

Department of Family Services and  
Aboriginal and Islander Affairs

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Date: 3.10.2012

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MEMORANDUM TO; Acting Director-General.

Subject: Mr Peter Coyne

Yesterday I received a telephone call from the abovenamed seeking a meeting with me at 10 a.m. on 18th May, 1990. He advised that the unresolved issues relating to the closure of the Heiner Inquiry, including his request for access to the relevant material, is causing him considerable health problems. He stated that he feels he is unable to complete the project he has been given to do, however he did not want this to be interpreted as an inability to competently perform the duties of Manager, John Oxley Youth Centre, which is his preferred place of work.

He again requested a response to the matters which he considers to be still outstanding which were raised on his behalf by his solicitor. I informed Mr Coyne that this matter is still being managed by the Crown Solicitor on behalf of the Acting Director-General. I assured him that I was following this up on a regular basis so that the matter is not overlooked.

Mr Coyne advised me that because of the expense of legal fees he is currently choosing not to use his solicitor in following up some of these matters and sought advice as to the name of the Crown Solicitor's officer handling this matter. I refused to give him this information and advised him that it was unlikely that he would be able to speak to an officer from the Crown Solicitor's Office. I suggested that if he wished to pursue this matter he would need to do so in writing.

Earlier in the day I had received a telephone call from Ms Lee McGregor, State Archivist, who has been contacted also by Mr Coyne in relation to access to the Heiner material. Ms McGregor was advised by me that she should not have discussions with Mr Coyne but that she should refer any inquiries from him back to me.

During my discussions with Mr Coyne he mentioned that he had previously spoken to the State Archivist in relation to the Heiner material. I enquired what had prompted him to contact her in relation to this matter and he advised that he had read in the newspaper articles that the documents had been



handed to the Archivist for destruction. Mr Coyne said that he presumed that if this information was correct the State Archivist would not act without receiving some form of legal advice about the destruction of the material and he was interested in checking whether the material may be in fact being held by the Archivist prior to destruction whilst legal advice is being sought.

I agreed to meet with Mr Coyne at 10 a.m. on 18th May, 1990, as requested.

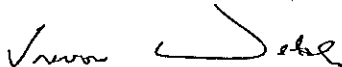
On the morning of 18th May, 1990, I received a further telephone call from Mr Coyne wherein he advised that he is on sick leave today and will be unable to keep the appointment that he had requested.

He again went into considerable detail stating that he felt he had not been given a fair hearing in relation to the issues concerning himself.

During the discussion he also advised that he was currently no longer using the services of his solicitor because of the costs involved and is now representing himself. I suggested that he should confirm this information in writing so that the Solicitor-General could be formally advised not to respond to his solicitor in relation to the matters still under consideration. I concluded the conversation by confirming to Mr Coyne that I would be following up with the office of the Crown Solicitor to ensure that he received a response to the outstanding issues.

Mr Coyne also mentioned during the course of the conversation that he has also been in touch with the Public Service Management Commission seeking advice as to how his concerns can be resolved to his satisfaction. He stated that the person that he spoke to expressed surprise that the legal advice was taking so long in being finalised and that other options he might consider are to proceed with the matter through the justice system or to take the matter up with the Ombudsman. Mr Coyne advised that he is most anxious for all of the issues to be resolved, however he has no intention of pursuing these options at present.

Mr Coyne advised he will re-contact me at some future time to make a further appointment to discuss his present circumstances.



T. Walsh  
A/Executive Officer.

18th May, 1990.