# 2. SUMMARY OF ALLEGATIONS AND FINDINGS

Allegation Number	Allegation	Outcome
1	It is alleged during class between and at the respondent interacted inappropriately with in which the respondent:	No Breach Sustained as per Policies and Procedures
	<ul> <li>was completing role as Teacher at vas teaching patterns</li> <li>during the task vas leaning on chair</li> <li>approached and grabbed hand saying words to the effect of, you need to do the pattern."</li> <li>squeezed hand hurting him</li> <li>actions caused pain and to become distressed.</li> </ul> By engaging in this manner, the respondent: <ul> <li>did not undertake duties in a professional, competent and conscientious manner.</li> <li>engaged in an inappropriate interaction with</li> </ul>	Not Reportable Conduct

# 3. BACKGROUND

3.1	Between		at
		was participating with other stud	lents in the
	was th	ne class teacher conducting the class.	
3.2	During the week	at different periods comparind	in the
		at different periods supported	In the
3.3	On	met with	and informed of
	the incident that is	subject of the allegation. info	rmed
			who advised
	to have	send the details of the matte	er.,
3.4	On	forwarded on amail dataili	ng the incident that is subject of the
3.4	allegation to	. (Annexure 1)	ng the incident that is subject of the
	unegation to	(Annexale 1)	
3.5	On	determined the	would investigate the
	matter.		was
	assigned to investig	ate the matter.	
3			Ka lah Tidi Ne active

	RECORD 23.4
3.6	On obtained a short video that was a recording of disclosing the alleged incident. The video was provided by with the video recorded on (Annexure 2 - transcript)
3.7	On spoke with informing that an allegation had been received concerning .
3.8	On spoke with to clarify some information concerning the provided video footage. (Annexure 3)
3.9	On       attended       and spoke with         provided       with the details of the allegation and investigation         process.       provided       with a notification of allegation letter and copy of
	was also present during the meeting.
3.10	On attended and obtained a written statement from (Annexure 6)
3.11	On obtained a written statement from (Annexure 7)
3.12	On       provided       a written response to the allegations via email.         (Annexure 8) This included a number of other relevant documents.       Timetable and Class timetable (Annexure 9)         Item A -       Timetable and Class timetable (Annexure 9)         Item B - Maths Program (Annexure 10)       Pattern worksheet (Annexure 11)         Item D - Copy of parent's messages through       (Annexure 12)         Item E -       Attendance record (Annexure 13)
3.13	Onhad a phone conversation withdiscussed thecurrent position of the investigation, advisingdue todetailed written responsean interview was not necessary unlesswished to proceed with the interview.
3.14	On expressed that agreed there was no need to participate in an interview.
4.	METHODOLOGY
4.1	The allegation regarding was assessed regarding the following policies and/or procedures:  Enterprise Agreement)
-	6   P a g e

	R	ECORD 23.4	

Under of the Enterprise Agreement, the following professional duties and responsibilities is to be adhered to by all employees. In carrying out their duties and responsibilities all employees will:

5.	ALLEGATION ONE
5.1	It is alleged during class between and at   It is alleged during class between and at   It is alleged during class between in which the in which the in which the respondent: • was completing role as at • was teaching the patterns • during the task was leaning on chair • approached and grabbed hand saying words to the effect of, you need to do the pattern." • squeezed hand hurting • actions caused pain and to become distressed.
By	engaging in this manner, the respondent:
	<ul> <li>did not undertake duties in a professional, competent and conscientious manner.</li> <li>engaged in an inappropriate interaction with</li> </ul>
Based	on the alleged conduct outlined above, <u>is suspected of breaching subsections</u> of the Enterprise Agreement and .

## 7. ANALYSIS:

#### 7.1 If this is then examined the following observations are made:

٠	The evidence established	during the week of		to	
	was th	al de casa de	for the		class.
•	The evidence of	and	confirm on		
	commenced tead	hing the students a	bout patterns	for their literac	y session.
•	The evidence of		confirm the	literacy session	with the class
	occurs with the students s	eated on the floor	and interact w	/ith	L.
•	The evidence of			confirm that	was a
	student who did <u>not lean</u>	on chair in class			10.
	The evidence of		when they as	sisted in the clas	s was that the

The evidence of when they assisted in the class was that they have never witnessed physically handle any student when addressing their behaviour.

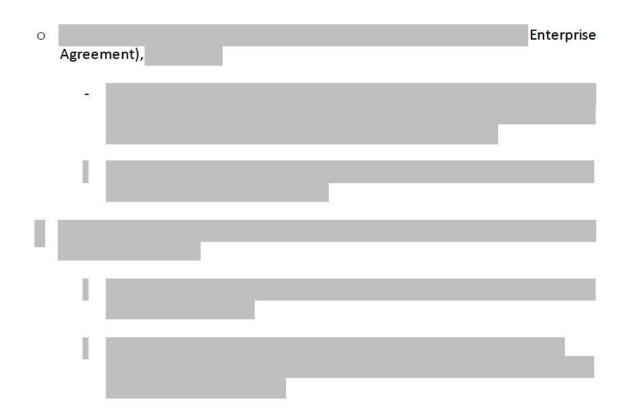
7.2 If this evidence is assessed there are two different accounts of the alleged incident that occurred and in the class. The first account is that of between who stated on randomly disclosed to that was swinging back on chair while the class was meant to be learning about patterns. and squeezed hand, "gotten cross" with and told came over to needs to do hand so hard that it caused patterns. stated squeezed pain.

7.3 who stated taught mathematical patterns with The alternative account is that of the class, including during the literacy session where all the students are seated on the floor and not on their chairs during these sessions. stated has never observed lean on his chair. stated categorically denied squeezing hand and at no which would cause pain or hurt stage has everhad contact with

- 7.4 It is assessed the evidence of was interpretation of what disclosed to
- 7.5 It is assessed the evidence of \_\_\_\_\_, being a video recorded by was very brief with being asked questions by parents. evidence was that was leaning back on chair with walking up to and grabbed hand saying, you need to do pattern." stated hurt wrapped hand around s hand asking if it was like this and responded, '. Note: enquired about speaking to obtain further details. further with informed due to disability would not be able to provide further information and to move forward, not wanted wanting spoken to further.
- 7.6 It is assessed written response was detailed with a further interview not necessary. The evidence of wasthat vigorously denied squeezing hand and at no stage which would cause has everhad contact with pain or hurt stated lean on his chair and the literacy sessions were conducted with the has never observed students seated on the floor and not in their chairs. stated the mathematical pattern lessons were conducted during the literacy sessions.
- 7.7 were not present in the It is assessed although class during all sessions during the week. evidence corroborates each other as well as corroborating parts of evidence. stated they have never observed lean on chair. stated during the morning completes literacy with the class where they sit on the floor and sessions interacts with the students. stated they have not observed physically handling any of the students regarding addressing their behaviour.
- 7.8 It is assessed on the available evidence it cannot be determined what day the alleged incident occurred. Although it has been determined the alleged incident occurred during the week of

	to	. It is assessed the evid			he eviden	ce established
CO	commenced teaching the class mathematical patterns on					
during the l	iteracy session	s. At the tim	e of the alleged ir	ncident	stated	was leaning on
chair and	chair and approached stating, "you need to do the pattern." It is					e pattern." It is
assessed due to the allegation being disclosed on					а	lso supports the
allegation re	elates to the pr	evious scho	ol week.		2	

- 7.9 It is assessed there is insufficient evidence to establish was leaning on chair. It is assessed there is insufficient evidence to establish approached and squeezed hand.
- 7.10 It is assessed there is sufficient evidence to establish at the time of when the alleged incident occurred was completing a pattern activity. It is assessed the evidence established would have completed pattern related activities whilst was seated on the floor. It is assessed it can be established may not have been seated at desk and therefore would not have been able to lean on chair when allegedly squeezed hand and stated, "you need to do the pattern."
- 7.11 It is assessed there is a lack of evidence to establish a breach by under:



It is assessed the evidence established there is a lack of evidence of weight to establish the alleged conduct of occurred. This is defined by the ACT Ombudsman Office that it would warrant a finding, on the balance of probabilities, the conduct did not occur.

- 7.12 It is assessed other parts of evidence provided in email cannot be confirmed. stated as a result of the incident occurring, although the day the alleged incident occurred cannot be determined. stated had been showing a number of signs if anxiety around returning to the classroom with . The evidence of was was a happy child and enjoyed attending class.
- 7.13
   stated as a result of the incident
   had not returned to school that week with

   stating
   attended class on
   and at no stage did
   observe

   showing signs of distress or anxiety.
   stated
   enjoyed completing the pattern

   worksheet. This is corroborated by
   attendance record (Annexure 13) identifying
   was

   present at school on
   attendance record (Annexure 13) identifying
   attendance
- 7.14 stated would likely not be going to school the following week and they had begun the process of looking into other schools. It is assessed this is possibly an alternate reason as to why may have been feeling anxious with associated behaviours at home.
- 7.15
   It is assessed under

   (Enterprise Agreement),
   there is insufficient evidence due to

   a lack of evidence of weight to sustain a breach under those subsections.
- 7.16 It is assessed the evidence relating to the not sustained finding due to a lack of evidence under Therefore, there is insufficient evidence to

#### <u>sustain a breach against</u>

7.17 It is assessed under subsection 10.1 there is insufficient evidence to sustain a breach under that subsection.

#### **Reportable Conduct**

- 7.18 The alleged conduct was cautiously categorised as ill-treatment hostile use of force/physical contact towards a child under the ACT Ombudsman Reportable Conduct Scheme and was reported under the scheme. This was assessed regarding alleged conduct toward potentially being unreasonable and seriously inappropriate, inhumane or cruel.
- 7.19 Upon consultation with the ACT Ombudsman the alleged conduct could be considered as conduct that was intended to exercise appropriate control over the child or prevent the child from harming themselves or others. This does not rise to the threshold of reportable conduct under the ACT Reportable Conduct Scheme.
- 7.20 It has been established this allegation is not reportable conduct.
- 7.21 Consideration was applied regarding the threshold for reporting and investigating an allegation being lower than the threshold for making a finding of reportable conduct.

#### 8. FINDING

- 8.1 The allegation has been not sustained due to a lack of evidence of weight.
- 8.2 It is assessed the allegation is not reportable conduct under the ACT Ombudsman Reportable Conduct Scheme.

#### 9. CONCLUSION

 9.1
 During the investigation it was ascertained when about the allegation about the allegation reported the matter to the who informed to advise to contact about the complaint.
 initially spoke with about the complaint.

9.2 Throughout the investigation consideration was given to interviewing other students in the as possibly being in the vicinity at the time of the event. It was determined due to the day of when the alleged incident occurred not being known. These students would not be interviewed as their wellbeing outweighed the potential information they could provide. To cause these students and their family's anxiety and stress that would possibly be generated from submitting them to an interview outweighed the information believed they could potentially provide.

9.3 has not returned to with parents removing from the school.

- 9.4 It is recommended that continue to provide with support and training.
- 9.5 It is recommended support all staff and identify a more suitable approach other than through the application when corresponding with parents of students regarding personal plans and additional supports.

KEY PARTIES	KEY PARTIES					
Name Position		Involvement in Incident	Evidence Provided			
		Respondent	Written response.			
		Victim	Recording provided by parents			
		Witness of first complaint	Email			
		Witness	Written Statement			
		Witness	Written Statement			

# Report Signatures / Authorities

# Prepared by: (Investigator/Service Provider)

Signature:	· · · · ·
Name:	
Position:	
Date:	

Supported by:

Approved by: (Agency Decision Maker)

Signature:	
Name:	
Position:	
Date:	

# 10. ANNEXURES

1.	Email provided by
2.	Video recording of recorded by parents (Transcript)
3.	Investigation File note completed by
4.	Allegation letter provided to
5.	Guidelines for Professional Conduct in Child Protection
6.	Written statement of
7.	Written statement of
8.	Written response from
9.	Copy – timetable and Class timetable
10.	Copy of maths program
11.	Copy of Pattern worksheet
12.	Copy of parent's messages through
13.	attendance record

### **RE: NOTIFICATION OF FINAL FINDING**

	• • • • •		s by yourself of the
Agreement),	Enterprise Ag	greement	(Enterprise
The process was communicated to yo	u by letter on		
Allegation One			
It is alleged during class between		and	u interacted
inappropriately with			which you:
you were completing your role	as Te	eacher at	
• you were teaching the	class patterns	s	
_	aning on his chair rabbed hand say	ying words to	the effect of,
<ul> <li>you squeezed hand hand hand hand hand hand hand han</li></ul>	nurting ain and to become o	dictroccod	
		JISH ESSEU	
By engaging in this manner, you did n	ы.		
<ul> <li>undertake duties in a profession</li> <li>engaged in an inappropriate in</li> </ul>		1 conscientiou	smanner

Based on the alleged conduct outlined above, you are suspected of breaching

1 of 2

### Findings

The findings are contained in the below table.

Allegation Number	Allegation	Outcome	Reportable Conduct breach
1	It is alleged during class between and you interacted inappropriately which you approached and grabbed hand saying words to the effect of, You squeezed hand hurting .	Not sustained Lack of evidence of weight.	Not Reportable Conduct

The allegation has been not sustained due to there being a lack of evidence of weight.

No breach regarding the Enterprise Agreement and Guidelines have been sustained. Furthermore, it has been assessed in consultation with the Act Ombudsman the matter does not rise to reportable conduct with the matter now finalised.

The ACT Ombudsman Office will be notified of the investigation and outcome of the matter, likewise, the ACT Teachers Quality Institute will be notified.

### **Confidentiality and Counselling**

I again remind you that your confidentiality obligations in relation to this matter continue. You must also refrain from victimising or taking any detrimental action towards others who have participated in this matter. Assurances of confidentiality have also been sought from all persons involved in the investigation process.

If you have any questions or concerns or seek additional clarification, please contact me.

If you would like to access confidential professional counselling offered through

Yours Sincerely



# **Regulatory Assessment Report**



Notification under s.67 and s70B of the ACT Teacher Quality Institute Act 2010

#### Employers reporting obligation under s.67:

- the teacher has become mentally or physically incapacitated and the incapacity prevents the person from performing an inherent requirement of their job as a teacher; .
- the teacher is given a negative notice under the Working with Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Act 2011 (WwVP), section 40; the teacher's registration under the WwVP Act has lapsed; or is made subject to a condition; or is .
- . suspended or cancelled; or is surrendered.

#### Employers reporting obligation under s.70B:

The employer must notify TQI within 5 working days of a notification event.

Details of Teacher					
Name:		TQI Nu	mber:		
Date of notification:			WwVP expiry date: Click here to enter a date.		
Sector:	Sector:				
Reported under s70C 🛛		Report	ed under S67 🗆		
Administration					
CRM record reflects POI and change made to reco	rds disposa	l 75 years	, detals added to Regulatory Matrix		
s70C request sent to employer	Date of	request:			
Background					
One allegation that relates to tak hand whilst teaching the class.	ing hold c	of	hand, squeezing and hurting		
Evidence Provided: See case file					
Initial Assessment					
Notified teacher to request meeting	Date o	f meeting	: Click or tap to enter a date.		
Meeting notes confirmed with teacher as accurate re	ecord				
Assessment of teacher response and final decision	determined	and docu	umented		
Notice in writing to teacher regarding determination if an action is This is written with statements of reason and advice regarding to Note: A decision NOT to suspend or cancel is NOT appelable Note: Suspensions must have a specific end date- they can be	eacher's right — ie no decis	ion under s	3.65		
Final Determination					
Factors influencing final determination:					
On commenced a formal investigation into information was obtained from re- were interviewed as well as the resp evidence of weight to sustain that the alleged established that no breach has been sustained and School Policies and Procedures, conduct and behaviour. The investigation has of upon assessing the allegation, in consultation we conduct could be considered as conduct that we the child or prevent the child from harming the threshold of reportable conduct under the ACT	lating to t pondent. conduct c against th most not concludec with the A vas intence emselves	the victin It was es occurred he frame tably, the tably, the d the alle ACT Omb ded to es or other	n and stablished there is a lack of . Therefore, it has been ework of the relevant ose of professional standards, egation is not reportable conduct oudsman Office. The alleged xercise appropriate control over rs. This does not rise to the		

☑ No action taken  ☐ Formal Warning  ☐ Condition	Suspension	Cancellation
--	------------	--------------

\*Document reviewed and updated

# Regulatory Assessment Report

Notification under s.67 and s70B of the ACT Teacher Quality Institute Act 2010



If decision to take no action was a letter of final determination sent:

Advised en poyers of determination
Notified other jurisdictions in writing of determination (if suspended or cancelled)
THE THE THE TAXABLE PARTY

Updated regulatory Matrix

Case identified for independent assessment

Review Suspension Date reviewed: Click or tap to enter a date.	Determination Date: Click or tap to enter a date	е.		Case Closed Date:
Name Delegate Finalised		Corale McAlister	Date	



OMBUDSMAN AN OFFICER OF THE ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



# Coversheet s 17J report

This coversheet is to assist organisations to report to the ACT Ombudsman at the completion of a reportable conduct investigation and meet those obligations under the Reportable Conduct Scheme. It is optional.

# **Summary of allegation information**

ACT Ombudsman reference number	
Organisation reference number	
Name of the employee or volunteer who is the subject of the allegation	
Name of the alleged victim(s)	
Dates of allegations of reportable conduct	
Dates 17G notification was made	
Date s 17J report completed	
Category of reportable conduct – please mark the category/categories of reportable conduct that apply	<ul> <li>sexual offence and conviction</li> <li>offence against the person including physical assault</li> </ul>
Learn more about categories of reportable conduct in <u>ACT Ombudsman Practice Guide</u> <u>No. 2 – Identifying reportable conduct</u>	<ul> <li>ill-treatment of a child</li> <li>emotional abuse</li> <li>hostile use of force/physical contact</li> </ul>
	inappropriate restrictive intervention
	Neglect
	psychological harm
	misconduct of a sexual nature
	crossing professional boundaries
	sexually explicit comments and other overtly sexual behaviour
	grooming behaviour



Summary of allegation/s eg. what happened, where and when did it happen, who was involved. If there are multiple allegations of reportable conduct, please outline each allegation.	Summary of allegation 1: It is alleged during class between and at the respondent interacted inappropriately with in which the respondent:
	<ul> <li>was completing role as</li> <li>was teaching the class patterns</li> <li>during the task was leaning on chair</li> <li>approached and grabbed hand saying words to the effect of, you need to do the pattern."</li> <li>squeezed hand hurting</li> <li>actions caused pain and to become distressed.</li> </ul>
Finding – please mark any findings that have been made in relation to each allegation.	sustained
If there are multiple allegations of reportable conduct, we expect a finding be made in relation to each allegation. Learn more about findings in <u>ACT</u> <u>Ombudsman Practice Guide No. 6 – Making</u> a finding of reportable conduct	<ul> <li>not sustained – lack of evidence of weight</li> <li>not sustained – false</li> <li>Not reportable conduct</li> </ul>
Recommendations/consequences/action	Refer to Investigation Report

# **Attached documents**

s 17J report – the investigation report should provide an analysis of the evidence collected through the organisation's investigation, contextual information that has assisted the organisation to fully consider the matter, the results of the investigation and any action taken. Learn more about reporting to the ACT Ombudsman in <u>ACT</u> <u>Ombudsman Practice Guide No. 7 – S17J Final Report</u> and <u>ACT Ombudsman Practice Guide No. 9 – How the</u> <u>Ombudsman assesses an organisation's response/investigation</u>.

#### Please attach any documents or related material that is referred to in the s 17J report:

Copies of evidence collected eg transcripts of interviews or interview notes, statements

Copies of primary evidence such as incident reports, photographs, medical reports

copies of any notifications to and/or responses from Child and Youth Protection Services (CYPS), ACT Policing or other regulators

Ietters of allegation, preliminary findings or final findings given to the person subject of the allegation

updated risk assessment completed at the end of the investigation

other (please list in box below)



More information is available at **ombudsman.act.gov.au** 

Please note: This document is intended as a guide only. For this reason, the information should not be relied on as legal advice or regarded as a substitute for legal advice in individual cases. To the maximum extent permitted by the law, the ACT Ombudsman is not liable to you for any loss or damage suffered as a result of reliance on this document. For the most up-to-date versions of cited Acts, please refer to *legislation.act.gov.au*.

# Freedom of Information Schedule

# - TEACHERS REGISTRATION S70

Scope: The records from within the time period of 17 February 2019 until 29 November 2021 specifically:

1. The document or documents which detail the reasons why any registered teacher has been issued with a formal warning, had conditions placed on their registration or been de-registered as a result of their conduct.

2. Any information disclosed under s.70A (1) (a) and (b) of the TQI Act to the Institute, whether or not the teacher's registration was suspended, cancelled or had conditions placed upon it.

3. Any information disclosed to the institute under s.70B of the TQI Act.

Record Number	Description	Record Date	Decision (Full release, Partial release, Non-release)	Reason for Partial release or Non-release
	2021 – Case 24			
24.1	Letter – Notice of Preliminary Assessment and Reportable Conduct Inquiry		Partial release	Schedule 2.2(a)(ii) and Management Function

# DATE OF REQUEST: 29 NOVEMBER 2021 - FILE2021/5895

24.2	Preliminary Assessment (PA) Report and Reportable Conduct Inquiry s17J Final Report	Partial release	Schedule 2.2(a)(ii), Confidential Information and Management Function Pages that are wholly redacted have been removed
24.3	Letter – Proposed Outcome of Preliminary Assessment and Reportable Conduct Inquiry	Partial release	Schedule 2.2(a)(ii), Confidential Information and Management Function
24.4	Section 70B Notification Form	Partial release	Schedule 2.2(a)(ii)
24.5	Section 70C Request for further information	Partial release	Schedule 2.2(a)(ii)
24.6	Email – FWD: Notes	Non-release	Schedule 2.2(a)(ii)
24.7	Section 70B Notification Form	Partial release	Schedule 2.2(a)(ii)
24.8	Regulatory Assessment Report	Partial release	Schedule 2.2(a)(ii)

#### Notice of Preliminary Assessment and Reportable Conduct Inquiry

 On
 , when you were engaged by
 as a Casual

 Relief Teacher, there was an incident involving you and a student
 .1 have received allegations of inappropriate behaviour by you in connection with

 this incident.
 .1

I am writing to advise that a preliminary assessment will be undertaken to assess the allegations. The process will be conducted in accordance with

```
Enterprise
```

```
Agreement (the Agreement).
```

The assessment will assist me as the delegate to determine whether the matter warrants further investigation or can be resolved through remedial actions.

It is alleged that:

On while on duty at as a Casual Relief Teacher, you:

- 1. tried to snatch the stamp out of hand when refused to return it to you
- 2. grabbed arm with your hand as a result of which was hurt
- discussed the incident with a number of teachers in the staff room at lunch time and during that time you informed a teacher that you had grabbed you and then you pinched
- 4. told a that the student was lucky that you did not slap back, as some people would have and that you had pinched instead.

#### **Reportable Conduct**

is required to notify the ACT Ombudsman of any allegations of reportable conduct in accordance with section 17G of the *Ombudsman Act 1989*. Due to the nature of the allegations, a notification will be made to their office in accordance with the requirements of the ACT Reportable Conduct Scheme.

It is important to understand that it is an allegations-based scheme and is not an indication that any judgement has been made.

You should be aware responses you provide as part of this process will be taken into consideration in determining a reportable conduct finding. Following conclusion of this matter a final report will be submitted to the ACT Ombudsman and you will be informed of the reportable conduct finding.

If you require any further information about the scheme you can access the ACT Ombudsman's website at <u>www.ombudsman.act.gov.au</u>.

#### Opportunity to respond

I acknowledge that you met with me on and provided a statement with your version of the incident.

On I attempted to make telephone contact with you to inform you of the preliminary assessment and reportable conduct inquiry and subsequently invited you via email to meet with me and formally respond to the allegations.

I acknowledge that you responded to my email notifying me that your statement was your full response and that you did not wish to further discuss this matter. Given the nature of the allegations, I would like to encourage you to utilise the opportunity to formally respond to the allegations. I am available to meet with you at a mutually convenient time to provide you another opportunity to respond to the allegations and provide any further information as part of the preliminary assessment and reportable conduct inquiry.

A tentative meeting has been organised at

Day/Date:		
Time:		
Venue		

You are entitled to have a support person or union representative present with you at this meeting. If you are unable to attend this meeting for any reason, please contact me before close of business on to arrange a reasonable alternate date and time.

You should be aware that all responses you provide will be taken into consideration and following conclusion of the assessment, you will be informed of the preliminary assessment decision.

#### Confidentiality

I am directing you not to discuss the allegations or related matters with other staff, students or families without first seeking my permission. A breach of this direction may constitute misconduct and result in disciplinary action.

#### Support available

Should you require support in relation to this matter, the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is available to provide confidential and professional counselling to you and members of your family. These services can be sought by contacting the below providers.



If you have any queries, please contact me on or alternatively you can contact

Yours sincerely



#### COMPLAINT/ALLEGATION

DAT	E RECEIVED:							
BAC	KGROUND							
							Casual R	elief Teacher on
On	was a studen	it. The AV has	teach the a diagnosis c		c	lass of whic	h the AV -	
On								itnessed the AV
110032000	out of		and followed					the matter. the
195530 50	nformed under veins ar	that nd attempted	grabbed		with dout of	hand arou hands.		ow and used
								. The allegations
exan	nined were that o	CONTRACTOR CONTRACTOR			on dut	and the second second second		. The allegations
Casu	ual Relief Teacher,					5		
	1. tried to snatch	the stamp out	t of the AV's h	and v	/hen	refused to	return it t	o
85	2. grabbed the st hurt	udent's arm w	ith hand a	and pi	nched i	t as a result	t of which	the student was
OFFI	CER CONDUCTING	G PA						
Offic	er name:			Posi	tion title	e:		
OFFICER DECLARATION OF ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST								
⊠	No conflict of int	erest identifie	d		c			
	Officer to proceed with the process							
DELL	DELEGATE (May be same as officer if appropriate)							
Dele	gate name:			Posi	tion title	e:		

## RECORD 24.2

DELE	DELEGATE DECLARATION OF ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST						
	lo conflict of interest identified						
	Identified delegate to remain		Appoint alternative delegate				
METI	HODOLOGY FOR CONDUCTING PA						
The f	following interviews were conducted:						
1	. The AV -						
2	2. Student witnesses –						
3	8. Staff witnesses –						
versio On provi numb	The PSOA provided information for the RiskMan report and also provided a statement regarding version of the incident with the AV on On the PSOA was contacted to inform of the reportable conduct allegations and provide an opportunity to respond. The PSOA declined an opportunity to meet however provided a number of written responses via emails which were all taken into consideration as part this preliminary assessment.						
regis	, following examination of the P completed and to mitigate some of the ris tration with the Directorate was suspended p PONDENT INFORMED OF PRELIMINARYASSE	ks ide endin	g a preliminary assessment decision.				
	Yes – Record of communication attached						
	No – Detail reasons below (or attach) for this decision						
DECI	SION						
	wing consideration of information available, t er can be resolved or whether further action						
The D	Decision Matrix below can be used to assist w	ith ide	entifying possible options for resolution.				
All records of this PA must be appropriately filed in accordance with accepted record keeping structures (in accordance with the							
Following this process, the decision is that the allegation/s:							
$\boxtimes$	The alleged conduct is an <u>allegation</u> of reportable conduct - REFER THE MATTER TO TEAM						
	Require no further action, then no further action needs to be taken Advise all parties of the outcome (if aware that a PA was being undertaken)						

#### Analysis of the evidence

The

indicates that the AV has a clinical diagnosis of

. There are some observations noted in

statement that the AV is known to be challenging and non-compliant however not aggressive or violent. It is noted provided information that the had never hit a teacher before this incident.

Evidence established that during the alleged incident the AV grabbed the PSOA's stamp and stamped

a number of students and and was non-compliant with the instructions of the PSOA. It is also clear that the PSOA initially asked the PSOA to return the stamp multiple times and encountered non-compliance from the AV. The AV alleged that the PSOA made attempts to 'rip' the stamp out of hands and grabbed arm. The AV denied slapping the PSOA on arm however the collective evidence of the student witnesses corroborated and supported the PSOA's statement and established that the AV did slap the PSOA at least once if not twice on arm.

Student witnesses whilst stated witnessing the PSOA trying to snatch the stamp out of the AV's hands, the did not see the same. None of the witnesses say the PSOA grabbing the AV's arm. The evidence indicates physical contact however it is unclear whether there was any force applied at this juncture in attempting to snatch the stamp out of the AV's hands.

The AV alleged the PSOA had hand around elbow and used nails under veins which hurt None of the students saw the PSOA grab the AV's arm or use nails on the AV's arm. However, heard the AV yell, "You grabbed my vein" and did see the PSOA's hand near the AV's arm subsequent to which the AV's eyes watered which is considered to lead to a conclusion that the AV was hurt by the PSOA. Who found the AV angry and walking out of the PSOA's classroom documented in the medical incident report that there were red marks on the AV's arm. There are no more reports of the AV engaging in another physical altercations that could have resulted in the red marks sustained on arm. Based on the cumulative evidence available, it is reasonable to conclude that the PSOA made physical contact with the AV's arm which resulted into the AV getting hurt and sustaining red marks.

The evidence from was that the PSOA disclosed in the staffroom having pinched the AV. At that stage, there was no other evidence to indicate or support the allegation that the PSOA had pinched the AV. It is also noted that the AV did not use the term 'pinch' when describing the actions of the PSOA make contact with arm. The student witnesses also could not provide much information relating to the alleged pinching of the AV.

The initial response of the PSOA during interview on was that whilst the AV yelled, had hurt him, only held arm gently. even demonstrated the pressure with which grabbed/held the AV during interview with which appeared to illustrate that did not hurt the AV. However, in contrast to initial response, in an email dated , the PSOA admitted to have 'with forethought and precision pinchea right arm at the elbow' after which the AV was 'compelled to loosen grip on the stamp' which is when the PSOA stated , 'took the stamp out oj right hand.' The PSOA admitted pinching the AV's elbow in such a way, ' no longer had full control of the stamp in hand and it was relatively easy to access' indicating likely pressure/force applied to loosen grip of the stamp.

By the PSOA's own evidence it is established that the PSOA pinched the AV to the extent that was compelled to loosen grip of the stamp which then retrieved easily. In a subsequent email dated the PSOA argued that the AV was not hurt during the incident, went back to class and checked in on and confirmed that was 'good as gold.'

Despite the PSOA's argument and the fact that the AV deescalated and returned to class with another teacher, the evidence available clearly establishes that the AV was hurt by pinching as is witnessed to have yelled that the PSOA had hurt with at least one student witness saw the AV's eyes water when the PSOA grabbed and witnessed red marks sustained by the AV and contemporaneously documented in the medical incident report.

Early in the preliminary assessment, there was a level of uncertainty as to the chronology of the events that occurred during this incident. It was not clear as to whether the AV slapped the PSOA first or the PSOA grabbed and pinched the AV first. The PSOA was witnessed to have stated in the staffroom had pinched however it was not clear whether it was reaction to the slap from the student or otherwise. It was considered crucial to examine whether it was a case of occupational violence which triggered the PSOA's reaction of grabbing the AV by the arm and potentially/accidentally hurting . However, in response dated the PSOA made it clear that it was who pinched the AV first to retrieve the stamp which was then followed by the AV had slapping on arm also leaving red marks.

Based on the above understanding, the AV slapping the PSOA is considered a spontaneous reaction to the PSOA's pinch. This is supported by the evidence of that the AV whilst known to be challenging had not had any history of being violent towards any teachers. By the PSOA's own evidence, it has been established that the PSOA grabbed the AV first and pinched at the elbow to loosen grip which escalated the AV and led to slapping the PSOA and walking out of the class angrily.

#### Conclusion

On the basis of the evidence, it was found that when the AV took the PSOA's stamps and did not return it upon request, the PSOA intervened by making physical contact and tried to snatch the stamp out of hands. The PSOA then grabbed the AV's arm, pinched it at the elbow to loosen grip and retrieved the stamp. The evidence also supported the allegation that the AV was hurt as a result of the PSOA's pinch sustaining red marks on arm where had grabbed him. The description of own actions by the PSOA that pinched the AV with forethought and precision in a manner that was compelled to loosen grip on the stamp and the red marks sustained indicate application of a degree of force that was sufficient to make the AV yell, eyes water and sustain red marks.

It is fully acknowledged that the AV displayed challenging behaviours in class and was non-compliant and disruptive. However, the response of the PSOA is considered to be clearly disproportionate to the frivolous behaviour displayed by the AV which could have been managed by other behaviour management strategies or seeking executive teacher assistance. The actions of the PSOA as described in \_\_\_\_\_\_ own words pinching the AV with forethought and precision' are considered unnecessary, unreasonable, unprofessional, and seriously inappropriate in a way that is seen to be inhumane and cruel.

#### Concerns raised by the PSOA

It is acknowledged that the PSOA expressed concer	ns that was not made provided class lists and			
information about the AV's	in advance to be equipped to manage			
appropriately. also raised concerns that was not qualified to teach students . It is				
to be noted that the PSOA had worked at	prior to this			
incident and according to it is procedural for the school to provide the relief teachers				
with a note with all the information pertaining to the information they would need during the course				

of their work at the school. stated that each teacher is briefed at the beginning of their work day that there is a teacher folder in each class which has the class lists, medical information relating to the students in that class and any current action plans. This was reinforced to the PSOA when initially raised these concerns and the information provided by was not contested. responded to the PSOA that feedback would be taken on board and the teacher procedures will be reviewed.

#### Other Considerations

In addition to the sustained inappropriate conduct found, the following serious concerns have come to light during this preliminary assessment:

- The PSOA's stated ignored the AV had left the classroom continued to teach the class despite the AV leaving the class which can be viewed as a lapse in duty of care towards the AV.
- The school executive raised concerns that the PSOA during the preliminary assessment interview demonstrated a severe lack of understanding of the gravity of the incident and actions towards the AV and behaved in a seriously unprofessional manner.
- The PSOA has made disparaging and seriously inappropriate comments about the AV and students with special needs in the education system.
- The PSOA has conducted in a very unprofessional manner during and after the incident and throughout written correspondence with .
- The language, tone and content of the PSOA's emails to have been considered inappropriate and inconsistent with the
- The PSOA has emailed out of business hours with some emails arriving in inbox in between 5am and 7am. Many of these emails were unwarranted and unnecessary as the PSOA had already responded to the allegations multiple times and provided full and final responses to the allegations.
- The PSOA made comments to \_\_\_\_\_\_ on the day of the incident that \_\_\_\_\_\_ intended to tell other prospective teachers/colleagues about the incident and inform them not to accept work at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ School.
- On 22 March 2021 in response to email reminding the PSOA of obligations to maintain confidentiality, the PSOA blatantly refused to maintain confidentiality and stated that could discuss the matter and the allegations with anyone as was not the employee nor had signed a confidentiality agreement.

#### **Preliminary Assessment Finding**

The PSOA's actions during the incident were assessed to be disproportionate to the level of response required to manage the AV in class. The actions of the PSOA were additionally found to be

unnecessary, unreasonable, unprofessional, and seriously inappropriate in a way that is seen to be inhumane towards the AV that caused injury and escalated sehaviour.

In addition to the serious nature of conduct towards the AV, the ongoing conduct of the PSOA towards the school executive, the preliminary assessment delegate and the process has been assessed to be inappropriate and inconsistent with the continuation of the PSOA's casual registration with the

#### Reportable Conduct Inquiry – Finding

The alleged behaviour towards the AV was sustained. The PSOA's treatment of the AV during this incident has been considered to be unreasonable and seriously inappropriate, inhumane and cruel. The PSOA's own description of actions as 'with forethought and precision' indicates the presence of intention in decision to physical intervene to retrieve a stamp from the AV leading to injury to the AV and further escalation in behaviour.

The inquiry found that the PSOA applied unreasonable and seriously inappropriate, inhumane or cruel force during the physical contact with the AV which was found to be disproportionate to the response deemed required to manage the AV's frivolous actions in the class. The alleged conduct resulted in the AV being injured with red marks sustained on arm. The injury suffered was considered minor being able to be managed with in-house first aid at school however, the force/physical contact applied is associated with aggravating circumstances such as demeaning or threatening behaviour by the PSOA which triggered the AV to slap the teacher back which was said to be out of character for the AV.

Based on the above findings, reportable conduct in the category of Ill-treatment of a child – Hostile Use of Force/Physical Contact is sustained.

#### **Recommended Remedial Actions and Future Risk Controls**

- 1. The PSOA's Casual Teacher registration with the to be cancelled.
- 2. Information to be shared with TQI and Access Canberra WWVP Risk Assessment team in accordance with the *Children and Young People Act 2008*.
- 3. The PSOA to be provided in detail the outcome of the preliminary assessment and reportable conduct finding and information sharing decision.
- 4. The PSOA to be provided with an opportunity to respond to the reportable conduct finding.
- 5. Support to be provided to school in reviewing the procedures for induction of casual teachers.

#### Delegate signature:

Decision date

#### COMPLAINANT/RESPONDENT ADVISED OF OUTCOME

(Information provided in accordance with the provisions of the Information Privacy Act 2014)

Date respondent advised of outcome:

(the

#### Proposed Outcome of Preliminary Assessment and Reportable Conduct Inquiry

I refer to the Notice of Preliminary Assessment and Reportable Conduct Inquiry letter dated . As detailed in the letter, a Preliminary Assessment was conducted in accordance with

Enterprise Agreement

#### Agreement).

On

The preliminary assessment was aimed to determine whether the allegations of inappropriate conduct against you during an incident at

on warrant further investigation or can be addressed via other actions.

The allegations against you that were considered during the preliminary assessment were:

Casual Relief Teacher, you:

- 1. tried to snatch a stamp out of a student's hand when refused to return it to you
- 2. grabbed a student's arm with your hand as a result of which the student was hurt
- 3. discussed the incident with a number of teachers in the staff room at lunch time and during that time you informed a teacher that you had grabbed the student, the student slapped you and then you pinched
- told a that the student was lucky that you did not slap back, as some people would have and that you had pinched instead.

I am writing to inform you that the preliminary assessment and reportable conduct inquiry is now complete and hereby provide you with the proposed outcome of the process.

I acknowledge that you provided a number of written responses to the allegations in which you described the incident from your perspective including the disruptive behaviour of the student in question and non-compliance with your instructions.

You explained then attempts to retrieve the stamp lid from the student failing which you stated, you pinched the student's right arm at the elbow with forethought and precision, and was then compelled to loosen grip on the stamp. You further explained that you then took the stamp out of right hand. You stated you did not have to wrench the stamp out of hand as the student, after your pinch, no longer had full control of the stamp in hand and it was relatively easy to access.

#### Summary of Preliminary Assessment Decision

After careful consideration and analysis of the information collected in the preliminary assessment process including admissions from you, I have determined that the alleged behaviours did occur.

Your response to the student's non-compliance is considered to be disproportionate. Your actions towards the student are considered to be unprofessional, inappropriate and inconsistent with the

In addition to your conduct towards the student, serious concerns have been identified in relation to the content of your emails addressed to

assessment. Specifically:

- you made several inappropriate comments about the student's and your perception of ability to participate in the mainstream education system.
- you made inappropriate comments in relation to students with special needs in general and their rights in the education system.
- You refused to follow a lawful and reasonable direction in fulfilling your obligations in maintaining confidentiality as a participant in the preliminary assessment and reportable conduct inquiry.
- You made several inappropriate and unprofessional comments regarding the procedures of the preliminary assessment.

As the in this matter, I have determined that the above concerns regarding your inappropriate conduct repeatedly displayed in your written correspondence with are serious in nature and inconsistent with the and general obligations of employees.

#### Suspension of Casual Registration

Due to the nature and seriousness of your inappropriate conduct, your casual registration will be suspended until the outcome of the preliminary assessment and reportable conduct is finalised.

#### **Proposed Cancellation of Casual Registration**

I have determined that the nature and seriousness of your inappropriate conduct is inconsistent with the continuation of your casual registration with \_\_\_\_\_\_.

of the Agreement stipulates that the

.' Therefore, in light of the findings of the preliminary assessment, it is proposed that your casual teaching registration with should be cancelled.

You have an opportunity to provide a written statement setting out the reasons why your casual teaching registration should not be cancelled. This written statement is in addition to any response you have already provided regarding the allegations and should be sent to via email at

within 14 days of the date of this letter.

After due consideration of any written statement you provide, the decision regarding your casual teaching registration will be finalised and you will be notified of the final decision.

During the period of suspension of your casual registration, you will not have access to the casual bookings system, and you will be unable to undertake causal employment.

#### Proposed Reportable Conduct Finding

In the notice of preliminary assessment letter dated , you were informed that is required to notify the ACT Ombudsman of any allegations of reportable conduct in accordance with section 17G of the Ombudsman Act 1989. I can confirm that due to the nature of the incident, the ACT Ombudsman was notified.

The information collected during the preliminary assessment including your responses was also used to conduct a reportable conduct inquiry aimed at determining whether or not your actions during the incident constitute reportable conduct.

After careful consideration and analysis of the information, the proposed reportable conduct finding is that reportable conduct in the category of Ill-treatment of a child – Hostile Use of Force/Physical Contact is sustained.

You have an opportunity to respond to the above proposed finding of sustained reportable conduct. Should you wish to do so, please forward your written response within 14 days of the date of this letter to

This written response is in addition to any response you have already provided regarding the allegations. Any further correspondence with including your response to the proposed reportable conduct finding should be directed to the above nominated officer only.

After consideration of any response/s you provide or in the absence of the same within 14 days of the date of this letter, the reportable conduct finding will be finalised, and a detailed report will be provided to the ACT Ombudsman in accordance with the legislative requirements.

Further information regarding the reportable conduct scheme is available on the ACT Ombudsman's website <u>www.ombudsman.act.gov.au</u> should you require.

#### **Reportable Conduct Information Sharing**

#### The Commissioner for Fair Trading

Please be advised that will share the outcome of the preliminary assessment and reportable conduct inquiry with the Commissioner for Fair Trading in accordance with section 863CA of the *Children and Young Peoples Act 2008*.

#### **Teacher Quality Institute (TQI) Notification**

is required to notify TQI under section 70B of the ACT Teacher Quality Institute Act 2010 where removes, cancels or ends the access of the teacher to casual employment. A notification will be made to TQI in accordance with the requirements of the quoted legislation.

#### Confidentiality

I would like to remind you that you have an obligation to maintain confidentiality in relation to this incident and related matters. You must not discuss these matters with any staff or students without first seeking my permission. You can however discuss the matter with a nominated support person or an industrial representative. Any breach of this direction will be recorded and treated seriously.

## Support

Should you require support in relation to this matter, you can contact

If you have any questions in relation to this letter please contact

Yours sincerely

# Section 70B Notification Form



Office Use Only TQI Reference:

Under section 70B of the ACT Teacher Quality Institute Act 2010, it is the employer's obligation to notify TQI of a notification event.

Email TQINotification@act.gov.au

Telephone:

Details of Teacher				
Nan	ne:	Employment Status:		
Date of Notification Event: TQI Number:				
Sec	tor:	School name:		
Cau	use for reporting a notification event under se	ction 70B		
	the employer of an approved teacher tells the teacher that the employer has decided to begin a formal investigation;			
	the employer takes disciplinary action against the teacher under the terms of the teacher's employment;			
	Tick if the following information is available:			
	<ul> <li>At time of notification the teacher's employment has been terminated Yes □ No □</li> </ul>			
	<ul> <li>At time of notification a formal investigation has teacher has occurred and the teacher has selected</li> </ul>			
$\boxtimes$	the employer removes, cancels or ends the access of the teacher to casual employment;			
	an approved teacher, who is the subject of a formal investigation or preliminary factual inquiry by the employer, resigns.			
Details of notifier for the reported matter:				
Name:				

The employer must notify TQI within 5 working days of a notification event. The employer commits an offence (with a maximum penalty of 50 points) if they fail to notify a 'notification event' within the 5 working days timeframe.

Email



*Office Use Only* TQI Reference:

Under section 70C of the ACT Teacher Quality Institute Act 2010, an employer must respond to a request for further information in relation to a notification event within a stated timeframe.

Email TQINotifications@act.gov.au

Details of Teacher		
Name:	TQI Number:	
Date of Notification Event:	Employment Status:	
Sector:	School name:	
Information to be sent to TQI by	close of business	

Cause for reporting a notification event under section 70B

the employer removes, cancels or ends the access of the teacher to casual employment;

#### Information requested under s70C of the TQI Act:

#### Provide the following:

a description of the notification event

investigation report

any other information related to the notification event

Details of notifier for the reported matter:				
Name:				
Telephone:	Email:			
Details of TQI officer managi	ng case:			
Name: Claudia Hale				
Telephone:62058207	Email:Claudia.Hale@act.gov.au			

This record is not released in accordance with Section 17 of the *Freedom of Information Act 2016,* Schedule 2.2(a)(ii)

# Section 70B Notification Form



Office Use Only TQI Reference:

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Email TQINotification@act.gov.au

Details of Teacher				
Nan	ne:	Employment Status:		
Date	Date of Notification Event: TQI Number:			
Sec	tor:	School name:		
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	the employer of an approved teacher tells the teacher that the employer has decided to begin a formal investigation;			
	the employer takes disciplinary action against the teacher under the terms of the teacher's employment;			
	Tick if the following information is available:			
	<ul> <li>At time of notification the teacher's employment has been terminated Yes □ No □</li> </ul>			
	<ul> <li>At time of notification a formal investige teacher has occurred and the teacher</li> </ul>	tigation has been completed or full admission by the ler has select		
	the employer removes, cancels or ends the access of the teacher to casual employment;			
	an approved teacher, who is the subject of a formal investigation or preliminary factual inquiry by the employer, resigns.			
Details of notifier for the reported matter:				
Name:				
Tele	ephone	Email		

The employer must notify TQI within 5 working days of a notification event. The employer commits an offence (with a maximum penalty of 50 points) if they fail to notify a 'notification event' within the 5 working days timeframe.