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2 March 2009

Ms Anne Barwick
NSW Assistant Ombudsman
Level 24, 580 George St
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Cc – Bruce Barbour – NSW Ombudsman

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Ms Barwick

I write to you in relation to the recent arrests and subsequent charges laid against the three teachers from Knox Grammar School (KGS) for sexual misconduct/abuse/assault.

By way of background, my name is Adrian Steer, and I am one of the ex students who was sexually assaulted by Adrian Nisbett.

The reason for contacting you is to not only raise concerns over the conduct of KGS, but to also enquire as to the involvement that your office had into the handling of the report from KGS that your office reportedly received in 2004.

On April 29 2004, I was interviewed by Grahame Wilson of Lee, Kelly and Associates of Chatswood, who had been contracted by KGS to investigate a matter involving alleged child abuse. In my interview, I gave a thorough, candid and honest account of my recollections of my times at KGS and the relevant incidents I was involved in. I subsequently received a complete transcript of my interview, but until Wednesday February 25 2009, I had not seen a copy of this transcript for at least 4 years.

As it turns out, the statement I gave to the Police on Thursday February 19 2009 was almost word for word the same as the report I gave in 2004.

As widely reported in the media, KGS sent a copy of the report that they commissioned in 2004, to the Ombudsmen's office in the same year.

Prior to retaining legal counsel, I would appreciate a response to the following queries listed below:

1. If there was enough information in my statement to the police last Thursday February 19 for them to arrest Adrian Nisbett 4 days later, what was missing from the report submitted by KGS in 2004, for the Ombudsman to decide to take no action?

2. In the report that the Ombudsman's office received in 2004 from KGS, was there any supporting documentation included in the report e.g. transcripts of interviews, witness statements etc.
3. Is the Ombudsman's office willing to provide a copy of the report (or parts thereof) to me?
4. If the answer to Question 3 is no, what are the reasons for not providing it.
5. What information regarding the report are you willing to provide?
6. Was the report merely a summary of their findings, or a full and detailed report?
7. In my interview in 2004, I also gave information regarding a second teacher at KGS (who had left the school prior to 2004). Was information regarding this second teacher provided in the report?

As I'm sure you can appreciate, the incidents at KGS have had major ramifications in my life for the past 20-25 years, and this is something that I am now willing to pursue using all channels open to me.

While I would never do anything to jeopardise the ongoing investigation, I am fully prepared to not only seek legal advice, but also the assistance of the media if need be.

In the first instance, could you please confirm receipt of this letter, to my email address

REDACTED, and I would appreciate a response to my questions within 7 days.

If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact me or REDACTED.

Regards

Adrian Steer