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**The Scout Association of Australia**  
**New South Wales Branch**  
**Hunter and Coastal Region**

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17th April 1997

Mr A. Hoitink  
 Group Leader  
 RE Stockton Scout Group  
 REDACTED

Dear Armand

I have received your letter regarding Mr Steve Larkins.

It is certainly a very disturbing letter and I can appreciate the concerns of both yourself and the parents in the Stockton township. Your approach to contact the Police before you could contact Region was the best thing to do. We cannot afford to wait in situations like this.

The approach made by Mr Larkins is definitely not the way we should try and recruit our new youth members. I received a phone call from Des Hocking the day before I got your letter and I arranged for Peter Elliott our Regional Commissioner Youth Program to conduct an immediate inquiry into the matter. Mr Larkins has been interviewed and the inquiry team believe that there was no intent of wrong doing but the incident resulted from an extreme immaturity on the behalf of Mr Larkins.

You will probably comment that as Mr Larkins has been on Peter's team for a number of years that this is a white wash and nothing will come out of the inquiry. I deliberately used Peter because he is aware of some of the background of the previous problems and was able to interview Mr Larkins with the background of these problems in mind.

The results of this inquiry is that I have given Mr Larkins an official written warning that will be attached to his record. Any further problems and he will be immediately resigned. I have also removed him from regular face to face contact with youth members. The only time he should be near any youth members will be at well supervised Regional events. He will be reporting directly to Peter Elliott and will be working in the field of computer liaison. If he does approach any youth members I want to know about it as soon as possible and action will be taken. I have taken this step of an official warning because there does not appear to be any documentary evidence of other problems. Now that we have an official warning notice, there are no further chances.

I will be happy to discuss this matter with you at any time.

Yours in Scouting

*Allan Currie*

Allan Currie  
 REGIONAL COMMISSIONER

Copy to: Peter Elliott and Des Hocking