

REPORT ON MEETING
WITH MS. RUTH MATCHETT, ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL,
DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY SERVICES AND ABORIGINAL & ISLANDER AFFAIRS
HELD ON 19TH JANUARY, 1990 AT 3.00 P.M.
TO DISCUSS ISSUES CONCERNING JOHN OXLEY YOUTH CENTRE

PRESENT Ms. R. Matchett and Ms. S. Crook for the Department.
Mr. K. Lindeberg, P.O.A.
Mrs. J. Walker and Mrs. S. Ball, Q.S.S.U.

Ms. Matchett indicated that she had requested this meeting to discuss some areas of concern at John Oxley Youth Centre. Firstly, it was conveyed that Ms. Matchett was of the belief that the Departmental investigation being headed by Mr. Heiner - a retired Magistrate - was not properly constituted under the powers of the Chief Executives nor by any other powers.

Ms. Crook indicated that it was now believed by the Department that Mr. Pettigrew had in fact not had the power to establish the Departmental Inquiry into John Oxley Youth Centre nor to appoint Mr. Heiner to act as an impartial recorder of information obtained from staff at the Centre.

It was further indicated that certain Management Staff at J.O.Y.C. had threatened legal action against the Department as a result of the Departmental Inquiry, and this was also causing concern to Ms. Matchett.

Ms. Crook indicated that the Department was now seeking advice from Crown Law as to how to proceed. Ms. Matchett indicated to the Union representatives her view that the Inquiry was not legally constituted and therefore should be abandoned as soon as possible.

Ms. Walker indicated that our members would be quite distressed at this turn of events, particularly as a great deal of soul searching had been endured in order for the staff to present their evidence to Mr. Heiner. Many members had in fact been very wary but were so desperate for some action to be taken by the Department to resolve the problems at J.O.Y.C., they decided to co-operate.

Ms. Ball further indicated that from her reading of the file on the issues at J.O.Y.C., it was nearly 2 years since the Union had raised the concerns about J.O.Y.C., and the Department remained stationary as far as providing relief and resolutions.

It was stressed that the abandonment of the Inquiry was a serious matter and that we were not at all supportive of this move, especially as in our view it was within the Chief Executive's power to conduct Departmental investigation.

Ms. Matchett replied that she appreciated our concerns and she remained supportive of resolving the staff issues at J.O.Y.C. However, pending further legal advice, it was her intention to abandon the Inquiry. It was further requested that this discussion be kept confidential until further legal advice was obtained.

QCPCI

Date: 3. 12. 2012

Exhibit number: 125


S. BALL,
INDUSTRIAL OFFICER.