

*Adult Guardian*

*FAX with letter to Paula Scully with letter 7th Aug 03*

*03*

TELEPHONE CALL TO M. WELCH FROM MELISSA EDWARDS 1<sup>ST</sup> JULY 03.

I received unexpected phone call from Melissa Edwards (former Coordinator, Gold Coast Family Support Group Inc.) on 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2003, approximately 1.30 pm.

M. Edwards stated "It is Mel here" I replied "who" and she replied *Melissa, Melissa Edwards*. She asked whether she would *be able to speak to Bobbie to wish her happy birthday for her 21<sup>st</sup> today*. I advised her *Bobbie's not home*.

M. Edwards asked if I "*would be comfortable with her speaking to Bobbie and that she thinks of her every Xmas and 1<sup>st</sup> July*". She stated she would "*have to carry this for the rest of her life, this (phone call) doesn't change anything - can't change anything, I needed to tell you that. It is selfish of me to make this phone call.*"

I told M. Edwards "*Bobbie still cries and has night mares. She thinks you are her friend. You need to know she said 'it's not Melissa's fault, it's not Dorothy's fault, it's not Olive's fault, it is just his fault.'*"

M. Edwards stated she "*would be on the Gold Coast in two weeks and she would like to meet up with me, if I can, I will, or maybe you have right to discard me for life, forever.*"

*If I can help in any way, if it isn't too late, I don't know if it is possible*" I replied "*the problem is he has walked away because of the manner in the way it was handled.*" I said "*I spoke up because of my concerns for other children. You know I was very loyal to Gold Coast Family Support Group.*" M. Edwards replied "*Yes, I know.*"

M. Edwards asked "*how's Bobbie's health*" and I replied "*not good*" She queried "*heart?*". I said "*We are going through heart tests, 100 seizures in the year, 40 since January, falls down anywhere.*" M. Edwards asked whether "*Bobbie accessing any services?*" I replied "*Sport & Rec. when she is well.*"

I stated to M. Edwards "*I can't trust anyone anymore, can't trust service providers or workers, it has destroyed our trust in humanity, can never be repaired.*"

M. Edwards stated "*I can understand that, I have contributed to your distress, I am so sorry Maree*"

I advised M. Edwards "*You know we had to give these Reports to the Police.*"

M. Edwards said "*I'm not sure what you mean?*" and she queried "*on Solicitor's advice?*" I replied "*No, we have not got a Solicitor, we had to hand them over, we are so upset, they (Police) asked for them.*" I stated "*This has destroyed us*"

I told M. Edwards "*We want correct Reports and an apology to us and apology to Bobbie. I haven't got Solicitor's advice, we had to give the Reports (to the Police), the damage is done.*"

M. Edwards suggested she "could meet with me, helpful to talk, and write report in sequence if I was prepared to do this." I replied "Your mother would know the sequence."

I stated "I may tell Bobbie you rang, she would be excited you rang." M. Edwards said she would like to talk to her if I was comfortable with this. She said she "would be prepared to meet with me, she is often in Brisbane. She advised she is "often in Townsville, could ring her on her mobile [REDACTED] I said I would discuss with Bob (my husband), subject to apologies and Reports.

I advised her "Bobbie still cries in bed, all these years later. You don't know what we have been through, been through hell." M. Edwards said "I'm so sorry." M. Edwards said she "would like to make amends, I know that's not possible," I said "Bobbie was bridesmaid for you and Dorothy (mother D. Williams, Manager, GCFSG) M. Edwards said "It was taken out of my hands" I replied "Melissa, no one can stop you personally from writing a Report, it is up to you personally. Are you prepared to give it (Report) in writing?" NO REPLY. I stated "This has destroyed our trust in humanity.

I stated "Bobbie does not tell lies." M. Edwards stated again "It was taken out of hands." I asked "Who took it out of your hands?" NO ANSWER. I stated "The Committee didn't even know of the situation." (I was referring to the full Committee of GCFSG who I now believe were not informed of my complaint by D. Williams O. Bowly, M. Edwards or F. Pharoan although I had been advised by D. Williams she had told O. Bowly Vice President). M. Edwards queried "Do you mean the Executive Committee Lloyd, Dorothy and Olive (Lloyd Hastings, President, Dorothy Williams Manager & Olive Bowly-Vice President)

Before I could reply. Edwards asked "Would it help if I wrote a Report saying there are file notes, I'm not wanting to devalue anything I say." I stated "You know I reported sexually molested" M. Edwards stated "I know I had many discussions with you of your 'concerns' " I replied "I was very clear in what I reported and I asked her "What did you report to Dorothy ? " (her mother, Manager) NO ANSWER FROM M. EDWARDS.

I then stated "Your reports state I had not reported sexual molestation. You don't know what this has done to Bobbie."

I asked "Will you write a Report and apologise, an apology from you, Dorothy, Lloyd and Olive ?" M. Edwards replied "I can't remember exactly." I replied "You know what I reported to you, your report doesn't even acknowledge I reported sexual molestation (I was referring to her signed Report of 27<sup>th</sup> January, 1999) M. Edwards replied "But I didn't sign it." (She was referring to the first unsigned Report given to us on 29<sup>th</sup> September, 1998 by D. Williams which M. Edwards had denied to me previously that she had written this report as she had alleged she doesn't type - but I know she does type because I worked in the same room as M. Edwards).

I replied "Yes you did, (i.e. sign the Report of 27<sup>th</sup> January, 1999), you just said "I had 'concerns' (see signed Report 27<sup>th</sup> January, 99). "You did not support us or support Bobbie" M. Edwards replied "I have to live with what I did - or didn't do something I should do"

I stated "Our child is sexually molested and you threaten to take us to the Supreme Court, there is nothing lower than that." NO REPLY FROM M. EDWARDS.

I stated "You're not willing to make an apology or give a report acknowledging I reported sexual molestation?" NO REPLY

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M. Edwards said "I'm really sorry in bottom of my heart what you have gone through. I would like to make amends."

I replied "It's up to you Melissa, you have to live with it He was believed and Bobbie wasn't."

M. Edwards stated "The situation has created a rift between my mother and me, doesn't alter my strength of feeling for Bobbie, and for you Maree, I could have done more I realise, it was a difficult situation, I thought the world of her."

I referred again to the Solicitor's letter threatening to take us to the Supreme Court. M. Edwards replied "I don't know about that letter, not personally from me." I stated "You were named as Plaintiff." NO REPLY FROM M. EDWARDS.

M. Edwards stated "I had documented it on file."

(She had previously stated to me she had not made a Report- but later advised me she had made notes later, but then said immediately she hadn't seen the notes for a while- yet L. Hastings had referred to notes by M. Edwards. After we had approached Office of Adult Guardian, July 2000, I was advised by a staff member that D. Williams had asked all staff to clean out their files).

After M. Edwards stated "I had documented it on file" she continued to state "I will have to do some thinking to help and aid the situation." I replied "You told me you didn't make notes (at the time of my complaint). M. EDWARDS MADE NO COMMENT TO MY COMMENT" but she then replied "**I VERBALLY REPORTED, CERTAINLY REPORTED TO DOROTHY BOBBIE HAD BEEN SEXUALLY MOLESTED.**"

I replied "Put that in your Report." NO COMMENT BY M. EDWARDS.

(Office of Adult Guardian advised me that D. Williams and L. Hastings were not aware of my complaint of sexual molestation until 1998 so this admission by M. Edwards once again substantiates that D. Williams knew I reported sexual molestation on 10<sup>th</sup> April 1995 as M. Edwards had reported it to her as she had advised me at the time. D. Williams also admitted this in Mediation Meeting of 21<sup>st</sup> January, 1999 in presence of L. Hastings & two Mediators i.e. "I know Melissa said Maree said Bobbie may have been interfered with BUT L. Hastings interjected and said "It depends upon your interpretation of "interfered with, it could mean something as insignificant as tucking her blouse in").

M. Edwards then said "Sorry if I rang and upset you. I would be happy to talk to Bobbie and wish her a happy birthday if you are happy for me to be involved." I replied "might depend upon written apologies and reports."

M. Edwards then said she "had nothing to do with Gold Coast Family Support Group since I left."

I again referred to the Supreme Court action against us and M. Edwards replied "That blows my mind, that's not legal"

I advised M. Edwards I would speak to my husband re any further possible contact.

Admission, "I'm really sorry" "He makes some amends" "I would like to make amends" "I don't know about that letter, not personally from me." "I had documented it on file" "I will have to do some thinking to help and aid the situation." "You told me you didn't make notes (at the time of my complaint). M. EDWARDS MADE NO COMMENT TO MY COMMENT" but she then replied "I VERBALLY REPORTED, CERTAINLY REPORTED TO DOROTHY BOBBIE HAD BEEN SEXUALLY MOLESTED." "Put that in your Report." NO COMMENT BY M. EDWARDS. (Office of Adult Guardian advised me that D. Williams and L. Hastings were not aware of my complaint of sexual molestation until 1998 so this admission by M. Edwards once again substantiates that D. Williams knew I reported sexual molestation on 10<sup>th</sup> April 1995 as M. Edwards had reported it to her as she had advised me at the time. D. Williams also admitted this in Mediation Meeting of 21<sup>st</sup> January, 1999 in presence of L. Hastings & two Mediators i.e. "I know Melissa said Maree said Bobbie may have been interfered with BUT L. Hastings interjected and said "It depends upon your interpretation of "interfered with, it could mean something as insignificant as tucking her blouse in"). M. Edwards then said "Sorry if I rang and upset you. I would be happy to talk to Bobbie and wish her a happy birthday if you are happy for me to be involved." I replied "might depend upon written apologies and reports." M. Edwards then said she "had nothing to do with Gold Coast Family Support Group since I left." I again referred to the Supreme Court action against us and M. Edwards replied "That blows my mind, that's not legal" I advised M. Edwards I would speak to my husband re any further possible contact.