

MEMO**APRIL 3, 1995****TO Gerard Menses****FROM Peter Bleby****Re Today's meeting**

As requested, I am writing to record the events of this morning's meeting.

In response to a report from the Archbishop, a meeting was held today between Bob Brandenburg, Gerard Menses and myself, as Bob's Manager.

Gerard explained that the Archbishop had had a report from a senior priest, who had in turn had a concern raised by a mother. The concern was about Bob's having had a naked spa with a 10 year old boy recently. The Archbishop had requested that Gerard raise the issue with Bob, expressing our deep concern.

No accusation or suspicion of abuse had been raised.

Bob confirmed that the event had occurred, and that nothing more than an innocent spa had taken place. He said that he was a friend of the family of the boy in question, whose father had died of cancer last year, and Bob was taking an interest in the whole family as part of his parish's support system. He is in regular contact with the mother and both the children.

Gerard pointed out that the action, however innocent Bob believed it to be, was inappropriate, poor role modelling, and open to misinterpretation. As such, it could put Bob, the Agency, (since he is our Parish Liaison Officer and campsite Manager) and the Church at risk of damaging allegations, particularly in the light of our work to prevent child abuse and family violence. This was an action that would be open to investigation by the Critical Incident team if a formal complaint had been laid.

It was pointed out that the main concern in this meeting was for Bob.

Whilst this was an informal disciplinary meeting, and a personal warning, it would not be entered into Bob's personnel file, because there had been no suggestion or complaint of indecent behaviour or abuse. If further reports of this nature were to come to hand, however, the question of suspicion would have to be raised, and it would have to be reported, as Gerard and Peter are both "mandated notifiers".

I was asked to make this note of the meeting, for you, but no formal record would be kept.

Noted
RM

Bleby