

7-10-00

REPORT FOR JIT ASHFIELD

On 11.8.2000 I was called to the Senior Master's office to talk to ^{CLB} and ^{REDACTED} and ^{REDACTED} reported that during the recess break ^{DFC} and ^{REDACTED} had grabbed him and pulled him near to the Year 10 dormitory and that they and another boy ^{REDACTED} had ripped off his belt, removed his shoes, pants and underwear then dumped him on the floor. ^{CLB} reported that he was dragged into the Year 10 dormitory where he was pinned to the ground and boot polish was smeared on his face. He also reported that his legs were lifted into the air while someone was "pumping at his butt with his front area". ^{CLB} stated that then they removed his pants and shoes and let him go. He was extremely distressed and angry, ran to the Year 9 dormitory, grabbed a plank of wood and was swinging it around attempting to hit them at the same time yelling at them "to stop raping people". He named those involved in the incident - ^{DFC}, ^{CLA} and ^{DFD}. Incident Reports were written later that morning by ^{REDACTED}, ^{CLB}, ^{CLA}, ^{DFC}, ^{DFD} and ^{REDACTED}.

There are also reports written by ^{DFA} and ^{DFB} which were either written later that day or the following day, which relate to what ^{DFA} describes as "stupid and immature" behaviour in the boarding house and ^{DFB} describes as "pretending to have sex as a joke" and "bullying being just part of boarding house life".

I spent two hours with ^{REDACTED} and ^{CLB} from 11am until 1pm on 11.8.2000. They reported to me that ^{DFA} had made a wooden dildo in his Design and Technology class and that he and ^{DFB} used it to "stick up people's butts". They reported that those two boys were in sick bay that morning, because in their view ^{DFA} and ^{DFB} had been involved in the incident which had so upset ^{CLB} and ^{REDACTED}. They also stated that ^{DFA} and ^{DFB} often simulated sex with younger boys in the boarding house by lying on top of them and that there were particular boys who had the wooden dildo shoved up their bottoms. They said that everyone was always clothed at these times. They also described being given "wedgies" when they would be lifted up by the top of their underpants. ^{CLB} was quite distressed during this two hour period and kept reiterating that he just wanted it all to stop. He said that he'd been raped (as he described it) probably 50 times. ^{REDACTED}, who had only been in the boarding house since Term 3 (which commenced in mid-July) said that it had happened to him twice. I provided this information to the Senior Master, Mr Peter Green who asked ^{CLB} a few questions. The Boarding Master, Mr Rob Scott was informed of the existence of the wooden dildo but was not able to locate it in the boarding house. ^{REDACTED} was phoned to come to school so that he could be told by Mr Green about the incident that morning. He was very concerned and said that ^{CLB} had changed this year and that he had been very worried about him. When school ended that day ^{CLB} and ^{REDACTED} went out for an hour or so.

I saw ^{CLB} again on 14th August. He said that he had informed ^{REDACTED} about what had been happening in the boarding house and that he was "disgusted". ^{CLB} seemed relieved that ^{DFA} and ^{DFB} had been spoken to. He thought it reasonable that ^{CLA} and ^{DFC} had been placed on a short suspension. Although he was angry with ^{CLA} he told me that ^{CLA} was a victim of ^{DFA} and ^{DFB} most of the time.

He also said that REDACTED had also been grabbed on the morning he and REDACTED had been involved in the incident already described. I went to REDACTED classroom and we went for a walk and had a brief discussion in the Monitors' room. He too described several incidents he had witnessed in the boarding house (one where he said that CLA had been tied to an outside ladder and the wooden implement had been used). Because the Year 7-10 examinations were to commence on 16th August I asked him if he would come and see me when his exams had finished.

I spoke briefly to REDACTED and REDACTED that day. REDACTED was reluctant to talk but said that "I have had a stick poked up my arse a couple of times" and that he "did not like it" but that he had not said anything "because it would be worse". He said that he had seen CLA legs tied up with sticky tape though he thought this was a joke. This had occurred in the Year 10 dormitory and a number of students had observed this through a slightly open door. I did not ask REDACTED to write anything down. REDACTED said that most things that happened in the boarding house were not serious but that DFB and DFA picked on younger students "whenever they want to". He said that DFB was nicer to him this year because he goes out with his sister. I did not ask REDACTED to write anything down.

The boys all had exams until 24.8.2000 and did not have to come to school on the 25th. They returned to school on 28th August. Unfortunately I had to fly to Queensland on 29th because of my mother's illness and remained there until 1st September when she passed away. I returned to school on Monday 4th September.

On Tuesday 5th September I saw CLA for the first time. We talked for about 30 minutes or so. He was distressed about many incidents which had involved him and DFA and DFB. He said that he had often yelled for help but that no-one had ever assisted him. He appeared confused that these two boys, who were supposed to be his friends, had humiliated and hurt him. I asked him if he would think about what he had said and come back the following morning. He returned on 6th September and we had another brief talk. CLA said that the worst things that had occurred had stopped after Mr Scott talked to DFA and DFB after the incident involving CLB and REDACTED. REDACTED but that they grabbed his genitals as he walked by them and that this really upset him. He said that other Year 10 students knew what had happened in the boarding house and sometimes jokingly asked "Has DFA given it to you today?" I asked him to go into another room nearby and just write down anything he wanted to explain what had happened to him and how he felt. You have a copy of his statement dated 6.9.2000.

Because REDACTED had been mentioned in passing as a young student to whom nothing had happened because his brother is a senior boarder, I asked him if he would be prepared to write about anything he had witnessed in the boarding house which he felt was inappropriate behaviour. You also have a copy of his statement dated 6.9.2000.

On Thursday 7th September I saw CLA again because he had left an exercise book on the floor in my office the previous day. I had looked in this exercise book and found a diary entry and some drawings. I found CLA and had brief discussion with him because the diary entry was disturbing. He said that he had written it the previous term when "things were really bad". I told him that I would have to take the whole matter further - to the Head Master and that he would have to report the matter to the Department of Community Services. I urged CLA to discuss everything with his parents during the three week vacation.

After handing the Headmaster copies of the boys' statements he called a meeting with Mr Peter Green, Mr Rob Scott and the school's other Psychologist, Mr Paul Mayne and it was decided that Paul and I would contact DOCS. Discussion about the safety of students in the boarding house followed. Paul and I phone Mr Paul Sweeney at DOCS, Strathfield. He asked for copies of the boys' statements which we duly forwarded to him. School concluded on 8th September and resumed on 2nd October.

I have not been able to discuss anything with the students since last term because the matter had been handed over to DOCS and I was waiting for a decision re notification and their contact with JIT.



Katherine Pearce
School Psychologist
NSW Registration No. PS0028044
Director Trinity Educational Support Services

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