

- please file Gold Coast Family Support Group

GC BS.

RECEIVED
29 SEP 1999

26 JUL 1999

Mr B and Mrs M Welch
 REDACTED

Dear Mr and Mrs Welch

Thank you for your letter of 28 March 1999 regarding your daughter. I understand that the concerns raised are very serious and I can appreciate that this has been a very difficult time for your family. My sincere apologies for the delay in responding to you.

I am advised by departmental officers that the alleged incident occurred in April 1995 and you reported the matter to police April 1998. As the matter is now in the hands of the Juvenile Aid Bureau, any further action in this regard must appropriately rest with the police.

I am aware that my departmental officers met with representatives from Gold Coast Family Support Group on 27 April 1999. I appreciate that there are differing recollections of what occurred at the time and I am very sorry that this is causing concern for you.

I would like to assure you that my Department considers these matters seriously and, as referred to in your letter, the Disability Program is working on a discussion paper in relation to preventing and responding to abuse and neglect in the government and non-government sectors. Consultations are being held throughout the State during June and July.

I understand that you are working closely with staff from my Department to explore support options for your daughter.

I also understand that Paul Cantrall of the Disability Program has been in contact and has arranged a time to meet with you.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention.

Yours sincerely

SIGNED BY MINISTER

RECEIVED
 DEPT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
 ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER AFFAIRS
 BRISBANE REGIONAL OFFICE

Anna Bligh MLA
 Minister for Families Youth and Community Care
 Minister for Disability Services