

December 15, 1997

Dear Mr. Decampo,

I am writing to you as the Chief Executive Officer of the Royal Children's Hospital. I apologize for contacting you via e-mail particularly over what is a sensitive matter that I imagine you would prefer not to hear about. However, I am living overseas and if I was to write a letter it is unlikely to reach you for a few weeks and would probably go via a secretary or may even "become lost" in the system. Moreover, it has taken me 16 years to actually contact the RCH about this matter.

I will be in Melbourne from December 20 until January 20, 1998 visiting family and on business. During this time I would like to meet with you or another senior director of the RCH.

The matter relates to my stay in the RCH in 1981 at the age of 13. I was hospitalized for chronic asthma for a period of about 5-6 months and spent most of the time on the 8th floor in the East wing. During this time, in spite of huge quantities of medication my asthma became worse and as the months passed I was expected to regularly visit the hospital's psychiatric ward. For years later I left I blocked out the time I spent in hospital and refused to discuss it, mainly because of the unpleasant experiences I encountered which undoubtedly made my condition worse and moreover I understand led to speculation or conclusions that I was mentally unbalanced. Without going into anymore detail at the moment, the purpose of this message is to ask for your assistance and support in with dealing with what happened 16 years ago and has effectively haunted me ever since.

While I was staying at the RCH I was sexually molested almost from the time I was admitted until the time I contracted the golden staff infection (spelling?) and was sent to isolation in another ward. I was not the only female patient this happened to, I clearly recall, [AWM] who was also hospitalized for a long period of time and has probably died now from cystic fibrosis, telling me that she hated the man or molester and hinting that the same thing was happening to her and that she hated being made visit the playroom with him by herself. With the small amount that I can recall about him, I would appreciate it if you could commission an investigation to find out if he is still working with children or even to let me know if someone else has ever pressed charges against him. My intention is not to press charges or even make this public. It is simply for my own peace of mind and to know that I have done something to at least try and ensure that he is no longer working with children.

His name is Harry, at the time he had a beard and used to frequent the ward with another man called [AWK] I presume [AWK] was [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. In the afternoons when the younger children were sleeping and on the days I was well enough I was usually expected or sent to the playroom which was often empty during these times. Harry was inevitably there and his "volunteer work" involved playing or entertaining the patients - or sitting them on his knee and fondling them. I can recall hating the playroom and often hiding in the fire escape or "pan" room in the afternoons to avoid Harry. In the evenings we would sometimes be encouraged/forced to go to another ward and

participate in games with young people who came as volunteers to entertain us. Again Harry would come back and I can remember getting into awful trouble because I went missing and hid in a cupboard on the floor. No wonder the hospital eventually decided that the asthma partly related to my mental health.

I battled with asthma all through my teens and eventually discovered that it was largely the result of food allergies. Today, I still occasionally get asthma and always carry medication. Apart from the fact that until I was in my mid-20s I found it difficult to be intimate with men and in spite of the many years of illness I had to battle during my teens, I consider myself to be relatively "normal" (however one may define "normal"). I have a Masters degree, have held numerous scholarships including receiving government grants for academic work, am bilingual English/Japanese and have had my own company in Japan for nearly 2 years now. Financially successful and able to have a very healthy intimate relationship with my boyfriend, I am more than happy and the purpose of this letter is by no means to cause trouble or with the intention to seek financial compensation or anything.

I therefore hope you will treat this matter with the degree of seriousness I believe it deserves. I can only trust that you will respect my confidence and FIND this man and ensure that he is no longer working with children/adolescents. I imagine pressing charges would be difficult given the time that has passed and I'm embarrassed to say that I am not in a position to feel that I would be able to take this matter that far. He has already perturbed me for enough years without having him interrupt any more. I have no intention of communicating "my story" to be the media, although I'm sure the women's magazines would love it. This is not the sort of advertising or publicity my career or I need.

Please contact me via e-mail to let me know your thoughts on the above and if and when you would be prepared to meet me during my visit to Melbourne. It does not have to be a formal meeting, just simply an opportunity for you to confirm what I have said and/or ask me a few questions which may assist you understand what I went through as a patient in the Royal Children's Hospital in 1981 and to take the necessary steps to ensure that this is not and will not happen to another patient. Another small piece of information that may be of use is that the "play specialist" who worked there at the time as called "Pat" and a senior nurse "Sister Lawrence" worked on the ward.

Again I apologize for sending this via e-mail, but if I write a letter I may not even send it. I have tried to write and send them over the years. If I was confident about the security of e-mail transmission I would be happy to forward my full name. Instead I am giving you my contact phone number and if you chose to call I will be happy to inform you.

Yours sincerely,

AWI

REDACTED