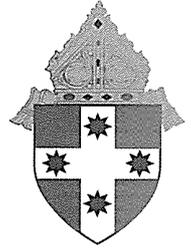


CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY

**Memorandum**

Date: 5 July 2012
 To: Parish Priests
 From: Bishop Julian Porteous
 Re: **ABC 4 Corners**

Dear Father

No doubt you are aware of the ABC 4 Corners program last Monday night (2 July 2012) which focussed on allegations relating to a "Fr F" and to several Salesian priests. The first matter involved the diocese of Armidale, but the Sydney Archdiocese became involved because Cardinal Pell was asked questions in relation to a meeting that took place in 1992 between "Fr F" and Fr Brian Lucas and Mgr John Usher as members of the special issues resource group.

The Archdiocese responded on Tuesday with a statement to say we are looking into claims that admissions were made by "Fr F" at the 1992 meeting which (if they were made) should have been notified to the police.

On Wednesday, following our inquiries, the Archdiocese issued a statement confirming that Fr Brian Lucas and Mgr John Usher stood by their recollections that no specific admissions were made at that meeting. Neither Fr Lucas nor Mgr Usher had any knowledge of a private letter subsequently written by Mgr Peters to the Bishop of Armidale at the time.

I am conscious that this matter has caused a great deal of media comment and caused significant distress and concern among our priests and people. I am **enclosing** for you the initial statement made by the Archdiocese on Tuesday, the statement issued by the Archdiocese on Wednesday and a copy of a statement from the Diocese of Armidale issued on Wednesday. I hope these may assist you in being able to address any questions that may be put to you, particularly over the coming weekend.

In these very distressing matters, we are firstly aware of those who have been affected by sexual abuse by those in the Church, both the individuals and their families. As we have done in the past and continue to do, you may wish to encourage the faithful in prayer for all those who have been hurt by sexual abuse. We also want to keep in our prayers Fr Brian Lucas and Mgr John Usher as priests of the Archdiocese and also Mgr Wayne Peters of Armidale. The Archdiocese is available to assist you if there are any particularly matters that you want to discuss.

Yours fraternally in Christ

Bishop Julian Porteous