

Q/60/N/47/85002

Q/60

SPECIAL ISSUES ALLEGATION REPORT

14 January, 1994.

Regarding AB5

- AB5 is no longer a Brother. I understand presently married and living overseas.
- 1985 in country primary school concern among staff and principal re unwise association with students. Sometimes alone in class with students, sometimes standing close. On two occasions Principal notified Provincial AD. Vice-Provincial AT spoke with Principal on both occasions. On second occasion letter of agreement with conditions of employment highlighted was signed by AB5. Strong note that should these be violated then position on the staff would no longer be tenable. Second confrontation was in 1986. Towards the end of this year the Provincial AD, at the request of AB5, transferred him to Sydney where there were a number of attempts at therapy, but none of this was ongoing.
- There were no specific allegations other than being alone with students and in a couple of cases taking students driving. An assessment by Vincent Ryan, clinical psychologist, identified the need for strong ongoing therapy which was not undertaken at the time. AB5 continued to work away from children in a library situation. Early in 1989 at least one student at DRO was speaking with the parish counsellor about concerns of her relationship with AB5.
- A parent of a lad with another Brother confronted AB5 regarding inappropriate relationship with his son many years before at LIA.
- Following this confrontation and a discussion with Provincial AT, AB5 went to Southdown for evaluation and residential therapy. This proved to be very valuable and the assessment was that he should not teach with young children.
- Over the next twelve months the counsellor at ERO became more concerned and the matter was brought to the attention of police. The matter was communicated also to Brian Lucas at the very beginning with John Usher.

- The girl concerned and her mother were both offered therapy as a matter of compassion by the Order.
- As more information became available the police carried out an investigation, the end point of which was an intention to prosecute AB5.
- When the police were notified that AB5 was no longer a Brother and was thought to be overseas, they did not pursue the matter any further. The understanding is that AB5 would be apprehended were he to return to Australia.
- AB5 left the Brothers in 1990.
- There was also a phone call from police regarding the stay of AB5 at WODR. No detail was given but the understanding was that it was a serious matter and that there had been a police investigation.

Note: All of the schools concerned were schools under the jurisdiction of the C.E.O.