

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2000

Dear Peter,

In response to your memorandum regarding the matter concerning [ARH], I offer the following comments:

- I first became aware of the bond between [ASW] in Year 7 and [ARH] at the Year 7 Camp at Yarramundi. Although [ARH] was not directly involved with Year 7 in any way, his offer of assistance to attend camp for three days was appreciated, as we were short of staff needed to cover the week long camp. I prepared bus lists and [ARH] requested to travel on a specific bus. My perception is that this was because [ASW] was also on this bus. They did sit together.
- [ASW] was unwell (severe headaches) and therefore did not actively take part in the activities. Consequently, rather than mingle with the other boys, he tended to stand alone and it was during these times I noticed a close bond developing between [ASW] and [ARH]. I must point out that [ASW] often linked up with [ARH] on his own accord, particularly during morning and afternoon tea breaks. There clearly was a dependency with [AS] and [ARH]. [AS] continued to feel unwell and it was decided, in consultation with his parents, to send him home on Tuesday lunchtime. [ARH] also left this day and I feel that this was another reason why [AS] felt he wanted to go home. [REDACTED] dropped off [ASW] at School during mid-afternoon Tuesday; [ARH], Bronwyn Steele and me returned in the evening with Rex Ward.
- During the camp I noticed the bond between [ASW] and [ARH] but contact was certainly out in the open.
- I assumed [ARH] and [ASW] had made contact at camp but [ASW]'s father informed me that [ARH] had met [ASW] earlier in the term around the Reid House locker area. Each morning there would be a conversation between [ASW] and [ARH]. [ASY] assumed [ARH] was on locker duty or was the housemaster and began feeling concerned when he realised that there was no direct link between Mr [ARH] and his son.
- My own observation is that there is certainly a strong bond between [ASW] and [ARH]. Mr [ASY] does say that he believes this has helped [ASW] become happier at School but he is obviously concerned with the long-term ramifications. Certainly, we must be sensitive to [AS] in this situation. A total break in contact could be very difficult and may cause tension within the family and with [AS]'s happiness here at School.
- Finally, I conclude by saying that I find it very difficult writing on a close colleague in this way. However, my responsibility is first and foremost to the boys in Year 7, in this case [ASW]. I feel torn between understanding [ARH]'s desire to be a caring member of staff to the boys but yet the desire to establish a very dependent type relationship which is clearly not in the best interests for [ARH] or [ASW].

*Mark McCrossin*  
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