

Christchurch!

29th March 1992

Vicky Buck

Mayor of Christchurch

Dear Vicky-

This is a difficult letter to write. I feel I must express my deep concern over the sexual abuse against my grand daughter

Audrey Walnut while she attended the Civic Crèche. We were all shattered to discover the depths to which the 'child care' worker **Dank** and also **the cover-ups** that followed.

¹⁰ Not only was he abusing these children sexually - he

also deliberately left some of them - definitely Audrey - as a punishment for 'bad' behaviour in the Botanical Gardens - an outing from the creche.

Another co-worker came & found them - how could any child-care centre condone that behaviour.

I have also heard - other parents removed their children from the creche & expressed concern about teasing, inappropriate behaviour, rough handling - as well as ~~sexual~~ ^{actual} sexual abuse. Why weren't these complaints dealt with in an open way - Many of the parents felt they couldn't complain - again. That shows an unhealthy environment. What was going on there - I wonder what other dishonest behaviour was being denied.

3/ You know Any behaviour that is abusive towards children cannot be allowed. You would be devastated if it were your own child - as Audrey's family is - and Audrey what future for her + her friends?

Sexual abuse ^{often} leads to low self-esteem - drug & alcohol abuse eating disorders - teen age pregnancies - do all these children have to undergo aids tests? as well as interrogations, court cases & internal physical examinations?

It is a known fact that the worst abused children are the ones who talk least about their own abuse - how can 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 yr olds have the words & anyway for this sick behaviour.

I'm writing to you, as Mayor of course. But I also know you love your own child & children - in any other circumstances it could have been your own child at that crèche.

Please support the parents and children - who are in such pain. I would like the crèche closed.

of a anal awful inquiry into the
workers behaviour also - why did
they allow their co-worker such
freedom to exploit those defenseless
children who deserve the utmost care
& love. Those children need so much
counselling and support - are there enough
qualified trustworthy people to work with
them and their parents & grandparents.

I feel this would be a positive thing
~~to do for their city~~ ^{the city could do} - not just to close
the creche down - but to ^{offer their} support by
setting-up free counselling for families
of their children at the same time.

Know many of these children are living
in fear of death - they were told their
parents or older brother or sister, would
die if they told of the workers' abuse.

How can young children or anyway
live like that.

It just seems so improbable even to
be writing this letter to you - but
please take this very seriously

Yours in shock
regards from

Grandmother Walnut