



YMCA of Sydney

27th October 2011

YMCA Staff
YMCA of Sydney
Via email

Dear YMCA Staff,

RE: Parent Information Update

We appreciate just how challenging the recent weeks have been in regards to the charges laid and the impact this is having on families within the YMCA community.

Please be assured that the YMCA has done, and will continue to do, everything legally possible.

With the proceedings in front of the court we are legally restricted in what we can communicate at this time. We assure you that the YMCA is cooperating fully with the JIRT and committed to not jeopardizing the proceedings.

To ensure you are aware of our communication, we have provided you with the attached most recent communication to parents to be distributed at 3:30pm today to more than 600 YMCA families across the Sutherland Shire Region.

In addition to the attached communication we will be holding an information session for staff in the region.

At this stage, we must continue to direct concerned parents and carers to the Child Protection Helpline (132 111). This is to ensure that people who are appropriately trained and resourced in supporting concerned parents and families. It also enables information to be gathered from families that may assist investigation by the Kogarah Joint Investigation Response team (JIRT).

We are committed to keeping our processes transparent to parents and families while we continue to be in constant communication with the JIRT.

We restate our commitment to providing you with additional information as it becomes available. We hope our communication meets your expectations.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Liam Whitley', written over a white rectangular area.

Liam Whitley
General Manager
Children's Services



YMCA of Sydney

27th October 2011

Parents and Families
 YMCA Children's Services
 Via email and mail

Dear Parents and Families,

RE: Parent Information - Discussions to have with your children

We appreciate just how challenging the recent weeks have been in regards to the charges laid and the impact this is having on families within the YMCA community. The YMCA has received criticism of its communication and support provided to parents and families of YMCA Children's Services.

At this time it is important that your children feel comfortable to talk to you about things and you continue to communicate openly with your children.

Since YMCA communication on Monday 24 October 2011 the proceedings have escalated. On Tuesday 25 October 2011 the person of interest has been charged with additional offences, refused bail, and, is now in custody.

Please be assured that the YMCA has done, and will continue to do, everything legally possible.

Attached to this email are some simple discussion points to have with your children. It is only simple suggestions and parents and families wanting more substantial information should go to the website links provided.

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Yours sincerely

Liam Whitley
 General Manager
 Children's Services



YMCA of Sydney

Parent Information: Discussions to have with your Children

Please find following example of dialogue and questions that may be helpful for parents and families:

Discussion points to have with children:

- Are there any places on your body where it's not ok for someone to touch?
- If someone does touch you, do you know who to tell?
- What is the proper name for these places on your body?

Encourage your children to tell you about anyone who hurts or scares them or makes them feel uncomfortable and to come to you for help no matter what happens.

As always, trust your instincts and talk to your children. Encourage them to talk to you and listen to what they tell you.

Please note that if you think that your child/children have been a victim of Sexual Abuse of any kind or if you require any further information, we strongly recommend that you contact the Child Protection Helpline on 132 111.

There are many substantial resources on the internet that can be of help to parents to encourage dialogue with your children on these very important issues.

<http://www.napcan.org.au/>

<http://kids.nsw.gov.au>