



## Knox Grammar School

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Statement tendered in connection with the risk assessment of the external investigator in the matter of the complaint against Mr, Adrian Nisbett late 2003.

" In 1986 I was on exchange from Knox Grammar School, teaching English and doing duties in Meadhurst Boarding House at Uppingham School, Rutland UK, a situation which mirrored my teaching and boarding duties at Knox [ I was a non-resident boarding master in Ewan House, a boarding house for students in years 11 and 12]. Mr. Nisbett was Boarding Housemaster of Ewan house, a position he had held for some time.

During 1986-I am not sure of the exact timing- I received letters from Knox, informing me of an incident which had transpired in Ewan House. One letter was from Dr. Paterson, Headmaster of Knox, and the other from a staff member whose name I do not recall. I also do not recall the extent to which the information came from each letter, though I do remember that both letters referred to the incident.

The information suggested that an incident had occurred in Ewan House, involving Mr. Nisbett and a student. The letter/s suggested that the incident occurred in, or was connected to, the dark room where one or other or both were developing photographs. The student, I was told, was disturbed by the behaviour of Mr. Nisbett, feeling it entirely inappropriate and sexual in intent. I do not know any precise details of what occurred. // X

I was subsequently informed that, as a result, Mr. Nisbett was removed from the Boarding House, and that the School decided that from that point on, only married persons would be Boarding House Masters, though single persons remained as Resident and non-Resident Masters. I received no information as to any discussions between Mr. Nisbett and the School, or between the student involved and the School. I was subsequently informed that Mr. Nisbett sought employment outside the School, but did not take up any position, remaining at the School.

That is the extent of my knowledge."

Martin Gooding  
22 January 2004

28 January 2004

**FILE NOTE**

**Discussion with Michael Probert – 27.1.2004**



1. Michael Probert is the current Purchasing Office for Knox Grammar School
2. Amongst other things of a nature similar to those raised in this file note, we discussed Adrian Nisbett and behavioural issues that might give rise to concern.
3. Michael recalls an incident in Ewan House that related to a boy named ARO
4. ARO Co-incidentally ARO was in Michael's year at school.
5. When Michael left school, after a time, he came to work at Knox as a Boarding House Resident Master.
6. During his time in the Boarding House and part of the period of employment of the then General Duties Master, Stuart Pearson, Michael became a confidant of Pearson. In fact, Michael actually worked for Pearson for several hours a week.
7. Pearson became "very interested" in the Boarding House "murmurings" relating to Nisbett.
8. Pearson was an ex policeman and had been discharged on medical grounds.
9. Pearson took it upon himself to investigate Nisbett. He was able to gain Nisbett's confidence and in fact minded his flat on occasion when Nisbett was away from Knox.
10. During the periods of "flat minding" he dismantled filing cabinets in his search for incriminating evidence on Nisbett.
11. At the end of his investigation he wrote a report on the matter. Michael Probert believes (perhaps understands) that the then Headmaster, Ian Paterson, instructed Pearson to proceed no further in his pursuit of Nisbett as Nisbett was a friend and valued employee.
12. Michael has informed me that Pearson lives in REDACTED
13. Michael has also informed me that Nisbett was removed from Ewan Boarding House and given a fresh set of duties at or about the time of the alleged incident.
14. Some time later Nisbett became a House Master in Kooyong House and "murmurings" in relation to his behaviour there also surfaced.

*John Cameron*  
28/1/2004.