

Report of Discussion with Ms [REDACTED] re Alleged Abuse of [CIN]

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2004

- [REDACTED] called after receipt of letter from the Board. I was in a meeting at the time of the call and she left her contact details.
- Returned [REDACTED]'s call at 3.20pm. I explained that the reason the Board were pursuing this issue was to ensure that all appropriate protocols had been followed regarding the issue of abuse. I also made it clear that we intended to further investigate the incident and make reports to appropriate authorities if all avenues had not been pursued.
- [REDACTED] said that she was happy to discuss the issue and we went over the events as she remembered them. I mentioned that I would be taking notes and interjecting for further details and she stated that she was happy with this arrangement.
- [REDACTED] claims that in 1990, [CIN], then eight years old, was sexually assaulted by a residential care worker from Mater Dei. At the time [CIN] was enrolled in Mater Dei school and living in the [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] claims that a teacher at Mater Dei raised concerns after viewing some of [CIN]'s art work.
- The matter was investigated and [REDACTED] states that the residential worker was asked to leave. She also stated that DOCS was involved in the first instance and that she believes that all appropriate protocols in place at this time were followed.
- I asked if Mater Dei provided any assistance at this time. It would seem that Mater Dei had a counsellor on staff and she was involved in the case. External counselling was also arranged though a service in Ryde.
- [REDACTED] found the counselling by the counsellor in Ryde not to be meeting [CIN]'s needs and she discontinued the counselling service after one session.
- [REDACTED] then sought private counselling with a friend who was a counsellor with Centacare Wollongong – Maggie??
- I inquired as to the identity of the alleged perpetrator and [REDACTED] said that it was [CID] someone. We have a file on a residential worker by the name of [CID] [CID]; however there are no complaints with reference to [CIN] in this file. [CID] is mentioned in another case in which DOCS were involved and I have forwarded this file to CCER.
- When I pressed [REDACTED] on the nature of the alleged assault she told me that it was of a sexual nature. She reported that [CIN] said that [CID] came into his room and shone a torch in his eyes. He then touched his body and touched his penis.
- [REDACTED] did not think the Police were involved in the investigation and she was not keen to involve them. She stated that the trauma that it would have caused [CIN] would not have been in his best interests. She also stated that in her experience as an employee of DOCS, in cases such as this, no police action is generally taken against the perpetrator.
- It was stated that following this incident, [CIN] regressed, with his speech being badly affected and bed wetting became an issue. She believes that this situation took three years to fully resolve itself.

file

CCER

- REDAC requested that CIN move from the Teralba residence to Woolpack Street in Elderslie after the allegation was made. This occurred immediately and REDAC stated that Mater Dei did a lot of work in settling CIN into his new residence.
- I informed REDAC that we were most concerned that this situation had been fully investigated. I also stated that we would be working with CCER to re-open the investigation if the matter had not been dealt with appropriately in the first instance. I told REDAC that I would be passing all details of our conversation on to Michael McDonald at CCER and he may be in contact for further information. REDAC was open to this possibility.
- I asked REDAC if there was anything we could do at this stage to assist with any lasting effects caused by this situation. She said that she felt that there was nothing further that Mater Dei could do. I also informed her that if there was a need for assistance in the future, Dr Jenny McDonald or I would be happy to meet with her.
- REDAC volunteered to go through her papers and forward any further information that she had relating to this issue to Mater Dei for investigation and follow up.
- The call ended cordially at 3.50pm.

**Frank Pitt**  
**CEO/Principal**  
**Mater Dei**