

TJHC Update

Royal Commission Case Study 45

Sexual harm in schools



Thursday 20 October 2016 – Day 1

Day 1 of the Royal Commission's case study into the institutional responses to children with problematic or harmful sexual behaviours in schools started in Sydney today.

As part of this hearing the Commission will investigate the responses of ten different institutions including seven schools (three NSW public primary schools and four independent secondary schools), two government agencies and the Association of Independent Schools NSW.

Counsel Assisting the Commission, David Lloyd, in his opening statement, told the Commission that approximately 4,000 of the contacts to the Commission to date have related to abuse occurring in educational facilities, with around a quarter of those contacts relating to government based institutions.

Mr Lloyd told the Commission that an important part of the hearing would involve two panels in which senior, experienced child sexual abuse experts would provide insights into child-to-child sexual abuse.

In his opening statement Mr Lloyd said a boy, known to the Commission as CLC, had been abused by another boy in April 2013 while on a cadet camp at The King's School, Parramatta. CLC then endured continuing bullying by other students until he left The Kings School and moved to St Ignatius' College, Riverview in Year 11.

Riverview is not being investigated in relation to any abuse at the College. Mr Lloyd told the Commission he expected CLC's father would give evidence that he found CLC's experience at Riverview had been 'fantastic'.

Trinity Grammar School Summer Hill and Shalom Christian College in Queensland will be examined during this case study. Part of this hearing will also consider problematic sexual behaviour that occurred at three government primary schools. This part of the hearing will occur in private as those involved are children.

The Commission will hear evidence from the Principal of St Ignatius' College, Riverview, Dr Paul Hine, early next week.

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