

On 14 August 1998 I rang John Davoren of the Professional Standards Committee in response to a message he left for me.

He advised that John Farrell had been in touch with him and had told him

That John was being blackmailed by a young man who alleged John had sexually assaulted. The blackmail had commenced in February 1998. John had paid the blackmailer \$22,000 to date.

The blackmailer was asking for another \$20,000 and then would sign a declaration that the matter was finished.

The alleged young man who was doing the blackmailing was around 19 or 20.

John Farrell had given the blackmailer his bank account number which had John Davoren somewhat confused. John Farrell alleged that the blackmailer was going to pay money back to John which again left John Davoren confused.

John Farrell advised John Davoren that the Diocese of Armidale had offered in the latter part of 1997 to send him (John Farrell) to the week long Encompass Programme in Sydney to assist him in moving from priesthood to lay life. This was in response to John's request for emotional and psychological assistance to find a new way of life.

John Davoren advised John Farrell that he should have no more contact with the alleged blackmailer. He advised John Farrell to contact the Diocese of Armidale in regard to going to Encompass. He advised John Farrell that he should take positive steps now to apply for a dispensation from obligations of priesthood thus returning him to the life of a lay person.

W J Peters  
Armidale NSW  
14 August 1998