

Letter of Complaint by the Local People of Knuckey Lagoon

RE: Ronnie Agnew

Five years ago, Mr Ronnie Agnew was employed by AMSANT and Mr Bernard Valadian, Aboriginal Development Foundation ADF to support the people of Knuckey Lagoon. Mr Agnew and his family live on the community grounds.

Mr Agnew has a work history of being employed previously at several Aboriginal communities and in particular, those under Mr Bernard Valadian Aboriginal Development Foundations' lease.

Over the years the local people and the visiting families have become afraid of Mr Agnew, his wife Janine and their family members who have become extremely hostile towards the local people of Knuckey Lagoon. The Agnew family are well known for being violent with each other. Mr Agnew recently had a broken arm from a fight he had with his son-in-law.

During the NAADOC week celebrations at Knuckey Lagoon, when there were several hundred people on the community, Mr Agnew was extremely intoxicated and his behaviour was inappropriate for a man in such a responsible position, the local people of the community were embarrassed to have community service visitors see Mr Agnew when he was in such an inebriated state. We intend to produce letters of support in relation to this matter.

The local people have approached Mr Bernard Valadian to seek support and advice several times however, nothing has been done to remove Mr Agnew from a position that we know he is abusing.

Some of the local people have received vulgar and vile text messages and derogatory pictures from Mr Agnew's family members; these are extremely sexually graphic and are aimed at the young women within the community.

On Monday 20 Sept Mr Agnew's wife Janine purposely did property damage to one of the local peoples vehicles by smashing her bag into the side mirror on the car and breaking it, there were several witnesses to the unprovoked attack and the matter was reported to the police. This is not the first occasion that Mr Agnew's wife Janine has been physically abusive to the local people, Janine is well known to be verbally and physically confronting in her own right.

Due to the increasing fear that the local people have of Mr Agnew, it was only recently that a cultural ceremony took place for the last rites of a local family member, we we're deeply saddened by this situation and concerned that the matter was not managed in a culturally appropriate manner by Mr Agnew.

As we have stated previously, Mr Agnew has been employed at several Indigenous Communities within the Darwin and rural areas and family members connected to these other communities can verify that Mr Agnew, his wife Janine and their family members are well known for their intimidation, aggression and violence towards

