

STAFF MEETING
FRIDAY, 20TH OCTOBER 2000
3PM

The purpose of this meeting is to present the facts to date and to outline procedure.

A. Brief account of the history:

- information given to Kate by students
- information presented to Head Master
- Notification to DOCS
- Referral by DOCS to JIT, comprising specialist police and DOCS personnel
- JIT team commenced interviews with students, counsellors and other staff – this is continuing.
- 13th October, JIT meeting with Peter Green, Paull Mayne and Kate Pearce.
- On the basis of information to that date, JIT confirmed that the following had occurred:
 - (i) incidents of aggravated sexual assault
 - (ii) incidents of aggravated indecent assault.

B. Definitions. It is important to define these terms:

- Sexual Assault: Penetration of the vagina or anus by any part of another person or any object manipulated by another person without consent
- Indecent Assault: incorporates a wide range of behaviours, for instance touching and grabbing genitalia, and simulated sex. Both sexual assault and indecent assault have a range of seriousness, depending upon the circumstances and the frequency of the offence.

C. Information

- It is important to understand that these are criminal offences with jail sentences up to 20 years.
- Apprehended Violence Orders (AVOs) have been served on 4 students. This has been done by the Police as a matter of law. They do not imply a criminal charge. They are a protective device by which the conditions of protection are explained.

D. Where do we go from here?

- Elements of the Critical Incident Plan
- Debriefing students in the Boarding House (in consultation with Children's Hospital, Specialists)
- ? Any other
- Debriefing parents of students in the Boarding House (Sunday night)

Paull and Kate would like to do Part E:

E. Handling the Situation.

- For all of us: confusion, grief, denial, anger, loss of trust
- Therefore, it is important to understand feelings and to avoid blaming themselves or others.
- Myths surrounding sexual assault
- Answering parents' questions
- Answering students' questions
- Comments and behaviours.
- What we, as staff, can and cannot say by law.