

" E " This is attachment " E " to the statement of

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27th October 2011

The Honourable Mark Speakman SC

Member for Cronulla
Member of the Legislative Assembly
Shops 3 and 3A
347-357 Port Hacking Road South
CARINGBAH NSW 2229

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Dear Mr Speakman,

RE: CHILDCARE WORKER CHARGED WITH AGGRAVATED INDECENT ASSAULT CHARGES IN CARINGBAH

You may be aware of the recent child care worker who was stood down from their position as a childcare worker last month and has subsequently been charged with 11 counts of aggravated indecent assault with their being 5 victims in these matters, all being children.

I am concerned as a parent of a child who was in the care of this POI and for those families in the wider community generally. I have made contact with you to raise my concerns about how YMCA is managing this situation and my concern that there may be families in the area who have been affected by this POI without being informed or given the appropriate support.

My concerns about YMCA's handling of this matter are based on the following:

- Some parents were contacted by email to inform them of the allegations on 13th October 2011. It is my understanding that some parent were not informed at all. I received a letter from YMCA on the 27th October, which referred to a letter dated 24th October, which I am yet to receive.
- Our school has taken no action, nor given any information as yet to parents. However, I have spoken to our principal and understand something may be sent to parents shortly (almost 3 weeks later).
- I don't feel that there has been a transparent process in place. When I approached a staff member on 3 occasions, before I could ask a question or make a statement this person told me repeatedly 'I know nothing, I can't tell you anything because I don't know anything.' When I first attempted to call Caringbah YMCA to cancel my son's attendance and to explain why, I was told they couldn't talk to me about it. I have subsequently been able to speak to Liam Whitley about this.

- I have spoken with a staff member who was of the impression that she couldn't speak with police as she had signed a confidentiality agreement.
- A very small article in the Leader which gave parents some information about the specific schools and centres where this person worked omitted to provide information that the POI ran the crèche with another worker every Monday at the YMCA gym, held a movie night or nights for school children (who both attended YMCA and those who had no contact with YMCA) and provided babysitting services for families.
- It is my understanding that there were staff members who never received child protection training during their time at YMCA
- It was usual procedure for the POI to drive children in the YMCA car or YMCA minibus without another worker being present. Liam Whitley (General Manager Children's services) informed me that this was acceptable. It is my understanding that the POI opened a centre early on a regular basis so that a parent could drop her child off early in order to get to work on time. It is my understanding that it was usual practice for the worker to leave a centre (with one worker caring for the children) whilst the POI drove the YMCA bus around the area to pick up children. It is my understanding on one occasion, he took one of the children with him and the two of them were alone on the bus run. It is my understanding this parent made a complaint to the school and/or YMCA. It is my understanding that the worker continued to pick up children in the YMCA bus after this.
- The POI had their laptop at work with them. I understand the POI also had their mobile phone at work.

As a member of our community, I feel that there needs to be an appropriate community response to this matter. I would greatly appreciate your guidance as to how we ought to proceed from here in order that families get the information and support that they are entitled to. Thank you for taking the time to meet with me today.

Kind Regards,

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