

"A3"

This is Exhibit "A3" to the Statement of  
AW

Hon Prue Goward

12/12/11

Dated: 04 October 2013

AW

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dear Ms Goward,

Re: Letter sent by email on November sex charges against child care worker

I understand that the matter is before the courts.

However, I am/ parents are very concerned about the safety of the children who are still attending the centre.

As a parent of a child who attended one of their centres I observed , or was made aware of procedures by other parents that provide the opportunity for a potential paedophile to access children on their own. It cannot be assumed that there is no further risk from paedophiles now that the suspect Jonathan Luke Lord has been charged and is remanded in custody. To date he has been charged with 19 counts of aggravated indecent assaults and 2 counts of aggravated sexual assault on children who attended the OSHC centres that Lord worked . It may be that no one else at the centre knew about these incidents, or perhaps they were suspicious and did not report them, or enabled him , or participated in some way. It is our concern that there may still be a culture or workers present that present possible harm to the safety and wellbeing of the children. It is hard to believe that staff were not aware what was happening given the number of incidents reported so far and a significant number occurred at OSHC.

Please let myself and other parents know who this organisation is accountable to , being unregulated by Community Services and the fact that the NCAC is not investigating any cases due to the fact that it has ceased operating in preparation for the National Quality Framework and the new regulations coming into effect on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2012 and other organisations stating that they are not responsible because OSHC is unregulated.

What also adds to our concern is the following:

1. The suspect was called into the organisation's office and informed that he had /would be reported to the police for the allegations which some parents had reported to the centre that afternoon. This showed either a disregard for , or lack of knowledge about proper procedures in Child Protection Reporting as well as risk management in terms of Child Protection Procedures.

2. The staff of this organisation were made to sign a confidentiality agreement that did not allow them to speak to anyone about the incident. The staff being young and not knowledgeable about such matters understood this to also mean that they were not to talk to the police. This may hinder the police investigation if people who know information will not come forward as a result of their misguided loyalty to their employer.

At the parent information meeting on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2011, which I attended I asked the following question to the CEO of the OSHC organisation attendance.

"Do you believe you have been transparent in this issue?" He firmly responded that he believed so. I then asked "Why then did you feel it was necessary to make your staff sign a confidentiality agreement and that resulted in some staff believing that they could not talk to the police which may have hindered the police investigations?" At this question, he crumbled and quickly admitted with shame that this was a serious mistake, that they were worried about the legal liability..." This was witnessed by 10 staff and approx 15 parents.

Outside after the meeting he said that he had asked the staff to rip up the agreement "about two weeks ago" This was witnessed by myself and two other parents. In checking one staff member said that they were not told to rip up the agreement.

The following night at the second such meeting I also attended and referred to this which the CEO attempted to deny. I strongly restated what he had admitted at the meeting on Monday and said that the other people present had a right to know about this.

Who is going to communicate to the staff that they have a legal and moral responsibility to tell the police anything they know to assist with the investigation and who is going to communicate this truth to the other parents?

3. It is my understanding that two weeks after the incident was first reported that the staff were also asked to sign an agreement which forced them to report all incidents which needed to be reported to their supervisor and not make independent mandatory reports. This means that staff believe they cannot not exercise their right as mandatory reporters to report directly to FACS.

Who is going to communicate to the staff of this organisation what the correct and legal procedures for mandatory reporting is?

4. At the organisations' parent information meeting on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November which I also attended, I became concerned about the information which they were presenting about how staff completed child protection training. I posed the question about how staff who begin employment after the first and before the second child protection training session each year satisfied their mandatory child protection training requirements. The head of children services stated that "every worker employed has the basic child protection training from previous experience or study" It is my understanding that at present, employed staff may not have this experience or previous study in child protection. This fact then causes concern that not all staff may have had the mandatory child protection training. Not being aware of child protection issues and procedures leave a worker open to being manipulated by a potential paedophile to suit their own agenda. Who is going to check if all staff have the mandatory child protection training?

5. At the same meeting I asked a question after the organisation implied in its presentation that it was "regularly visited by the NCAC" . (National Childcare Accreditation Centre) Knowing this to be false I asked them "when was the last time the NCAC came to inspect their organisation?" They could not answer my question and they deflected the question around to the childrens services manager, the children services co-ordinators. They said they would check and let me know. I then asked them how often the NCAC visited, once or twice a year? They answered "at least once a year" This was misleading as they had the other people in attendance believe that they were accountable to NCAC. The fact is, the only time the NCAC has visited the organisation was in 1994? when it was first registered. The NCAC was not required to inspect the organisation at any other time and it didn't.  
Who is going to communicate the truth to the parents of this OSHC organisation?
6. It is my understanding that reports were previously made to the centre about incidents which may have breached the child protection acts but were not acted upon by the organisation. Who is going to make the organisation accountable for this?
7. It has now been several weeks since i made a report as a mandatory reporter and i have not been notified in writing or otherwise about this report. I have recorded the date, the time, the name of the person I reported to, the exact content of what was reported and the case number. What action is being taken if any?
8. I asked at the Tuesday meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> November, about how the organisation could make a statement that there was always a minimum of two staff supervising when this was clearly not the case – eg bus run and toileting. I asked them how they could justify having only one carer supervising the bus /car run. The ceo responded that it was the practicality (in terms of \$ but not in terms of risk management and safety for the children)
9. Who is going to audit this organisation to determine if their practices were satisfactory or deficient, or contributing to , or enabled this situation to prevent or halt any further abuse which may still be occurring?
10. Will you insist that this organisation is audited by the new regulating body on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of January in 2012 to ensure that it complies with the new legislation? Will you insist that all satellite centres of this OSHC organisation in the Sutherland Shire are regularly and randomly visited throughout 2012 to ensure that child protection procedures are effectively implemented?
11. Who will ensure that no child is ever left alone in the company of just one carer in OSHC? Who will ensure that the new regulations for OSHC will address , police and enforce this critical aspect and other aspects of child protection?
12. The working for children check has not prevented this alleged tragedy. What can be done to strengthen this check for young workers who have not previously offended or who have not yet been reported to prevent this tragedy from occurring again?

13. This issue is also time critical because school holidays are fast approaching and parents will be sending their children to vacation care which is organised at this centre. The procedures for vacation care present significant opportunity for possible access to a child if correct procedures are not being followed. Who is going to ensure the safety of these children?

What procedures are you, as Minister of Family and Community Services, going to put into place to protect the children who currently attend these OSHC centres from suffering abuse or any further abuse by any person that works for this organisation, now or may work for them in the future? What procedures are you going to implement to educate the children, parents and the community about child sex abuse? Education is powerful preventive tool. As was recently reported in the media, a child fought off their attacker after being instructed how to in a workshop the previous week by child advocates on behalf of the Daniel Morcombe case.

"Child Protection is everyone's responsibility" but who is doing anything about this very sad, tragedy that will continue to unfold for a considerable time into the future given the long lasting damaging effects of child sex abuse to the victim, their families and the entire community and society in general?

A minimum of 12 boys, have allegedly been sexually abused, corrupted and traumatised and their families and our whole community is suffering. It is my understanding that other victims and their families have not yet, or will never come forward. The lawyer of the accused Mr Ted Bramble has stated that his client will plead guilty and avoid a trial. This is an admission of guilt. It is no longer alleged guilt.

What will you do to fulfil your responsibility to respond to the above and to help minimise any further possible child sex abuse at this OSHC centre or any OSHC centre?

I look forward to a timely response.

Yours Faithfully

AW

On Behalf of Shire Before and After School Parent Forum ( a voluntary committee of parents and concerned members of the community organised to listen to and address the concerns of parents who have been affected and to help educate parents and children about all matters and resources, support agencies etc concerning child sex abuse )We have encountered strong resistance from the OSHC organisation and from our local schools. However, since we have organised a public meeting about this issue (not concerning the matters before the court)we are in a better position to be regarded as a credible committee that has acted with integrity and have a sincere motivation for and valid concerns for the safety and wellbeing of our children in OSHC. )