

# Burns Lawyers

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OFFICE HOURS  
Mon-Fri 8.30am - 5.00pm  
A/H by Appointment  
REDACTED

E-Mail: burnslaw@ozemail.com.au

Your Ref:  
Our Ref: RB:MF:JS:L100/99

Date: 16<sup>th</sup> June, 1999

Mr R Welch and Mrs M Welch

REDACTED

Dear Mr and Mrs Welch

Re: **DEFAMATION - GOLD COAST FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP INC**

We are the solicitors acting on behalf of the Gold Coast Family Support Group Inc ("FSG").

We wrote to you on 19<sup>th</sup> November, 1998 (copy letter **enclosed**) requiring you to cease and desist from making defamatory statements regarding our client, its management, staff and employees. Notwithstanding, you have continued to defame our client and certain members of the committee and staff both by verbal statements and written documents.

This matter is most serious and our client after having exhausted the processes of discussion and mediation with you to no avail, has instructed us to prepare Supreme Court proceedings against you. A Supreme Court Writ claiming damages, exemplary damages and aggravated damages for defamation has been prepared.

FSG and the other persons named as Plaintiffs in the Supreme Court Writ (Lloyd Hastings, Olive Bowly Dorothy Williams and Melissa Edwards) are not prepared to continue to be the subject of your defamatory remarks and innuendo, and they will, if need be, commence the Supreme Court proceedings against you to protect their good reputations and characters.

It has come to our client's attention that you have made approaches to various funding organisations and government departments and made unsubstantiated and unfounded complaints regarding our client, and further that you have made comments and/or published letters or documents to various funding organisations for FSG, such as Department of Families, Youth and Community Care and Department of Health which are defamatory. Such conduct by you should cease and desist immediately failing which Court action will be taken against you with further notice.

Protecting Your Legal Rights

Mr R Welch and Mrs M Welch  
re: Defamation

16<sup>th</sup> June, 1999  
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Please note that this is your **FINAL WARNING**. Should you continue to defame FSG, any members of the committee, management or staff, the full extent of the law will be invoked in Court proceedings against you.

We note that the matter of your concerns which appear to be the basis for you having defamed our client and staff, was addressed in detail in our letter dated 19<sup>th</sup> November, 1998 and at various meetings and discussions with our client, and at mediation proceedings conducted by the Department of Justice.

Notwithstanding the efforts made to discuss, explain and resolve your concerns, you have continued to make and publish defamatory statements.

We have been provided with a copy of your letter dated 9<sup>th</sup> April, 1999. You imply that the committee and staff of FSG are untruthful and/or covering up some wrong. This implication is taken seriously by our client and is strongly refuted. As previously stated to you in our letter dated 19<sup>th</sup> November, 1998 and by the Manager and President of FSG at the mediation in January 1999, the matter of your concern regarding your child was properly dealt with and referred to the Police for investigation. You are well aware of all the steps which have been taken in this regard, yet you persist with blaming FSG and its members and continue to defame their good characters without lawful justification. This is **not** acceptable. The matters raised in your letter dated 9<sup>th</sup> April, 1999 have previously been addressed ad nauseam in the numerous meetings, telephone calls and mediation proceedings. Our client will not be entertaining any further communication from you on this subject.

Yours faithfully  
BURNS LAWYERS

Per 

Mark Francis

Enc.

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