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deaf)



Ageing and
Disability
Department

Ms Sue Dixon
Chief Executive Officer
Mater Dei Ltd
PO Box 3090
NARELLAN 2567

DSP 98-4515
Contact: Paul Heath
REDACTED

Case File

Dear Ms Dixon

I write to you concerning a complaint made by ^{CIC} [REDACTED] mother of ^{REDACTED} [REDACTED] ^{CIB} about the way in which the sexual assault of her daughter in 1991 was handled by the Mater Dei organisation.

^{CIC} [REDACTED] has raised issues about the sexual assault of her daughter while she was a student of the Mater Dei School and was living in the Residential Cottages attached to the school. ^{CIC} [REDACTED] alleges that her daughter was assaulted by a staff member of the Residential Cottages.

^{CIC} [REDACTED] became aware of the assault when her daughter was with her one weekend and haemorrhaged and had to be rushed to hospital. ^{CIC} [REDACTED] states that she reported the assault to Mater Dei School.

^{CIC} [REDACTED] alleges that no legal action was taken against the staff member as it was decided that her daughter was not a "fit witness". ^{CIC} [REDACTED] also alleges that the staff member just left Mater Dei and was not fired. She is concerned that the person may have gone on to assault others. ^{CIC} [REDACTED] alleges that other children in the Residential Program may also have been assaulted by this person.

^{CIC} [REDACTED] is also concerned that her daughter's case was referred to the Police Royal Commission without referral to her. The first that she knew about this was the arrival in 1996 of nuns from Mater Dei offering to provide counselling. She refused this offer but wants to know the outcome of the referral to the Police Royal Commission and how this referral was made without her knowledge.

^{CIC} [REDACTED] has agreed to her concerns being referred back to your organisation and to the Department of Community Services.

As the funding body for the residential services of Mater Dei, the Ageing and Disability Department is concerned that the issues surrounding your organisations role in managing the alleged assault of ^{CIB} in 1991 do not appear to have been resolved to the satisfaction of her family. It is requested that an investigation specifically with regard to your organisations role in this matter is undertaken immediately by the management of Mater Dei and that all effort is made to inform and assist Ms ^{CIB} and her mother.

The Department requests that a written report of the investigation and its outcome is made within 15 working days of receiving this letter. The Department also requests detail of the procedures put in place subsequent to this incident to ensure the safety of all children using the Residential Cottages and detail of the current policies and procedures in place to ensure the safety and well being of all people with a disability using the facilities of Mater Dei.

I look forward to your response. If you require further information, please contact Mr Paul Heath, Regional Manager - Metropolitan South Region on REDACTED

Yours sincerely



10.8.98

Anna Kalnins
Manager - Disability Services Program