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NORTHSIDE CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

MEMORANDUM

TO: Neil Rookes
 FROM: Kerry Lovell
 DATE: 29 November 1993
 SUBJECT: Meeting with AGR [redacted]

In response to your memo (23rd November) I arranged a meeting with AGR [redacted] on Friday 26th November.

I asked him to elaborate on the concerns that he expressed to you regarding Ken Sandilands and the possibility of some form of sexual interference of AGR [redacted] and other students.

He recalled that he and his wife had noticed a change with AGR [redacted]'s behaviour about half way through the first term of grade 2 such as:

- frequent bed wetting
- a hate for school
- a decline in academic standard
- unprovoked outbursts of anger, at times uncontrollable
- and an apparent confusion or inability to express why he was feeling this way.

AGR [redacted] felt that this behaviour was symptomatic of trauma experienced through "sexual abuse" - although they did not recognise this at the time.

AGR [redacted] felt it would be more effective if AGR [redacted] shared his experiences and observations with me personally (with AGR [redacted] present).

I will list the allegations in point form:

A number of incidents involving Ken dropping something in AGR [redacted]'s lap (eg a pen) and then touching AGR [redacted]'s genitals as he picked it up.

Observing Ken in the boy's toilets offering to assist a prep and a Grade 2 boy go to the toilet by holding his penis

Ken touching AGR [redacted]'s penis when he sat next to him (through his clothes)

After administering corporal punishment Mr Sandilands using the pretence of dropping and retrieving the paddle to touch AGR [redacted]'s penis

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AGC observed:

Mr Sandilands paddle [REDACTED] in the back room (which was locked) and then place his hand down the front of his pants

Mr Sandilands put his hand in [REDACTED] underpants (to take out a leaf)

Mr Sandilands sitting outside next to [REDACTED] after school and putting her hand on his penis (through his clothes).

AGC claims [REDACTED] and AGT saw this.

Mr Sandilands in the girl's toilets during the first part of lunchtime (to clean toilets) kissing and cuddling AGY [REDACTED]. Mr Sandilands clothed, and AGY with her dress up and pants down. AGC claims [REDACTED] also saw this.

Mr Sandilands whispering in AGC's and other student's ears "I love you" in a "rude way" and expecting a similar response. AGC believed that on the occasion he did not respond he received the paddle as a result. Mr Sandilands did not say that was the reason he was paddled.

AGC felt 2 students who repeated grade 2 did so because these things effected them and their work. [REDACTED] was one named.

AGC claims he didn't tell anyone at the time because he didn't feel anyone would believe him, and that they would believe Mr Sandilands instead.

That he didn't feel safe in grade 2 and that this made him lie awake at night and wet the bed. He felt angry and upset.

That he forgot these things until [REDACTED] began to talk to him about the "things Mr Sandilands did in Grade 2". This prompted him to remember again.

AGR seemed sincerely concerned for the number of students he feared may have been affected by this inappropriate behaviour and their need for counsel. He mentioned [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] as possible "victims". He also expressed concern that Ken may be working with children in his church ([REDACTED] A.O.G.) and requested that we contact them to warn them of the possible dangers.

He also made it clear that he would follow this through as far as necessary if he felt it was not taken seriously.

I assured AGR that the matter would be followed through thoroughly but that we needed time to seek the Lord for wisdom as the matter needed handling with the utmost care and sensitivity.

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Recommendations:

I feel these allegations should be taken seriously due to -

the number of past allegations of a sexual nature surrounding Ken's time at Northside

and

although AGC may have exaggerated some details, statistics indicate that children are unlikely to lie about these matters especially if they have nothing to gain by disclosing.

Course of Action:

I would like to consult (without disclosing full details) with specific personnel in Health and Community Services, who I met at a recent Mandatory Reporting Seminar.

I feel we would benefit from their experience and resources.

We could then decide how to proceed.