

REDACTED

Dear Tommy,

Further to our recent phone conversation, I will update my enquiries:

- 1) I have spoken to DOCS Freedom of Information Manager and he informs me that their archives do not contain any denominational home licensing files after 1952. I gave him a potential search area of their former School Attendance branch but that came up empty. He said their archival records were generally poor and there were no further search options.
- 2) Enquiries with the Manager of CASSA, an Anglican Church service at the old Children Home also came up negative in a search for old licensing records. The manager informed me that the only likely archival centre might be the Diocesan Office in Grafton which is oversighted by Pat Comben(is that spelling right?) and I felt there was no point going there.
- 3) As to former staff or board members of the Home, REDACTED is still alive and pretty sure his phone no. is REDACTED. Also a REDACTED I think lives at REDAC REDACTED
- 4) Despite the brick wall in the DOCS search I feel that the material you already have from 1937 to 1952 is pretty conclusive in that it shows: a) That the home has a control and conduct licence b) that the control licence was held by an Anglican clergyman, probably the Arch Deacon rather than the Bishop c) that a Board of Directors supported the Matron in overseeing operations of the Home and fund raising d) the Board were appointed by the Anglican Church and the Home was situated on Church property.
- 5) Those records replicate my description of the licensing laws in the 11 years in which I managed Lismore DOCS office from 1970 to 1981.
- 6) I attended a number of functions to do with extensions, fund raising, John Singletons visit etc and all were presided over both by Arch Deacon Robinson and the Bishop and there could be no doubt that the Anglican Church was responsible for the running of the Home and their sign at the front entrance said so. My recollection is mirrored by current DOCS District Officer Graeme Farrelly who has been in Lismore since the mid 70s.
- 7) I am prepared to say to any investigative panel that I am quite certain of these facts and I don't believe that the Anglican Church can distance itself from duty of care responsibilities especially when their clergymen had as free access to the Homes residents as did employed staff and the Church must accept responsibility for the conduct of their clergymen.

Hope this helps

Regards

  
Tony Madden