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By email: rod.watt@wmwsolicitors.com.au
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Dear Mr Watt,

Diocese of Armidale – Fr. John Farrell

CPD (CCI Ref: **REDACTED**)

CPM (CCI Ref: **REDACTED**)

We acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 25 July 2014 in which you requested, on behalf of the Diocese of Armidale, that we reconsider our decision dated 2 June 2014 (**Decision**) that limited indemnity available to the Diocese of Armidale (**Diocese**) in respect of claims involving Fr. Farrell.

In our Decision we determined that indemnity would not be available to the Diocese after 30 June 1983, being the date deemed by us on which the Diocese became aware of Fr. Farrell's sexual impropriety with children.

In requesting a review of our Decision you referred to:

- An Extract of the Consultor's Meeting on 17 July 1984; and
- The Report of the Honourable Tony Whitlam QC (05/09/2012).

In particular, you submitted that indemnity should be extended up until the middle of April 1984, rather than 30 June 1983 on the basis that Fr. Farrell continued as Assistant Parish Priest at Moree until he left the area towards the end of April 1984.

We have now considered your submissions, reviewed the documents provided (including the Whitlam Report) and interviewed Fr. Richard Gleeson, regarding the evidence he gave to the Whitlam Inquiry.

On completing these further enquiries, we have concluded that Monsignor Ryan, Vicar General, first acquired knowledge of Fr. Farrell's sexual impropriety sometime in April 1984 and not early 1983 as first considered.



As such, our Decision dated 2 June 2014 to provide indemnity to the Diocese up to 30 June 1983 in respect of all claims for compensation involving allegations of sexual abuse by Fr. John Farrell, is varied, insofar as it relates to date of knowledge, as follows:

Indemnity is granted, to the Diocese of Armidale, the Trustees of the Roman Catholic Church for the Diocese of Armidale, any relevant member or past member of the Trustees and any relevant person for whose conduct the Diocese of Armidale and/or the Trustees is responsible, except of course for the alleged perpetrator. Where any such person, excepting the perpetrator, is deceased such indemnity will be extended to his/her estate and any appointed legal representative to the extent only that any liability on the part of the deceased survives his death.

In all current claims and all future claims for compensation involving allegations of sexual abuse by Fr. John Farrell, indemnity is denied to the Diocese of Armidale for any sexual abuse that occurred after 30 April 1984.

All other aspects of the Decision regarding the terms under which indemnity has been granted remain unchanged. For your reference, I note that the limit of indemnity under the relevant policy remained at \$25 million plus claimant plus defence costs up and until 15 September 1985.

I would like to thank you for your co-operation in this matter and apologise for the time it has taken to respond to your query.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any additional concerns.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Nicole Kelidis'.

Nicole Kelidis

Special Issues Claims Officer

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