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Our reference: C/2012/2731
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Ms Margaret Bowen
 Chief Executive Officer
 The Disability Trust
 PO Box 395
 FAIRYMEADOW NSW 2519

3 May 2012

Attn: Ryan Kiddle, Manager

Dear Ms Bowen

Ombudsman notification concerning Royce Comber (casual after school and vacation care worker)

Thank you for your notification in relation to the above matter, which we received on 13 April 2012 and for the further information Mr Kiddle provided me during our telephone conversation on 18 April 2012. Ms REDACTED also advised on 24 April 2012, that the NSW Police Force (the Police)/Joint Investigation Team (JIRT) have conducted an investigation of these allegations and will not be proceeding with charges in this matter.

Given this situation it is important for The Disability Trust to submit a request for information to the Police and Community Services regarding relevant information they may hold in this matter. I draw your attention to Chapter 16A of the *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act* which allows government agencies and non government organisations who are 'prescribed bodies', to exchange information relating to a child or young person's safety welfare and well being. Templates for your agency's information exchange request may be found at www.keepthemsafe.nsw.gov.au

Mr Kiddle advised that he had spoken to the police about Mr Comber's other employment with Interchange Shoalhaven (given that CIE's mother had contacted the agency) and was advised to provide the agency with relevant information about the matter. I am aware that this occurred.

Given the nature of the allegations, we have decided to monitor The Disability Trust's investigation of this matter pursuant to Section 25E of the *Ombudsman Act 1974* (the Act).

Under Section 25E (3) of the Act, I require the following information:

1. Information that the Police have concluded their investigation and have provided the Disability Trust with clearance to investigate this matter.



2. Copies of any Chapter 16A requests for information to Police and Community Services in this matter, including the outcome of these information requests.
3. Advice as to whether Mr Comber underwent a Working With Children Check prior to his employment with your agency; if so, please provide a copy.
4. Advice as to what child protection and code of conduct information and training Mr Comber has received since commencing his employment with your agency.
5. Copies of any and all further information/ documentation available to The Disability Trust.
6. An update on the status of your investigation.

Please provide the above information by **Friday 1 June 2012**. If the information cannot be provided by that date, I would appreciate an update on the status of the investigation at that time.

If you have any questions about this matter please contact me on **REDACTED**

Yours sincerely

REDACTED

Investigation Officer
for the Ombudsman