

COPY

Ref: 4904-300811

30 August 2011

WL

Headmaster

THE SCHOOL

Dear WL

I write in reference to the meeting of 11 March 2011 that many Principals/Headmasters and Chairs of Council attended along with Mr Peter Jooste QC (Chancellor), Mr Hamish Milne (Director of Diocesan Services and Registrar), Ms Tracie Chambers-Clark (Director of Professional Standards) and myself.

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss:

- The role of the Visitor;
- the role of the Archbishop's representative;
- the place of appointees of The Perth Diocesan Trustees and Diocesan Council on school boards and committees;
- the fiduciary role that this involvement places on the Diocese;
- the current protocols; and the
- involvement of the Director of Professional Standards and the Archbishop re complaints, and pastoral care for parents, students, staff and other members of the school communities.

A working party was formed to find a way of establishing common protocols. I thank Dr Geoffrey Shaw, Mr Philip Goldsworthy, Ms Lisa Goldacre and Ms Karen Farley for their participation and contribution.

It has been identified that with the many differing policies and procedures already in place, the formatting of a notification process agreeable to all was not practicable.

This leaves the Archbishop and the diocese liable to exposure and claims of neglect of pastoral duty. The National Episcopal Standards legislation places stringent demands upon the Diocesan Bishop which has a "catch all" phrase in respect of neglect to act. I am requesting Principals/Headmasters to make a commitment to notify either the Professional Standards Director or myself of any matters that have the potential to impact the good name of the school or the diocese, or attract media interest.

The following are examples of those matters considered to be notifiable;

- Sexual abuse or assault;
- assault, violence or behaviours inconsistent with Codes of Conduct;
- allergy or illness causing death;
- any accident that may be detrimental to the health of a teacher, staff member or student;
- major property damage;

When contacting the Diocesan Office the following information would be useful;

- Nature of incident;
- whether mandatory reporting has been actioned;
- pastoral care provisions put in place;
- media statements;
- names of those within your facility who has been notified.

Your co-operation in these matters is appreciated as we continue to work proactively to protect those in our care and, that the integrity of the Church remains the responsibility of all who use the name 'Anglican'.

Blessings and peace.

Yours sincerely

The Most Reverend Roger Herft
Archbishop