



Established 1846  
**HUTCHINS**

The Hon Bob McMullan MP  
 Shadow Treasurer  
 GPO Box 1947  
 CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Mr McMullan,

Thank you for your letter 26 April 2002 addressed to the Principal, on whose behalf I am responding while he is on study leave.

I have noted the contents of your letter carefully. The school has been aware of Mr AOA's complaint about Mr Lawrence for a number of years and has, at all times, attempted to treat it in the most compassionate manner possible. Obviously, the school has been required to take advice on how to handle the matter and this has, in part, governed our responses to Mr AOA and his advisers. We have been forthright with Mr AOA about the reasons why the current school community does not consider itself accountable for the unfortunate events he relates.

The acknowledgment of regret and sorrow in our last letter to Mr AOA was sincere. Its terms were also accurate, because the current school community has no present knowledge of, nor the ability to investigate Mr AOA's complaint. Mr Lawrence is now deceased and the events of which Mr AOA complains occurred a significant time ago. We had hoped that Mr AOA would receive these expressions in the spirit in which they were intended, as a positive step to conclude this matter.

I note your request concerning the letter to Mr Lawrence, which Mr AOA believes in the school's possession. We have used our best endeavours to locate the letter on previous occasions. Unfortunately, we have not been able to locate it, nor have we discovered any record of it having been received by the school, or in its possession.

We can do no more than we have done in this matter.

We also acknowledge your very proper concern for Mr AOA as your constituent.

Yours sincerely,

Harvey Gibson  
**CHAIRMAN**  
**BOARD OF MANAGEMENT**

16 May 2002

T h e H u t c h i n s S c h o o l

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