

Department of Family Services  
and Aboriginal and Islander Affairs



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Refer to:  
Section:  
Your Ref.:

MEMORANDUM TO: Director-General

Conversation with Peter Coyne  
John Oxley Youth Centre

I phoned Peter yesterday about a management matter. He seemed upset. I think I commented to that effect. He then spoke to me about the proposed visit by yourself on Tuesday morning.

He indicated that he had been reasonably satisfied with the course of events until he received a phone call from George Nix asking him to call a meeting of staff. He said that he was not told what this meeting was about and that George told him he did not know. I told him that I did not know what would occur on Tuesday or beforehand either. He said he had spoken to Sue Ball of the Queensland State Service Union who led him to believe that the meeting was about the Heiner inquiry and that a further meeting with staff was to be arranged by the Queensland State Service Union.

He then said that if the meeting was about the Heiner inquiry and he had to call a meeting, why could he not be shown the courtesy of being told what the meeting was about. Further, if it was about the inquiry, he had no intention of attending to hear in public forum, the outcome of a process which has concerned him so personally. He said he had been given no indication about whether he was expected to attend or not.

He said that if he was disadvantaged by the inquiry process he would consider legal action against the Department. He felt that already he had been considerably harmed.

He said that if the meeting on Tuesday was about The Heiner inquiry, and if any announcement was interpreted as a victory by one group of staff over another, he thought that there was a possibility of violence in the meeting, such was the level of feeling within the centre.

I commented that I hoped that matters could be resolved in the next week. He said that he felt that the extended uncertainty was the worst problem of all as far as he and his family were concerned and that even if he was told that he was to be dismissed he could deal with that because he would know what was going on.

In my opinion, Peter is very upset at the present time and this



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Date: 3-12-2012

Exhibit number: 146

upset is not likely to subside before he is given some clear advice and some chance to react.



Ian Peers  
Executive Director  
(Youth Support)

9th February, 1990