

27 JAN 2009

REDACTED

22/01/10

Mr John W Weeks  
Headmaster  
KNOX GRAMMAR SCHOOL  
P O Box 5008  
Wahroonga NSW 2076

Dear Mr Weeks,

My son has shown me a letter to him from you, which I take to be a circular letter to all old boys, regarding what you called 'child abuse offences' at Knox in the years my sons were at the school, and the action the school is taking to ensure it doesn't happen again. I thank you for this letter and the sentiments expressed therein and I certainly hope it doesn't happen again. And whilst I accept that the letter is truly from the heart, and that the apologies expressed are sincere, I must tell you that you can have no real conception of the vileness of the those teachers' behaviour unless you had been personally involved, as I was. I hope you will excuse me if I say a few very strong words to you about it, because my son ATJ is DEAD, as a result of it, as are three other beautiful young boys from his class.

I imagine you are already aware that we are in close contact with the Hornsby police and have given them a written statement and copious details about it. What absolutely appals me and my wife and friends was that Dr Patterson, the then headmaster, a man who projected himself as an almost military style disciplinarian, should have allowed this to pass right under his nose without doing anything to stop it. And it wasn't as if some of the parents and boys were not aware of it. In fact, when it was becoming so evident that something was wrong, to the point where ATJ could not study for or sit for his HSC, I tried to bring it to the attention of Dr Patterson, whereupon I received a letter back saying that he thought "it was a figment of my imagination"! I have advised the police of these details.

I first became aware of it when my son ATJ was in Prep School at Knox, when one of the teachers, Barry Stewart, started driving him home from Wahroonga to Mosman via Frenches Forest - the long way round. Not long after that, either by invitation from ATJ or on his own initiative, this person turned up for Sunday lunch. He was unashamedly gay, but it was at a time in history when educated people at least (I was a scientist in charge of the Metric Conversion Board, at St Leonards) were being conned into believing that homosexuality is normal, natural and nice! I am no longer able to accept that point of view, nor I believe, should any person with a duty of care for young boys, and girls. I have reported this to Hornsby police.

At one point during this Sunday lunch, Stewart said to my wife that he could tell from a young age which boys would be susceptible??? So can I. My elder son REDACTED to whom you wrote, lives in Canberra, and has a very responsible job with a large firm up there, is what some people might describe as "square". That is, a steady, sensible,

dependable, lovable but reserved personality, ATJ on the other hand, was flamboyant, full of the joie de vivre, precocious, experimental (liked oysters at age 3), and a charming and beautiful boy. Charm and outgoing personality is the key. They can't wait to grow up and are highly susceptible to anyone who can show them the way. He died of AIDS at 33, as did his 3 similarly beautiful class mates. A teacher's duty of care will require him to identify the boys at risk, as I have described. I have explained the above in detail to the Hornsby Police.

One of the reasons we are having these problems, I believe, is that, as in so many things, we have become victims of our own alleged political correctness. We must not be homophobic - that is politically incorrect - a person's sexual preference is their own business - they are all human beings - what happens in private between consenting... Against that you have to recognize is that a young boy is a homosexual's virgin, as a young girl is to a heterosexual. Politically incorrect I may be, but your duty of care is to keep homosexuals out of the schools, or if you can't, to keep them under very tight surveillance.

Thank you again for your letter, but I think it is going to take a lot more than a few words of apology and sympathy to ensure that the hurt is healed and that it doesn't happen again. It will need a pro-active and positive program of ensuring that anyone with the slightest suspicion that they might behave in that way is disallowed the privilege of teaching young people.

Yours sincerely  
REDACTED  
REDACTED REDACTED

ATK

BSc (Hons) Syd.