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**STRICTLY PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL!!**

1<sup>st</sup> July, 2009

cc Commissioner Linda Bond  
 Territorial Commander

Major Phil Cairns,  
 Secretary for Personnel

**COMPLAINT – 29/06/09**

Dear Major,

For more than a decade now, I have witnessed, with growing concern, the assassination by association, of the character and reputation of past officers and employees and their families, through the mishandling of the "abuse of children in institutions affair" by the officers, and others appointed by THQ. These past officers and employees of our residential child care services, who have served faithfully and well, and without reproach over many years, deserve much better treatment than this!

Having served close on twenty years in the Army's juvenile and residential child care services, I have always been an out-spoken advocate on duty of care to children. For a number of years I worked in conjunction with the Juvenile Aid Bureau of the Queensland Police Department, in order to bring successful prosecution, resulting in custodial sentences, of members of paedophilia gangs engaged in trafficking children between Queensland and Victoria. More recently, I have been engaged in lengthy dialogue, on at least two occasions, with briefing members of the Army task force regarding conditions at Bexley and Alkira boys homes.

Whilst I strongly support the Army's action to address the past abuse of children in Army homes, I strongly contend that those who are attempting the task have neither the background or expertise to effectively and holistically deal with it. Whilst the Army frantically grapples to save its hard won public image, the whole tilt of the exercise has shifted to the extent that all of those who have ever had any association with our residential child care are now being harassed and abused by the organisation for which they gave much of their lives! At no time has THQ given any consideration to the support that might be offered to those past officers and employees who "sit on the sidelines" watching this whole sorry saga play out.

Not a few of us, including, managers, officer staff and employees, have made deputation to State Social Services Offices and THQ regarding the treatment of children by other officers and employees, only to have the complaint ignored and ourselves branded as liars, while the perpetrator was quietly moved elsewhere! I personally suspended one employee while I was Assistant Manager at Bexley and sacked another on the spot while I was Manager at Alkira!

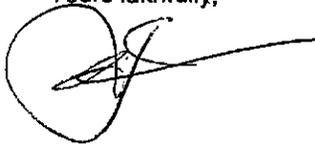
One of the side effects of the Army's "weak" handling of the current issues is that every Tom, Dick and Harry, who "was ever unloved by his mother" and ended up in an Army institution, now feels emboldened to shift the blame for that deficit unto past officers and employees of the Army because he/she thinks there might be "money in it".

Early in 2004 I responded to the then Secretary for Personnel regarding a fictitious sexual assault complaint that was made against me, and in the concluding paragraph, challenged the Army to fund me to mount defamation action against the complainant with engagement of legal counsel of my choice. To that request I received a platitudinous response, and to this day I have not been advised of the final outcome of the matter! That challenge still stands, I might add, because unless someone takes up this action; fictitious, opportunistic complaints will continue to "creep out of the woodwork".

It is quite evident from my telephone conversation with you on 29/06/09, that, you had no briefing regarding my 2004 letter, nor of any other engagement I have had with the investigating team, nor do you have any idea of my service and reputation as a manager of our child care facilities. Your coercive attempt to provoke a response from me regarding this latest allegation is not appreciated, and your veiled threat, in the event of civil action against me, of the withdrawal of the Army's indemnity, only serves to highlight just how unprofessional THQ's management of this whole issue has now become.

Now until such time as all of the outstanding matters referred to above have been given realistic response by THQ, I have a rather satisfying and enjoyable life to lead and you won't want to be troubled by me making any premature responses.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'John McIver', written over a circular stamp or mark.

John McIver, Major