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OF VICTORIA

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CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Father Doyle,

I wish to draw to your attention a matter which has recently arisen at St. Mary's Primary School in Dandenong.

A grade six student, Julie, has recently been referred to Counselling Services in Dandenong following a discussion with the principal Mrs Faye Chandley. Julie sought out Faye on the 15/7 and was visibly shaking and upset. She discussed a number of matters but the two of greatest concern were a matter to do with REDACTED in the family and a matter to do with Father Searson. In regard to Father Searson, she talked about an incident which occurred when she was in grade 4 at Holy Family in Doveton. The family transferred to St. Mary's Primary School in September last year.

This matter was detailed to you in a letter from me on the 20th November 1985.

Faye concluded the discussion after a short time of allowing Julie to express her feelings and did not pursue the matter at any great length. Faye then discussed the matter with Father Julian Langridge, the Acting Parish Priest at St. Mary's. Faye received a phone call from Julie's mum later in the evening and the mother detailed the events at Doveton, and agreed to Julie receiving assistance from the psychologist as this was the first time that Julie had shown any preparedness to talk about the events. The following day it also came to Faye's attention that Julie had confided in at least one other grade six pupil at St. Mary's.

On the 16/7, the psychologist (with Faye present for a short time) spoke to Julie. It is not thought that she mentioned the matter from Doveton but Faye had raised the matter with the psychologist prior to the interview in a briefing session. It is seen as important, by all concerned, that Julie come to terms with the events which she believes took place, and it is expected that she will discuss the matter in regard to Father Searson with the psychologist as the sessions proceed and as trust builds up.

The psychologist believes that Julie is seriously traumatised and is in a state of anxiety. The therapy is planned to assist the child in overcoming the anxiety, through relaxation therapy and concrete activities.

Faye raised the matter and the referral with me last Tuesday. Father Julian Langridge, Faye and myself, then discussed the matter. The matter was then referred verbally to Mr. Norm Lalor at your office, through myself.

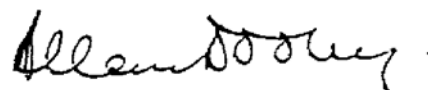
It is not expected that the psychologist will discuss the case in any other quarters. The mother is happy with the progress to date and Julie seems to be making some progress.

The school is concerned about the extent to which other grade six children have been exposed to the details and we are generally concerned that the matter has once again surfaced.

There is, currently, a great deal of agitation at Holy Family in Doveton and I would not be surprised if this matter surfaced, again, in that community. It has, on a number of occasions, been the cause of much comment.

I raise this with you, as a matter which is causing me concern at present because of a number of sensitivities which are involved.

Yours sincerely



Allan Dooley  
Educational Consultant.