

DRAFT LETTER

(TO BE SENT BY KGS ON KGS LETTERHEAD)

9 August 2011

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

Mr and Mrs R A Lamond

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Dear Mr and Mrs Lamond

I write to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated August 2011 and to respond to it as clearly as possible. However, before I do so, I wish to express to you my sincere regret for the pain and trauma you and your son, Guy, have experienced as a result of the criminal activities of a number of Knox teachers in the 1980s.

In February 2009 the School became aware that a number of teachers were accused of assaulting students in the 1980s. The School immediately began working closely with the NSW Police and the DPP to provide information and otherwise assist in any way possible with the police investigations.

The NSW Police have not, at any point, revealed or confirmed to me, the School or the Church, the names of the former students who were assaulted by the teachers. I have been subsequently informed by the School's solicitors that the NSW Police were not able to reveal this information in order to maintain the privacy of the complainants and the integrity of the investigations. Rather, the NSW Police requested that the School provide them with a very large number of student files. The police advised the School not to assume anything from this and that we should not make contact with any students or teachers whose files had been requested, as such contact could interfere with ongoing police investigations.

In this, the School faced a perplexing situation. While we strongly wished to provide assistance and counselling to the boys who were assaulted, we also wanted to assist the police with the criminal prosecution of the teachers and had been told by the police not to directly contact anyone. We therefore wrote to every Old Boy on the School's database, as well as all current students and their parents, offering both the School's support and free counselling provided by an independent contractor on a confidential basis. In response to this letter, a number of Old Boys accessed the independent counselling service. The names of the Old Boys receiving counselling through this system are not known by the School. We are still supporting these Old Boys and will continue to do so.

As you are aware, the School also made repeated public offers of counselling to Old Boys.

It was not until I was contacted by your son's former solicitors on 30 November 2009 that I was made aware that Guy was one of the boys involved.

Unfortunately, privacy regulations prevent me from being able to provide any further information in relation to our communications with your son, subject to his written consent that disclosure can be made to you. If Guy is willing to sign the attached consent form, I would be happy to provide additional information.

However, I am able to disclose that in a letter dated 22 December 2009 to Guy I said: ... *We offer our assistance to ... your family at any time.* I provided the telephone number of a private counsellor and, in

the alternative, offered that a counsellor of your choice may be used. I said: *..the costs of counseling will be borne by the School.*

Again, I continue to offer private independent counselling to you, whereby the counsellor of your choice merely needs to contact the School to have his/her invoices paid. Furthermore, I am happy to meet with you to clarify any of these matters. I have worked with a number of Old Boys and their families on this matter and will continue to do so.

Should you wish to contact me, please telephone my personal assistant Mrs Jan Maher on (02) 9487 0101 to leave a message for me, and I will get back to you.

Yours sincerely

John W. Weeks
Headmaster