

FILE NOTE

DATE 22 October, 1993

SUBJECT **TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH FATHER FITZPATRICK**

FILE NO. 758196

CONFIDENTIAL

On 14 October 1993 at 12.40pm, I had a 15 minute telephone conversation with Father Fitzpatrick, having located him in New Orleans, Louisiana, United State of America.

Father Fitzpatrick states that around the time that Father Ridsdale joined the Catholic Enquiry Centre at Maroubra, Bishop Mulkearns telephoned him and asked if they could meet. Coincidentally, Father Fitzpatrick was travelling to Victoria and when he did, they met and Father Ridsdale's appointment was discussed. According to Father Fitzpatrick, "Bishop Mulkearns did tell me that his transfer was as a result of 'sexual matters' ". However, Bishop Mulkearns did not provide details and Father Fitzpatrick did not ask.

I read to Father Fitzpatrick salient points of Bishop Mulkearns letter to him of 3 September 1984. The background of the letter is as follows: Father Fitzpatrick had heard a number of things about Father Ridsdale which had made him suspicious. He contacted Bishop Mulkearns and said "this is what I have heard" and outlined the various events (Father Fitzpatrick cannot remember now exactly what those events were). He remembers saying to Bishop Mulkearns the words to the effect of "something should be done about this. I can't be his therapist". As a result, Bishop Mulkearns wrote the letter of 3 September.

After that time, Father Fitzpatrick became aware of other matters, one incident involving a school at Campbelltown, New South Wales and a second occasion when one of his staff members said to him words to the effect of "a kid stayed here last night". As a result, Father Fitzpatrick stated that he telephoned Bishop Mulkearns and said words to the effect of "I want him out of here" as a result, Father Ridsdale left at the end of that year.

Father Fitzpatrick instructs that Father Ridsdale did some parish supply work at Father Fitzpatrick's instigation. He did this on no more than one or two occasions and spoke about the operations of the Catholic Enquiry Centre. Any other parish supply work was of a private nature and not known to Father Fitzpatrick.

Father Fitzpatrick states that Ridsdale was engaged at the Catholic Enquiry Centre during office hours. He states that he was not to supervise him after hours.

Father Fitzpatrick has been involved in a number of matters for the Church over the years and has been away from both Sydney and Australia great deal. Whilst he was not aware of Father Ridsdale's activities in general, he said that "if anything came up, I was on to it quickly".

BRIAN WILLIAMSON