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Friday January 18th.1991.

Mr. Paul Grew,
Chairman - Board of Management,
Mater Dei-Special School,
Camden.

Dear Mr. Grew,
as a courtesy to your board and to the in-coming principal, I am enclosing a copy of a letter (for your reference) which I have recently sent to the Area Operations Manager, Campbelltown Family & Community Services.

The letter is a follow up to enquiries made by F.A.C.S. last year and it concerns CIL, a student we have at Mater Dei-Special School, who is a State Ward.

Mr Grew, I, as an employee of Mater Dei-Special School, am requesting your help in this matter to act as a strong mediator between Carol Poutney, Family and Community Services, the new principal and myself.

The reasons for asking your assistance will be clear to you after you have read this letter and my enclosed copy of the letter sent to F.A.C.S.

The following information is a brief outline of events. I do hope it will help you formulate a clear picture of the situation?

CIL was removed from Arnold Avenue "AGAINST HIS WILL" and placed at Berallier Drive. This was done by the present cottage co-ordinator, Ms Carol Poutney who strongly influenced her CLOSE FRIEND, the former principal, to make the move which took place at the beginning of term 1 in 1990.

Family & Community Services were not consulted about the move and when they found out about it, they were not happy.

CIL was very disturbed and unhappy by his move and he asked his District officer to help him to return to live at Arnold Avenue. However, Family & Community Services requests to have CIL return to his former cottage at Arnold Avenue, were denied. I became an advocate for CIL but my requests for him to return were also rejected out of hand.

So, all last year, CIL was "FORCED" to remain at a cottage where he was obviously unhappy.

Ms Poutney and Sister Joan's attitude towards CIL's situation was of grave concern to F.A.C.S. and they were going to remove CIL from the "cottage system" and from Mater Dei-Special School altogether because of it. However, in view of the fact Sister Joan was leaving at the end of the school year in 1990, they decided to hold off on that decision and just closely monitor CIL's situation for the rest of the year and wait until the new principal took up her position in 1991, when they would

once more, take up CIL 's problem.

CIL was told by his District Officer - Mr Bernard Pozo, that F.A.C.S. would approach the new principal and ask her to move CIL back to his former placement at Arnold Avenue early in 1991.

Before CIL went away on his holidays at the end of last year, he asked me to try and find out for him just what is going to happen to him in 1991. He had not forgotten the promise that F.A.C.S. had made to him. This is the reason why I have written to F.A.C.S.

Family and Community Services were fairly certain last year that if requests by them to have CIL return to his former placement at Arnold Avenue early in term one in 1991, were not successful, and CIL remained at Berallier Drive in his "FORCED" unhappy placement there, F.A.C.S. officers would, during 1991, revive arrangements to remove CIL from the "cottage system" and Mater Dei altogether.

At the end of term 4 last year, Carol Poutney let her reaction to F.A.C.S. be known to the Social Educators. It was as follows: Quote; "If F.A.C.S. don't like the way we do things in the cottages and they don't like our system, they can pack their kid's bags (meaning CIL 's as he is the only state ward we have at the school now) and they can take their children out". "I, and Sister Joan could't care less". End quote. As you can see Mr Grew, that is a very insensitive attitude and I believe it's not thinking of the best interests of the students or our school.

Tact in this matter is of the utmost importance because I have no desire to create a "Win Loose" situation. Rather, it would be preferable to have a "Win, Win" situation with CIL returning to live at Arnold Avenue, but without Ms Poutney being seen to lose face. In this way CIL 's needs and rights will be met and, the dignity of Ms Carol Poutney will be maintained.

I can't approach Ms Poutney. Her attitude is one of "I am the boss, do as I say" - and she would not consider moving CIL back to Arnold Avenue through any requests on my part.

It's important that Ms Poutney does not see me as the "enemy within", that is why I am asking for your help in this matter.

A further reason for my seeking your help is to add balance to the case as it is highly probable that Ms Poutney will try to use the influence of her position in briefing the new principal about CIL (as she sees it) to support her STRANGLE HOLD in preventing CIL 's move back to Arnold Avenue. In so doing, she will try to maintain the Status Quo set up by her and her friend Sister Joan over the past 18th months.

I do hope I can count on your support in this very delicate situation and I shall look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Yours Faithfully,
CID