

(WILLIAM) BILL HARTWIG – RECORD OF HEARING

MONDAY 19 JANUARY 2004

John Witham advised that a Record of Hearing would be prepared and sent to Bill Hartwig. John asked Bill to indicate whether he was happy with the Record of Hearing and if not, to contact John and it would be fixed. The Record of Hearing would then be given to the Board. Along with that John will make a recommendation to the Board about whether or not it would be useful or desirable for Bill to present his information to the Board.

- John advised that in terms of Anglicare the main person the Board was interested in was Brandenburg. John acknowledged that the Board realised there were also concerns at the time about OHS, but they were only interested in the sexual abuse issue.
- He then asked Bill "When was the first time he felt an inkling or suspicion that Brandenburg was up to no good?"
- Bill said he never had a definitive or absolute knowledge. He himself started working at Anglicare in July 1996 when Brandenburg was Manager of Campsites and reported to Peter Bleby.
- Bill said he struck up a friendship with Brandenburg and at first he never suspected Brandenburg of being a paedophile.
- Bill recalls on one occasion Brandenburg made a comment that he thought was odd. He told Bill that his sister had warned him that he should stop knocking around with young lads as people would incorrectly interpret him as being a paedophile. Brandenburg said he told his sister he liked knocking around with the young lads because it kept him young.
- Bill had not even thought of Brandenburg in that light and was staggered at Brandenburg even telling him about the conversation with his sister. The comment had come out of the blue.
- Brandenburg went on to say that his sister thought he should keep older company.
- Bill had known Brandenburg for about a year at that point.
- He advised there were three campsites at that stage. Mylor (which did not have a manager), Harrogate (with a manager) and Port Elliot/Victor Harbour (with a manager).
- The situation blew up at Harrogate in relation to OHS. An investigation was done internally by Blackwood and Stocks. As a result of the report by Blackwood and Stocks, Gerard Menses made the decision to close the campsite down.
- At the time McGlennon was campsite manager.
- McGlennon had previously lost all his retirement money in an investment and was using the campsite as a home. He had also teamed up with a woman who was living there as well.

- As a result of the Blackwood & Stocks report it was deemed that Brandenburg had run the campsites poorly, Bleby as his manager had not managed Brandenburg properly and they came under Bill's control.
- At that stage Bill had two Campsite Managers reporting to him directly. Harrogate was in wind down stage and there was a three month period after which McGlennon would have to leave the campsite.
- Bill said it was at that point McGlennon started making allegations but not of child abuse. Then one day McGlennon said he did not want Brandenburg to bring that young lad up anymore. He said that Brandenburg had brought a young lad up to Harrogate and spent the night.
- Bill said the 'alarm bells went off' as McGlennon had said there was no camp at the time. Bill asked McGlennon if he was suggesting anything improper was happening. McGlennon said he did not have evidence that anything improper had happened. Bill was concerned and asked McGlennon if he had any reason to be suspicious. McGlennon said he did not and he was just informing Bill that he felt it was improper.
- Bill made notes of the conversation and he felt concerned and went to Geoff Blackwood. Bill assumes Geoff Blackwood took the notes to Menses and he has not seen the notes since.
- Bill said that conversation was the trigger for the investigation into Bob Brandenburg in 1997 and he was not involved in the matter after that.
- Bill understands that an investigation was undertaken complete divorced from the OHS issue.
- It wasn't until later Bill questioned Menses about the outcome. Menses advised then that Brandenburg had completely denied the allegations and was taken aback by them. Menses went on to say that Brandenburg said the boy enjoyed camping and that was why he had taken him up there and in hindsight he may have been a bit naïve to do so.
- Brandenburg was relieved of his responsibility for campsites as a result of the investigation. Bill's secretary took over the responsibility for booking campsites and the Campsite Managers were responsible for their own maintenance and reported to Bill for approvals etc.
- Peter Bleby and Brandenburg dropped out.
- John said that according to McGlennon, in about September 1997 Bill spoke to him and asked him about a boy seen getting into Brandenburg's car outside the ACS office. Bill said that occurred just after the allegations against Brandenburg were raised and he agreed he had asked McGlennon that question as he could see from his office Brandenburg getting into his car with a lad who looked about 15 years of age. The penny had started to drop. At the time, Bill wondered if this was the same lad McGlennon had seen.
- John advised that both Geoff Blackwood and Robert Stocks said they had raised McGlennon's concerns about Viv deBoo with Gerard Menses in May 1997 and again in June 1997.
- Bill was unaware of these discussions. He knew that they were investigating OHS issues at Harrogate but they never told him of the

other allegations. They reported the OHS issues to Bill but never child abuse allegations.

- Bill does not know if they reported the matter to Menses.
- At that stage Blackwood was reporting to Menses. It was not until later that Blackwood reported to Bill and that could explain why he did not speak to him on the abuse allegations.
- John acknowledged that Blackwood was currently in dispute with Anglicare and asked how Blackwood was regarded as a manager during the period 1997-99?
- Bill responded by say that Menses had planned to remove Blackwood as HR Manager as he was not doing a good job. Bill acknowledged though, Blackwood was a 'great guy'.
- Menses left at the end of 1998.
- Bill believes Blackwood was really in the wrong role. It was not his background and he struggled to deliver the goods.
- Menses sent Blackwood to special management training to Morgan and Banks who gave him a scathing report in terms of his attitude toward the training. They recommended to Menses he was not suitable for the role.
- Menses was going to get rid of him but decided to leave it to the next bloke who was John Roffey. Roffey, who was also a minister, decided to give Blackwood the benefit of the doubt and gave him a clean slate. Roffey eventually found that Blackwood was not suitable for the position and was underperforming. He was going to get an external consultant to review the HR function. He anticipated that it would show Blackwood was incompetent and should be removed.
- Unfortunately John Roffey died.
- Jan Horsnell arrived and again gave Blackwood a clean slate. Again he underperformed. Jan instigated the HR review and Blackwood was removed.
- When asked by John what his personal opinion was of Blackwood, Bill said he believes Blackwood is dishonest. Blackwood once accused Bill of assaulting him in front of two other people in Robert Stock's office. Bill was called to Menses office to answer the claims. Fortunately one of the witnesses clarified the situation with Menses.
- Bill said the situation arose because Blackwood does not like to be proven wrong. Bill was at the time in charge of programme termination. Blackwood wanted to pay a termination payment to someone who was casual. Bill pointed out that termination payments were not paid to casuals. An argument between Bill and Blackwood ensued. Bill did not think anymore of it.
- Martin Pearson who was in the room later commented that it was good to see two managers have a verbal joust and still get on together. After the weekend Blackwood went to Menses and showed him a bruise in front of Bill. Bill said it was obvious the bruise was made by a tennis ball. Bill said that Geoff is very devious, when he has a motive he does what it takes to get what he wants. Bill said that they had checked back over the timesheets and mobile phone bill for the 18 months prior to Blackwood's position being terminated. His timesheet would say he

was in the office but his mobile phone bill said he was in Blanchetown. Blackwood would always say he had given you something and he couldn't find a copy of it. Bill said he is sure he just hadn't done it. Bill has great problems with his credibility.

- In regard to Robert Stocks, Bill only worked with him for about 12 months. Stocks was replaced by Geoff who came in over the top of him. Bill thinks that Robert was heavily influenced by Geoff. Whatever Blackwood said he would go along with.
- While Bill had strong reasons to believe that Blackwood was not credible he did not have reason to believe the same of Robert Stocks.
- Bill said he would provide copies of notes of his conversation with McGlennon. **(These notes were received after the Preliminary Interview and are attached).**
- John asked Bill to bring any notes to the hearing that involved Geoff Blackwood as evidence provided by him was very important.
- Bill was surprised that Blackwood would have any information of interest as Bill was sure that Blackwood was surprised by the charges eventually made against Brandenburg.
- Bill said he was disgusted and very angry when he read that there was a suggestion (he assumes by Blackwood) that Anglicare was running an alternative care program for young foster children and Brandenburg's office was next door. It made it sound like Anglicare was feeding Brandenburg's paedophilia with these children. Bill said that this was a disgraceful comment and he is sure it came from Blackwood. Bill also said that Anglicare does not have children going into their office, the workers go out to the children. He reiterated again that Anglicare does not have children going into their office. Bill insisted this was a slur on Anglicare and he was quite angry that Blackwood would make this accusation, but it was typical of Blackwood.

TRACEY QUIGLEY
12 February 2004