

BOARD OF ENQUIRY

into past handling of Complaints
of sexual abuse in the Anglican
Diocese of Brisbane

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Private and confidential

Mr Andrew Knox
P O Box 7105
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Dear Mr Knox

The Board of Enquiry is enquiring into the past handling of the complaints of sexual abuse made against the late Mr Kevin Lynch deceased ("Lynch"), in his role as Student Counsellor of St Paul's school. Enclosed is a copy of the terms of reference. It will be noted that the completion date has recently been extended.

Enclosed herewith is a draft of a document entitled "Complaints against Kevin Lynch", and which document is designed to indicate to relevant persons a description of Lynch's conduct, the way in which the Complaints were handled, the nature of the enquiries which the Board is making, and also to define the areas in respect of which potential criticism of relevant persons may be made. ①

The Board is concerned, as it must be, if it is to criticize any person, to give that person a full opportunity to deal with that criticism before a final decision of the Board in that regard is made.

② The Board has written to the Head Master at the relevant time, Mr Gilbert Case, in the terms of the copy letter provided herewith. Members of the Council are invited to make whatever comments (if any) they consider appropriate in relation to the matters posed in that letter.

The Board sets out below some further matters of enquiry directed to the members of the Council, in respect of which they are invited to make whatever comments or response (if any) as is considered appropriate.

②

1. In respect of each member of the Council, when did they first become aware,
 - (i) that Lynch had been charged with serious criminal offences;
 - (ii) that Lynch had suicided on the day he was to appear in Court;
 - (iii) the nature of the charges which had been laid against Lynch;
 - (iv) the identity of the student whom it was alleged was the victim of Lynch;
 - (v) the decision made by members of the Council (if any), that there should not be a public statement that Lynch had-
 - (a) been charged with criminal offences;
 - (b) had suicided.
2. At the meeting of the Council on 12 February, 1997, it was recorded in the minutes that in the Head Master's report he had briefed those members of the Council present "regarding the circumstances associated with Mr Lynch's death".
 - (i) What was your recollection of the briefing by the Head Master?
 - (ii) What steps, (if any) was it decided to take in the light of that briefing.
3. Following the meeting of 12 February, and until April 1997, it would appear that no further action was taken by School Officials, and Members of Council in respect of Lynch.
 - (a) Does that accord with your recollection?
 - (b) If not could you state your recollection.
 - (c) If yes, had it been decided –
 - i. by council as a body
 - ii. by you as an individual councillorto take no action.

4. When did you become aware that in April 1997 three further students had complained to the Headmaster, and the Chaplain that they had been sexually abused by Lynch?

5. What action then or thereafter did -

(a) the Council as a body

(b) you as a Member of the Council

take in respect of the Complaints of sexual abuse made against Lynch.

6. At a meeting of the Council on 11 June 1997 under the heading Report of the Headmaster it is stated,

"The Headmaster spoke to matters which had arisen with respect to a former staff member. He was asked to ensure an appropriate policy was put in place to deal with any future situations which might arise. Such policy should take into account current education Queensland policies and provide for adequate counselling for affected parties."

7. What action then or thereafter did -

(a) the Council as a body

(b) you as a Member of the Council

take in respect of the matters referred to by the Headmaster.

The Diocese of Brisbane has decided that person who evidence to the Enquiry should be indemnified.

Enclosed herewith is an indemnity which you are invited to complete and return to the Board.

Yours sincerely,


Peter O'Callaghan
Chairman

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