

## DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY SERVICES

## INTER-OFFICE MEMO

(24) g.

TO: DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Date: May 30, 1988

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Our Ref.:

Your Ref.:

Refer to:

Section:

Date: 7-12-2012Exhibit number: 246

Subject: Re Annette Harding - John Oxley Youth Centre

Mr Peter Coyne, Manager, John Oxley, rang to advise that on Friday Annette Harding was medically examined at the Mater Hospital. This was arranged with the police investigating the matter and on Saturday police again interviewed Annette Harding who indicated that she did not wish to make a formal complaint.

Annette's mother was then contacted and brought to the Centre where she spent a couple of hours with her daughter. Initially, Mrs Harding was upset that her daughter had made this decision, but after spending a couple of hours with her daughter, she was interviewed by the training officer and advised that she was happy for her daughter not to make a complaint.

Mr Coyne advised that Annette had two main reasons for not wishing to make a formal complaint. These were:

1. The court process would take from six to twelve months.
2. Other children at the Centre were teasing her and threatening her.

Mr Coyne said that he had spoken to the other children involved in the teasing and threatening, and has advised them of the outcomes should they continue in this fashion. Overall, everything has settled down at the Centre.

Mr Coyne also advised me that one particular staff member (that they have had a lot of trouble with) was saying that there had been a cover-up and a whitewash. Peter Coyne is having a talk to him this afternoon together with other staff where they will be advised that the complaint has been investigated properly and that all the information has been passed on.

Mr Coyne also advised that there was very little chance of Annette Harding becoming pregnant. The Paediatrician had advised that she had started her period immediately after the incident and it was very unlikely that she would fall pregnant.

Submitted for your information.

*G.E. Nix*  
G.E. Nix,  
Deputy Director-General  
(Community and Youth Support)

*Submitted by Minister*  
*[Signature]*  
31/5/88