

Greg Knight – some thoughts

1. I believe from what I have been told that it will be important to make no public comment in respect of any pending criminal or extradition matters. Robert Cunningham has also argued strongly – and perhaps at last successfully – with *The Courier-Mail* that no comment will be made on matters which are the subject of civil claims.
2. My sad experience over recent years suggests that where there are two alleged victims, there are likely to be more who will come forward in response to publicity. Should the School be adopting the Churchie line and writing to past students of the period? Has it already done this in a generic way, as suggested following your meeting with Heads and Chairs in April?
3. I have no idea who the complainants might be, but attach a list of some music students who worked with Knight.
4. The information which I shared with you on Wednesday had the purpose of briefing you about this former staff-member. I stressed to you on a number of occasions that I was speaking from memory, that I had had no recent access to any files to refresh my memory, and that many details could turn out to be inaccurate or not supported when checked against records.
5. I am concerned that the notes taken while I spoke with you might constitute a discoverable document in following actions, either criminal or civil.
6. I told you that when Knight was appointed, I believe he had previously been employed at Brisbane Boys' College. He had left there, I believe, because he had provided condoms to students in the boarding house. I am quite vague about the details here. This occurred in late 1980 from memory, ie. 22 years ago. Knight's dismissal was 18 years ago!
7. I believe that I was being advised to be cautious in appointing him, but what I was told did not constitute grounds for not appointing him to the position applied for.
8. My memory is that there were no other reasonable candidates for the position of Head of Music [in fact, virtually the only Music teacher] at St Paul's. Knight started in 1981, and performed creditably in the role, and without apparent problems until the matters which led to his immediate dismissal.
9. In sum, I believe the appointment was made with caution; Knight performed competently and with success; and Knight was dismissed as soon as an allegation against him was found to have any substance.
10. I would resist strongly any suggestion that appointing Knight to the staff was in any way a negligent act. I would expect the Diocese to indemnify me in respect of any action arising in respect of my role in this, in line with previous advice offered in connection with the Lynch matters.
11. The Diocesan Registrar (the position now called "General Manager") was the Secretary of the School Council at the time. I do not know if he reported Knight's dismissal to the insurers. I do not believe I advised them. There was not until last week any evidence that any claim was likely to be made in connection with him.
12. The legal advice I received yesterday is that I should continue in my present position.

Notes:

The Senior Master who would have been involved in Knight's selection is now deceased. (Mr Ken Sutton)

The Bursar who would have handled severance pay etc. is now deceased (Mr Ian Gottle)

The School Chaplain (Fr Tom Treherne) was involved in the investigation. I assume the new Senior Master (Mr John Wright) would have been too, but I have no clear memory of his participation.

Fr Treherne was the Chaplain in 1983-4. The Chaplain for most of 1981 and half of 1982 was Bishop Noble.

There are a number of staff still at St Paul's (probably up to 10) who would have been there at the time.

The School Council at the time was chaired by Bishop Schultz. Amongst its members was Mr Jim Eyles, currently a member of the P&F Board. None of the Council still serves in that capacity, although Mr Colin Kent is still associated with the Board of the School's Foundation.

While Knight was virtually the only Music teacher on staff at the time, he did receive assistance from a primary teacher, Mr Kirk Jaress, and was also supported by visiting instrumental teachers. I do not remember which may have visited the School during the period in question (as I also do not know the date of the incidents the police are investigating), but the team could have included Michael Faragher (who performed in the recent PromPraise), and Mrs Pat Lockyer (wife of Fr Peter Lockyer).

The attached list of performers from an LP released in 1983, after a concert in the Sydney Opera House, identifies some students who would have had contact with Knight.

Encl. Performance list