



BRISBANE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

2 June 2000

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The Editor in Chief
The Courier Mail
41 Campbell Street
Bowen Hills
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Sir

I write in connection with yesterday's editorial published under the heading "Kevin Lynch: No Comfort in Denial" in which you say that "the only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing" and that the Brisbane Grammar reaction to your newspaper's evidence has been to deny, to refuse demands by parents for an explanation, to refuse to deal openly with the issues, and, by innuendo, that the School is engaged in a "cover up".

Nothing could be further from the truth.

Following your initial approach to the School on Friday, 19 May, I met with your Chief of Staff, Mr Maher, and the two reporters concerned on Thursday last week. I confirmed to them that we had undertaken a preliminary review of our records and that we had spoken to senior staff members at the School at the relevant time. I also handed to them the School file on Lynch for them to read, which they did. I again confirmed to your reporters that the School had no information to suggest that the alleged incidents had occurred or that any complaint had ever been made by any boy or parent. Mr Maher said that he believed us.

At the meeting I also asked the Courier Mail to give me whatever information it had. You asked me what I would do with it, and I said that I would speak to any boy who came forward with such information, that I would tell him I was aghast, apologise and try to satisfy him that the School had had no idea.

Two boys telephoned me that night at your request. I told each of them that I believed them and that I was aghast. I apologised profusely, and said I hoped they accepted that the School had had no idea. I told Mr Maher all of that the following morning, and also told him that the School would probably make a statement later that day.

The School did so. The statement by the Headmaster to the media said that we were gravely concerned, committed to undertaking a full investigation, and that it was a matter of enormous regret to us that some past students may have been affected. The media were asked to invite former parents and students to contact the School with any information. The latter request was specifically repeated to you by letter dated 31 May, as was our commitment to investigate fully.

That investigation has proceeded as a matter of urgency throughout this week, and the School has spoken to all students and parents who have made contact to date.

The School has already taken the opportunity to speak to the current students, and to write to their parents, concerning the general issues that lie behind the concerns aired publicly in the past week. Whilst our investigation is continuing, may I again say that the School is extremely sorry for what would appear to have occurred.

Your publication is grossly defamatory of the School, each of its Trustees, and our current senior management team.

Yours faithfully

HL Stack
Chairman of the Board of Trustees

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