

Father Bernie Frize has reported the following to me:

In regard to the allegations made by [REDACTED], it appears that there is great reluctance on the part of the alleged victims to take the matter further. The victims are afraid of the consequences for them should the matter become more public. They are afraid of the court proceedings they may have to be involved in.

Fr Bernie Frize continues to encourage the parents to encourage the alleged victims to lay official complaints with the Police and the Department of Community affairs.

It is reported that [REDACTED] has made an approach to the Department of Community affairs and the police. They have advised they can do nothing significant unless the alleged victims lay an official complaint.

The approach of [REDACTED] to Bernard Frize from the beginning was to inform Bernie of the allegation that an [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. It was not a complaint that a priest had abused [REDACTED]. However, [REDACTED] is a priest even though he is suspended from all public priestly ministry anywhere in the world. Because of the uncertainty that official complaints will be made to the Police, the Professional Standards Resource Group have been advised in confidence of the situation by me this day. John Davoren has advised that he shall give the appropriate advice to the Police authorities that the information regarding the alleged offences has come into the possession of the Church, that encouragement is being given to the alleged victims to lay formal complaint to the Department of Community Services.

W J Peters  
Armidale NSW  
27 February, 1998