

**NOTES OF INTERVIEW BETWEEN JHME AND XY  
DATED 1 APRIL 2015**

XY has a prior association with the Ruru Specialist School. XY is willing to talk to me and to any Ministry representative but does not want name known to Ruru School. XY is concerned of being targeted in the small Invercargill community if XY's name was known.

In order to respect XY's request for anonymity I have not recorded the nature of XY's association with the school but in my view it would clearly provide XY with an opportunity to provide reliable information as to the goings on within the school.

XY described many incidents of mistreatment of children and was able to give specific examples of assaults by staff of pupils by punching and using a pen as a stabbing object. XY described raising concerns regarding treatment of the children at the school and then feeling targeted in ways that can be particularised by XY.

XY has a clear recollection of the "seclusion/safe room". XY refers to it as a punishment room. XY is adamant that the room was used on a very frequent basis, on average daily. XY described children being put in the room in a distressed state, having the door closed and then not being able to exit the room. XY was not aware of any documentation being collated by the school in relation to the use of the room and expressed disbelief when told that the documentation produced suggested the room was only used on a handful of occasions annually and not at all in the year 2013. XY described occasions when XY allowed for children to be released from the room and those children being in a very distressed state.

Ultimately XY felt compelled to look for other work opportunities largely as a consequence of the way in which the children at Ruru Specialist School were being treated.

These notes have been referred and approved by XY.

Signed  
JHM Eaton QC