



Mr Jacob Rooi  
Ombudsman  
Rapport Newspaper

20 October 2010

Dear Mr Rooi

### CHAMELEONS MONTESSORI SCHOOL

It causes great concern that the Rapport has published such a one sided viewpoint on such a sensitive issue, with the apparent motive to elicit an emotive response. We have repeatedly provided your reporter with documentation illustrating processes implemented to ensure the safety of children & staff. By omitting to report on this, it appears as though nothing pro-active has been instituted on behalf of the school. The reporter seems to have purposefully omitted this information to create a bias article.

The school's Environmental Health Committee (EHC) have instituted several precautionary measures to ensure the safety of the children, over and above the fact that the Department of Health have endorsed the spraying protocols on the farms. Included in these measures is the planting of a barrier of trees along the boundary to the vineyards and erecting a 95% shade cloth barrier along the relevant boundaries.

The school initiated a rigorous Environmental testing programme designed specifically for our purposes under the auspices of Prof London of UCT.

The minutes of a meeting held in July (including representatives from the school, bordering farms, the Departments of Health, Agriculture & Air Quality) noted that "**Everybody agreed that the existing school policy regarding this matter is adequate**".

The EHC has ensured complete transparency affording parties the opportunity to make informed decisions as to whether to remain part of the Chameleons Community. It is unfortunate that reckless reporting has put much of this in jeopardy.

Publication of the viral infection which has no correlation to the spaying was extremely irresponsible and has had a negative effect on the school's prospective enrollments. Many of the existing families in the school are angered by the persecution of the school - frustrated that their right to make informed decisions about their children has been infringed upon by misleading representations. So much focus has been put on the negative opinions of a small group of EX-parents while the 95 supportive families have been given little voice to their opinion.

Perhaps the newspaper should contact these families for a balanced view.

Yours Faithfully

**Emma Medell**  
**PRINCIPAL**