



**Non-State Schools
Accreditation Board**

Queensland Government

9 February 2009

Bishop William M Morris DD
The Corporation of the Roman
Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba
PO Box 756
TOOWOOMBA QLD 4350

FILE COPY

Dear Bishop Morris

As you are aware, the responsibilities of the Non-State Schools Accreditation Board ("the Board"), established under the *Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Act 2001* ("the Act"), include:

- (i) monitoring whether the governing body of an accredited non-State school is suitable to continue to be governing body; and
- (ii) monitoring whether accredited schools comply with the accreditation criteria prescribed by the *Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Regulation 2001* ("the Regulation").

The Board has become aware of a current Court case in respect of a primary school under the governance of The Corporation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba ("the Corporation"), of which you are the sole director.

Information about this matter has been contained in various newspaper articles in recent weeks.

The information refers to alleged sexual abuse in 2007 of a student at the school by a staff member of the school ("the Staff Member"), and to other alleged incidents of sexual abuse by the Staff Member in relation to the same student or other students at the school.

The Board requests the Corporation to provide the following information:

1. A copy of the written processes mandated by subsection 10(2) of the Regulation, and further regulated by subsections 10(3) through 10(8) of the Regulation, about the health and safety and appropriate conduct of the school's staff and students ("the Written Processes"), which applied at the school at the time of the alleged sexual abuse in 2007.
2. If the Written Processes have been amended at any time subsequently, a copy of the amended Written Processes, clearly showing the dates on which the amendments took effect.
3. If any student at the school in 2007 or 2008 reported to a staff member any inappropriate behaviour of a staff member, as contemplated by subsection 10(3)(a), details (including the dates on which the reports were made and the identity of the person or persons to whom they were made) of:
 - (i) any such report; and
 - (ii) the action the school staff took in response to those reports and how they implemented the Written Processes.

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4. In respect of the allegations being made about the Staff Member, details (including the dates on which the reports were made and the identity of the person or persons to whom they were made) of:
- (i) any oral or written reports received by you from a staff member of the school about sexual abuse, or suspected sexual abuse, of a student at the school by the Staff Member;
 - (ii) any oral or written reports received by you from a staff member of the school about any harm, or suspected harm, occasioned to a student at the school by the Staff Member;
 - (iii) any oral or written reports received by the principal of the school from a staff member of the school or any other person about sexual abuse, or suspected sexual abuse, of a student at the school by the Staff Member;
 - (iv) any oral or written reports received by the principal of the school from a staff member of the school or any other person about harm, or suspected harm, occasioned to a student at the school by the Staff Member;
 - (v) if there were any reports of sexual abuse, or suspected sexual abuse, in respect of the Staff Member, details about how, when and in what form, the information was given to a police officer, as required by section 366 of the *Education (General Provisions) Act 2006*; and
 - (vi) if there were any reports of harm, or suspected harm, in respect of the Staff Member, details about how, when and in what form, the information was given to a police officer or other relevant State authority, as required by subsections 10(7) and 10(8) of the Regulation.
5. A detailed account of:
- (i) action taken by the school to implement the Written Processes, through 2007 and 2008; and
 - (ii) action taken by the Corporation to ensure that the school properly implemented the Written Processes, through 2007 and 2008.
6. Any other information and documentation the Corporation views as relevant to the Board's consideration of these matters.

The Board requests that the Corporation provide the material at its earliest convenience, but no later than close of business, Tuesday, 17 February 2009.

In responding to the matters raised in this letter, the Board of course is not requesting or requiring you to disclose any information which would identify a student who is the subject of any alleged sexual abuse or harm.

Yours sincerely



Emeritus Professor Roy Webb AO
Chairperson