

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

TO: JEFF CARR - SOLICITOR

c.c. JOHN POTTS - EMPLOYEE'S OMBUDSMAN

**STATEMENT by R McGLENNON & VALERIE CRAWFORD  
regarding instances of paedophilia at Natural Springs Camp.**

**Monday 3 November 1997.**

It is well known and documented that there were severe OH&S issues of a practical and building nature that were neglected by ACS but there were also serious moral issues that caused us considerable anxiety, heightened by the fact that these also were not addressed by ACS Management. They are as follows:

Since the Anglican Church has owned and operated the Natural Springs property as a Camp Site, during the 6 years - 1991 to 1997 - two people involved in camps have been convicted of sexual offences with young boys. One was an Anglican Priest who conducted Confirmation classes during a camp which took place during the term of employment of the previous Caretaker and his wife. The other was a Camp Caterer, Viv De Boo, who had been used on many occasions at the various ACS Camp sites and was personally recommended to us by our Camp Manager. He catered for camps on two occasions in 1995. He was convicted and gaoled in April of 1996 for offences which did not occur at our camp site but we were shocked and anxious with the thought that such events could have happened whilst we were in a role of responsibility there. Our Camp Manager informed us, after the trial and conviction was reported in the Advertiser, that he had been aware of Viv DeBoo's problems and had counselled him over a number of years and that he was aware that he had had sex with boys. Our question was, "Why did you recommend him to us?" His reply, "He is a personal friend and I have been trying to help him for years."

These events heightened our awareness of such matters and when our Camp Manager on 4 or 5 occasions was accompanied by a young boy when he visited us on official business we became suspicious about him. This was a very troubling and confusing time for my partner and I because of this man's seeming impeccable character and his history of involvement with young people over many years and we were very reluctant to even entertain such suspicions. An event took place during ~~September~~ 1995 when our Camp Manger came to assist in work on a fencing project and brought this same boy with him with the thought that they would stay overnight at the camp and then work on the next day. I was able to engineer circumstances so that it became unnecessary for them to stay the night.

However in March of this year, when our Manager again proposed that he bring this young lad with him to work on a project on the property and intended to stay the weekend at the Camp, I telephoned a friend who is a retired Anglican Rector, to ask if there was a procedure in place within the Anglican Church that I should follow in these circumstances. He confirmed that the proposal could certainly be construed as

21 428  
Oct 95  
ib.

2.

at least inappropriate behaviour and that I could use a procedure known as a 'sealed letter'. I was to advise the Manager that I was uneasy about his proposal to stay the night with the boy and that I would be noting the incident in a letter to cover ourselves. This letter would be sealed, lodged with my solicitor to be opened only by the Anglican Church in the event of any repercussions of his action. Because of doubts about the matter I did not follow this procedure and again engineered circumstances to prevent this happening.

In April of this year the previous Caretaker, Malcolm Morris, who was assisting in cementing the floors of the house, asked if there were matters that were troubling me as he thought that I appeared to be under strain. He said, "Is it paedophilia?" He then proceeded to reveal that he and his wife's family, Bob Brandenburg's sisters, nieces and nephews, had been also very concerned about Bob's inappropriate behaviour over the years in relation to him bringing this boy to assist with various camp projects. That over a period of 1991-1994 BB had been bringing a young boy or boys to stay at the Camp when no camps were in. Mal said how he and the family had closely watched BB over the years and were of the opinion that he was not in fact guilty of any crimes against young boys but that he was an extremely naive personality who did not think through the implications of his actions. However our doubts continued.

My partner and I felt some measure of relief in that we were able to talk to someone else about our suspicions and in some ways it allayed our fears that BB was perhaps involved in paedophilia. As we thought about these issues over the following months we seemed to swing from one position to the other. Sometimes we felt he could not possibly be guilty and then at other times certain actions did not quite 'add up'.

Even though ACS were aware of the two convicted paedophile cases who had worked on their property over a number of years at no time did anyone from ACS, least of all our Camp Manager BB, give us any counsel, advice or education as to appropriate measures that could be taken to ensure that such crimes never again were allowed to happen. The extreme delicacy of such matters caused us both great anxiety. We did not want to cast suspicion on a person who could be quite innocent nor did we want to in any way cover up behaviour that was absolutely abhorrent to us, nor did we want to put at risk any child's life or safety. As it was our own immediate supervisor's behaviour that was at times in question, this also made it very difficult for us to know in which direction to go.

We now feel it is imperative for us to make this statement but we do not wish any of this information to be used in any way to substantiate our claim against ACS nor do we wish it to be used in any way to apply pressure to ACS to settle our claim matters.

Our intention in making this statement is to let it be known that we are in no way involved in or are covering up any alleged paedophile action. We make the following points:

3.

- VERBALLY*
1. We have advised John Potts, Jeff Carr, Dean Nyland, and Tom Jones, without going into detail, re incidents of a moral nature which gave us concern. Such matters were also alluded to during the initial investigation undertaken by Geoff Blackwood (ACS Human Resources Manager) and Robert Stocks (OH&S Manager) in May of this year when we were trying to get across the point that, "where were OH&S staff when we had such serious issues to contend with?"
  2. If we make these moral-issues a reason for additional stress upon us during our employment with ACS, would that be construed as us trying to blackmail ACS into a settlement?
  3. If we say nothing and events later prove that certain persons involved with the Camp (other than those already convicted) have been operating on the premises as paedophiles, would we be considered to be aiding and abetting such a crime and therefore liable?
  4. If we say nothing then children may be put at risk.
  5. About 2 months ago Bill Hartwig (Financial Controller for ACS) asked me, "what do you know about a boy who had been seen getting into BB's car outside the ACS office?" I did not talk about my suspicions in this matter but simply said that sometimes Bob gets this boy to help him clean Mylor Camp.

The above statement is, to the best of our knowledge, a true statement of fact.



Bob McGlennon



Valerie Crawford