

" A1 "

This is Exhibit " A1 " to the Statement of  
AW

Dated: 4 October 2011

The Principal

Our Lady of Fatima Primary School

Caringbah

10 December 2011

Dear Mr Davison,

I want to share with you some knowledge that I have with regard to your comments directed to me in your office on the afternoon of 18<sup>th</sup> November 2011 when you explained to me that the Catholic Education Office has not allowed you to print details about the Parent Forum Meeting in OLF newsletter.

You stated that "there is nothing you can do to ensure that this does not happen again"(referring to child sex abuse) and "that talking to your children about child protection is as simple as pointing to their private parts in the bath and giving them a proper name. I did not respond at the time to these statements because I did not believe that a principal of a school in this modern year of 2011 should seriously believe such statements and later i realized that if they did believe that this critical issue of child abuse could be dismissed in such a way then they do not have the necessary knowledge to believe any different.

I say this because any leader of a school would share the belief that education is the key to empowerment of potential child sex abuse victims, and the key to the prevention of child sex abuse, just as education is the key to any serious issue in society. To be aware of the circumstances of child sex abuse, to be aware of the signs of sex abuse, for a child to know how to respond in an inappropriate situation with an adult, for a parent to know how to teach protective behaviour skills or to know about who else could teach their child this important information and to know what the legal rights of a child and their family are when child sex abuse happens and to have information and access to all important resources such as counselling etc is vitally important in helping to minimise child sex abuse and its long lasting debilitating effects . A very recent example of this is the fact that a child was able to fight off an attacker after being instructed how to do so at a workshop delivered by child advocates acting as a result from the Daniel Morcombe's case.

The very nature of paedophilia thrives on society's reluctance to openly deal with it and the fact that the paedophile works to shame and frighten their child victims into not reporting them because no one will believe them etc. So this is how this problem of child sex abuse perpetuates. "Evil happens when good people do nothing" Just because you may not be able to eradicate it totally doesn't mean that no one should try and that other people should discourage them from trying. Our Parent Forum is an attempt to provide this education and to examine the policies of OSHC centres with regard to child protection and to ask that procedures be improved.

The parent forum was conducted with integrity, with the best wishes from Detective Inspector Anthony Holton Manager of Joint Investigation Response Squad . We assured him that we would only discuss practices and we successfully did this. In attendance on the night was the chief executive officer <sup>Philip</sup> Peter Hare, and there were two associated primary school principals who were also in attendance at the OSHC centre Parent Information evening on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November which I also attended. They would be a good reference to gain an unbiased view of what our concerns as parents are about OSHC. Present at the meeting we had a children's services expert with (20+ years experience )who is directly involved with implementing , teaching, and inspecting OSHC policies and best practices at a NSW government department level) She examined what our concerns were and she gave an interesting , unbiased explanation and validation of our concerns about OSHC practices in general. We will/have been forwarding these to FACS and the new regulating body for OSHC beginning 2012. I also enclose a letter to the editor from last Tuesday's Leader. Shelley Ross is the manager of Kogarah Community Services which offers an OSHC program and has no affiliation with the Parent Forum. This also further validates our concerns about OSHC.

Currently, as a parent of a child who attended OSHC four days per week , under your leadership, you have not provided any information evening for parents to address this terrible situation or offered any other assistance. We were not even invited to attend the sessions held for St Aloysius parents or St Patrick's parents. As I have stated in the past, just because there have been no public disclosures by any child at our school does not mean that there are none. There are children who have and will attend vacation care at the OSHC centre these holidays and the parents are unaware that this program may present a risk in terms of child protection.

The statistics are that only 3% of child sex abuse victims disclose and even fewer than this report child sex abuse to the police. So mathematically speaking we might be able to extrapolate that since there are 12 victims who have reported and let us assume that this is only 1% of all possible victims. Statistically speaking this means that it is possible for there to be 120 victims... and this estimate would increase as further charges are laid. As Ted Bramble, the lawyer for Jonathan Lord has stated that his client will be pleading guilty, we are no longer dealing with alleged crimes but real sex crimes against children in our OSHC, schools and community.

This then leads me to another point. It is my understanding that Jonathan Lord was a student at Our Lady Of Fatima School and also De La Salle Caringbah and possibly De La Salle Cronulla. This fact then makes it even more necessary to be offering pastoral support and concern as John Lord is a member of our community and he is known by many families and their children and the victims would also be known by many in our community. This situation has affected parents, brothers, sisters, grandparents, aunts and uncles, friends and concerned members of the whole community. There are potentially more victims out there and his relatives and friends and alleged victims attend our schools.

I am horrified to hear the speculation that is circulating in our community that John Lord was abused himself as a child. One of the rumours is that he may have been the victim of sex abuse by the convicted paedophile who was a De La Salle Brother that was present for a number of years at OLF during his time there. This situation has also brought back memories in the faith community of the convicted paedophile OLF Priest prior to that, The rumours are circulating and journalists are actively seeking information and investigations are being conducted.

What has happened in the past cannot be changed but the direction of the future can be.

Please find enclosed a printed booklet "Paedophile get the hell away from our kids" which is an excellent resource that every parent should have. Please read it to find out more about how education is the key to reducing the incidence of child sex abuse. Perhaps you can refer to the web address in your final newsletter this Friday, your final opportunity to reach the parents before Christmas vacation. The fact that children need minding over the holidays presents lots of opportunities for a paedophile to seek those opportunities to groom and/or attack their unsuspecting vulnerable child victims.

I have contacted several child protection agencies which are willing to offer workshops for parents and children separately on protective behaviours. I would be more than happy to help arrange these at OLF for very early next year.

Our children are our future, they are vulnerable, they need our protection, they need us to be their voice. May you find a way to help our precious children and families to prevent or minimise their needless suffering as the result of child sex abuse.

Wishing you the spirit of joy and peace and God's many blessings this Christmas. May the Holy Spirit guide you in your very important job of leading a school community to act with integrity, fairness and justice for all.

AW