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KNOWL VIEW RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL JUNE, 1992

Report for the Director of Education by Selwyn Hodge, Chief Adviser and Elizabeth Dobie, Education Officer (Special Education)

INTRODUCTION

Following the report by Val. Mellor in March 1992, which gave rise to disquiet amongst some current staff members, it was decided by the Director of Education that an investigation take place as a final scrutiny of past sequences and a termination of speculation.

This investigation was done over a 5 day period, partly at Knowl View School and partly at the Council Offices. Teachers, care staff and cleaners on Norden unit during the period from 1989 to present day, were invited for interview. A total of 32 people were interviewed. Two people were not interviewed. These were Richard Cosgrave because of bereavement and Brett Andrews who was not in the country.

SUMMARY

The information within this report was given in signed written statements from present and past members of staff who were accompanied by their union representatives.

The report concentrates on three main areas:

1. the culture of the school
2. the style of leadership and management within the school
3. relationships within the school

and looks at the three critical periods in the school's recent history

1. events and practice before September 1989
2. events surrounding September 1990
3. events from January 1991 until April, 1991

1.1 Before 1989

THE CULTURE OF THE SCHOOL

In the period before 1989 it was obvious from comments, that staff felt they knew where they stood. The purpose of the