

FOR ATTENTION. DAVID ABERNETHY

STATEMENT OF MAX HOWELL



HEADMASTER

U0019

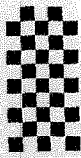
OPERATOR MS AT 1047 AM  
ADVISED TO ..... AT ..... AM  
DATE 9.6.00 INT/COU

- I was ~~Principal~~ at Brisbane Grammar School from 1965 until my retirement in 1989. For all but my final year at BGS I lived in a residence in the School grounds with my family. That residence is in the close vicinity of the Boarding House.  
*an ASSISTANT MASTER*
- Kevin Lynch was appointed as a ~~subject master~~ *Student* in 1973. In my report to the Board of Trustees in July 1976 I recommended that Lynch be appointed Counsellor on a full time basis from January 1977. He had been doing the job on a part time basis *for some months,* I had kept him under observation and had received positive feedback as to his ~~carrying out the job~~ *performance as* of Counsellor. Further, he had been undertaking a Diploma course in Education Counselling *at the UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND* which he was due to complete in June 1977.
- In 1984 in recognition of ~~the success of his appointment as~~ *his in the role of* Counsellor and because of the amount of extra time he was putting into the job, I recommended that Lynch's appointment as Counsellor be upgraded to the status of Subject Master. Had there been any suggestion of his ~~impropriety or competence~~ *inability* to carry out the job properly, then the position would certainly not have been upgraded.
- I referred a number of students to Lynch for counselling. I would generally refer students ~~where~~ *when* I was concerned about ~~their ability to cope with the workload or where~~ *School when* I had a concern as to their ability to cope with the workload or ~~where~~ I thought that their study techniques or practices required improvement. When looking through report cards if my attention was drawn to any student who was under-performing or underachieving I ~~may wish to~~ *might have* interviewed those students ~~and I might suggest to them~~ *myself or I might have suggested* that they take advice from Lynch.
- At no time did I ever receive any complaint from students, staff or parents in relation to Lynch's behaviour or counselling techniques. Had I done so, ~~then~~ I would have investigated those complaints and if the type of behaviour now alleged was established, then his contract of employment would have been terminated immediately. There was an occasion in 1969 when I received a report from a parent as to alleged sexual misconduct by a teacher. I immediately put the allegation to the teacher who admitted the allegation and resigned immediately. Lynch

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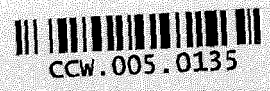
retired at the end of 1988 following amendment to the School Superannuation Scheme which either allowed him to retire with increased benefit or allowed him to access his benefits at an earlier age. It was reported to the Board of Trustees <sup>a</sup> at the meeting on 6 December 1988 that the Education Department advised that the Superannuation Scheme had been approved by Cabinet and would be approved by the Governor in Council the following week. Without any notice Lynch approached me and said that he wanted to take advantage of early retirement. I recall him saying that he was paying maintenance for his three children and not living in very good circumstances. I enquired what he was going to do and he said that the superannuation would allow him to buy a house and live more comfortably. I do not think he mentioned Gilbert Case or that he was to take a job at St Pauls. However, in retrospect, it seems to me that he would not have taken early retirement if he ~~did not have~~ <sup>had not had</sup> a job lined up. My recollection is that he did not start at St Pauls immediately and may have started some six months later. I endeavoured to engage someone to fill the role of Counsellor to commence in 1989. However, I had great difficulty in obtaining any applications let alone employing someone. Eventually, we were able to recruit Ron Girdham from South Australia. We were only able to secure his services by

agreeing to arrange accommodation for him and his family for a period of time. <sup>He took up the position of Student Counsellor in July 1989.</sup>

6. Lynch was very close to David Coote who was Deputy Principal from 1979 until 1984. There were occasions during that period when I <sup>was</sup> ~~would be~~ away from the School on sabbatical or the <sup>leave</sup> like. It seemed to be the case that David Coote <sup>often involved</sup> ~~would involve~~ Lynch in many of the decisions <sup>in my absence</sup> he was called upon to make. David Coote came up from Sydney to deliver the eulogy at Lynch's funeral.

7. I am aware it is alleged a complaint about Lynch's behaviour was made to Ron <sup>Cochrane</sup> ~~Cochrane~~. I appreciate that staff may have been timid about reporting problems to me <sup>about colleagues</sup> ~~but~~ they certainly <sup>and</sup> would have known what the outcome would have been had any staff reported to me anything to do with the allegations now being made against Lynch. In my view, Ron <sup>Cochrane</sup> ~~Cochrane~~ is probably <sup>because</sup> ~~because~~ one of the most likely members of staff to report any problems to me. ~~Because~~ he and his

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family lived in the Boarding House <sup>and</sup> my wife and I had alot of interaction with Ron and his wife.  
 Ron regularly discussed Boarding House <sup>^</sup> ~~in~~ <sup>and other school matters with me.</sup>

DATED the *ninth* day of June 2000

*M. A. Howell*  
 .....  
 MAX HOWELL