

REDACTED

Sam Beeney

From: Sam Beeney
Sent: Thursday, September 26, 2002 1:24 PM
To: 'Stephanie Roberts'
Cc: Margaret Goddard
Subject: Letter to Bernard Yorke

LETTER TO BERNARD YORKE FROM MARGARET GODDARD

Dear Bernard,

I write in response to your letter of 23 September and the attached request via Shine Roche McGowan from the REDACTE family.

I see no benefit flowing from the submission of a detailed account of the systems/mechanisms we now have in place at St Paul's School to prevent child molestation. In fact, by virtue of the publication of our school's policies in the Parent Handbook, Student Diary and Staff Handbook we already publish the policies and procedures thereto related.

In addition, there are many subtle and not so subtle changes to school culture that ultimately, and probably more convincingly, contribute to a safer child-centred environment that simply cannot be given justice to in a dossier of school documents. Such a cultural change is well under way at the School and will continue to develop under my leadership. I felt that during the mediations, I had made this point clear to all of the plaintiffs and their families, giving my own personal undertaking that the School was fully committed to ensuring that such dreadful incidents would never happen again.

As a means of reassuring the family, the REDACTE ought to be advised that under the Schools Accreditation Act, St Paul's School will not be able to operate if it does not comply fully with government legislation in respect of child protection. We currently have registration. I further wish to reassure the REDACTE that the School takes very seriously its responsibility to its students.

I trust this will be of assistance to them.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret Goddard
Head of School