

Caringbah Major Incident

YMCA Staff Communications

23rd February 2013

RE: Ongoing support for staff post-sentencing

Dear Michelle,

I am writing to express my sincere thanks and to personally acknowledge all your hard work, perseverance and support for the YMCA over what has been a very challenging 15 months for our organisation.

As you are aware, a former YMCA employee, Jonathan Lord, was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment, with a non-parole period of six years, last month after pleading guilty in August 2012 to a range of charges involving the indecent assault of young boys. The charges were first laid in October 2011.

During the lengthy investigation and court proceedings our entire OSHC community, including staff, had no option but to wait for an outcome, which proved to be a very difficult time for many.

In light of this, I wanted to take this time to at once acknowledge any personal challenges you may have encountered as a result of this incident and applaud the way in which you continued to carry out your day-to-day responsibilities and provide a high quality of care to our children and families throughout this time.

While providing some sense of closure, the outcome of January's sentencing – as well as the entire investigation period and court proceedings – will no doubt have affected everyone in a different way.

Please be aware that support is available now, as it always has been, if you feel it would be of benefit. Whether this support is in the form of a phone call or a personal visit from myself or someone in our management team, or external counselling through the Y's Employee Assistance Program (EAP), we want you to know that our doors are always open should you ever need to talk.



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I am currently in conversation with Craig Hemsworth, who visited the team late last year to conduct a group debrief, to arrange another time for him to come and speak to staff. The purpose of his visit would be to once again spend time with the team and to assist with any questions or concerns you may have.

One again, I thank you for your continued commitment and dedication to the Y and to the children and families of the Sutherland Shire region.

Regards,

Anne-Mary Nolan

Operations Manager

Children's Services

Email: [REDACTED]

