



THE HUTCHINS SCHOOL
Sandy Bay, Tasmania, 7005.
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FROM THE HEADMASTER

20 August, 1996

CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. R.C. Mackay
Dobson, Mitchell & Allport
G.P.O. Box 20A
HOBART, 7001

Dear Mr. Mackay,

This is to confirm our telephone conversation of August 20th, 1996 regarding the matter of Mr. AOA and the letter received by you on August 13th from Anne Marie Proctor, solicitor to Mr. AOA.

It remains the position of The Hutchins School that the suggested apology forwarded under Ms. Proctor's name is not acceptable to The Hutchins School Board of Management. Essentially, the Board's position is based upon these points:-

1. There is no basis in fact whereby The Hutchins School Board of Management can assume an event took place which now warrants an apology to Mr. AOA. On the other hand, there is compelling evidence that The Hutchins School Board of Management, at the time of Mr. David Lawrence's resignation from the School, took unprecedented steps to ensure that the welfare of boys of the School had not been compromised.
2. The Board of Management of The Hutchins School does not regard itself as accountable to Mr. AOA in the implementation of any strategies associated with the care and welfare of current or past students of the School.
3. The Board of Management of The Hutchins School expresses its strong disapproval that any one individual should be named in this affair as bearing any singular onus of accountability for alleged events or events in fact.
4. The Board of Management of The Hutchins School does not accept without reservation that injury has been caused to Mr. AOA because of the alleged conduct of Mr. Lawrence, particularly as Mr. AOA has indicated voluntarily that he maintained contact with Mr. Lawrence, both personally and through correspondence, for several years after the date of an alleged offence against him by Mr. Lawrence.

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Accordingly, the Board of Management awaits your advice as to how it should now proceed, expressing its disappointment at Mr. AOA's letter, which seems contrary to the spirit of discussions which the Board understands you were able to achieve in your informal meeting with Ms. Proctor.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,



J.M. BEDNALL