

From: "John Thomas"
Date: Tuesday, 17 December 2013 1:05:39 PM Australian Eastern Daylight Time
To: "Yogasandhan"
Cc:
Subject: **Re: Airing Grievances**

Hari Om YS

I think it is a good idea to be more transparent with the history to allow this discussion to occur but i think it needs to be handled carefully. You may need more specific advice on these matters than i am able to bring. Has Jayatma got counselling qualifications?

I wouldn't put the website up until you have the people to deal with the response.

With regard to Tim, it may be helpful for him to talk to someone who at Mangrove at the time and to see what he needs.

I'll think about the issues a bit more over the next few days, but YP's daughter is getting married at the end of the week so may not get much time

Om
DD

On 13 Dec 2013, at 14:41, Yogasandhan <yogasandhan@satyananda.net> wrote:

Hari Om again,

On another front ... a couple of comments on FB recently - cult - sex abuse etc and our up-coming 40th birthday celebrations have spurred us to be more proactive and transparent in our dealing with the past and also in dealing with any complaints that may come up in the future. The plan is to create a history page on the website similar to Kripalu's http://kripalu.org/about_us/491/ and a current policies & procedures page with details of the actions we undertake to keep people safe i.e. working with children check on all residents, grievance procedure, security measures ...

The Grievance Procedure is to be based on the SYA procedure, Jayatma will be the person handling any grievance that come through this channel.

Jayatma is a new but very mature resident who is also a very effectual councillor and also writer and will be involved in writing the material for the website. She is on Christmas break right now and will return as a full time resident 5th of January. In the mean time we would like to at least get the grievance procedure up on the website so we can reply to the facebook post by directing people there so they have the offer of support or someone to talk to if they feel to.

Would you be able to contextualise the SYA grievance procedure to suit people with a grievance towards the ashram or any teachers or residents?

If we place this on the website before Jayatma returns would you be available to talk with grieved people? One person is Tim Clarke who wrote a lengthy review on the FB page. He has been blocked from writing more but in the spirit of the new process we would contact him to say if he wishes to talk with someone we have someone available. This can wait if you don't think the timing is right for you or for him. (see below for his FB comments)

On the lighter side of this ... *we're having a birthday!*

and we'd love to see you here!

The aim is for a big get together that focusses on the wonderful place that Mangrove is and all the positivity that exists here today. Hopefully with many familiar faces from the last 40 years!

Om & Prem
Yoga

Tim Clark

This is the place where as a child I was beaten and abused by Swami Akhandananda whom also abused teenage girls sexually whom were also in the care of Satyananda Ashram. This place was built on a dark past of eliciting all of the possessions / money of people like my parents whom were devoted followers, telling them how good the place was for me then beating me and treating me like an animal. I really hope you enjoy this place that "holds the candle of true yoga" because a lot of good people were misled, abused and had everything swindled from them in order that you have a holiday camp. I thank Satyananda though for feeding me when they almost starved me to death during one of his visits. They locked me in a room because I was sick and didn't feed me for a week. I was 13/14. This was the place where as a child I was forced to work like a slave building all of those beautiful gardens. The tires they are built out of I carried up that hill 12+ hrs a day by myself. Semi trailer loads full, that was my "sadhana" and I was beaten with a lump of wood (6 x 4) if I was late, that by the way was the

"sadhana" of the Swami whom beat me. I could go on but I won't. The scary thing here is that I recognise the mania that drove the adult population at the time. I told people the horrible things that were going on and the devotees made excuses for not helping kids in need. When children were being abused their blind devotion stopped them from protecting those that were in trouble, they let a paedophile get away with absolute atrocities against us. At least these animals could acknowledge the wrong that was done, instead they have denied anything happened, systematically buried all history of what these animals did and relaunched the place as a spiritual home. This place will be rotten to the core till the end because it is built on terrible foundations. Some of the people still in residence today as Swami's were there during this time and they know of the dark past of Satyananda Ashram. Built by tricking honest people out of their life savings, built on paedophilia and child abuse. And that's when it all came crashing down. This is not the "spiritual home of yoga" it is a system that failed to help its own children (yes the ashram was my legal guardian) and failed its disciples miserably. I can never forget the harm that was done to me there nor the evil that was done to my friends either. My advice - You do not need to lock yourself away in an Ashram to learn and understand Yoga, you do not need to give everything to a cause, never ever take abuse from anyone.

"Each day watch the colours of your mind,

until the light shines clearly" ~ SSS

Swami Yogasandhan

Education

Satyananda Yoga Academy
300 Mangrove Creek Rd
Mangrove Creek NSW 2250
Australia

Ph: +61 2 43771171 **REDACTED**

www.satyananda.net

yogasandhan@satyananda.net

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Mangrove Creek NSW 2250
Australia

www.satyananda.net

Ph: +61 2 43771171 **REDACTED**

yogasandhan@satyananda.net

On 13/12/2013, at 12:23 PM, John Thomas wrote:

Hari om Yogasandhan

The webinar was fairly long-winded but clarified some aspects

The main points are: we need to start reporting the AVETMISS data on 2014 data in 2015, unless we apply for a 12month grace period with this form

<Notification_for_accessing_12-month_transition_period.doc>

We are already collecting the data on the enrolment form in hard copy so the issue is converting it to the data files used by NCVET and submitting it. Some of the student management computer systems will do this if we want to use one of those.

NVCER is still promising to develop a free software tool to do this for small RTOs (<100 students) which we could manually enter the data into. They say this will be ready by the end of the year.

How is the thinking on the new computer systems developing? I think for electronic student management systems to work they

will need electronic/online enrolment forms.

Also there is a \$1000 grant available to assist RTOs to develop their reporting systems. You or SS should have been notified of this by email. Have you received notification? If not we will need to contact

<http://www.industry.gov.au/skills/National/Reporting/Pages/Grant.aspx>

That was about it
Let me know how things are progressing
Om
DD

On 8 Dec 2013, at 7:19, Yogasandhan <yogasandhan@satyananda.net> wrote:

No problem with starting teh changes in the second semester. turns out that the changes we've made to the delivery of Exercise Science work better than what we were doing before so we'll start then any way. Apart from that it just means we have more time to develop the research unit

so all is turning out well.

standing by for avetmiss updates. hope it's a good webinar

om YS

*"Each day watch the colours of your mind,
until the light shines clearly" ~ SSS*

Swami Yogasandhan

*Education
Satyananda Yoga Academy
300 Mangrove Creek Rd
Mangrove Creek NSW 2250
Australia*

Ph: +61 2 43771171 **REDACTED**
www.satyananda.net
yogasandhan@satyananda.net

On 06/12/2013, at 12:02 PM, John Thomas wrote:

Hari Om Yogasasandhan
As you know, the Unique Student Identifier implementation was delayed, but now ASQA is saying we need to start collecting and reporting AVETMISS data from Jan 2014
I have enrolled for this webinar so hopefully will know more next week
i'll contact you then and discuss what we need to do

I expect we won't hear about the accreditation until well into January so we are looking at starting in second semester - how does this affect the modules?

Om
DD

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Department of Industry, VET Data Infrastructure Branch I Skills Division" <usi@industry.gov.au>

Subject: Invitation to SMS Vendors and Registered Training Organisations

Date: 3 December 2013 8:09:51 am AWST

To: "Mr John Thomas" <Johnthomas7@bigpond.com>

Reply-To: usi@industry.gov.au

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Webinar Series for VET Activity Reporting

VET Activity Reporting (TVA) Webinar Series

Dear Mr John Thomas

You may already have received an invitation from Workforce Blueprint for the VET Activity Reporting webinar series, but in the event that you haven't, I would like to invite you and your staff to participate in the upcoming information webinar series.

As you may be aware, from 1 January 2014, registered training organisations (RTOs) will be required to collect and report data on all nationally recognised training activity ('training activity'). This webinar series will provide you with information on the introduction of mandatory reporting as a minimum reporting requirement for RTOs. Where an RTO has legislative or contractual reporting obligations within their jurisdiction, these obligations still apply.

Information on training activity must be collected and reported to the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER), either directly or via your State Training Authority or School Board, to form part of the National VET Provider Collection. This information must be submitted according to the Australian VET Management Information Statistical Standard ('AVETMISS'). While the changed collection and reporting requirements will take effect from 1 January 2014, transitional and exemption arrangements apply in certain cases.

These interactive webinar sessions will provide an overview of the new '**VET Activity Reporting**' requirements, including transition arrangements and exemptions, and will provide an opportunity for RTOs and SMS Vendors to ask questions. These webinar sessions will also be helpful in supporting the transition to AVETMISS reporting for RTOs.

The webinars will be jointly hosted by the Commonwealth and a representative of each State and Territory Training Department. NCVER and the Regulators will attend to answer any queries you may have for them.

There are a total of 8 sessions to be held – one for each jurisdiction – and they will run for an hour each session.

Webinar recordings and a copy of the presentation will be made available at the end of the webinar series.

The scheduled webinar sessions are as follows:

Date Time State/Territory

- Monday 9 December 2013 11am – 12pm (AEDST) VIC
- Tuesday 10 December 2013 2pm-3pm (AEDST) SA
- Wednesday 11 December 2013 10am – 11am (AEDST) NT
- Wednesday 11 December 2013 3pm-4pm (AEDST) NSW

- Monday 16 December 2013 10am -11am (AEDST) ACT
- Tuesday 17 December 2013 11.30am – 12.30pm (AEDST) QLD
- Tuesday 17 December 2013 2.30pm – 3.30pm (AEDST)/11.30am – 12.30pm (AWST) WA
- Wednesday 18 December 2013 11am- 12pm (AEDST) TAS

Please register your place for the VET Activity Reporting Webinar session for your state or territory by clicking [here](#).

Spaces for each session are limited, so be sure to register as soon as possible.

Please note these webinar sessions are free.

Many thanks for your time, and I look forward to your participation in the upcoming webinar series.

Kind regards,

Jason Coutts
General Manager
VET Data Infrastructure
Department of Industry

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