

From: "John Thomas"
Date: Thursday, 26 December 2013 1:24:47 PM Australian Eastern Daylight Time
To: "Yogasandhan"
Cc:
Subject: Re: Airing Grievances

Hari Om Yogasandhan The wedding went well and had a great Christmas with all 6 grandchildren! A few more thoughts about the past situation. I have enclosed a document from the current Royal Commission into abuse with some guidelines There may be a possibility that the ashram might be called before the Commission if there is publicity - although I assume most children at that time were under the care of their parents, it seems from the account you sent that some may have been in the care of the ashram Further questions: do we know the extent of the abuse? - how many children, who they were, the nature of the abuse Do we know if there are any potential offenders who were not prosecuted at the time? What do we know? - what documentation do we have? Have issues of compensation been considered and how these might be funded What resources do we have have in terms of people available now who were at Mangrove at the time who could potentially meet with victims and provide some restorative action? Some thoughts for the holiday season Om DD On 17 Dec 2013, at 10:19, Yogasandhan wrote: > Thanks for your thoughts so far Dharmadev. >> Yes Jayatma has counselling quals. and agreed we need to have the system fully in place before putting on the web. No rush for more of your thoughts. People are starting to exit for Christmas so we'll pick it up again in the New Year. >> Hope the wedding is wonderful >>> om om 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 (ext 116) > www.satyananda.net > yogasandhan@satyananda.net >>>>>>>> On 17/12/2013, at 1:05 PM, John Thomas wrote: >>> 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 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 thats 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 (ext REDAC > www.satyananda.net >>> yogasandhan@satyananda.net >>> >>> >>> >>> >>> >>> >>> >>> >>> "Each day watch the colours of your mind, >>> until the light shines clearly"~ SSS >>> >>> Education >>> SATYANANDA YOGA® Academy >>> 300 Mangrove Creek Rd >>> 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 >>> >>> 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 NVCER 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 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 Yogasandhan >>> >>> 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 | Skills Division" >>> >>> Subject: Invitation to SMS Vendors and Registered Training Organisations >>> >>> Date: 3 December 2013 8:09:51 am AWST >>> >>> To: "Mr John Thomas" >>> >>> Reply-To: usi@industry.gov.au >>> >>> >>> >>> Web

