

DOBSON, MITCHELL & ALLPORTBARRISTERS, SOLICITORS & NOTARIES
ESTABLISHED 1834**Partners**CAMERON R. LESLIE LLB
JOHN R. UPCHER LLB
ROBERT C. MACKAY LLB
JOAN D. ROBERTS BA LLM
STEPHEN J.D. KNIGHT LLB
MICHAEL E. O'FARRELL LLB
JOHN M. BENNETT LLB
TIMOTHY G. BUGG BA LLB**Consultant**VALENTINE R. SMITH LLB BCom FCPA
NOTARY PUBLIC**Associates**MARY M. WASHINGTON BA LLB ASA
MELISSA H. LYON BA LLB
ALISON M. QUINN BA LLB
ANDREW B. WALKER LLB
ROBERT B. WEBSTER BCom LLB

59 HARRINGTON STREET

HOBART
TASMANIA**HOBART**POSTAL ADDRESS
G.P.O. BOX 20A
HOBART, TASMANIA 7001

DX 112 HOBART

TELEPHONE: (03) 6220 6220
FACSIMILE: (03) 6223 6633LAUNCESTON
30 BRISBANE STREET,
LAUNCESTON, TASMANIA 7250TELEPHONE (03) 6334 4638
FACSIMILE (03) 6334 4639

OUR REFERENCE: RCM:KL

YOUR REFERENCE.

5 May, 1997

RECEIVED
7-5-97The Hutchins School
71 Nelson Road
SANDY BAY TAS 7005

Dear Sir,

AOA

Thank you for your letter of 24 April 1997.

I note your instructions are to forward the qualified apology attached to your letter to AOA's solicitors. Before I do this however, it is perhaps worth considering that the last correspondence I had from AOA's solicitors was dated 6 November 1996 saying that AOA was concerned about the delay in resolving the matter. You will recall that AOA's solicitor had earlier submitted a suggested apology following our meeting in Canberra. This apology differed quite considerably from the form of apology we had discussed with AOA's solicitor at this meeting.

The history of the matter is that AOA has raised the matter from time to time, usually after reasonably lengthy periods of silence. So far, however, apart from consulting solicitors, he has not taken any real action in relation to the matter. You might like to consider, in view of the fact that we have heard nothing from him for over six months that he has once again lost interest in the matter. Sending the suggested apology now may only serve to aggravate the situation given that the apology differs considerably from the one submitted by his solicitor. Whilst there are no doubt risks involved it seems fair to say that if AOA had serious intentions about airing the matter publicly or taking some form of action he would have done so by now.

- 2 -

All this may well have been considered when the Board considered the matter in March and if so please let me know and I will send the apology immediately. If not, perhaps the matter ought to be reconsidered given the time that has passed since last raised the matter.

I look forward to hearing from you.

In the meantime I enclose a note of our costs incurred since last accounting to you for your attention.

Yours faithfully,
DOBSON MITCHELL & ALLPORT

Per:

R C MACKAY

