



**Non-State Schools
Accreditation Board**
Queensland Government

27 February 2009

Sergeant Brent Parker
Officer-in-Charge
Child Protection Investigation Unit
Toowoomba Police
PO Box 144
TOOWOOMBA QLD 4350
By facsimile (07) 4615 3066
Original posted

FILE COPY

Dear Sergeant Parker

I refer to matters arising from alleged events leading to the current Court case in respect of a Catholic primary school in Toowoomba.

The Non-State Schools Accreditation Board (the "**Board**") is an independent statutory body established under the *Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Act 2001* (the "**Act**").

The responsibilities of the Board 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 commenced an investigation into a range of matters which fall within its jurisdiction.

The Board is advised that on 4 February 2009 the Department of Education, Training and the Arts referred for the attention of the Police (*via*. Peter Crawford of QPS) the matter of a possible breach by one or more persons of an offence provision under the *Education (General Provisions) Act 2006*, section 366 (Obligation to report sexual abuse of students under 18 years attending non-State school).

In regard to section 366, the Board's role extends under the Act and the Regulation to whether the school has written processes which comply with the prescribed accreditation criterion, which include a process for reporting sexual abuse, or suspected sexual abuse, in accordance with section 366, and whether those processes are being implemented (see Regulation, section 10).

The Board seeks any information you are able to provide about whether the Police are pursuing any lines of inquiry in relation to a possible breach of section 366 by a staff member of the school, the school's principal, or the director of the Corporation.

If the Police are pursuing a possible breach of section 366, the Board would appreciate receiving any information you are able to disclose about the matter, including an indication of the progress of your enquiries.

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Mr Pat Parsons, Director of the Board's Secretariat, is available to discuss this matter if the need arises. Mr Parsons may be contacted by telephone on (07) 3235 4729.

I am also available if you wish to discuss this matter with me directly. Mr Parsons will be happy to give you my contact details.

Yours sincerely



Emeritus Professor Roy Webb AO
Chairperson