

"A"

Steve Larkins
POBox 117
Mayfield, NSW 2304

Tuesday, 10 February 2004

Helen Priestley
Acting Manager
Screening Unit
NSW Department of Community Services

Dear Helen,

I wish to seek a review of the Level of Risk that the screening unit placed on me following a recent application for a Working With Children Check:

I received a "Medium" level of clearance, which I believe need to be adjusted for the following reasons.

The concerns were raised when a check was sought from NSW Police and they returned that there was a history on a person named Steven Larkins. The police stated that there was a charge and a court appearance.

I followed this matter through with Jan, from your unit as I am not the person who has this record. I have never been charged or appeared in court on these charges.

I spoke with Sergeant Denham from Newcastle Police and after long conversations and his investigations; Sgt Denham is also convinced the person on record is not me.

This was then followed up with calls to the Criminal Records Section and the Probity Unit of the NSW Police. Sgt Denham had sent off his information and a request for my name to be cleared from the system. However the response from the CRS was that they need definite evidence such as fingerprints to clear the record.

Unfortunately there is no such evidence available to clear me. There were no fingerprints taken of the person who was charged or appeared in court. This also means there is no such evidence to say it was me either.

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For these reasons my name can not be cleared entirely from the Criminal Records Section. It seems that there have been some changes as the Indication from the CRS was that there is no actual Criminal Record against my name but there seems to be an "Event" recorded which cannot be altered without evidence like finger prints.

It was extremely easy for any person to use my name and date of birth as I had a lot of personal information displayed for a number of years on a personal Internet Website. So it would have been extremely easy for someone to pose as me. This has been rectified as I now no longer have this information displayed.

When I commenced work here in November 2000, the Department of Community Services carried out a Criminal Records Check and nothing was noted on my record at that stage. This I also found confusing when the current situation occurred as the alleged charge and court dates were in 1999. The other point of interest is that at that stage in 1999 I was employed by Yirara College in Alice Springs as a Boarding House Parent. So I was not even in NSW when this other person was charged and appeared in court.

In 2001 I completed a Graduate Diploma in Social Welfare and In 2002 a Certificate in Community Management. I have attained a number of certificates from training courses run by ACWA. I have also been a trainer in welfare for ACWA/CCWT since 2002.

I have sat on a number of State Peak Bodies, such as the Aboriginal Child Family and Community Care State Secretariat; I currently sit as a co-opted member of the ACWA board. I have held meetings with both the current and previous Ministers as well as the current and previous Directors General of the Department of Community Services.

I realise that unless my name is cleared completely I can only receive an assessment of Risk in a Working With Children's Check and I will continue to seek the clearance of my name. However I ask that you review the current level based on the information that is at hand.

Yours truly,



Steve Larkins