



# KNOX GRAMMAR SCHOOL

John W Weeks Headmaster

12<sup>th</sup> March 2009

Mr A Steer

REDACTED

Dear Adrian

Thank you for coming to see me at Knox on Monday. I hope that I was able to clarify some of the matters you raised. I know that it is a difficult time for you and I also hope that the counselling service will be helpful.

In relation to your letter of 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2009, which I acknowledged receiving on that day, I want to respond to the issues you have raised to the extent that I am advised that I can, remembering that these matters are before the court.

As I shared with you, in 2004 I commissioned, on behalf of Knox Grammar School, following the advice of the Ombudsman, an independent investigator to conduct an investigation and prepare a report for the Ombudsman. The investigator was highly qualified and experienced. This person held tertiary qualifications in education, including a Masters degree in Education. The investigator was also a licensed investigator and had held a very senior position, responsible for child protection investigation and investigating allegations of child abuse when he worked with the Department of Education and Training. He was recommended as one of the most highly regarded investigators in this field.

The investigation was thorough and, we know, you were interviewed during the course of that investigation and a statement was taken from you. A report was prepared by the investigator, which was forwarded to the Ombudsman. This became part of the Ombudsman's Report and included supporting documents. This Report has now been given to the police and may be evidence in matters currently before the court. On advice, I am prohibited from discussing further, or disclosing the content of the Ombudsman's Report so as not to place at risk the current investigation or potentially prejudice the upcoming court proceedings.

After receiving the report and considering the matter, the Ombudsman advised that: *...No further action is required of Knox Grammar School in relation to this matter, and I will now proceed to close the Ombudsman's child protection file. Therefore, I had gone as far as I could and as the Ombudsman has said, "it is their role, if necessary, to take matters further".*

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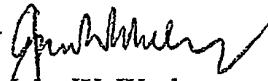
The investigation to which you refer was conducted in accordance with my professional and statutory obligations, having regard for the safety, wellbeing and development of students. It is not a matter of getting "dirt" on anyone, it is about ensuring boys are in a safe environment. In this regard, any correspondence, documents, files, reports or records held by the School which could be of interest or assistance with this investigation are all in the hands of the police. I trust that this will help them with their enquiries.

Knox has, as I do, first and foremost a paramount concern for the safety, wellbeing and development of our boys. It is that concern that underpins all decisions and actions taken by Knox. The concern that Knox has, continues beyond a boy's schooling. The OKGA also plays a role in supporting boys after school through a network of former students with a common interest within a collegial environment. Adrian, I assure you that you are a valued Old Boy.

I do understand that this is a very difficult time for you. Should you wish to discuss any matter further with me, as I have previously indicated, I will ensure that I am available at a time convenient to you. Again, I emphasise that counselling is available through ACCESS Programs on 1800 81 87 28 or by visiting their website at [www.accesspl.com.au](http://www.accesspl.com.au).

Thanks again Adrian for coming and talking with me.

All the best,

  
John W. Weeks  
Headmaster