

F-Y-I

Margaret, this came home to us. Frank

COPY: MR AE KNOX  
11.5.01

## BRISBANE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

GREGORY TERRACE BRISBANE QLD 4000 AUSTRALIA  
TELEPHONE 07 3834 5206 FACSIMILE 07 3834 5287

Friday, 4 May 2001

Dear Brisbane Grammar Old Boy,

Many of you, especially those who currently reside in Queensland, will be aware of the media attention that was given almost 12 months ago to allegations of professional misconduct towards students by former BGS school counsellor, Kevin Lynch (now deceased), during his time at the School in the 1970s and 80s. After retiring from BGS at the end of 1988, Lynch subsequently worked for a number of years in a similar role at St. Paul's School.

At the time that those allegations were brought to the attention of the School in mid-2000, the School publicly expressed its regret to any former student who may have been affected by any misconduct on Lynch's part.

The School quickly set up an independent counselling service, through Dr Joan Lawrence, a highly qualified independent psychiatrist, for any student who might have been so affected.

Very recently, further publicity (in *The Courier-Mail*) announced that a Brisbane law firm, acting on behalf of a number of former students, has instituted proceedings against the School with respect to alleged misconduct by Lynch. At the time of writing, the School has not received these claims, and therefore the School is not in a position to make further response, beyond repeating its initial sympathy for any former student who may have been affected by misconduct on Lynch's part.

I do earnestly repeat the invitation, made at the outset of allegations first being brought to the School's attention, to contact the School (Ph. 3834 5200), where information will be handled sympathetically and professionally. Also, the offer of counselling support remains open and can be accessed through Dr. Lawrence. Information as to how to take up this offer is available from the Headmaster's office or through the School's fully qualified psychologist counsellor.

Some members of the School community have expressed concern regarding the financial impact on the School. As no individual claims have yet been received, it is too early for us to know, and we are unable even to pass the claims on to the relevant insurers. The Board is of the view that there is no material financial exposure for the School.

The School today is operating successfully and its students are being provided with a high quality education in a safe and supportive environment. Processes, both external and internal, are in place to ensure that student welfare is a high priority. Prior to any of the allegations mentioned, the School had in place policies and practices to support a safe and secure environment for students. Central to all this is that our students feel able to come forward with legitimate complaints in the confidence that they will be dealt with professionally and sympathetically.

Yours sincerely,

Howard Stack  
Chairman, Board of Trustees.