



YMCA of Sydney

8th December 2011

YMCA Industry Partners
 YMCA of Sydney
 Via email

RE: Update of court proceedings

Dear YMCA Industry Partner,

As you may be aware, a matter is currently before the court involving allegations against a YMCA childcare worker.

From the moment the YMCA was informed of the allegations we have taken steps to ensure both the safety of the children in our care and the course of open justice, and will continue to do so.

To this point our communication has been with the community directly affected by the allegations, primarily of the Sutherland Shire region. Though given some recent developments and as a valued partner of the YMCA, we now feels it is timely to provide you with an update of the court proceedings and what the Y is doing to ensure we continue to lead the industry in the provision of Outside School Hours Care (OSHC).

To date, the court has placed a Non-Publication order on this matter, preventing any media from publishing details about the case or the accused which could directly or indirectly identify the children and families involved and interfere with court proceedings.

However, at a subsequent hearing held yesterday at Central Local Court, the court ruled in favour of lifting the restrictions placed on naming the accused and the YMCA. The Non-Publication order now only places restrictions on the reporting of details of the charges and is in place until 5pm, 16th December when it is expected that NSW Police will conclude their investigations.

In light of today's outcome, the YMCA would like to confirm our commitment to communicating with our Industry Partners. We will endeavour to keep you up-to-date with the court proceedings and what the YMCA is doing. For your interest, here are some of the things the Y has done to date and will do in the future to ensure our industry-leading reputation in childcare is maintained.

Following a number of recent Parent Information Sessions held in the Sutherland Shire, in 2012 we will be holding sessions across all OSHC Centres in NSW to provide an overview and debrief of the past year. These sessions will, among other things, give us the opportunity to inform parents about YMCA child protection policies and procedures and the Y's ongoing commitment to providing industry-leading, safe and quality OSHC facilities.

The Y is also:

- Advertising for the position of Child Protection Manager to oversee all Centres in NSW. This new role will be responsible for ensuring all policies and procedures relating to child protection are adhered to across the Centres and to act as a central support to staff. In addition, the role will increase the already extensive training and awareness of Child Protection across the YMCA.
- Increasing the number of Child Protection briefings for all staff across NSW Centres to ensure the Y remains at the forefront of industry standards.
- Ensuring staff display training calendars in each Centre.



YMCA of Sydney

- Ensuring staff profile boards are displayed in each Centre for everyone to view.

To date, the YMCA has also reviewed all child protection policies and procedures and has engaged an independent body to conduct an audit of the Y's policies and procedures for Children's Services.

We appreciate your cooperation and support during these difficult times and ask that you get in touch with us should you have any questions or concerns.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Liam Whitley', enclosed in a simple rectangular box.

Liam Whitley
General Manager
Children's Services