

MINUTES OF CRITICAL INCIDENT MEETING NO. 2
23RD OCTOBER 2000

Present: *Head Master Mr M Cujes, [REDACTED] Mr R Scott, Mr David Taplin,
Mr Paull Mayne, Ms Kate Pearce*

The Head Master advised that he had spoken to staff at the Preparatory School on the 22nd October and informed them of the charges laid against four boys, as per Senior School briefing. David Taplin, Director/Consultant for the Sexual Assault Counselling Service at the Children's Hospital Randwick, was introduced and he outlined the counselling support that was available for the victims. He advised that a referral for CLA had been made to the Adult Service because he is over 16 years of age. CLB had been referred to the Children's Hospital for counselling, but as of today he had not been for any counselling sessions.

David Taplin also advised that for the perpetrators there were programmes which they could access, one being the Specialist Offenders Programme. They would have to go through the Juvenile Justice Department, not the Hospital System.

Critical incident strategies were reviewed. Concern was expressed that staff in the School were seeking more information and some students in the school were still displaying behavioural reactions to the original incident. The Head Master felt that the staff were okay and were getting on with things.

It was decided that the Boarding House Staff would be debriefed through regular meetings every second Friday, commencing on 27th October with Paul Mayne and Kate Pearce to attend. Specifically they would be kept informed about the details of the offences and to consult concerning the development of boarding house procedures, the development of rights and responsibilities, rules and safety issues in the Boarding House. The Head Master suggested other strategies aimed at making Boarding House students feel more welcome and involved. These strategies to be discussed with Boarding House staff.

Concern was concerned about EAC regarding harassment issues by Paull Mayne. No action was to be taken until after Paull had consulted with EAC.

Kate expressed the need for giving boys messages that it is okay to talk about the incident if they have any concerns. It was noted that there was a sense of relief amongst the boarders though some are still struggling with concerns about what prevented them from reporting incidents.

The Head Master expressed the need to demonstrate that effective systems were in place in the School without over-reacting.

David Taplin outlined a number of issues for the School to consider in observing individual students and their actions. These included:

- The culture of 'non-dobbing';
- The power of perpetrators;
- The way in which boys react to such situations (ie. the difference between resilience and 'shutting down');
- The culture of 'normalcy';
- The effect of male culture in terms of boys reluctance to discuss their feelings .

Present Procedural Changes to date

- Boarding House presently locked during the day.