside the point, that they were under the protection of the Family Services and they weren't getting it.

**Q.** The current government's attitude seems to be that this matter has all been dealt with by the Forde Inquiry, and that's essentially the end of the story ...

**A.** It's not ... because I was interviewed by ... oh what's his name ... then ... very nice man and his assistant ...

**Q.** This is way back in '89 are you talking about ... Noel Heiner ...

**A.** That's it ... and he was very nice ... put it all on tape and everything. I spent oh ... a lot of us spent time in there ... I can't give you the other names because I can't remember , but I was there and I know other people went and then I think Anne Warner had it all shredded.

**Q. Well the government's attitude seems to be that the Forde Inquiry has dealt with all these matters so there is no further investigation ...**

**A. No, I don't agree with that. I don't. I think it has all been pushed under the carpet.**

Radio Brisbane  
7 November 2011

I feel too many people are protecting their positions in the interest of self improvement at that time ... you know ... in general or in the bureaucratic government ... it was pure self interest.

**Q. What do you know of the alleged rape of this young girl?**

A. I cannot remember ... as I say ... this is going back about 1968 - 67-68 ... I cannot remember if I was on duty or not ... eventually ... I wasn't told directly ... but we all knew ... we were all in the same ... couple of days later in Peter Coyne's office and we were told it would be handled internally ... we were under the Secrecy Act and we were not to discuss it outside ... and they would handle it internally.

**Q. What was the Secrecy Act that they cited as the reason why you couldn't speak?**

A. That's anybody who was in government who were in charge of it ... basically you didn't discuss what went on inside ... concerning the children.

**Q. Did it surprise you when you were told that you could not speak?**

A. It did ... I did ... because ... children ... at the highest level ... I think ... and ... children ... were ... Peter Coyne ... the ... that ... that they were under the protection of the ... and they were ...

**Q. The current government's attitude seems to be that the matter has all been dealt with by the Forde Inquiry and that's basically the end of the matter ...**

A. It's not ... that was the view ... that ... very nice ... and the ...

**Q. This is way back in the days you're talking about ...**

A. That's ... and he was ... that ... because I don't remember ... and then I think ...