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McCartney

P. Gilford

22/6/73

HMCG:DA

The Secretary,  
PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD.

Conduct of Mr. G. H. Gilford, Deputy Superintendent,  
 Training School for Girls, Parramatta.

On 13th June, 1973 I informed the Board that I had suspended Mr. Gilford from duty following receipt of certain allegations of ill-treatment of inmates by Mr. Gilford.

Subsequent to this advice investigations have been carried out and Departmental officers have been interviewed by the Chief of the Residential Care Division. Statements have been obtained from Departmental officers and inmates and ex-inmates of Parramatta.

The matter was first brought to notice by Mr. B. Greenham, Deputy Superintendent (Relief staff) who made certain statements to Mr. P. Mayhew, Assistant Chief of Residential Care Division. He stated that he thought girls at Parramatta were being hit by the Superintendent and the Deputy Superintendent. He was interviewed by the Chief of Residential Care Division on 4th June, 1973. Mr. Greenham has not witnessed any of the alleged ill-treatment although he saw one girl with a black eye. This is a girl named OO whose present whereabouts are unknown. Another girl, QE told him she had been hit by Mr. Gilford and this girl has made a statement. Mr. Greenham said however that he had been informed of allegations by Mr. F. Valentine, Relieving Deputy Superintendent, and OO Psychologist, who visits Parramatta.

Mr. Valentine was interviewed also. He witnessed one incident when Mr. Gilford struck a girl two years ago, on 22nd March, 1971. This girl is named as QP Mr. Valentine claims that he spoke to both the Superintendent and Mr. Greenham concerning this. He has made a statement in which he mentions alleged assault on other girls.

OO was seen by the Chief of Residential Care Division. She has no first hand knowledge of ill-treatment and has not been a witness of any incidents but says in her work she has been told of numerous cases of hitting by the Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent by alleged victims and other girls. She has given several names and statements have been provided by these girls.

Apart from the incident witnessed by Mr. Valentine the only other eye witness account is given by a QD a former inmate, in respect of a girl QC who has also made a statement. QC makes reference to having been "bashed" twice at Parramatta. QD in her statement, says that she thinks this was about four months after she went to Parramatta on 17th June, 1971. In regard to one of these incidents the Instructor in charge of the girls has stated verbally she does not remember the particular incident.

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Attached are statements from girls mentioned in the various allegations and also from girls who have seen incidents. There is also a short statement from RG [REDACTED], an employee, in regard to one incident.

As the reports made by the Chief of Residential Care Division and the statements by the three officers mentioned above indicate only one incident has actually been witnessed by an officer of the Department. The other incident which was actually witnessed was seen by a former inmate. These are stated to have occurred in 1971.

There is no eye witness account in respect of any recent event, but the statements made give a pattern of similar allegations by girls over a period. These allegations have come to three relatively senior officers of the Department and there is a resemblance between the information received by each of these officers.

There is a reference in Mr. Valentine's statement to Mr. Gilford's use of the term "applied psychology". This is taken to mean physical chastisement, although it is not stated that Mr. Gilford defined this term himself as meaning the use of force.

The question arises as to why these matters have not been brought to notice earlier. In this regard OO [REDACTED] states that "it appeared that this was an accepted practice at the Training School and well known".

On the basis of what is considered to be strong circumstantial evidence that Mr. Gilford did assault a number of girls the matter is referred to the Board together with statements and reports of the allegations as they have been obtained.

Mr. Gilford has been employed in the Department since 7th February, 1949, when he commenced as an Instructor at Mt. Penang. He was Deputy Superintendent at Parramatta from March 1962 until March 1966, when he transferred to Manager, Minda. At his own request he returned to his position at Parramatta on 13th April, 1967 and has remained there since.

As at 13th June, 1973, Mr. Gilford had accrued 85½ days recreation leave and nine months five days extended leave.

It is recommended that the Board initiate an enquiry under Section 58, Public Service Act, 1902 (as amended), into the allegations of ill-treatment of inmates of the Girls' Training School, Parramatta made against the Deputy Superintendent, Mr. G. Gilford.

R  
W. C. LANGSHAW,  
Under Secretary.

<u>Date of Birth:</u>	1.7.22
<u>First appointed:</u>	7.2.49
<u>Salary:</u>	\$8601 + 318 + 200
<u>Effective date:</u>	25.8.72
<u>Permanent</u>	
<u>Serial No.:</u>	4915130