

8 December 1997

Mr Norrie Cannon
Senior Boarding Master
Gillespie House
Knox Grammar School
Wahroonga NSW 2076

Dear Norrie

I write in response to your letter dated 31st October, 1997. I am extremely disappointed to receive such a letter, and do not accept it.

As you know, I have worked extremely hard for Knox Boarding this year. I have put 110% effort in, not just in Gillespie house but in all houses.

I have had excellent feedback from housemasters, staff, parents and students alike, have been pro-active in as many ways as possible with suggestions and ideas, have filled in for duty at the last moment, have watched/supported boarders at their sporting matches, have given lifts to boys who are stuck getting to sport and have arranged trips and outings even when not on duty. I have also given you support personally as best as I possibly can.

I do **NOT** feel it is appropriate or necessary to receive written instructions from you.

You mention a particular incident where I illegally overcrowded my car. My car at the time had 2 seats in the back and I had 3 boys sitting there. Whilst my actions were not intentional, a mistake was made. The drive lasted about 15 mins maximum and I did **NOT** take boys to fireworks at Prouille. We drove past just to get a closer look. I informed the R.O.D. that I was taking the boys for a short drive. Please get your facts straight before making accusations.

In regards to boys watching television in my room, this is a rare occurrence as I happened to be in that weekend. The door was open at all times, and the Senior Resident in Gilmore was aware of where they were at all times. 2 or 3 Gillespie boys were also present. It was a special one-off occasion, and don't believe I put myself in a vulnerable situation because of the number present. I am happy, although disappointed to never allow this again in the future. I am extremely angry that you went and quizzed boys in other houses about my actions, which leaves me in a undermined position.

You are insinuating certain things in your letter, which are extremely discriminatory. (*eg you cannot enter the boys' areas in Gilmore House*). This is unnecessary and is impossible as I am often locating Gillespie boys or needing to speak to Seniors/Residents.

It is a shame that the boarding houses do not work in tandem with each other. I feel there is tension between the houses, which is also disappointing.

I am happy to discuss these matters with Dr Paterson, if you feel it necessary.

I hope that 1998 is a better year for everyone, especially with changes in place.

Norrie, I think you are one of the finest housemasters at Knox, and I hope we can work together to make boarding an even better experience in 1998.

Yours sincerely



Nick Williams.
Resident Master