

REDACTED

From: Margaret Bowen <REDACTED>
Sent: Friday, 15 February 2013 11:40 AM
To: Christy Lewin
Subject: Final Re Ombudsman notification C 2012 2731
Attachments: Final Re Ombudsman notification C 2012 2731.docx

14th February 2013

REDACTED

Investigation Officer
Employment Related Child Protection
NSW Ombudsman
Level 24, 580 George Street, Sydney NSW 2000

RE: Ombudsman notification C/2012/2731

Dear REDACTED

Please find attached the following documents:

- Final Investigative Report for your Records clearly indicating a finding of Unsustained Insufficient Evidence
- A revised Part B
- Letter of advice to Royce Coomer in relation to our finding in this matter.

Please note that The Disability Trust advised The Commission For Children and Young People of a Category 1 notification in relation to this matter. This was sent via Email on the 17th October by our Manager Ryan Kiddle. Yesterday I spoke to Renee at the CCYP who works in the section responsible for Working With Children checks to clarify who I needed to advise of our modified finding of "not sustained – insufficient evidence". In discussion with Renee it seems our Category 1 notification was not processed for reasons that aren't apparent. Renee was able to locate the Email notification but also noted that as it hadn't been processed there was no finding on Royce Comber's records for The Trust to formally seek to withdraw. The advice was that we therefore did not need to take any further action. Unless required we will therefore not send additional advice to the CCYP. Our letter to Royce Comber simply states the outcome of our investigation. We have not mentioned withdrawing a prior finding as he was never previously informed that the case was finalised or that a determination had been made either way.

Thank you also for your feedback in relation to the investigation process and outcomes.

As a result of your feedback The Trust will be modifying and improving its approach to investigations. Specifically we will ensure:

The appointment of Ms Christie Lewin, Manager of our Statutory Out of Home Care Services, to the role of organisational lead person and key contact with a special responsible for overseeing investigation into allegations of these types. Included in Ms Lewin's key accountabilities will be:

- Ensuring the integrity of our policy and procedures in relation to these matters
- Overseeing implementation of policy at all levels

- Guiding and/or conducting internal process of investigation to ensure that all investigative materials are applied for and received from police and other agencies
- Being involved in and/or reviewing the interview process with alleged victims and perpetrators to ensure that it is unbiased and thorough and that all matters are appropriately and clearly documented.
- Providing internal advice to other Managers who would otherwise very rarely have any involvement in such processes.
- Ensuring that appropriate notification advice and other paperwork is completed for your office and the CCYP.

To facilitate this Ms Lewin will be attending whatever specialist training we can locate, including training offered through your office, to enable her to resource and support our organisation's enhanced practice in this area.

If there is anything else required to enhance our practice please advise me and I will follow up accordingly.

Yours faithfully,

Margaret Bowen
CEO
The Disability Trust