

From: APL
Date: Tuesday, 20 May 2014 8:56:39 PM Australian Eastern Standard Time
To: "Working Together"
Cc:
Subject: Re: Survivor Support Pack

To Yogasandhan

If I was to fill out the application form in the Survivor Support Pack who makes the decision whether I qualify for Terry O'Connell's service? Does my application go through an approval process by a panel or an individual? What are the names of those involved in the approval process. What are their qualifications regarding this matter?

As I understand it, Terry's services are only available by phone. Will that be a group phone call with the Working Together Committee from Ashram Yoga and Terry, or is it just a phone call between Terry and the survivor?

Do I need to fill out the application form to apply for Mangrove Yoga to pay the gap in counselling services?

APL

On Fri, May 16, 2014 at 12:40 PM, Working Together <workingtogethertf@gmail.com> wrote:

Hello APL

Option 1

The ashram will pay for the services of Terry O'Connell from Real Justice. If you wish to take up Terry's services, please submit the application form to me. I will forward it to Terry and let you know when this has been done. From there onwards any time or expense Terry encounters in communicating with you shall be billed to the ashram.

Option 4

If you should wish to engage with a counsellor or psychiatrist the ashram will pay for any gap between what is covered by medicare (up to 10 sessions per year) and the actual cost of those services. If more than 10 sessions are required the ashram will work with individuals to put in place a longer term plan. It is not within the ashram's capability to offer unlimited counselling for everyone involved but we are very willing to work individually to support people who would like to make use of these services.

Once the application has been received a confirmation will be returned after which you can send billing information to the ashram, including details of what medicare covers. In each case we can arrange what is the simplest way to make the payment i.e. direct to the supplier or reimbursement for spent funds.

I realise that you have already engaged with counselling and mention this only to clarify what the application form can be used to apply for.

You can apply for either or both of the above options.

Please let me know if you would like further clarification.

Kind regards,
 Yogasandhan

On Thu, May 15, 2014 at 11:03 PM, APL wrote:
 | Yogasandhan

If I was to fill out the application form, what am I applying for exactly? It is very unclear. All I can see is a bunch of phone numbers for some counselling. Those phone numbers are available already from my local community health centre. Legal Aid? Medicare? So what?

Please spell it out for me what am I applying for when I fill out this form.

What I need for the ashram to do is to cut the crap and take a genuine interest and genuine intention to consult properly and rectify the past, rather than use fluffy spiritual psychobabble.

APL

On Thu, May 15, 2014 at 9:32 PM, Working Together <workingtogethertf@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear APL

I'm sorry to hear that what has been offered is offensive to you and also that you had not yet received your message directly from us.

We do realise that many of you have done a lot of work through counselling and other methods and also realise that there is still a lot that remains unresolved. Counselling is one option listed and the services we suggested were based on references by people who had themselves used those services and found them helpful. We are also aware that not everyone who was a victim of Akhandananda's has received counselling.

We have met with Terry and others from Real Justice and believe there is potential through his process for people to move beyond 'coping' into actually finding relief. This is why it was chosen as a service we will fund for those who wish to take it up. We can only suggest this and obviously it is your choice. Legal Aid and other services were included as we appreciate that if you want to pursue the route of legal action you are welcome to. We wanted it to be clear that there will be no hostility from the ashram if anyone chooses this course of action.

Those on the Task Force are not specifically trained in trauma that is true. We have taken advice from those who are. Personally I know about PTSD and I know about coming out the other side, this is why I have great faith in the process offered by Real Justice. All I can ask you at this point is, what do you think you would need to be free from the traumas of the past?

Kind regards,
Yogasandhan

On Thu, May 15, 2014 at 8:23 PM, I APL wrote:

To the committee

I am a survivor of the abuses at the ashram in the 70's and 80's and I have been watching this process from a distance with some hope that you have the courage to put things right with all of us. But you send us out an insulting Survivor Support Pack.

My story would make your toes curl, the abuses that happened to me were severe and prolonged and you are telling me to change my inner narrative with some phone numbers for free counselling??? Do you know nothing about Post Traumatic Stress Disorder?

Don't you think most of us have done years of counselling just to cope with the past?

You are all one big joke trying to protect an ideal built on broken people. What a farce! What an insult!

The ashram is responsible for past abuses and can not wash its hands of us. This is unfinished

business by far. Its only the beginning.

APL

APL

APL