

## File Note

**File reference:** Adrian Nesbitt (C/2003/8367)

**Meeting with:** John Weekes – Principal, Knox Grammar  
Grahame Wilson – AIS  
Anne Barwick – Assistant Ombudsman  
Dylan Thompsett – Senior Investigation Officer

**Date:** 12 February 2007

Mr Weekes provided an overview of the initial allegations: Adrian Nesbitt was employed as the head of pastoral care at the time. He was an old boy of the school and had been there for over 20 years, including a period of time when he was head of boarding. The allegations were that Mr Nesbitt had taken a student, ASA to his home, provided him with cigarettes and alcohol and hugged him. The allegation initially arose from ASA mother. She stated that the family were going through a difficult time and ASA was about to leave Knox to go to another school. Mr Nesbitt offered to take ASA but and talk to him ASA's mother agreed to this and Mr Nesbitt collected ASA. When ASA returned home he stated to his mother, "How dare you send me out with a homosexual". He would not say anything more ASA later moved to live with his father and during this time (November 03), disclosed that Mr Nesbitt had offered him cigarettes, alcohol and hugged him. This information was relayed to the school and Grahame Wilson conducted an investigation into the matter (C/2003/8367). At the time there was a lot of rumour about Mr Nesbitt, and allegations that he was a paedophile. Grahame interviewed the previous headmaster, who said that he had moved Mr Nesbitt from his position of boarding supervisor because of these rumours and apparently a previous investigation had been conducted. However, the report into those rumours is missing and cannot be located. Grahame did interview an ex-student who disclosed that Mr Nesbitt had rubbed his elbow against his groin whilst in the school darkroom. At the time ASA refused to be interviewed or have anything to do with the investigation. Mr Nesbitt admitted that he had taken ASA out on that evening, but denied any inappropriate behaviour. The school made a finding of 'not sustained' and reported the matter to CCYP as a category one notification. Mr Nesbitt apparently accepted the schools decision and resigned from his position.

Mrs REDA called Mr Weekes in November 2006 and requested a meeting. She provided information that ASA had completed his HSC and moved to live with his grandparents near Brisbane. He is now 21 year old. Mrs REDA spoke of feelings of guilt about what had occurred, but could not provide any further details. She advised that ASA was returning to Sydney for Christmas. Mr Weekes offered to meet with him, should he wish to do so. Mrs REDA spoke about compensation from the school and was advised to pursue the appropriate channels if she wished to seek compensation.

*in all over*  
*not as a result of the ASA investigation, as a result of the second hit back at substantial allegation*  
*80*  
*SEP*  
*21/5/10*

ATL also contacted the school some time later, saying that his ex-wife would not get over the allegations. He also spoke about compensation for the four years of schooling at Knox and was advised to seek legal advice, should he wish to pursue this.

In January ASA called Mr Weekes and requested an appointment. During the interview, ASA provided significant details of the alleged incident. He described that on his last day of school

at Knox he was very emotional. His bag went missing late that afternoon (approx 5:30/6:00pm) ASA suspected his friends had taken it and was searching, when Mr Nesbitt approached him and advised that he had some bags in his office. When they went to look, one of the bags was ASA. They then had a conversation, during which Mr Nesbitt made comments such as "your father deserted you and I am here to support you". He suggested that they go and 'chill out'. Mr Nesbitt then contacted ASA mother and sought her permission to take ASA out, which she granted. They then went to ASA house and ASA said to his mother that he did not want to go. However, his mother convinced him to go with Mr Nesbitt who had said they would go to a restaurant for dinner. However, when they got into the car, Mr Nesbitt said that he had just realised no restaurants would be open in the area (as it was a Monday) and suggested they go back to his house. They then drove some distance to Mr Nesbitt's apartment. When they arrived, Mr Nesbitt offered ASA cigarette, which he refused. He also offered him beer ASA had two beers and remembers that he had not eaten during that day and was affected by alcohol. Whilst sitting on the couch, Mr Nesbitt placed his hands on ASA whilst they were talking and then put his hands down his ASA trousers. ASA stated that he does not know how it happened, but Mr Nesbitt performed oral sex on him before requesting that ASA do the same to him. At this point ASA stated that he knew this was wrong and said 'just leave me alone, I want to go home'. Mr Nesbitt then drove him home. During the interview ASA said, "it was as though my DNA kicked in"

At the end of this disclosure ASA stated that he does not want anyone to know about this. Mr Weekes spoke about that there may be other victims and this may occur to someone else. ASA was aware of this, but stated that he could not tell anyone else about this.

Mr Weekes advised that he is aware that Mr Nesbitt, who is now approximately 55 years old, is now photographing cheetahs in Africa and spends a lot of time travelling between Australia and Africa. There was general discussion about the concern that he may be accessing vulnerable children through this work. Mr Weekes spoke about there possibly being a pattern of behaviour with Mr Nesbitt whilst he was at the school and that there is information that Mr Nesbitt 'surrounded himself' with a particular type of student, sporty, blonde hair, blue eyes... Although there is a lot of rumour, there is no actual evidence of any other victims.

We discussed options available:

1. Take the information to the police, with victims permission
2. Go to the police and provide details of the allegations, and do not name the victim.
3. Referral to Child Protection and sex crimes squad.

It was agreed that Mr Wilson would make contact with Beth Cullen from the child protection and sex crimes squad and make a decision about where to go from there. Also, Mr Weekes to discuss the possible issues of compensation with the Uniting Church. Anne Barwick reinforced that Mr Weekes had done the right thing in his conversations with AS and this was positive. It was noted that there may be more to ASA disclosure to come and also that other students may come forward to make disclosures. Mr Weekes advised he was aware of this possibility.

Dylan Thompsett  
Senior Investigation Officer