

SUMMARY REPORT - LAD AC OF MCC

This report is in point form only.

- * Provincial contacted by College Counsellor LAJ on 4.12.93 regarding AC. AC presently Year 11 going into Year 12, 17 years old. Complaint regarding hugging when in Year 7 from JKC. Called to the office out of school and teacher asks lad to give him a hug. Happened on three or four occasions. Finally lad indicates not comfortable. Lad then experiences attitude change by Brother, very negative, and unco-operative. Room where hugs were taking place had no windows and a small room. No suggestion of genital touching nor any experience of sexual reaction on the part of JKC. After discussion with the counsellor it is considered appropriate to speak with the parents immediately.
- * The following day I speak with the father and he is keen to have an interview. The lad is away and he would prefer that the lad was not there as the lad is not keen to go into details. An appointment is made for 8.12.93.
- * On 8.12.93 I travelled to Canberra to see the father, the mother and Mr. Brian McLeod, a representative of the Canberra Community Youth Advocate's Office.
- * The father goes through a period of family history, highlighting suicidal periods around the age of 13 and 16 for ACN and an extremely negative turn of attitude around the time of his going into secondary school. The lad has had no positive communication with his mother for some years.
- * The father attempted to speak with the lad on a number of occasions. The father, from a strong military

-2-

background, seemed to be a fairly formal, systematic personality type. Mother seemed very quiet, insecure and somewhat guilty about the situation. She seemed to play a very secondary and submissive role in the relationship between husband and wife. She also seemed guilty about not picking up signs earlier that something was wrong. The father, in discussions with the lad, sometimes in the early morning, could only get out of him that things were not well at the school and that he had been given a big bear hug by JKC.

- * The Youth Advocate made the initial comment that he was there by invitation as an observer only, but at the end of the interview, as well as affirming the parents very well for their care and concern, encouraged them strongly to consider their right and duty to take up the question of financial compensation for sexual abuse such as this.

I was careful to make the clear point that I was listening to what they had to say and accepting all they had to say from a compassionate point of view. It was clear to me that there was great suffering and pain in the family whatever the causes might be. I offered them any help I could and also indicated that I was quite happy to provide any therapy that may be seen to be helpful.

- * For the time being they considered the school counsellor as exceptionally good and that their son had confidence in her. They were aware that the lad had told the school counsellor more than he had told any of them.
- * The Youth Advocate Officer complimented the Brothers on their quick response and their care. At the end of the interview, the father, Mr. **REDACTED**, presented me with a list of requests and suggestions.

-3-

- * We fixed a date, 17.12.93, for me to speak with the lad. I got the impression that this was to be alone.
- * The other point that came out was the discovery that the lad has acquired a very rare form of arthritis. It is a chronic arthritis called spondyloarthropathy.
- * For future reference, address of the Youth Advocate is -

Community Advocate, A.C.T.,
 Box 2703
 Level 2, G.I.O. House,
 City Walk,
 CANBERRA A.C.T. 2601.

Ph.: 06 207 0707

Further Notes to Discussions with School Counsellor

16.12.93
 School Counsellor very concerned about the psychologist that the lad is being referred to. She considers him unprofessional and poorly skilled. Dr. REDA, the G.P. that the lad goes to, she considers has jumped too quickly to conclusions of depression and the causes of arthritis. ACN had told her that he was called to the office by Brother, asked to give him a hug. In the old office it was in a back corridor with no windows and the door was closed. When he was hugged he felt he couldn't say No. It happened two or three times. He felt yukky. Felt no sexual arousal or erection on the part of the Brother.

After two or three occasions he told the Brother he wasn't happy with that and felt there was a change in the Brother's attitude to him. He was negative and cruel. Originally he was not so concerned as he was glad to get out of class! He considers Brother has a lot of pets that he

-4-

brings out of class. Lad is concerned that there are kids in the office at lunch time. The way he felt it was "I've got you out of class, now you give me a hug." His overall response was confusion, anger, a questioning of his sexuality, questioning of proper role of authority.