

YMCA Children's Services

Laguna Street Parent Meeting Thursday 26TH July 2012

Venue: Laguna Street Primary School Library

Session One (1): 2.00pm

Session Two (2): 7.00pm

In Attendance: Session one (1): Rodney Tant – Laguna Street Public School Principal
Liam Whitley – General Manager YMCA of Sydney, Catharine Clements – Child Protection Manager
YMCA of Sydney, Kelly Anderson – Children's Services Manager, Southern Region, YMCA of Sydney,
Jacqui Barnat – Children's Services Coordinator and Carine Beer – Laguna Street Coordinator.

Nil attendance from Parents – Above attendance waited till 2.20pm and meeting was then closed

In Attendance: Session Two (2): Rodney Tant – Laguna Street Public School Principal
Liam Whitley – General Manager YMCA of Sydney, Catharine Clements – Child Protection Manager
YMCA of Sydney, Kelly Anderson – Children's Services Manager, Southern Region, YMCA of Sydney,
Jacqui Barnat – Children's Services Coordinator, Carine Beer – Laguna Street Coordinator and two
(2) parents of Laguna Street Public School.

Meeting commenced at 7.10pm

1.1: YMCA staff and those attending were introduced.

1.2: PowerPoint Presentation of the following information: Presented by Liam Whitley

- What we can confirm – although the matter involving a number of allegations of sexual assault from October 2011 is still before the courts, some information is now in the public domain. That information includes that the accused has been named - Jonathan Lord; that there are a number of charges against him; that all his victims were male children, and that his next appearance in court is set for 9/08/2012.
- Where the proceedings are at
- 9th August 2012 is the next court attendance
- What can the Y say – we can use Lord's name

1.3: Question time and open discussion

Rodney Tant read out an email from a parent who could not attend the meeting.

In relation to an incident where a person from outside the school accessed the school toilets at a local Miranda School, Rodney has followed up with this and has sent an email out to other local surrounding schools in the area in regards to signage etc. All schools came back with a response that they have nil signage in relation to toilets.

Rodney stated that he is happy to put this in the School Newsletter for ideas and feedback for parents at Laguna Street.

Rodney said the Laguna Street school gates are all locked during the day; however the front gate remains unlocked due to deliveries.

Rodney advised that there have been nil issues at Laguna Street from parents toileting younger children in the toilets.

Any issues arising for children at the school or YMCA OSHC in relation to custody orders were agreed to be a matter between the parents and the parent responsible for the child should advise both the School and the YMCA.



Incident Reports – Liam Whitley

Parents are advised the same day of any incident occurring at OSHC, when picking up their child. OSHC also keeps a written report of any incident.

If it is a serious incident parents are immediately called and informed of the incident. In these cases, the Incident Report Form is forwarded to the Children's Services Coordinator, and if required, to the Children's Services Manager for review and any follow up.

Along with this there is external reporting to the Department of Education and Communities, if the incident is assessed as serious.

A day book is also kept to ensure that all information about particular children's needs that day are recorded and any messages are passed on, such as ensuring teachers are made aware of any incident before school.

Parents in attendance:

It was raised by one (1) parent in attendance that it is a Community issue in regards to how toileting can be supervised and we all need to work together on this. Mr Tant said he would be reluctant to lock the toilet block as the toilets are frequently accessed by parents needing to toilet younger children accompanying them when on school grounds. It was agreed it helps that the toilets are in a public area, which means at least they are in easy sight of staff and adults around the school, and in the afternoon, it is probably safer to use the toilets within this busy area.

It was brought up from a parent in attendance that the Miranda School incident involved an intruder to the school, however, the point was made that a majority of things happening to children occur by people they know.

Several responses to the supervision of toileting issue were suggested:

- A parent in attendance is willing to write an article for parents of Laguna Street Primary School to provide information to parents on Child Protection
- In addition to Mr Tant's suggestion that comments could be sought through the school's newsletter, it was suggested a Parent Committee could look into this further.
- Protective Policies for the School can be put in place, this would require any changes to be moved and updated.

Parents in attendance asked for an outline of changes made by the YMCA since the incident in October 2011. Mr Whitley outlined that:

- All relevant policies in the YMCA of Sydney's Children's Services were reviewed and staff communication was strengthened.
- Zero Tolerance to Policy breaches.
- 3 Parent Information Sessions were conducted.
- Training was also reviewed and numerous training sessions have occurred, including Mandatory sessions for all Children's Services staff across the YMCA of Sydney.
- One of these mandatory session was recorded and is now required viewing for all new employees to watch during the orientation process.
- Recruitment, selection and orientation of a Child Protection and Compliance Manager.
- Mr Whitley also noted that the NSW Commission for Children and Young People recently attended at the YMCA of Sydney's head office and conducted a scheduled audit of the YMCA's Working with Children Check process and evidence. The YMCA believes their compliance with WWCC requirements is in order but has not been advised of the outcome of the audit.

Mr Whitley also outlined partnerships the YMCA has to assist in maintaining high standards in Childcare:

- The YMCA maintains a close association with the Network of Community Activities, the Peak Body for OSHC in NSW.
- The YMCA of Sydney has worked closely with the YMCA National Office through a National Leadership Team and also a National Children's Services Taskforce.
- YMCA of Sydney is part of a National strategy for all YMCAs to undertake an external audit and accreditation with the Australian Childhood Foundation to be a 'child safe' organisation.
- Part of the detailed accreditation process allows YMCA staff to access ACF child protection training online.
- Mr Whitley noted that with all OSHC programs the YMCA of Sydney is currently undergoing increased compliance through the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority and NSW Department of Education and Communities. To date, two assessments of Y programs in the Caringbah area have been conducted and had a positive result.

Those attending felt that the meeting had been worthwhile and recommended any parents or community members concerned for their children's safety continue to raise and discuss concerns.

Meeting Closed at 8.20pm.