

TO

REDACTED

P.02

28th November, 1998.

The President & Executive,
Gold Coast Family Support Group Inc.,
P.O. Box 2597,
SOUTHPORT, Q. 4215

Dear Lloyd,

Since March, 1998, we have made several requests for a copy of the report in relation to our initial complaint to M. Edwards, Co-ordinator, on the 10th April, 1995 when we believed our child had been sexually molested by a F.S.G. support worker on that date.

Whilst M. Edwards was overseas, we received two unsigned reports (as enclosed) on the 29th September, 1998 and it appears from these reports there has been misunderstanding by some Staff and Executive regarding my complaint of suspected "sexual molesting" of our child. We wrote to F.S.G. on the 29th September, 10th October, 14th October and 10th November, 1998.

We have received only one reply from F.S.G. on 20th October, 1998 advising legal opinion was being sought and we would be advised of your response as soon as possible.

As it is now 9 months since our initial request, we sought advice from Mr. P. Mark, Area Manager, H.A.C.C., and he has suggested that a meeting be held with a Mediator of the Community Justice Program, Department of the Attorney-General so an amicable resolution can be reached.

We acknowledge your concerns re the reputation of the Gold Coast Family Support Group Inc. and also your fear of litigation from the worker concerned. At no time do we expect F.S.G. to make a decision whether the said worker is guilty or otherwise but we only request that our initial complaint of suspected sexual molesting be placed on record and that we sign a copy of the Report as being a true and concise report of our complaint. Judgement of sexual abuse can only be decided by the Court and as you are all aware can be very difficult to prove.

A true and concise report is of importance because this matter is still under investigation by the Juvenile Aid Bureau and we only wish, if possible, to see justice for our child.

If there was some misunderstanding by any staff or any Executive at the time of the complaint, we are sure this can now be rectified to ensure that the rights of all parties are protected as stated in your letter of the 20th October, 1998.

We request that the mediation be with the President, the Manager and the Co-ordinator to whom the initial complaint was reported, and that this meeting be arranged as urgently as possible.

*Request F.S.G. can be
subjected to police
Court possibly before*

refer to JAB - FSS not to do

As this has been a very stressful precedent for not only this family but the staff and Executive of the F.S.G., we ask that the following suggestions be adopted in a "Procedure for Complaints or Suspicion of Sexual or Physical Abuse."

1. On receipt of a complaint or suspicion of sexual or physical abuse that the complainant be interviewed by the F.S.G. Co-ordinator of the Program. (Should the initial complaint be made by telephone that an interview be arranged without delay)
2. That the Complainant be advised of the adopted F.S.G. Procedure for Sexual or Physical Abuse, such procedure to be given in writing to the Complainant.
3. For the purpose of confidentiality, the Complainant be advised in writing the names of the current Executive & the Executive be aware of confidentiality.
3. That the Complainant be made aware of the Gold Coast Sexual Assault Support Group, Victims of Crimes Assoc. of Qld., W.Wild-S.V.P. Service (Women with Intellectual & Learning Disabilities-Sexual Violence), D.I.A.L. (Disability Information Awareness Line) & similar services for support and advice.
4. The interview between the Complainant and the F.S.G. Co-ordinator be recorded in writing and that both the Complainant and the F.S.G. Co-ordinator sign such report as being a true and correct record of the complaint
5. As a safeguard against misinterpretation or misunderstanding that the Complainant be advised to be accompanied in the interview by a person of their choice and that the F.S.G. Co-ordinator also be supported.
6. Should there be no support person available for either the F.S.G. Co-ordinator or Complainant, the interview be recorded on tape.
7. Such report to be referred to the Manager of G.C.F.S.G.
8. Follow-up interview be held with the Complainant and F.S.G. Manager with a support person for both parties.
9. This report be referred to the President and Executive and an interview be arranged with the President, Executive and Complainant.
10. That the President contact the Police regarding this complaint but the Complainant be given the option of contacting Police first.
11. Under no circumstances that the accused be interviewed prior to Police notification and Police contacting the accused.
12. Such complaint of physical or sexual abuse to be kept in strict confidence by all parties.

As suggested by Mr. F. Mark could we please be given the opportunity at a Mediation Meeting to negotiate in order to reach common ground on the issues raised.

Yours sincerely,

Bob Welch
Maree & Bob Welch