

C/MALL
- "UNDATED"
(BUT FILED AROUND MAY)

Parodi was 'abused at Grammar'

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and Michael Ware

A SHOCKING legacy of child abuse at some of Brisbane's most respected private schools has been exposed as a result of gunman Nigel Parodi's attack on police.

One of the state's most prestigious schools, Brisbane Grammar, yesterday launched an investigation into allegations that students were molested by former counsellor Kevin Lynch.

Brisbane Grammar was forced to launch the inquiry after The Courier-Mail presented the school with accounts of alleged abuse over a period of years by Lynch on school grounds.

Grammar headmaster Dr Peter Lennox — who was not the headmaster when Lynch was at the school — said yesterday: "It is a matter of enormous regret to us that some students may have been affected".

Brisbane law firm Shine Roche McGowan confirmed it was representing a former Grammar student in relation to Lynch's activities.

Lynch committed suicide in 1997 at the age of 64 shortly after being charged with seven counts of indecent dealing with a student from St Paul's School at Bald Hills, where he worked after his stint at Grammar.

A former Grammar student has alleged Lynch



KEVIN Lynch ... committed suicide in 1997.

also molested Parodi, who was a student at Grammar for two years in the 1980s.

Parodi committed suicide after wounding three police officers in a shooting rampage at Chermerside earlier this month.

One of his former schoolmates said Parodi had confided in him about Lynch.

"We ran into each other five years after school and during a heated conversation about Lynch, Nigel told me Lynch had sexually abused him," he said.

Three former Grammar students told The Courier-Mail that Lynch serially abused them under the guise of conducting "relaxation therapy" in counselling sessions at Grammar.

Brisbane psychologist Rosamond Nutting con-

firmed she is treating three former Grammar students allegedly abused by Lynch.

A student from St Paul's, where Lynch worked from 1989 until 1997, said he had been abused at the hands of the former cleric.

Lynch, who was appointed as Grammar's counsellor in 1977, appeared to be able to conduct his "relaxation sessions" on a massive scale without raising suspicions.

His reputation was such that his death was among those mourned "with deep regret" in the Grammar's 1997 school magazine.

"We thank those who have notified us and extend our sincere sympathy to them, their family and friends," the annual magazine said.

But Lynch had gassed himself at his home just hours after being charged with seven counts of indecent dealing with a youth.

The allegations related to his approaches to a student at St Paul's school where Lynch had taught.

It is understood the former student wore a "wire" for a meeting with Lynch and taped him referring to the indecent dealing.

Many teachers who knew Lynch this week said they were stunned to discover the nature of his death and the criminal charges, but they still spoke highly of his abilities as a counsellor.

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