

JUDITH TIERNEY TRYING TO FOLLOWING THE RIGHT PROCEDURES A TOTAL WASTE OF TIME  
 A letter sent to Qld SVDP State President Michael Mckeown from his vice president Judith Tierney regarding the amount of bullying from Maree Fell, Jerry McAuliffe, and CEO Peter Maher copies of which are in the hands of government officials that are doing nothing.

**To Qld SVDP State President Michael Mckeown from Judith Tierney his Qld SVDP VICE PRESIDENT**

Dear mike,

You have often said that as members of the State Council we have a responsibility to the Council, Society and members or those working for the Society. I was reminded of this a few days ago by one of the people mentioned in this letter. Some of these people are having discussions with the Workplace Health & Safety/ Anti-discrimination department. I know that you are aware of some of these issues in part, but for your information I will elaborate a little. All of these people believe their concerns were addressed via the correct channels without the necessity or going outside the Society. Rhonda Wallace.

Her comment to me was what has prompted me contact you. She said at the time she so seriously considered suicide that she purchased the hose pipe and tape with the intentions of carrying it out, she had not told anyone of her level of distress. She was at the time continually advised by many friends to resign. This she did, but on handing in her resignation to the diocesan president she was asked if it was what she really wanted?

Told that she would be badly missed and that perhaps she should think about it she did reconsider but then to add to her distress and humiliation was told it was too late.

It is only during the last week that I have ever heard Rhonda mention suicide.

She told me she was only now starting to think about the state mentally, she must have been in to even consider such a thing.

Rhonda had spent much of her own time after work and weekends cleaning up around Society bins, and collected volunteers on her way to work she arrived at work one day to be informed she was no longer permitted to take the Society ute home and room was to be made available for it to be parked in the depot. No reason was offered. This was the first incident.

It was after this time complaints began arriving about mess around the bins.

She has kept a daily diary of all issues, correspondence between herself and administration. Union representatives, solicitors who had sent a warning letter concerning the derogatory remarks that were being made about her and any paper work produced during this time.

During one period of time that a shop was being rearranged the administrator told a volunteer to go to a local hardware store for items and sign **her (the administrators) signature** to the society account.

The volunteer said she did not wish to do this, she was then told **"If I tell you too you will"**.

There were several witnesses to this conversation, one of who was the depot manager.

This surely should be seen as verbal assault?

This was told to me by both the volunteer and the depot manager.

**If this is so easy to say and direct someone to do the question how many times before or since comes to mind.**

There is one incident concerning a lady who had bruising on her arm.

This bruising was caused by a male volunteer. This is common assault.

I saw her at Anderson St some one hour later still so distressed she could not hold cup of coffee. She was waiting until she felt well enough to drive home.

She had spoken with the youth worker and the diocesan president who told Rodney (the man involved) to go home. I suggested to her that an incident report should be handed to Maree Fell the next day.

Rodney had at times verbally attacked other volunteers and Rhonda as depot manager. Maree and another volunteer decided the best way to handle this was to ensure they did not work together, He is not there but just left on his own accord. He has done this several times and then returned the lady continues to be afraid he will return and be welcome back.

I don't know what transpired between Francine Kubanek and Maree Fell concerning the last youth camp, Peter Maher does I believe.

What I do know is Francine was invited to join St. Ann's conference it was hoped with time the other youth workers may also become interested. She wished to continue working with the youth and as a volunteer with the Jim Anti-Rape classes.

Do you have any idea how many hours and days Jim spent organizing this programme with the schools?

That has now been completely destroyed by the administrator.

As 97 girls from one school have said they wish to do the course it was necessary Francine continue with this programme. However since that weekend Francine has apologised to the conference and said she will no longer be able to attend.

The other youth workers who up till that weekend had trained at the gym and mixed with the youth there at least twice a week have not been seen. Maree Fell in just one more bullying incident has lost 6 young professional people I know of several people were unhappy with Francine for resigning after a new office and car were provided for her.

But her move did not decrease the level of bullying and intimidation she was subjected to.

She did attempt to address these issues through proper avenues.

She gave a letter of complaint to the diocesan president McAuliffe he read it and then returned it to her; it is no secret in the Society any more that McAuliffe and Maree Fell are extremely too close.

Francine Kubanek went to Brisbane in the hope that meeting CEO Peter Maher and having the opportunity to be honest when speaking with the CEO. CEO Maher was really not concerned did not help her as his allegiance to McAuliffe and Maree Fell Is well known here after Jim telling the CEO if he did not do something to stop this consistent bullying by Maree Fell supported by McAuliffe Jim would do something.

It got back to me that when COE Maher thought no one would hear him vilifying poms and being furious at Jim his traditional pommie bastard syndrome was used again and again a pommie bastard that was game to tell me what to do he was heard saying. He apparently said I will alleviate this pommie bastard big time confronting me the CEO.

Francine's parting words were **"I hope never to hear the name St. Vincent de Paul again"**. As is always the outcome in such cases, the most disadvantaged continue to be the only ones truly disadvantaged, in this case the youth.

It will not reflect well on the Society if Jims Anti-Rape courses are just disregarded without explanation. And If an explanation is to be offered then by whom?

Regarding the old wares I know you were, told this was a unanimous decision, what you don't know is the volunteers at this meeting had previously been told that I no longer wish to do it. Not true.

it was a store co coordinators meeting and not a diocesan council meeting.  
 at that meeting it was also decided that old ware would go to the shops.  
 this i know for a fact has not happened, so where are they?  
 they were not only being donated because i was collecting them.  
 i also know that the society lost a considerable amount of money by selling items for much less  
 than they should have realised.  
 i had been doing this with the full support of the volunteer they themselves would put items aside  
 for me to see),  
 i feel disgusted that this discussion took place at a meeting that i was not invited to.  
 if it was truly the wish of volunteers i firmly believe they would have told me in a way other than a  
 curt email

this email was opened by jim. when he saw how distressed i became he contacted you, john  
 campbell and peter maher.  
 when he next saw the diocesan president mcauliffe he asked why the diocesan president  
 (mcauliffe) didn't have the manners to inform me himself as he had been at that meeting.

jim asked him if the position of vice president had any validity.  
 or is it only a female vice president that has no validity?

.....i don't know why this has suddenly become personal with maree towards me but it has, and  
 has been commented on by other staff and volunteers.  
 this makes little or no sense since i was the one who arranged for maree to return working for  
 society.  
 in the last month or so many vincentians have said they could have told me at the time her return  
 would end up causing trouble, typically no one said anything at the time.

maree herself has told me it was not her decision or wish to transfer to then community services.

i have never seen any paper work to give an indication of why, but there must have been a good  
 reason for the diocesan president to go to that extreme.  
 as you will be aware talk goes back and forth between those who work for ozcare and the society  
 about possible outcomes.  
 it has been said directly to me by two people that they look forward to working for the society if  
 that comes about, but they will not be prepared to work under the supervision of maree again.  
 their words, 'they had enough last time'.

i was surprised last week to be told that those same concerns had been voiced to at least one other  
 person.

with the level of bullying and intimidation that constantly goes on in cairns area, i am left  
 wondering if the society's social justice policy does extend to its own volunteers.

some of the volunteers and staff would be willing to speak with you, others however are too afraid  
 or fear of 'being carpeted'.

the next obvious question is why or how i know of these issues?  
 the simple answer is i visit the stores and volunteers and am prepared to listen.  
 people often only need to express their concerns (some real, some just displeasure), they feel  
 better if they have talked about it and then it is forgotten.

maree has made it clear she would rather i didn't visit the shops or depot,  
but as a volunteer, vincentian and vice president i fail to see why i should stop. the position i  
represent here in far north queensland is undermined, dismissed or totally ignored. as i am your  
representative, were i you,  
i would wonder if the same disregard applied equally to the position of state president.

yours truly,

judy tierney

qld svdp state president mr. mckeown resigned.