

Carolyn Blanden (Ex-teacher) conversation with D/Sgt Murray.

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Brief Description: On Thursday 1st April, 2009 D/Sgt Murray & DSC Cridland spoke to Carolyn Blanden. Blanden was employed as a teacher at Knox between 11090 and 2005. During that time she was teaching part time and later became the House master for Gilmore. Blanden confirmed a comment made in the presence of other teachers, although she was not aware of who the teacher may have been. Blanden supplied information about Paterson and how he was very close to Nisbett. Also of the fact Fotis and Vance being openly gay and not trusting them with the boys.

Meeting with Carolyn BLANDEN (Former Knox Grammar Teacher) 1.30pm 1st April, 2009 at Unit 26 33-39 Phillip Street, CABARITA.

- Blanden was a teacher at Know Grammar between 1982 and 1997

Duties	Principal
1982 – 1997 Classroom Teacher	Paterson
1989 – 1997 House Master (Gilmore)	Paterson

- Between 1982 and 1997 Blanden was employed as a teacher at Knox Grammar. (Part-time).
- 1989 and 1997 Blanden, with her husband Paul Blanden was the House Master for Gilmore.

Blanden became aware of the current investigation surrounding Knox Grammar after reading about it on the newspaper. She was concerned about a comment made by Dr Ian Paterson referring to him having no knowledge of the incidents. Blanden informed investigators she was of the opinion Paterson must have known what was occurring as he was very close to Adrian Nisbett and was very upset when Nisbett was asked to leave/cease performing duties of House Master.

Blanden stated she thought Nisbett was asked to leave as a result of an incident with a student, [ARO] [ARO] was a school [REDACT] and very well known within the school. After leaving the school [ARO]s parents complained about an incident involving Adrian Nisbett in the dark room. Blanden believed this was the reason Adrian Nisbett was removed from his position of House Master and started to reside in the Ryde area.

Blanden was also spoken to about payments made by private schools regarding various settlements. Blanden stated settlements were 'deeds' which would be kept by a school. The deed would also include a mention that neither party acknowledge there was in fact a deed between the parties, however if Police inquired they were able to discuss it. Each individual deed varies and therefore this might not be the case in all cases.

During the conversation Blanden unsolicited said, "I want to give you two names, Chris Fotis and Damian Vance. I said, "What would you like to tell me about those two people?" She said, "You know about the balaclava incident, I believe it was Chris Fotis. He was a similar build to the person responsible for the "balaclava incident. Both Vance and Fotis were openly gay and I would not trust either wit boys.

Blanden suggested speaking to Mr Charlton – former Head of Prep who walked into an office and saw Nisbett and Paterson engaged in an inappropriate embrace. Blanden was not able to supply contact details for CHARLTON.

Blanden spoke very highly of Michael Probert and suggested speaking to him about the problems students, especially boarders, may have discussed with him.