

Note relating to my telephone call with Mrs REDA on 25 November 2003

Mrs REDA called me on 25 November to indicate to me that she did not wish to meet for our scheduled appointment at 2.30 that afternoon. She indicated that she was tired of talking about the event. The tone of her voice was one that illustrated some sense of exhaustion. She advised that she wished to move on with her life. She indicated to me that she regretted having raised the issue with me. Although she went on to indicate that she felt better about the incident having spoken to me on the telephone the previous occasion. The telephone call was relatively short, about one minute in length, she was reasonably friendly and there was a thanks provided to me at the end of the conversation. She finished by providing me with her separated husband ATL telephone number in Coffs Harbour. She did not indicate that I should call but the inference was that I should call ATL.

Telephone call with ATL on 27 November 2003

I called ATL who lives in Coffs Harbour and is the guardian of ASA presently in Year 12. He started by asking me how I would feel about certain misbehaviours by staff. I indicated to him that our staff has been trained in the Child Protection Legislation and that staff are aware of appropriate behaviour and expectations of the School. He then proceeded to give me a run down of the incident, as he understood it. It was my feeling that he had a harder edge to him in his perception of the incident than the perception provided by his wife RED. He told me that the boy was now calm and moving on from the incident and that he emphasised with me that his son did not want to participate in any investigation of this incident and that he had indicated quite clearly to his father that he wished to move on with his life. His father had clearly encouraged him quite strongly to participate in an investigation and to ensure that this teacher was brought to justice in their terms. He reassured me in this conversation that his son had assured him that there had been no molestation during the incident. The anger at this incident appears to relate to the taking of ASA in a teacher's car and the taking of the boy back to his residence alone. They are the two issues that are being discussed. There was also the issues relating to what ATL believes his son was offered at the staff members home (i.e. cigarettes, alcohol, and/or a hug). ATL told me that he had asked his son whether he was gay (i.e. the son) the answer was a definitive no. I got the feeling that the son did not like this question.

ATL asked me a number of questions relating to the staff member's background and personal life. I declined to answer these questions. I encouraged ATL to understand that it would be inappropriate for me to discuss these matters. I let him know that we had engaged in a process to investigate this issue and that his son and family would be kept out of the investigation and that it would be done in accordance with the policies and procedures established by the Association of Independent Schools and in conjunction with advice and direction from the Ombudsman's Office. He very much wanted to speak about specific issues of the staff member's background and outcomes. I discouraged him from discussing these matters either with me or with others in the Community. I indicated to him that the Defamation Laws encouraged us and required us to be cautious with these matters. He accepted this. It was clear to me that ATL was interpreting all actions surrounding this

event in the context of assuming that the staff member was a paedophile and/or homosexual. It appeared to me in the conversation that all of his interpretations were coloured by this perception.

He concluded the conversation by asking whether the family would be notified of the outcome of the investigation. I indicated to him that this would be in accordance with the policies and procedures documentation. We concluded conversation with an amicable and pleasant tone. The tone of the entire conversation was very pleasant. I finished by indicating to ATL [redacted] that he should feel free to contact us at any time in the future and we would be happy to discuss any matter of concern to him.

P J Crawley