



BRISBANE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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From the Headmaster

19 May 2000

Mr R Callinan
COURIER MAIL

FAX NO: REDACTED

Dear Sir

We refer to your fax dated 19 May 2000.

We are strongly of the opinion that the matters you inquire about are not genuine matters of public interest.

Indeed, your facsimile suggests that we should also provide the information to you for the purpose of "..... the narrower benefit to be gained by the BGS community in considering all aspects of Mr Lynch's school life". That narrower purpose you refer to has nothing to do with the public interest.

On a wider front, we are unable to see that any allegations about what Mr Lynch did, or did not do, at Brisbane Grammar School before he left more than a decade ago has anything to do with genuine issues of public interest today. That is more so when you consider the responses we provide below to your specific questions. In particular, were there serious misbehaviour by any teacher more than ten years ago, but unknown to the School, what real issue of public interest exists in respect of that today?

As to your suggestion that such matters have been corroborated by a large number of past students and teachers, we must inform you that, to the best of our knowledge, no complaints have been made to the School by any past students or parents concerning Mr Lynch. We asked you to identify those persons whom you contend made the allegations, and you said that you could not do so for legal reasons. If that be so, in our respectful opinion it is not appropriate from a legal standpoint for you to proceed to publish any such account, and it would be quite unfair to Brisbane Grammar School for you to do so.

Brisbane grammar School prides itself on its reputation and it will rigorously contest any steps taken which improperly impugn that reputation. We expect the Courier-Mail to act responsibly, and we are seriously concerned, as evidenced by our answer to your Question 7, about your conduct to date. It was, in our respectful opinion, both unnecessary and irresponsible in all the circumstances.

In response to your specific questions (using your numbering):

1. There is no evidence whatsoever in the School records. In addition, we have made enquiries of the Headmaster of the time, and likewise he says no such issues were brought to his attention.
2. Not applicable.

3. Obviously we are unable to respond to non-specific allegations of this kind.
4. The School records at the time indicate that his departure was linked to financial reasons, and in particular his desire for early retirement to enable him to access his superannuation entitlement. (Refer also to answer 1 above).
5. We can only say that appropriate levels of confidentiality are central to all good counselling procedures. A closed door is generally regarded as appropriate. We have absolutely no information concerning your suggestion that Mr Lynch locked his door.
6. There is nothing in the documentary records of the School which show that Mr Parodi was counselled by Mr Lynch, and we have no knowledge of that.
7. In the light of what we believe to be quite irresponsible references to Brisbane Grammar School in your front-page article on 3 May 2000, as responsible managers we sought advice from the police as to the appropriate response by the School to your publication. In our respectful opinion your newspaper unnecessarily increased risks to the Grammar community.

Yours faithfully

P.G. Lennox

DR P G LENNOX
HEADMASTER