

Professional Standards Office

Marist Brothers
 PO Box 82
 Ashgrove
 Ph 07 38584598
 Fx 07 38584592

REDACTED

27 August, 2003

Carroll & O'Dea
 Level 19, St James Centre
 111 Elizabeth Street
 Sydney 2000

Att: Mr Howard Harrison

Dear Howard,

I am responding to the letter from Karen Mole that you forwarded a copy to me. I think I have been able to respond to most of the points she raises regarding ACW [REDACTED] and the school at REDACT [REDACTED]

- a) The school was owned by the Parish/Diocese and operated by the Marist Brothers during the period of loss referred to.
- b) The appointment and supervision of lay teachers was the responsibility of the Marist Brothers during that time.
- c) The appointment and supervision of Marist Brothers who were teachers during that same period was the responsibility of the Provincial of the Marist Brothers who was in fact Br Charles Howard during that period.
- d) Br Gregory Sutton was a member of the REDACT [REDACTED] community and therefore his formal place of residence and usual place of overnight stay during his appointment to REDACT [REDACTED] was the Marist Brothers' house in REDACT [REDACTED].
- e) The period of Br Sutton's tenure at REDACTED [REDACTED] in REDACT [REDACTED] for January 1973 to December 1975. If to the best of my knowledge there was no negative reason for Br Sutton's relocation to North Shore in 1976. The headmaster of the time, John Holdsworth, indicated that Br Sutton did not enjoy a happy working relationship with the other Brother in the primary school at the time and perhaps the Provincial thought it was better to move one of them.
- f) ACW [REDACTED] tenure at REDACTED [REDACTED]. There is a slight uncertainty here. School records do not exist. ACW [REDACTED] says he was at the school from Grade 1 to Grade 10. He also claims that the behaviour took place in Years 3 to Year 5. I am fairly certain that the Brothers never taught below Year 4. So Br Sutton would probably have taught this boy in Year 4 or 5. ACW [REDACTED] claims that the behaviour had ceased by the commencement of Year 6. Perhaps ACW [REDACTED] had some contact with Br Sutton while he was in Year 3 even though he wasn't in his class. That would seem a little unusual.

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ACW comments in his notes that he is aware of another student, a former classmate, who had dealings with Towards Healing as a result of his contacts with Br Sutton. To the best of my knowledge the Marist Brothers have not been involved with a Towards Healing matter with an ex-student of Br Sutton from Innisfail.

About 1995-1996 I understand that a family from REDAC had a son of theirs suicide. I understand that this boy may have been associated with Br Sutton. Howard I hope this helps in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Br Alexis Turton
Professional Standards Office
Marist Brothers Sydney Province