

Marcellin House,  
193 Allison Road,  
Randwick.  
28 January, 1997.

HOPSON Kevin

Marist Brothers Marcellin House, 193 Allison Road, Randwick.  
Telephone 9399.6633  
Marist Brother

STATES:

1. I am a member of the Institute of Marist Brothers (hereinafter called the Order). I was born on the 06 February, 1933 and have been a Marist Brother since 1952. At the time of my profession I adopted the religious name of Brother Crispin.
2. Since entering the Order my appointments have included postings at Marist Brothers establishments at Kogarah, Hunters Hill, Lidcombe, Canberra, Mosman, Daceyville, and St Michael's Primary School, Daceyville. My longest appointment was that at Marist Sacred Heart Mosman where I was principal from 1976-88. I retired from school duties at the end of 1993. I suffered ill health during the years 1994-95 and have been appointed to Marist Brothers Randwick Community.
3. For the purpose of administration the Order in Australia is divided into two Provinces, the Sydney Province which includes most of New South Wales and all of Queensland; and the Melbourne Province which has responsibility for Victoria, part of New South Wales and the western portion of Australia.
4. The management of the Sydney Province is in the hands of the Brother Provincial, (which at this time is Brother Michael Hill) who is assisted by the Provincial Council, which comprises up to seven members of the Order, who

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meet with the Provincial on a regular basis. The Brother Provincial is nominated by the members of the Order in the Province and is appointed to the position by the Superior General in Rome. The Brother Provincial is responsible for managing the affairs of the Order, within his Province, for the term of his appointment. The Provincial Council members provide him with advice on any question he might refer to them as a body or as individuals.

5. The Marist Brothers in the Sydney Province is essentially a teaching Order and in that capacity it is involved in providing Brothers, who teach at primary and secondary schools and colleges at various towns and centres. Some of these establishments are directly managed by the Order while others are either jointly managed by the Order or are administered by the local Catholic Education Office or alternatively by the Parish Authorities.
6. A Superior is appointed at each of the Marist Brothers Communities; that Brother is responsible for the daily running of the community to which he was appointed and is accountable to the Provincial. Principals are also appointed within these communities to take responsibility for the education provided by the Marist Brothers at the schools where they are required to teach, albeit if directly managed by the Order or administered otherwise.
7. In 1976-77 I was the Superior of the Mosman Marist Brothers community also the Principal of the Sacred Heart Primary School Mosman. Whilst there I came into contact with Gregory Sutton, a Marist Brother who had been transferred from **REDACTED** in Queensland. The Marist Brothers Community at Mosman comprised four Brothers which included myself. In 1976 they were Brothers Paul

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Davis; Gerard Williams (Term 1) and Gregory Sutton. The teaching Brothers were Paul Davis Gregory Sutton and myself. The following year the Community comprised:- Brothers Gregory Sutton; Bryan Gray; Dennis Lester and myself. The teaching Brothers were Gregory Sutton, Dennis Lester and myself. Apart from myself, all of the teaching Brothers (3) are no longer in the Order.

8. Gregory Sutton taught the 5th class pupils in the two years that he was there. He was quite popular with the children and appeared to be a good teacher. He participated in all of the school activities. The only concern I had in relation to Brother Sutton was raised by Mr. Colin Jackman, a lay teacher at the school. He said to me in words to the effect, "It might be good to tell Brother Gregory not to be in the Sports room with just one or two kids". This was generally accepted rule within the Order and it also applied to teachers. He never expanded upon that comment and I tried to ascertain what he had tried to convey to me. I subsequently addressed a staff meeting and reminded the teachers including Brother Gregory Sutton that it was unwise to have children in class by themselves or a teacher to have one or two only. There was never any further comment from Mr. Jackman about Brother Gregory and I never received any form of complaint in relation to that Brother being involved in sexual activity whilst at the school. In hindsight the remark of Mr. Jackman has some significance, but at the time I believed that he was just being cautious.

9. I have been asked if I knew the following students at Mosman:- ADA [redacted]; ADS [redacted]; ADI [redacted]; and ADP [redacted]. ADP [redacted] and ADA [redacted] were in 5th class in 1976; ADS [redacted] and ADI [redacted] were in 5th class in

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1977. Accordingly, they would have been taught by Brother Sutton. I do not not have great recall of ADS [REDACTED] ADS [REDACTED], but I remember the other boys quite well. They were just normal 5th class students.

10. I should mention that there was a Brother at the school in 1977-78 who was the subject of a complaint in 1978; This was after the departure of Gregory Sutton. One of the mother's had approached the Parish Priest and made some form of complaint and she was advised to approach the Brother Provincial. To my knowledge that occurred and the Brother, [REDACTED] was uplifted from the school and I believe that he went to Parramatta. The Provincial at that time was Brother Geaney and apart from telling me that he had to speak with Brother [REDACTED] [REDACTED] about the complaint I was never privy to the actual details.

11. I am uncertain when I learned about Brother Gregory Sutton's behaviour, my first knowledge was when it generally become known within the Order. He was no longer teaching at that time and was in America.

Witnessed.....

Signed.....

*K. M. Hopson*  
(BROTHER CRISPIN)