



GNADENFREI

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Bishop John Noble
Anglican Church of Australia
Brisbane Diocese
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Dear Bishop Noble,

I am writing this letter to you in your official capacity, as contact person for allegations of Sexual Misconduct within the Anglican Church, on behalf of my client BSB. BSB is now a year 11 student at St Pauls Anglican College, and you will find enclosed a letter and statement from him. BSB and his parents engaged my services with school consent to undergo counselling re: Sexual Abuse/ Assault he experienced between 1994 and Nov. 1996, at the hands of the then School Counsellor, Kevin Lynch, now deceased. Having gained a reasonable full history of events from BSB and discussed his situation with Mrs Thompson who succeeded Mr Lynch in the role of Counsellor there are significant aspects of the situation that I consider a major cause for concern.

I am aware that response to these issues within the Church generally is still very much a pioneering process, and that your Protocol was only being formulated and adopted during the years this abuse occurred. However there appears to have been no attempt since, to apply the protocol to this situation, which Mrs Thompson told me she had requested happen. For the sake of the Church and the innocent children involved, I considered it important that appropriate persons within the Church be made aware of this families experience and concerns. From the evidence I have heard, I would consider Legal action could have been taken by the family. However as members of the church they are reluctant to do this, preferring this approach. They also have other legal issues regarding their business, currently in hand.

I have enclosed a copy of my Curriculum Vitae so that you are aware of my past experience in the church and this area of sexual abuse and trauma. You will note that I attended the first conference on Sexual Abuse by Professionals including Clergy, conducted in Sydney in 1995. From the evidence that was presented there and my own experience, it has been evident that significant failures have occurred, in the way this situation has been responded to. These events could significantly damage the Church if they are not dealt with appropriately. My concerns fall into three main areas.

1. The Nature of this Abuse.

From the response that BSB has received within the school it appears that the Significance and Serious Nature of Mr Lynch's mode of operation has not been fully appreciated.

Having listened with BSB to the Relaxation Tape which played an integral role in the sessions, (still a difficult experience for him to go through), it is clearly evident that this perpetrator was;

-A highly skilled operator who used his professional skills and knowledge, including Hypnosis in a way that exploited his young victims lack of knowledge, placing them completely in his power.

_ Conducted the abuse by means of a carefully planned, premeditated, process which maximised their exposure to him, for increasing periods of time.

_ Made use of strategies that could leave his victims vulnerable well into the future e.g.: an as yet unidentified hypnotic trigger that immobilises the victims
: use of a relaxation tape with a female voice to accompany his sexual activity which has implications for their future marital relationships / sexual orientation

: gave them instructions and materials to encourage sexual activity with peers.

From the evidence that is known, it is highly likely that there are as yet other, unidentified victims at St Paul's and among it's past pupils. BSB also has expressed concern that pupils at other schools where Mr Lynch was employed have also been abused. The number is likely to be greater than what is currently known. Research evidence suggests that victims identified early in an investigation are often just at the tip of an iceberg. There can be hundreds. My own concern is that if these victims are not identified and assisted through a recovery process, the likelihood that they in turn will become perpetrators increases.

2. The Role of Mr Case, Principal, in the School Response.

BSB and his friend first reported their concerns, regarding lack of confidentiality and disclosure of personal details (Penis size), to Mr Case in mid 1995. His statement gives his own account of this event and the outcome. BSB has had concerns about the headmasters involvement and handling of the situation from this point on, because of an understanding gained at school, that Mr Case was a close friend of Mr Lynch, having been at school together. If this information is correct then his involvement in managing the school process, has been a conflict of interest from the beginning.

Of particular concern to BSB and his family have been

- That the Parents were not informed of these initial allegations
- That these revelations didn't lead to at least some enquiry, as to how Mr Lynch could have knowledge of those personal details, considering his role in the school.

The boys didn't know that it wasn't standard practise to undress for the therapist.
- This failure to respond resulted in further sessions of abuse and ultimately denied BSB the opportunity to see his Perpetrator brought to Justice and to receive Justice himself.

- Since the allegations have been revealed in detail, BSB has felt a level of animosity against him and has reported several instances where assurances he was given by the Headmaster have been untrue. There have also been further breaches of confidentiality to Mr Case, of information from his counselling with Mrs Thompson.

- The possibility that Mr Case knew of allegations against Kevin Lynch before his employment at the school has also been raised.

3. Apparent Failure of The School System

From BSB's evidence it is clear that his abuse occurred regularly, often with long absences from classes, for several years without detection. Concerns that were raised in reports by his teachers about frequent absences from class and falling grades, did not appear to lead to any suspicion or internal investigation into his need for ongoing counselling. The appearance is that Mr Lynch had no one to whom he was accountable for his practises and was able to conduct his work with semi-naked boys lying exposed for long periods, without fear of interruption.

Since my own involvement I have been concerned about an apparent lack of understanding of the ongoing impact this abuse is likely to have on BSB and a lack of sensitivity, that resulted in him and his peers being counselled by the new counsellor, in the very room where the abuse had originally occurred. In my discussions with Mrs Thompson and communication from Mr Case I have gained a strong impression that BSB is considered to be malingering and a troublemaker. However, from my own experience in the field it is evident that BSB is still suffering symptoms of Post Traumatic Stress. He is frequently triggered in the School Environment by reminders of the abuser and the lack of an appropriate resolution from a school perspective. I have found him to be a courageous forthright young man who needs to know the truth in order to be set free.

I have written signed Authorities from both BSB and his father, for this approach to you. Because of the situation with his mother and stepfather, it has been requested that all correspondence concerning this comes through me. As you can imagine they have all been greatly affected by these events, and have found it very difficult continuing to pay school fees for tuition, when so much previous tuition time was spent in the abuse of their son.

I would greatly appreciate speaking to you about this as soon as possible. I have not as yet informed Mr Case of the action that has been decided on, and would appreciate your guidance as to the next step in the process.

Yours in Christ



Coral Palmer
Psychologist