



A School of the  
Anglican Church  
of Australia

21 April, 1997



On Thursday 17 April, 1997, Fr George Henry (the School Chaplain) approached me at about 1120 hours. He was obviously distressed. He informed me that three boys had just seen him (by appointment made some days earlier), and had made accusations of interference by the former student counsellor, Kevin Lynch, who had died (presumed suicide) on or about 23 January 1997.

Fr Henry had asked the new student counsellor, Mrs Marie Thompson, to join him to hear the boys' stories, and they were then asked (by Fr Henry and Mrs Thompson) to commit their allegations to writing. This they did during the period approximately 1130 to 1245 hours on that day.

Their signed statements are enclosed with the copy of this memo being sent to the General Manager of the Diocese of Brisbane. Mr Ron Ashton of Minter Ellison, who has continued to offer me advice on behalf of the Diocese in this matter, has requested that if appropriate the General Manager pass copies of these statements to him. Mr Ashton has been careful to distinguish between his responsibilities to the Diocese and his responsibilities to the Diocesan insurers.

I joined Fr Henry and Mrs Thompson as the statements were being completed and took delivery of the three statements. While both Fr Henry and I had been aware of a complaint and charges laid against Mr Lynch the day before his death, we had both believed that complaint and those charges to be entirely vexatious, vindictive, and without foundation, until confronted with the stories the three boys told.

They commented that they had begun to compare notes earlier this year, and become disturbed by their discoveries. During Term 1, 1997, one of them had then made an anonymous phone call to a counsellor selected from the phone book and enquired whether such techniques as they claimed to have experienced were usual counselling techniques. On receiving advice that this was not the case, the boys had made the appointment to see Fr Henry.

The boys concerned are:

BRC [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

BRK [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

BSB [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

After perusing the statements I immediately made contact with the parents and spoke in turn to BRJ [REDACTED] BSC [REDACTED] and BSB [REDACTED] stepmother, and [REDACTED]

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**ST PAUL'S SCHOOL**

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An Anglican co-educational day school for Years 5 - 12  
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21-APR-1997 13:57 FROM ST PAULS SCHOOL

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I explained the nature of the allegations the boys had made. REDACTED requested to read his son's statement; the others did not. Mrs Thompson and Fr Henry were present at these interviews, and Mrs Thompson explained to the parents the counselling and support she would offer to the three boys over the coming weeks.

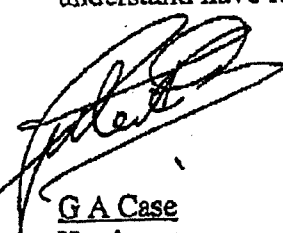
Asked if they thought anyone else may have had a similar experience, BRK indicated no; BSB and BRC separately nominated as possibilities both REDACTED and REDACTED; BRC also nominated a former student, REDACTED

On Friday morning Mr and Mrs REDA called to see me to thank me for the way in which the School had handled the issue. I have had no other contact to the time of writing from Mr or Mrs RED or Mr or Mrs REDAC

I also arranged to meet, again with Mrs Thompson and Fr Henry, the mothers of the other two current students named, REDACTED  
REDACTED

REDACTE and REDACTED were separately made aware of the possibility which had been raised. Like the parents of the three other boys, they expressed support for the School in a difficult situation and said they were grateful for the way the matter was being handled. REDACTED rang me on Monday morning 21 April to indicate she had spoken to REDAC and that nothing untoward had occurred, although he had found himself in a position where he believed it might have, had he not indicated his concern to Mr Lynch. BRC he said, had warned him of what might happen. BRC BRC had also told him that he had alerted me to what was allegedly happening some time during 1996. This is not so.

REDACTED also rang on that Monday morning, indicating that REDACTE and he did not wish to initiate a discussion with REDA but that they believed it improbable that anything had occurred. He, like the parents of the three complainants, will I understand have further discussions with Mrs Thompson.

  
G A Case  
Headmaster

Distribution: Mr Andrew Knox, Chairman, the St Paul's School Council  
Mr Bernard Yorke, General Manager, Diocese of Brisbane  
Dr Peter Coman, Anglican Schools Office  
Mr Ron Ashton, Minter Ellison

Enclosures with Mr Yorke's copy

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