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Melbourne

Shea Rowell
REDACTED

8 September 2008

Ms Angela Sdrinis
Ryan Carlisle Thomas
Lawyers
DX 17515
DANDENONG

Dear Ms Sdrinis

The Salvation Army

We refer to the Salvation Army matters generally, and the documentation provided prior to settlement conferences in support of your client's claims.

We note that on several occasions recently we have been provided with counsellors' reports, rather than a report from a qualified psychologist or psychiatrist.

While a counsellor may have undertaken significant periods of study and be a member of a professional body, their level of expertise is generally lower than that of a psychologist or psychiatrist. In addition, it is our understanding that the vast majority of counsellors are not trained in making formal clinical diagnoses using the DSM-IV, whilst training in this area is compulsory for psychologists and psychiatrists.

We also note that the counselling profession is not subject to the same types of regulations and accreditation processes as that imposed on psychologists and psychiatrists.

For example, we refer to the counselling report provided in relation to the claim of REDACTED REDACTED where Ms Renfry diagnoses Mr REDACTED with Posttraumatic Stress Disorder. We certainly do not question Ms Renfry's qualifications as a social worker and her experience in the general area. However unless Ms Renfry can prove that she has undergone additional training in making diagnoses with the DSM-IV, and can demonstrate previous experience in diagnosing Posttraumatic Stress Disorder, we assert that she is not qualified to make such a diagnosis and her findings will not be accepted by our client.

Please note that in future our client will only accept counsellors reports if they are accompanied by a report from a qualified psychologist or psychiatrist. In Mr REDACTED's case, should this matter not settle at conference we will be seeking a further psychological or psychiatric report before this matter will proceed further.

Yours faithfully

Nevett *ford*

Shea Rowell

Direct Dial: REDACTED

cc Ms Penny Savidis
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