

"K" This is attachment "K"
to the statement of
AT

LAGUNA STREET PUBLIC SCHOOL

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Pursuing Excellence in a Hidden Sanctuary

AT



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Dear AT

Thank you for your letter identifying your concerns about recent events involving child protection matters in the community.

The issues raised primarily relate to the program administered by the care organisation, however I will respond to the following concerns:

1. "child protection is the collective responsibility of the whole of government and the community" and that, following contact with the Employee Performance and Conduct Unit (EPAC) of the NSW Department of Education and Communities you were "informed that they could not take any action as the POI did not come under the umbrella of a departmental employee".

In response, the organisation running the programs undertakes the processes and checks for employing the staff. However, in recognition of the questions you raise, and the experience you have had with EPAC, I will forward the matter to the Department of Education and Communities officers for further assessment.

2. "Our schools took no action until almost three weeks after parents were informed of the allegations".

As you know, all schools involved have been monitoring the well-being of their students after being informed of the allegations. School Counsellors have been alerted to this and made themselves available to support students who appear to exhibit behaviours of concern. The parents who were notified by the organisation running the care programs, were supported by their Principals when they have raised their concerns. Further initial action was not undertaken on the advice of Joint Investigation Response Team so as not to compromise the police operation. However, as you note, a meeting with a co-ordinated presentation from Police and NSW Student Services was held to address Child Protection matters in a way that was deemed appropriate. That information was also made available in print form.

Distressing events always prompt an evaluation of our systems and processes here at the school and at other levels of the organisation, so we very much appreciate your comments.

Yours sincerely,

R.J. Tant
Principal

21 November 2011