



BRISBANE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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From the Headmaster

21 April 2004

Mr REDACTED
REDACTED

Dear REDACTED

I am sorry for my delay regarding your letter of 31 December 2003, but your writing of different letters to different Board Trustees has complicated my enquiries.

I really have no knowledge whatsoever of most of what you raised, which I explain under broad headings below. But that said, I am more than willing to meet with you, as I did with each and every one of the group who brought proceedings via Shine Roche McGowan.

The School Was Aware

This has not been established at all. There were only two allegations that the School was told, both of which were denied. It is virtually impossible to know now what, if anything, was said, how it was understood if said, or what if anything was checked out. But I am (gladly) confident that the organisation did not know. None of the 69 now represented by Shine Roche McGowan alleged they told the School at any point in time, which I think supports my belief. That did not, I hasten to add, remove my/the School's need to apologise in the most genuine way we could, which we tried hard to do. We were as shocked and disappointed as you are, and the mediation/apology sessions were the most difficult and painful things I have ever had to do. Thankfully, almost all feel better about it, and I believe BGS retrieved some credibility.

The REDACTED Allegations

Contrary to what you believe, I have no idea what you are talking about. If it is true, again I would obviously apologise sincerely, but it is a little peripheral to the nub of your issues.

Our Transparent Report



I have given overviews on several occasions to the School community – Speech Night, newsletters, etc. However, all the claims are not behind us (although most are thankful) and I still need the

support and cooperation of our insurers which makes life complex for us. That said, I believe we reacted faster than any other school when we first became aware of the problem, and apologised via print and electronic media almost immediately. I am prepared to report to you face to face, as would the Headmaster.

BGS' Refusal to Negotiate With You

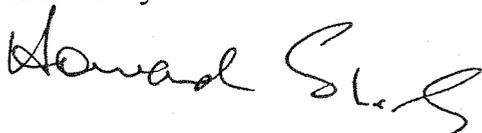
As above, I would need the co-operation of our insurers, and when you belatedly come forward via Shine Roche McGowan and enquired whether BGS would negotiate, our insurers said they would not agree to that. Hence our response. Shine Roche did not explain why you delayed coming forward for so long when it was widely known that they (Shine Roche McGowan) had commenced proceedings for some 69 men. Why did you not come forward then? Time is unfortunately against you. Again, I am happy to discuss this with you, but not advise you.

Your Questions

As to your first three "dot" points, we compensated most but not all who sued and who provided clear evidence of abuse via formal legal pleadings and independent psychiatric reports. We know there were others who elected not to sue, because they did not want the additional trauma, or because they believed they were over the effects and did not want to punish the "current" School, and so on. We have apologised to everyone in all categories, listened to their version of events, explained our position, and what we have learned. Again, I offer that to you. I have already dealt with your fourth question.

As to your conclusion, I can but disagree. We tried very hard to comply with the legal/insurance restraints, which we had to do if our insurers were to contribute, which was in each plaintiff's interests, and our moral obligations. Grammar continues to support victims at its cost outside the legal settlements, which again I am more than willing to discuss with you.

Yours sincerely



HOWARD STACK
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

