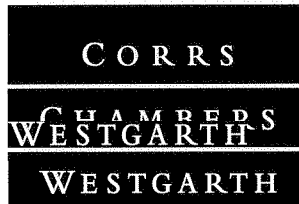




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L A W Y E R S

7 June 2000

Partner

David Abernethy (07) 3228 9456

Email: David_Abernethy@corrs.com.au

**BY FACSIMILE
PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL**

Our reference

DJA/29233-7545873

Dr Joan Lawrence
Consultant Psychiatrist

Dear Dr Lawrence

BRISBANE GRAMMAR SCHOOL - COUNSELLING SERVICES

I refer to our telephone conversation yesterday.

You are no doubt aware from the local press that there are allegations of sexual abuse of students at Brisbane Grammar School by a former teacher/Counsellor who was employed at the School between 1973 and 1988. From the reports in the press, where it has been suggested that Shine Roche McGowan are acting for up to 60 claimants (presumably from both Brisbane Grammar and St Pauls where the teacher subsequently taught), it is apparent legal proceedings will be issued on behalf of claimants.

From a number of complaints which have been received direct by the School and which have been dealt with by the current Counsellor it is apparent there were instances of abuse by the Counsellor.

The School accepts that it has a moral obligation to assist students who may have been abused and who now make a complaint. Part of that assistance is to offer counselling services, at no cost to complainants, as and where appropriate.

Because the geographical location of complainants is likely to be diverse and because the counselling needs of particular complainants will probably be different we confirm that the School would like to appoint you to be responsible for setting up the structure of the counselling service to be offered, determining what counselling services should be offered in particular cases and monitoring ongoing progress.

I would welcome your comments but it seems to me that your appointment will include the following:

WATERFRONT PLACE 1 EAGLE STREET BRISBANE 4000

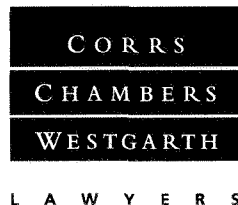
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CCW.075.0363



7 June 2000

Page 2

Dr Joan Lawrence

BRISBANE GRAMMAR SCHOOL - COUNSELLING SERVICES

- 1 You or someone nominated by you should conduct an initial examination of each claimant to assess whether the claim is genuine, the nature and severity of the problem and also make an initial assessment of the appropriate treatment required.
- 2 Arrange for treatment by the appropriate person whether that person be a psychiatrist, counsellor or social worker.
- 3 Review the progress of the treatment on a regular basis and make an assessment, at your own discretion, whether it is appropriate to continue or withdraw treatment at any time.
- 4 Develop a protocol which will set out the basis upon which counselling is provided to each person and having them agree to that protocol.

Further, it seems to me that we need to ensure strict confidentiality in relation to the counselling subject to the usual Court Rules in relation to disclosure should a particular complainant pursue a claim. We do not know whether there is any possibility of having the program, at least to some extent, funded by Medicare. If that is a possibility then we would like to discuss with you how that is best achieved.

The School is proposing to issue a press statement on Friday which will outline the School's current position including the provision of counselling services. You will appreciate it would like to be in a position to include reference to you as heading up the counselling services to be provided.

We look forward to discussing the matter with you.

Yours sincerely

David Abernethy
Partner

