



Mr Milton Cujes
Principal
Trinity Grammar
119 Prospect Road
SUMMER HILL NSW 2130

Dear Mr Cujes

On 16 October 2000 the Sunday Telegraph contained a front-page story on the possible abuse of children at Trinity Grammar. Since this article appeared you have publicly expressed concern that "a confidential DoCS investigation came to be plastered across the front page of a newspaper".

I share your concerns. Publicity around this case is detrimental to the children and young people who may have already suffered abuse. DoCS has very clear policy and legal obligations to protect and safeguard the privacy of children and their families in child protection matters. When media makes enquiries of DoCS we limit our response to brief and non-identifying information only.

Following the media coverage I have made extensive inquiries. There was no source within my Department for the release of any information to the Sunday Telegraph other than the formal DoCS' statement.

I am extremely concerned at any inference or suggestion that this story was "leaked" by my Department.

The *Children (Care and Protection) Act 1987* section 115 makes it an offence for a person to disclose information obtained in connection with the administration or execution of that Act. My staff understand this. Confidentiality and the privacy of our clients are of critical concern to me and my staff. In light of this recent publicity I have taken the opportunity to remind all staff again of the need to maintain confidentiality and of the potential publicity has to compromise investigations.

Director-General's Office, NSW Department of Community Services

Level 6, 164-174 Liverpool Road, Ashfield NSW 2131 Locked Bag 28, Ashfield NSW 1800
Telephone: (02) 9716 2991 Fax: (02) 9799 9394

26/10 '00 THU 15:48 FAX 61 2 97162761

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I am sure you would agree that the distress and trauma this sort of publicity causes to these children and their families is in no-one's interest. If you have any further concerns I hope that you will raise these matters directly with me and not through press statements

Yours sincerely

Carmel Niland

26.10.00.

Carmel Niland
Director General