
From: Stephen Webb
To: Moderator; John Oldmeadow; Jim Mein; Paul Swadling; Dwane Feehely
CC: Janice Borham
Sent: 24/02/2009 10:49:06 PM
Subject: RE: Knox matter

I'm uncomfortable with some of this but probably can attend.

I have been told that Channel 7 News tonight said the school knew about this five years ago and did not tell the police.

so I would like to know what the truth of the matter is

Stephen

-----Original Message-----

From: Moderator
Sent: Tue 24/02/2009 22:04
To: John Oldmeadow; Stephen Webb; Jim Mein; Paul Swadling; Dwane Feehely
Cc: Janice Borham
Subject: RE: Knox matter

I am able to be in attendance,

Niall
(Moderator)

-----Original Message-----

From: John Oldmeadow
Sent: Tue 2/24/2009 5:25 PM
To: Stephen Webb; Jim Mein; Moderator; Paul Swadling; Dwane Feehely
Cc: Janice Borham
Subject: RE: Knox matter

With out Prejudice

Colleagues,

After talking to Jim this morning & Stephen, Dwane and Paul this afternoon I believe that it is now appropriate for us to seek legal advice in preparation for any specific allegations and hence claims that may emerge. We need to be able to support and assist the School in its care for students and the Knox community. We may require a single articulation of all of the events / information on which to base the best response from the Church.

At our last teleconference Dwane advised that the Insurance Co. would be notified but that as no claim was forthcoming there was no direct involvement by the Insurer at that time. However, now the Insurer (Allianz) has agreed that preliminary legal advice is appropriate and they have suggested the firm of Gadens and in particular the solicitor Wendy Blacker.

The Knox Council meets on Wed evening 25 Feb) and Jim will attend and thus have the most up to date information from the School.

After discussion with Dwane I am suggesting that we meet on Thursday 26 Feb (9.30 in my office for those who can make it here) and Dwane will endeavour to have Wendy Blacker or another Gadens' representative there. The focus would be to ensure that we and the Gadens' representative have the full information available at that time, that we seek advice on the

best manner of noting this information and ensuring the most pastoral and effective response by the Church in concert with the School.

Can you please respond with your availability (Reply All) so that Dwane can note who will be present to Gadens)

John

John Oldmeadow

Executive Director

Board of Education

Uniting Church NSW Synod

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From: Stephen Webb
Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2009 4:01 PM
To: Jim Mein; John Oldmeadow; Moderator; Paul Swadling; Dwane Feehely
Subject: RE: Stream of Knox sex complaints

A journalist from the Australian called John this afternoon. John referred him to me but I have not had a call from him.

Just a reminder that we are still in "statement only in response mode". Media inquiries should come to me and I will release the statement over Paul's name.

No-one is supposed to offer further comment.

This is the understanding we have with Rod Frail, the media guy handling the business from Knox's side.

The statement as it stands has been amended following your comments and those from Rod.

It has not changed in response to Paul's fear that it sounds like we don't care about the offences because no-one else commented on it -- and I couldn't think of an effective less convoluted factual legal way to alter it.

The Uniting Church Synod of New South Wales and the ACT is gravely concerned at reports that current and former staff at Knox Grammar School have been arrested for alleged sexual offences committed 20 years ago.

The church is committed to safeguarding and nurturing children in Uniting Church schools.

It views seriously allegations of sexual misconduct towards children. It is deeply concerned for the wellbeing of any person who may have been subject to abuse.

It therefore strongly supports the thorough investigation of allegations of sexual misconduct towards children.

The church also supports and encourages the Headmaster of Knox as he cooperates with the police in their investigations and ensures there is counselling to students, families and staff affected by these events.

The church is unable to comment about matters which are before the courts.

Stephen Webb

Media Officer

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