

(H: N)

CONFIDENTIALSummary of events concerning Lou Daniels

1. Monday, 21st November, 1994

About 5.00 p.m. I received a telephone call from [REDACTED] (formerly [REDACTED] of Burnie. She had previously contacted Janet in the office and had spoken to Marie as I was out when she originally rang.

She spoke to me about her eldest [REDACTED] [BYW] whom she informed me had "laid charges" against Lou Daniels for sexual molestation. He had been to the police. [BYW] is now seventeen years old, she told me, but what he alleged had been going on for three or four years. [REDACTED] was very emotional and concerned that she had not yet told [BYW] father, [REDACTED] her husband. She knew she had to do that and would do so shortly.

She also remarked to me that although I was concerned I had not expressed great surprise. I indicated I could not speak about that.

1. I said I took the matter seriously. If the police were taking any action, then the Church would do nothing to step in the way of that. I told her that there would be no cover up from our point of view and that justice must take its course.

I expressed deep concern for her and for [BYW] and suggested that they seek appropriate counselling advice. Although there was more to the conversation than that, this is the best that I can do from memory and I believe covers the substantial part.

She also mentioned one of her sons, [REDACTED] I think it was, who said that Brett Skipper had propositioned him at one time. I needed to take special note of that and care about it because I was aware that Brett Skipper was a member of the Boarding House staff at the Hutchins School and, if I remember rightly, had used my name as a referee in obtaining the position.

I immediately telephone^d David Thorp and Bishop Ronald Stone who came to Bishops court so that we could take counsel together.

Whilst they were at Bishops court I rang Lou to tell him that I had had this accusation made against him. His response was something like "O God, I thought that I had fixed that". Clearly he was in a state of shock and I told him that Bishop Ron would be coming probably that night and would see him, but would telephone when he had re-organised his programme.

It was decided that in the light of these disclosures and our previous knowledge that Bishop Ron should go immediately. I said that independent of the police enquiry or action, if it involved a breach of trust with myself since the verbal admonition of him in 1987 and particularly if he had breached his written undertaking to me in response to my written solemn admonition of this year, that there were three options open:

- (a) immediate suspension
- (b) immediate voluntary resignation
- (c) my withdrawal of his licence.

I rang the Primate from Bishops court and informed him of the allegations and the proposed actions. He concurred that this was proper procedure and that if a breach of trust had occurred that it was important that Lou should not continue to minister in any capacity.

2. Tuesday, 22nd November, 1994

I travelled to the Executive meeting of the General Board of Religious Education in Melbourne and kept in touch by telephone. In due course, Bishop Ron reported to me that he had received in writing Lou's resignation from all positions particularly as Rector and Archdeacon. During the course of this day Lou had suggested that it might be possible for him to have stress leave. I indicated to Bishop Ron that this needed to be handled by Lou's lawyers and our lawyers rather than between us and Lou.

At some stage during the day I also spoke with the Primate and informed him that we had a resignation in hand and that I would be appointing an Acting Rector and Acting Archdeacon.

3. Wednesday, 23rd November, 1994.

By telephone from Melbourne I suggested that we should seek the advice of Andrew Abbot and in particular as to where we stood. I suggested further consultation with Andrew Abbot especially with regard to my informing John Bednall of the Hutchins School. One had to bear in mind the possibility of defaming Brett but also one's obligation to protect those boys who may be under his care lest there be any danger to them.

Later that day having returned to Hobart I saw Mr John Bednall at Bishops court and informed him fully of the situation and the possible dangers. He indicated that he would alert Mr Chris Rae and put in place certain procedures of protection and that in any case there was no contractual arrangement and he could easily bring the employment to an end at the end of the year.

4. Thursday, 24th November.

I visited Burnie for the opening of the new Umina Park facilities. At about 3.30 p.m. I visited Lou Daniels. It was a difficult time. Perhaps the main part to record is that he wanted to know what statement I would be making to the parish. I emphasised that we would be saying that he was resigning for his own personal reasons.

5. Friday, 25th November, 1994

We finalised an Ad Clerum and a Pastoral Letter to the parish. I informed the media officer of the content of the Ad Clerum. I also informed Archdeacon Legg, Archdeacon

Letchford and Dean Stuart Blackler, giving them no more information than is contained in the Ad Clerum.

I also rang John Bednall advising him to speak to Mr Andrew Abbott of Dobson Mitchell and Allport who was fully cognisant of this matter. There was a concern of possible wrongful dismissal, but John Bednall seemed to have the whole matter in hand.

6. Wednesday, 30th November, 1994

I dictated a letter to all diocesan bishops informing them of Lou's resignation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. K. W.', with a long, sweeping underline stroke extending to the right.