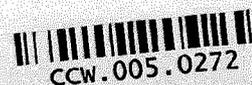




STATEMENT OF MARK BRUSASCO

I, **MARK BRUSASCO** say as follows:

- 1 I am Deputy Headmaster, Administration and Staff, at Brisbane Grammar School. I have held this position since 1 January 2000. Before that I was head of Year 9 and acting-head of Year 10. I began teaching at Brisbane Grammar School ("the school") on 1 January 1982. I was a student of the school from 1973 to 1977.
- 2 I remember Kevin Lynch. Originally, he was a teacher. He then took on the position of student counsellor. Before Lynch became counsellor, the school had another counsellor named Ewan Logan. But Ewan Logan was more a career counsellor than a personal counsellor.
- 3 While I was a student I recall no contact with him other than this vague recollection: I was in Form 6 filling out my Q-TAC Form. I recall Lynch at the front of the room telling us how to fill in that form. That would have been in the end of 1977.
- 4 As a student, I knew who Lynch was. He had a distinctive limp, which I understand was caused by childhood polio. I have no recollection at all of any talk in my group of schoolmates about Lynch. There was not talk of him being good, bad or indifferent. There was simply no talk at all.
- 5 I left the school in 1977 and went to University. I came back in 1982 to take on a teaching position. By that time Lynch had been appointed student counsellor. At that time, the student counsellor occupied a "catch all" position. He dealt with a wide variety of things. The counsellor would advise on a variety of topics. He might advise about tertiary entrance and career choices. He might also advise on more personal or emotional matters. The counsellor's role has become more clearly defined in recent years. The school now has two counsellors. One deals with careers and the other is a trained psychologist that deals with their more personal and emotional issues.
- 6 At that time, there was a certain stigma attached if students were going to see the counsellor. There is little such stigma, if any, about counselling services today.



- 7 Lynch left the school in 1988. Max Howell, the head-master, had trouble finding a replacement for Lynch. The school was in a state of limbo for six months or so until Ron Girdham replaced Lynch. Girdham is still in the school's career counsellor.
- 8 There were two ways that a student could get access to counsellor. First, teachers could refer students to the counsellor if they thought the student had issues to address. Secondly, students could approach the counsellor directly. A student would not be forced to go to a counsellor if he did not wish to. These days the school has a more integrated approach in that parents are involved more when a student needs counselling.
- 9 Mr Lynch conducted counselling sessions in his office which was in an area where there was always a lot of passing traffic. It was immediately opposite the staff common room, which was usually full of teachers. If anything inappropriate had happened in that office over the years, someone would have noticed something.
- 10 While Lynch was a teacher here, no student or any other person ever complained to me about inappropriate behaviour by Lynch. Until the time of his death, I had never even heard of vague rumours about inappropriate behaviour by Lynch towards students.
- 11 Lynch left the school in 1988 because he was in quite severe financial distress. He needed access to his superannuation. He had recently separated from his wife who was (and still is) a counsellor at Girls Grammar School. Lynch retired, accessed his super and then went to St Pauls as a counsellor.
- 12 He committed suicide in 1997. I remember going to his funeral and there finding out that Lynch had committed suicide. That was when I noticed the first "side-ways" glances by some people. I remember asking Brian [Short] "This was rather sudden. What happened?". Brian told me that Lynch had committed suicide.
- 13 I remember Lynch as quite a funny person with character and considerable substance. He was idiosyncratic and eccentric.
- 14 At the time the school had no particular systems in place where students could raise issues of concern. Max Howell would not have taken these type of allegations seriously unless they were supported by appropriate evidence. We did have forerunners of what are now the Heads of Years. I recall Wayne Cochrane was in charge of Years 8 and 9. Montague was the head of middle school. The Deputy Headmaster was in charge of Years 11 and 12.

