

REDACTED



U0140

Our ref:

REDACTED

Your ref:

24 August 2000

The Board of Trustees
Brisbane Grammar School
Gregory Terrace
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Sirs

BQA

ABUSE BY KEVIN LYNCH

We advise that we act on behalf of BQA in relation to incidents of sexual abuse endured by BQA while under your care in the period from 1980 to 1982.

Our client instructs us as follows:

1. He began at your school as a Year 8 student in 1980 and remained a student until the end of Year 10 in 1982 when he was requested to leave the school by Mr Maxwell Howell, the headmaster at the time;
2. His abuse at the hands of Mr Kevin Lynch began in 1981 when our client was in Year 9. He was called into a meeting by Mr Howell and was berated and insulted by Mr Howell regarding his performance at your school. He was then directed by Mr Howell to attend Mr Lynch's office and make an appointment for a counselling session;
3. At this point our client felt that he was likely to be asked to leave the school if he did not comply with these instructions in all respects;
4. He then had several meetings with Mr Lynch during which Mr Lynch performed a number of tests upon our client and purported to diagnose our client with an acute stress disorder. Mr Lynch blamed our client's problems upon his home situation and provided our client with special privileges that allowed him to avoid completing homework and assignment tasks;
5. He was able to avoid going to class whenever he wished and would be given a note by Mr Lynch that would excuse him from class attendance;
6. As a result, our client's school work and grades began to suffer but our client was reassured by Mr Lynch that he should not be concerned over this;
7. Mr Lynch also encouraged our client to steal from his parents and continually tried to distance our client from his parents in order to increase Mr Lynch's control and influence over our client;

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HALLETT'S**

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8. The actual sexual abuse took place during the regular counselling sessions. Our client informs us that these sessions would begin with general conversation. Mr Lynch would then require our client to sit in a low and laid back chair and would perform relaxation techniques upon our client;
9. These relaxation techniques often ended with our client attaining a trance-like state where he would sometimes feel completely detached from his body;
10. During these "relaxation techniques" Mr Lynch would generally remove most of our client's clothing;
11. On some occasions Mr Lynch would provide our client with some form of drugs or medication in the form of a small brown tablet. On these occasions our client would generally fall asleep or be extremely drowsy for a period of some hours;
12. Mr Lynch requested that our client discuss his thoughts about sexual matters such as masturbation and asked our client to undress for him so that he could reassure our client about his physical development;
13. Although our client was very uncomfortable with this, by this time he felt that he completely trusted Mr Lynch and therefore did as he was requested;
14. Subsequent to this Mr Lynch suggested that our client should masturbate as a method of stress control. This was followed by Mr Lynch requiring our client to masturbate in front of him in his office and ultimately progressed to Mr Lynch masturbating both our client and himself;
15. Mr Lynch also required our client's attendance at his office on two occasions to watch another student masturbate;
16. Following these incidents, Mr Lynch began discussing oral sex with our client. During one session while Mr Lynch was masturbating our client he began to perform oral sex upon him. He asked our client repeatedly to reciprocate this and accused our client of being selfish when he would not;
17. Our client instructs us that he recalls waking up during several sessions to find Mr Lynch's penis in his mouth and further remembers gagging and wanting to vomit;
18. During this period our client was interviewed by the Deputy Headmaster Mr Coote regarding Mr Lynch. Mr Coote stated that he had received concerning reports about Mr Lynch and his relationship with students;
19. In the later half of 1982 our client's home situation deteriorated and he was placed in the custody of the Department of Family Services. Our client endured further sexual abuse while in this custody and was then placed back with his mother and father. During his period our client had



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several meetings with Mr Howell where it was made clear to him that he was not welcome at your school. Mr Howell discussed his relationship with Mr Lynch and described it as disturbing and inappropriate. Mr Howell called our client a "twisted little boy" and told him to "wake up to himself before it was too late";

20. Following this discussion our client was informed that it would be necessary for him to repeat Grade 10. When our client's parents agreed to this they were informed that our client would not be welcome to repeat at Grammar as there were not enough spaces in the class;
21. It was suggested that our client repeat the year at another school and return to Grammar for Year 11. Our client's parents were later told that our client was not welcome back at Grammar at all.

In these circumstances, you have failed to satisfy your duty of care in respect to our client. Our client was exposed to repeated long term serious sexual abuse at the hands of Mr Lynch. As a result of this abuse, our client has suffered psychological injury and has further been deprived of a normal childhood and a proper education.

Our client is, therefore, entitled to recover compensation from you. However, given the unfortunate circumstances of our client's claim, we believe that it would be of benefit both to our client and yourselves to avoid the publicity which would undoubtedly be attracted if the matter were to become the subject of litigation.

Accordingly, we would be grateful if you could advise whether you would be willing to attend a meeting with our client with a view to resolving this matter.

If we do not receive a response to this letter within 7 days, further steps may be taken without notice.

Yours faithfully
NICOL ROBINSON HALLETTS
per:


MICHAEL CROUCH

Please contact Andrew Drynan

Email: adrynan@nrh.com.au



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