

Argyle House Report
By Director of Boarding (Weeks 5-9, Term 2, 2009)

NZBSA Annual Conference Report:

NZBSA Annual Conference Held in Queenstown 26 – 29 May, 2009.

Hostel Visits:

Dunstan High School

Co-ed Hostel – motel-style units for juniors – seniors separate accommodation for boys and girls. On-site school facilities available including pool.

Prep room with computer support 1 hour only for juniors and seniors each week night.

Cromwell College Apartments

Co-ed 6/7 form apartments.

Life skills programme for all boarders plus they have to be enrolled in the Sports Academy either for snow sports or golf with schooling at Cromwell College – 3 way contracts with pupils.

Self-catering in mixed shared flats.

Budget for each weekly shop, roster for cooking and cleaning and kitchen for preparation in each flat.

Speakers

Chief Human Rights Commissioner Ms Rosslyn Noonan (Opening dinner speaker) interesting.

“Healthcare Decisions for children and young people: what does the law say: Dr Marie Bismark.

Code of rights – www.hdc.org.nz www.privacy.org.nz

Care of Children Act – Section 36 (1)

Permission for treatment “given by suitable persons who are interested in the welfare of the child.”

“If no guardian can be found by a person who has been acting in place of parent/guardian of child.”

Law not directly governed by age of patient. 16 years old seen as a guideline but variations (especially below that age) governed by ability to show understanding.

Confirmed that Hostels needed a medical policy, reaffirmed Argyle Procedures.

“Food Allergies – Increasing Trend or just Trendy” Nikki Hart

www.allergy.org.au

www.allergy.org.nz

www.mfd.co.nz

Action Plan for Allergic Reactions – note that Epi pen should not be in locked storage space and awareness of their shelf life. Argyle currently has no boys with known allergies.

Need to be aware in food preparation of cross-contamination – need to keep certain areas free for preparation of food for boys with known allergies.

Cross-over risk to being bullied due to perceived as different.

“Understanding Youth in Aotearoa New Zealand Challenges and Possibilities” Bronwyn Wood

“Individual Youth” and “Knowledge Society”

Processes and patterns for pupils growing up are less predictable, less linear and less collectivised. Young people are forced to negotiate risk individually. Hostels are important as they provide security and a sense of belonging. Youth need anchoring points, hostel along with families and parents help to provide these. Need for children to feel cared for/wanted/loved.

“Exploring ways for hostels to participate in the whole curriculum” Paul Ferris

Hostel Life link to N.Z. Curriculum Key Competencies Argyle House reports – Manager and Director have began looking into directly relating reports to key competencies. Development of Prep and self management of time will be a focus area for management in Term 3.

“Mad Uncle Jack: What if anything goes on in a teenagers head?” Nigel Latta

Little gems like “Be a rock not the sea” “Drop and run”, “Keep making decisions” all to do with interaction with the teenager. “Mad Uncle Jack” based on treating teenager comments as if from mad uncle and not over-reacting to verbal insults and/or abusive language. Carry over to hostels from parenting obvious and useful. “Drop and Run” to do as you pass boarders in hostel and school.

Networking

Discussion with NPBHS, Dilworth, PNBHS regarding catering. Feedback already in from Cockerton at Dilworth, Director and Catering Manager invited to Dilworth School. Still awaiting feedback from N.P. and P.N. Use of sanitizer in and around Dining Room. Argyle House as a direct result now has 3 dispensers on the entrances to the dining room.

ERO: Discussion with staff from Wesley College and Nelson College. Wesley have invited visitors or e-mail questions regarding their ministerial inspection and Nelson have just had ERO inspection,. All helpful.

The NZBSA is playing an increasingly professional role in supporting Boarding Schools and Hostels through day to day matters, ERO inspections, licensing and duty of care training for staff. The Director and Manager would like to acknowledge the Headmaster and BOT for their support in attending this conference.

Argyle House policy and procedures were greatly reaffirmed. The new management structure Director, Manager, Senior Matron and Catering and Property Managers should mean we are able to keep providing the boarders with high quality services and care.

TCN Aughton
Director of Boarding
23 June, 2009