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November 28, 1996

Mr D Brammall
The Hutchins School
71 Nelson Road
SANDY BAY TAS 7005

Dear Sir

MR

I refer to our recent conversation about the matter.

As I reported following my conversations with Mr 's solicitors it seemed hopeful that Mr would accept some form of qualified apology which did not extend to an admission or acknowledgement that the events complained of by Mr had actually occurred. As you know the draft apology forwarded by 's solicitor did not appear to represent the spirit of these discussions at all.

It is consequently possible that the matter remains and will remain where it has rested for quite some time ie. that wants an admission which the Board simply cannot make for all the reasons expressed in our previous discussions and correspondence.

It is possible, given that the matter is revived only intermittently by Mr that despite veiled threats to the contrary he is not willing to take any steps to bring the matter to a head. It may be that he is more content to agitate the matter from time to time rather than having it resolved.

Consequently it may be that it is simply impossible to arrive at a suitably qualified form of words which will satisfy Mr .

- 2 -

There are, of course, risks involved in whatever step is taken. If no form of apology at all is offered to him it may precipitate some action on his part. On the other hand offering a form of apology which is not suitable to him may have the same effect. Either way the view expressed by Dr Isles at our meeting of 26 March 1996 may well prove to be prophetic. You will recall that Dr Isles thought that Mr ^{AOA} was likely to "keep grinding his axe" whether or not an apology was received. It was partly for this reason, that it was decided that no form of apology would be given which acknowledged that the events complained of by Mr ^{AOA} had occurred. The risk being, of course, that an acknowledgement on the part of the school would simply add more fuel to the fire rather than resolving the matter.

I have enclosed two suggested apologies. The first is very brief. The second is expanded with the intention of conveying to Mr ^{AOA} that the school has been and remains concerned about the matter and demonstrates that the school has always taken active steps to ensure that no harm was done to any students as a result of Dr Lawrence's activities and also to confirm that the school remains willing to assist anyone who may be able to show that he was affected.

If ^{AOA} does wish to have the matter resolved then sending a form of apology, in response to the one sent by his solicitor, may lead to some further negotiations which may produce some form of mutually acceptable apology. I should say, however, that I have my doubts about whether this will occur given events to date.

Another alternative, of course, is simply to write to Mr ^{AOA}'s solicitors saying that the school has done all it can and does not propose to enter into any further correspondence. I suggest, however, that the lesser of the risks is to at least make some further attempts to reach an agreement about a suitably worded apology before taking this step.

I am, of course, happy to discuss the matter further with you.

Yours faithfully,
DOBSON MITCHELL & ALLPORT

Per:

R C MACKAY

Encl.