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In reply please quote: A15/0690

20 May 2016

Mr Mark Philip
Director, Industrial Relations
NSW Department of Education
35 Bridge Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Email: mark.philip@det.nsw.edu.au

Dear Mr Philip,

RE: STUDENT INJECTIONS

I refer to your letter dated 18 May 2016 in response to the PSA letter dated 3 May 2016 in relation to concerns that SLSOs are administering injections in schools.

You have sought further detail regarding the:

- Names of the schools
- Type of medication being delivered and for what reasons and
- Exact method of delivery

In the meeting on the 7th April 2016 the PSA identified West Ryde Public School as the school in question. The type of medication being was insulin injections for the purpose of diabetes management. The PSA is aware that Trish Boss has been in communication with the school and is aware of the matter as was stated in my letter dated 3 May 2016.

The PSA attended a School Learning Support Officers Conference at Castle Hill RSL on Tuesday the 26th April 2016. The PSA was approached by members who expressed great concern with one SLSO being visibly distressed regarding the pressure they were subjected to when being asked to “volunteer” to undertake this procedure. Members clearly stated that they were not comfortable in undertaking this work but felt they had no option as their employment could be in jeopardy. With reference to the above the PSA is unable to provide names due to the explicit request from members not to be identified due to the risk that their employment may be terminated. Please be aware that this reference includes temporary employment.

The PSA submits that it is not incumbent on the union to investigate these matters. The PSA has brought the issue to the attention of the Department. However, the task of investigation falls on the employer.

The PSA re-iterates our request in our 3 May 2016 letter that the Department “put out urgent communication to all school principals to immediately cease any such practice and ensure no SAS staff member undertakes the administration of injections (excluding epi-pen).” Can you please formally respond to this request in writing.

In addition, the PSA refers to the consultation clause extracted in the 3 May 2016 letter and we request to be properly consulted on this emerging industrial issue. I note that the award is silent on the issue of student injections as this issue is not covered by prescribed medication, health care procedures or first aid. Therefore this issue must be discussed with the union as per the requirements of the consultation clause.

The PSA requests a response in writing to this letter by 3 June 2016.

Yours sincerely,



VERA BABICHEVA
INDUSTRIAL ADVOCATE

CC *Trish Boss, Manager, Complex Support Disability & Health*
Eric Dailly, Senior Industrial Officer, DoE
Ann Attwater, PSA A/Team Leader