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 MRS CJO [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

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Wayne, Jac and Sean

This is my draft - still waiting for Barbara to come out of meeting. I have written this for Wayne to telephone Mrs CJO this afternoon. Please have a look at it and mark any extra changes.

Dennis

Mrs CJO

I understand you called Air Force Headquarters yesterday about the matters involving your daughter CJE.

Since I became aware of this matter, the primary focus of the AAFC is on the health and well being of your daughter.

I appointed Squadron Leader Darren Banfield to lead the Investigation process and I understand he has been in regular contact with you and your daughter.

We have also had Bev Hargreaves, a trained clinical psychologist talk with your daughter over the phone. Bev has indicated she will be able to continue to provide this support for as long as required. Under normal circumstances Bev would have referred your daughter to the NSW School counsellor, but as your daughter attends a private school that is outside her authority.

I understand you were seeking some additional specialist support for your daughter. I have had confirmation that if you incur costs with that support Defence will pay.

The Defence Health staff recommend that you contact NSW Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services branch on 1800 011 511. The staff there will make a phone assessment and then provide advice as to what services can be accessed for continued support for Ashleigh. I understand they have an office in the St George area.

Bev Heagraves also recommends you consider contacting Headspace.org.au - If you go online, entre your postcode, you will be given contact details for local support.

There are a number of other alternatives which include:

Life Resolutions - Located in Oatley - 02 9690 5888

Angicare Support Services 02 9895 8000

Wesley Mission 02 9263 5555

Kids Helpline on 1800 551 800.

As I said, if there are any costs involved with support for CJE then Defence will pay. Wing Commander Peter Rothwell will arrange for that assistance - his contact number is REDACTED

I understand you also had some concerns about the perceptions of AAFC staff members towards CJE.

The focus of the AAFC is on the safety and welfare of CJE.

The AAFC Policy Manual states "it is highly inappropriate and unacceptable for any AAFC staff member to engage in any form of close, personal relationship of any nature with any cadet. Such relationships are prohibited at all times. The burden and responsibility for ensuring this requirement is met rests solely with the AAFC staff member."

We have to be fair to all persons involved with principles of natural justice. We operate a part time organisation a few hours a week. I appointed SQNLDR Banfield who is one of my most experienced staff to conduct the investigation, and he prepares a report for me. Therefore I have to remain out of the investigation process so that I can be fair in making

any decisions required at the end of the investigation process.

I acted within hours of receiving confirmation of the allegations from Squadron Leader Banfield. The AAFC staff member was suspended and prohibited from any AAFC activity or communicating with any cadets until this matter is resolved. As your daughter is age 17 the matter was also then referred to the NSW Police. Our investigation is suspended until the Police investigation is complete.

In respect of the NSW Police, I understand you have spoken to the Crime Coordinator at Wagga. I spoke to the Police personally last week and asked that they increase the priority of the matter. The police will conduct their own assessment and investigation and we have no power to influence them. You and I both want this matter resolved quickly. I am not able to predict how quickly the Police will be able to conclude their investigation.

Only those staff who are required to directly support CJE are aware of the matter. The AAFC will seek to protect the privacy of CJE.

I have spoken to Director General Cadets Air Force, Air Commodore Green and he has personally confirmed the focus is on the safety and welfare of CJE. He has met CJE at Wagga and can assure you that this matter will not affect his very high regard for CJE. He is keen that CJE continue to excel in every aspect of her life.

**[If asked]** about whether any action will be taken against Ashleigh by the AAFC-

Director General Cadets Air Force Air Commodore Green has three adult kids and understands that teenagers some times make choices that they regret later. In this case the responsibility and accountability rests with the AAFC staff member, not CJE. Air Commodore Green recommends CJE know that the AAFC executives are supporting her and that she should focus on doing the best she can at school and, where her studies permit, continue to contribute to the AAFC.

**[If Pressed]** Air Commodore Green explicitly stated to me that any consideration of action against CJE under the Cadet Code of Conduct and Behaviour Policy would be incompatible with the focus on the safety and well being of CJE and will NOT occur.

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