



## File note

Date: 4 July 2012

Author: **Jennifer Cook**

Re: **Telephone attendance on Fr Brian Lucas - 4 July 2012 - privileged & confidential**

On 4 July 2012, Mgr John Usher (**JU**), Michael Casey (**MC**), Danny Casey (**DC**), Katrina Lee (**KL**), Michael do Rozario of Corrs Chambers Westgarth (**MdR**) and Jennifer Cook (**JC**) spoke to Fr Brian Lucas by telephone.

The purpose of the telephone conference was to discuss Fr Lucas his recollection of the meeting with Fr F on 3 September 1992 (**Meeting**) for the primary purpose of obtaining legal advice in relation to allegations made by ABC 4 Corners that admissions were made at that meeting that were reportable to the police.

Set out below is a record of the telephone discussion with Fr Lucas.

1. At 11.40am DC called Fr Lucas and informed him that we had discussed this matter with -Mgr Peters and he was standing by his letter.
2. Fr Lucas said it was unfortunate he was not a part of the conversation with Mgr Peters – he had expected to be involved in that conversation. It was explained that Mgr Peters had an engagement and had to leave fairly quickly.
3. Fr Lucas said “No one has said no admissions were made.” He said to carefully review the text of his email to 4 Corners which says “no admissions of a specific nature were made.” When asked what type of admissions were made, he added: “He was vague and all over the place. He was ranting”.
4. Fr Lucas said he took no notes of the Meeting. He had no recollection of discussing reporting Fr F’s claims to the police. He confirmed that he had no input into Mgr Peters’ letter and that the letter does not accord with the meeting and he has no recollection of Fr F saying what is set out in the letter. “We tried to get him talking to see whether he would say something that would enable us to suspend him”. He said that Fr F “did not say what is in the letter. I would have recalled that but he gave us enough to have us doubt his credibility – enough to stand him down”. Fr Lucas’ recollection is that Fr F was “evasive” and “all over the place”. He wondered whether it was truthful. He said that if Fr F had conveyed “that level of detail” [as set out in the letter] then he would have reported it to the police. **[IMC noted “that level of detail would have been reportable”. Also noted “If WP had that level of detail he should have reported it”.]** He suggested that victims be invited very publicly to come forward now.

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5. When asked how to explain the letter by Mgr Peters if it does not reflect what happened at the Meeting, Fr Lucas said that Mgr Peters "definitely wanted this guy out".
6. When asked if he spoke to Bishop Manning after the Meeting, Fr Lucas said he may have phoned Bishop Manning the following day. He did not write a letter or report to Bishop Manning.
7. He could not recall any further meetings. He said it was possible that JU and Peters met after the meeting.
8. Fr Lucas said that he has "never spoken to any victim of Farrell". There was no discussion regarding Farrell after 1992.
9. He went on to say that he would talk to Mgr Peters about the letter and the need for him to include that he had embellished it. He said that in the context of time this would be understandable. That would be the end of it and "gets him off the hook". This is the only way "to clear this up and explain things".
10. BL was concerned that the media could be waiting for him on his return to Australia. When asked what BL would say to the media, he said he would respond along the lines of his 4 Corners response (ie no specific admissions) and respond to a question regarding the letter that he would suggest it had been embellished to ensure the Bishop took action. When DC suggested this would be imprudent, BL responded that he had 25 years of media experience (and was not inclined to take advice from DC).
11. The telephone call ended before 12:30 pm.

**Jennifer Cook**