



Mr AOB

REDACTED

Dear Mr AOB

Having returned from my sabbatical leave, I have considered your letter received by the School on 7 July, 2014.

The following is to the best of my knowledge what is known regarding the resignation of Headmaster D R Lawrence:

1. In 1970 Mr Lawrence's secretary opened a letter addressed to Mr Lawrence from a male person living interstate which made it clear that a sexual relationship existed between them.
2. The School Chaplain was advised, as was the Deputy Headmaster, Mr John Kerr.
3. Shortly after this, Mr Lawrence directly contacted the Chairman of the Board and tendered his resignation. At this time neither the Chairman, nor the Board, were aware of the existence of the letter. Apparently the reason given for his resignation was family reasons. It has since become known that when Mrs Lawrence became aware of the letter, she advised Mr Lawrence that their marriage was over.
4. Mr John Kerr, at the time when he read the letter, was unaware that the letter was from a former student. It is not known whether this was known to the School Chaplain. The School Chaplain, Michael Eagle, is deceased.
5. It is presumed that the School Chaplain, shortly after he had spoken to the Deputy Headmaster, also spoke to Mr Lawrence about the letter. It is presumed that Mr Lawrence contacted the Chairman of the Board after that. The letter is no longer in existence. It is presumed that it was given by the School Chaplain to Mr Lawrence.
6. After Mr Lawrence's departure to England in December 1970, information came to the Chairman of the Board that the Police had been investigating an alleged group of homosexual businessmen based in Taroona, and that Mr Lawrence's name was known to Police as being part of this group. The Chairman of the Board made enquiries of the Police. The Police advised that there was no evidence to suggest that Mr Lawrence had involved underage males in the group's activities, or any boys from the School, and the Chairman accepted this advice.

7. The Chairman of the Board also at this time sought advice from the Bishop of Tasmania, who advised that Mr Lawrence had confided in him the reasons for his resignation, and the Bishop reassured the Chairman that no Hutchins boy was at risk, and the Chairman accepted that reassurance.
8. The Chairman of the Board and the then Bishop of Tasmania have been deceased for many years.

I repeat my earlier offer that if we are able to assist you in any way, I would be willing to meet with you to discuss what assistance and how such assistance might be provided.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Warwick Dean". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Warwick Dean
Headmaster

7 August, 2104