

ROBERT STOCKS - RECORD OF HEARING

FRIDAY 3 OCTOBER 2003

John Witham advised that a Record of Hearing would be prepared and sent to Robert. John asked Robert Stocks to indicate whether he was happy with the Record of Hearing and if not, to contact John and it would be fixed. The record of hearing would then be given to the Board. Along with that John will then make a recommendation to the Board about whether or not it would be useful or desirable for Robert to present his information to the Board.

Robert Stocks confirmed the information recorded on his Information Report:

- Personal details
- HR Officer for Anglicare at the time the Church was notified regarding Bob Brandenburg's activities
- Robert is not a victim

Robert advised:

- His motivation to be here was that he felt committed to Anglicare and the Anglican Church and in the truth.
- Robert read in the newspapers a few months ago that the Church said they were not aware until 1999 of the allegations. Robert says this was not true and that there had been a written report to CEO in 1997, which included allegations against Brandenburg of paedophilia and sex abuse.
- In 1997, he was one of two people on a panel asked to investigate safety issues at campsites.
- Geoff Blackwood, HR Manager, was the other person involved in the investigation and preparation of the report.
- The investigation of campsites included Harrogate.
- 15 April 1997, Robert contacted Valerie Crawford (partner of Robert McClelland) who was living at Harrogate Campsite and was experiencing some health issues.
- On 7 May 1997 Robert and Geoff carried out a safety inspection of the campsite and identified a number of serious hazards. As a result an electrician was called in.
- 26 May 1997, Robert and Geoff prepared questions for Harrogate investigation.
- 27 May 1997, 1pm Geoff Blackwood and Robert Stocks signed off on questions for Harrogate mismanagement investigation and carried out two investigation interviews.
 - 2pm interviewed Peter Bleby, Manager of Campsites
 - 3pm interviewed Robert Brandenburg in relation to negligence/mismanagement issues.
- 28 May 1997 met again with Peter Bleby for further clarification re investigation.

- 28 May 1997 12.30pm met with Caretaker, Robert McClelland, at Harrogate Campsite. He made insinuation about Brandenburg often being in company of adolescent boys and them staying overnight at the campsite together. He had raised this and how it looked with Brandenburg who downplayed the allegation.
- 2 June 1997 12 noon Geoff Blackwood and Robert Stocks interviewed Robert Brandenburg and put allegations made by McClelland to him. He took his time in answering before denying any involvement with paedophilic activities. He did say something strange when asked directly about his involvement with young males. "I am sorry I make it so hard on you young guys." Robert was not sure what was meant by that comment.
- These allegations against Bob Brandenburg were reported to the Gerard Menses verbally on a number of occasions prior to the formal written report.
- 24 June 1997 a written report compiled and delivered to Anglicare SA CEO, Gerard Menses, recommending Brandenburg be dismissed for mismanagement of campsites and that the allegations around paedophilic activities be further investigated with reference to SA Police.
- 18 July 2003 11am. Robert received a call from Chris Sharp from Hunt and Hunt telling him he was representing Jan Horsnell, CEO from Anglicare SA. He read an article from The Advertiser Friday 11 July 2003 that quoted an Anglicare employee talking about internal investigations into Brandenburg. He asked Robert if he had spoken to the journalist in question. Robert replied that he had never spoken to the journalist on any matter. Robert advised that he felt uncomfortable when Chris Sharp responded with "Thank you and hopefully I will not have to trouble you again about this in the future".

Robert provided a signed statement at the hearing which included:

- He worked at Anglicare between April 1994 and January 1999.
- During his time he was requested by CEO to conduct a number of internal investigations into complaints or allegations made by staff.
- There were significantly high numbers of complaints and allegations so that the internal investigation's terms of reference and reporting formats became standardized.
- Investigating procedure was basically:
 - Appointed to investigation panel by CEO
 - Develop terms of reference for investigation
 - Carry out investigation
 - Document findings and make recommendations to CEO
 - CEO then took whatever action he thought appropriate
- Between May and June 1997 Robert was safety manager for Anglicare SA and what began as a site inspection of the Harrogate Campsite became an investigation into negligence on the part of the campsite manager Robert Brandenburg.
- During the course of the investigation allegations were made to the extent that Robert Brandenburg often had young males accompany him on his overnight visits to Harrogate Campsite.
- When questioned as part of the investigation Brandenburg denied involvement in any paedophilic activities.

- The CEO at the time, Gerard Menses, was briefed as the investigation proceeded and a written report was delivered to the CEO recommending the dismissal of Brandenburg and further investigation of the allegations about Brandenburg's activities with adolescent males with reference to SA Police.
- Geoff Blackwood advised Robert that the CEO had received the report. In response to the report the CEO met with Robert Brandenburg with Peter Bleby present and questioned Brandenburg.
- Brandenburg was not dismissed. He was moved out of campsites and given another more administrative role. He retired a few months later. The CEO resigned and moved interstate a few months later.
- Robert believes Brandenburg should have been dismissed and the allegations referred to the SA Police for criminal investigation.
- Robert believes that the CEO of Anglicare SA, Gerard Menses, as a high profile representative of the Adelaide Diocese of the Anglican Church had notice of, or at least warning of, alleged criminal activities of Robert Brandenburg and the failure to respond appropriately contributed to the Church failing to carry out its duty of care to its parishioners and the wider public.

A copy of Robert Stocks written submission is attached.