

Monday 28th May 2012

Dear **REDACTED**,

**RE: OMBUDSMAN NOTIFICATION CONCERNING ROYCE COMBER – C/2012/2731**

Please see below an update on our investigation regarding the information requested in relation to our notification concerning Royce Comber.

1) Ryan Kiddle contacted Detective Sarah Norris from the Child Protection Unit at Wollongong Police on the 24<sup>th</sup> April 2012 at 1:45pm to discuss the process the JIRT took and the outcome of their investigation. Detective Norris informed me that they had interviewed Royce Comber with his solicitor present, and with legal advice he declined a formal interview.

No charges were made due to the child being unable to attend court. Royce was informed he will still be a Person of Interest in DOCS and Police systems. He was also informed of allegations against him.

Detective Norris stated that the case was now closed, that no further investigation will occur, and was happy for us to proceed with our internal investigation.

2) No requests under Chapter 16A have been made at this time. A letter from the NSW Department of Family & Community Services dated 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2012 was received stating the outcome of their investigation (copy attached).

3) Royce Comber underwent a Working with Children Check prior to commencing employment in 2008 (see attached).

4) Royce completed his Staff Induction with the organisation prior to commencing employment in 2008. This process includes information on relevant policy and procedures regarding:

- Dealing with Abuse & Assault of a Child
- Employee Code of Conduct
- Managing the Disciplinary Process

A copy of Royce's training records are also attached. This does not include his induction date however this was conducted by Ryan Kiddle and Michael Norris, Managers of Sport & Recreation Services on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2008.

5) & 6) Rhonda Conte and Ryan Kiddle interviewed Royce Comber on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2012 (transcript attached). Executive Management of The Disability Trust are still determining the course of action to be taken with Royce as they are seeking

advice regarding an Workers Compensation claim lodged by Royce after the interview. Royce reported a reoccurrence of injury on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May via email.

Due to this we are requesting an extension in completing the Part B Notification form.

If you have any questions I am happy to be contacted during business hours on [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

Yours faithfully,

Ryan Kiddle  
Manager  
Sport & Recreation Services  
The Disability Trust