

"2" This is attachment '2' to the statement of AT



Search email

Continued concerns about YMCA Childcare Services

AT

Folders

- Inbox 260
- Junk 23
- Drafts 47
- Sent
- Deleted
- Contacts
- Misc
- Photographs 1
- Thingies
- New folder

 **AT** 10/05/2012 Documents
 To: electorateoffice.cronulla@parliament.nsw.gov.au
 Cc: [Redacted]

1 attachment (22.1 KB)

Outlook Active View

 Facebook Sign up

 Twitter Connect

Already on Facebook?

SPEAKMAN090512.



Download as zip

Dear Mr Speakman please find attached letter dated 10th May 2012.

Kind Regards,
AT and AW

Quick views

- Documents 21
- Flagged 6
- Photos 19
- New category

26th April 2012

**Mr Mark Speakman,
Office of Mark Speakman SC MP
Member for Cronulla,
Shop 3, 347-357 Port Hacking Road,
Caringbah, NSW 2229
PO Box 1006, Caringbah NSW 1495**

AT

[REDACTED]

RE: COMPLAINT ABOUT YMCA

Dear Mr Speakman,

As you will recall, AW and myself met with your assistant Mark Egelstaff and yourself last year in relation to our concerns about the OOSH childcare service provided by YMCA Caringbah. Primarily we were concerned that an alleged paedophile was able to work in the direct provision of care of children for over two years without coming to the notice of the authorities nor did anyone within YMCA come forward during this time.

The Parent Forum invited you to attend our parent meeting held on the 24th November 2011. In correspondence from your office dated Tuesday 22nd November your office manager stated you would not be able to attend the parent meeting as 'it is the final sitting week of the year, it is very likely that Mark will still be in parliament at the time of the forum.' Subsequently we asked Mark Egelstaff, your Office Manager to attend on your behalf. Mr. Egelstaff also declined to attend citing the reason as follows: 'I can't make it on Thursday night-my girlfriend is arriving back from being away for work and I will be killed if I'm not at the airport to meet her. Sorry.'

The parent Forum had hoped that we would have the support of our local member given the importance of child protection in our local community. However, you did offer to meet with YMCA if we provided a list of concerns to you in writing. Originally we indicated that we would provide you with this list. However, subsequently, the CEO of YMCA, Mr. Hare, attended the parent forum. During the parent forum, Ms Sue Stewart-Watt presented each concern. Mr. Hare took notes during the presentation and spoke with AW and myself following the meeting. Mr. Hare indicated that he would make changes and implement best practice in childcare at YMCA. Mr. Hare also indicated that he would be hiring a childcare expert to bring their childcare service up to a level where it would meet the National Quality Framework that was commencing on 1st January 2012.

On the 2nd of December 2011, Mr. Hare sent a text message to AW and myself in which he stated:

I will work with our Childcare team to try and address each specific issue. Based on the items we can both implement some actions immediately and respond to you and the parent forum on other items that will be more challenging.

It has come to the attention of the parent forum that the YMCA is still operating at below best practice. Please see a copy of our most recent letter to Mr. Hare dated 30th April 2012, at the end of this letter, for further details in this respect.

IN SUMMARY:

AW and myself hold the same concerns we held when we first met with you. It appears that YMCA is still adopting practices and policies that enable children to be one on one with a worker. It appears that they are accountable to no-one with respect to whether an external audit is or has been undertaken and whether those results are being made available to parents as promised by YMCA. If YMCA is not taking responsibility for this, then someone in the government needs to. Mr. Speakman, given that so many children in our community in the Sutherland Shire, attend YMCA childcare services, We urge you to act to ensure YMCA are accountable and are operating at best practice to ensure the safety of our children. And if YMCA are not able to provide a childcare service that operates at best practice, I urge you to take action to ensure they are dealt with appropriately by the authorities.

As a community we all have a role in contributing to ensure the safety of our children and minimize the risk of child sexual assault. As parents, the BASC Parent Forum is urging you, as our local member, to act now. It is in the public interest that the government ensure that an external audit is carried out on this organization.

We look forward to receiving your response and your prompt action in this very serious matter. As always we are happy to discuss our concerns further with you.

Yours Sincerely,

AT
For and on behalf of AW and the BASC Parent Forum