

Précis – Decision Currie, Keith Walter

On 15 March 2018, an independent formal hearing panel handed down its decision in respect of the matter of Mr Keith Walter CURRIE. Mr CURRIE was alleged to have engaged in a prolonged and inappropriate intimate relationship with a then student of the school where he taught in the late 1970's, early 1980's.

At the hearing of this matter, a number of witnesses gave evidence by affidavit, including the victim.

During the hearing of this matter, the Institute made submissions to the independent formal hearing panel that, on the basis of the evidence, Mr CURRIE should be found unfit to teach and that the cancellation of his registration was the appropriate sanction. The Institute argued that Mr CURRIE's conduct, over a prolonged period of time, was such an egregious departure from the standards expected of a teacher and that the harm caused to the victim in this matter was significant.

Certain information regarding evidence considered by the independent formal hearing panel has been redacted from this précis in order to protect the interests of the victim.

After considering all the evidence and submissions in this matter, the independent hearing panel found Mr CURRIE guilty of serious misconduct, but determined that he remain as a registered teacher.

In reaching its decision, the independent formal hearing panel considered a number of factors, including:

- *Mr CURRIE's demonstrated insight and remorse and his clear understanding of the professional boundaries he crossed;*
- *The passage of time, being 37 years, since the conduct occurred and the absence of any evidence regarding further professional boundary transgressions since that time;*
- *[This factor has been redacted in order to protect the interests of the victim]; and*
- *The fact that Mr CURRIE's teacher registration had been suspended for approximately six months, during the course of these proceedings.*

As a result, Mr CURRIE remains a registered teacher in Victoria.

Note that the independent formal hearing panel made a non-publication order in this matter preventing publication of the name of the victim, the name of the witnesses and the nature of any medical diagnosis and medical treatment received by the victim.