

## YMCA Court Proceedings Update - 9 November 2012

James Ellender [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Friday, 9 November 2012 5:11 PM

**To:** Liam Whitley [REDACTED]

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Dear Principals,

As you are aware, the court proceedings involving former YMCA employee, Jonathan Lord, continued today at the Downing Centre District Court.

Today's proceedings included the following:

- Detailed victim statements provided by the parents of some of the children which highlighted the trauma caused to both the children and families
- Cross examination of Jonathan Lord's father
- The defence and prosecution submitting their final case to the Court to determine the length of sentence

Unfortunately, due to the detailed proceedings, at the close of court this afternoon, and after deliberating the case throughout the entire day, the Magistrate decided to adjourn the handing down of the sentence until Friday 18 January 2013. This decision was not made lightly but deemed necessary to ensure the correct length of sentence is given.

Today's proceedings reaffirmed that the YMCA is not the issue in this matter, but that of grooming and the abuse of trust and position of authority by Jonathan Lord.

Whilst the proceedings continue, today was a significant day for all affected children and their families, as well as for our organisation, and we hope it will begin the process of closure and healing following these tragic circumstances. Our thoughts and focus continue to be with those affected and we will continue to provide support and counsel at this time.

At this time we have decided not to communicate with the Caringbah YMCA Parents and Families but will review our decision on Monday and communicate with you prior to any communication.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions.

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