

**FACTS SHEET Cont'd**Defendant : **VANCE DAMIEN PIERS****ANTECEDENTS**

The accused is currently teaching at Taylor College in Victoria. Detectives hold serious and grave concerns for the welfare of the current students. The Victorian authorities have been advised and are awaiting the arrest warrant to be issued to detain the accused.

**FULL FACTS**

The Facts of the matter are Your Honour:

The accused Damien Piers VANCE is 55 years of age. The accused is currently employed as a Teacher at Taylors College Victoria.

The accused commenced as a Teacher at Knox Grammar School in January of 1985. Knox Grammar is located on the Pacific Highway At Wahroonga.

In 1984 the victim in the matter, Mr ASD ASD enrolled as a boarder at the School. From 1984 until 1986 the victim was a relatively good student, playing rugby and being involved in Swimming for the school. From around 1986, when the victim first had contact with the accused, the behaviour of the victim began to change.

The victim recalls being at home on his parents farm in REDACTED New South Wales on or around Easter time of 1986. Whilst there he has received a card from the accused in the mail. The card was not from the school itself, but a personal card from the accused. The victim recalls feeling very uneasy about receiving this card to the point where he decided that he would not tell his parents about it. The victim describes the card as being of a 'very personal correspondence'

There was no further interaction between the accused and victim until the victim returned to school in 1987.

After returning to school, one night the victim was eating in the dining hall. At the completion of each meal students were to place their waste into bins that were provided. The waste was to be sorted by the student on their plate and then placed into the appropriate bin.

On this particular evening, the victim finished his meal and went to the bin area. At the time the accused was standing there. The victim recalls placing the correct waste into the correct bins.

The accused has stated to the victim "I want you to remove those and clean up the buckets so things are in the right bins." The victim has protested due to the nature of the request and the accused has immediately become aggressive and

started yelling at the victim. The victim commenced to clean the bins and as a result some milk has splashed on the leg of the accused. This has enraged the accused to the point that he has then punched the victim to the left left hand side of the face with a closed fist. The victim ran from the hall and onto the boarders lawn where he remained unconsolable for a period of time. He then reported the matter to his parents who inturn reported it to the school. Nothing was ever done in relation to the assault.

Later the same year, around winter, mid year, the victim had remained back at the boarding house on the day that the school closed as he was to attend a party the following night. All of the other boarders had left and he was the only one that remained behind.

The victim was alone in his boarding house when another house master asked him to accompany him to the staff room, to which he did. Upon arriving at the staff room, the only other person present was the accused, Damien VANCE.

The accused has asked the victim if he would like a cigarette, to which the victim replied yes as he believed that it would be pretty 'cool' to smoke with a teacher.

The accsued has informed the victim that it would be dangerous to smoke at their current location and that he wanted to go somewhere where they would'nt be found out. He then suggested underneath the school chapel. This was known as the 'Q' Store where the equipment was stored for the cadets at the school. The accused has admitted to other students of the time that he "wanks with some of the other boys in the 'Q' store."

The accused then escorted the victim to this area and has ushered him inside, closing the door behind him. The accused has not turned the light on and as the victim describes it 'was pitch black'. The accused has then lit a cigarette and handed one to the victim. The victim lights his cigarette and the accused then commences in the dark of the room to, as the victim states. 'Make an advance of a sexual nature'.

The accused has asked the victim (who is 14 years of age at the time, with the accsued being 32 years of age), "Do you wank?" , "I like to wank", 'Have you ever wanked with someone?' , "How big is your dick?", "I wank with some of the other boys in the 'Q' store", "We do it all the time, it's a fun thing,we do this together".

The victim at this time was terrified. The victim states that 'I knew that he wanted me to participate in masturbating him or him of me or us together". The victim was feeling threatened

and terrified and was in a place where no one else was. The victim further states "I knew I was in trouble and had a serious issue on my hands."

The victim managed to find the door to the room and open it and walk out and back to his dorm as quickly as he could. He did not run for fear of the accused thinking that he was going to tell and he would then suffer some form of retribution. The victim in his terror then ran into the dorm and held the door's shut with his hands and feet in an attempt to stop the accused from coming after him. The accused arrived on the landing outside the doors, lit another cigarette and proceeded to watch the victim holding the doors shut. After the cigarette the accused left.

The victim was so scared about what had occurred that he did not tell anyone. He attended the party the following night and became so intoxicated that he was sick the next day. He further decided that, due to nothing happening about the accused punching him in the face, he would not be believed and that nothing would happen, so he did not report it.

At the resumption of term three, he then gained the courage to tell his close friends what happened.

Police have a number of statements that corroborate this version of events and the ongoing behaviour of the accused to not just the victim, but a number of other students as well.

The following year, the victim was in a relationship with a girl from Abbotsleigh. During this time her brother was a boarder at Knox. She confided in him that her brother had received a 'card' (the same as the victims) of a personal nature from the accused. This alarmed the victim to the point where he then went to see the Headmaster Dr Ian PATERSON the next day. Upon reporting the matter to Dr PATERSON the victim was then sent to the library for the day. He was then summoned back to the headmasters office where he was told that "I need to look into my conscience and make a decision as to whether I was able to have on my conscience the fact that I may send someone to jail." The victim was then informed that the school was disbelieving of his story.

From this point on the accused was never again seen at the school and all files relating to the removal / resignation of the accused have vanished.

Police are in possession of a number of letters from Dr Ian PATERSON to the accused and visa versa which indicate that PATERSON had knowledge of the incident and in one letter he states that "I am prepared to let him run another year

{VANCE) provided there are no further incidents".

.  
As a result of the Police investigation numerous statements have been obtained that provide evidence in relation to the ongoing inappropriate behaviour of the accused.

.  
Subsequently, the accused has been identified as residing in Victoria and is currently teaching students of the same age as the victim. Police hold serious and grave concerns for the safety and wellbeing of the students at his current school, and are in possession of a Arrest Warrant for the arrest of the accused.

.  
On the 8th April 2009 the accused was arrested at his home address by Victorian Police acting on the Warrant. At this time he was then conveyed to Glen Waverly Police Station where he was then introduced to NSW Detectives.

.  
The accused was then informed of the reason for his arrest and the provided a copy of the Field Court Attendance Notice. He was then informed that NSW Detectives would be applying for his extradition back to NSW to front court.

.  
The accused agreed of his own free will to accompany Detectives. The accused was then flown from Victoria to NSW on the 9th April 2009. He was then entered into Custody at Hornsby Police Station.

.  
He was provided with his rights in custody and his Solicitor advise and in attendance. The accused declined to participate in an interview and was then charged with the matters now before the court.