

BROTHER CHARLES HOWARD:

I was the provincial of the Marist Brothers while Greg Sutton was at **REDACTED**, between Sept '72 and Oct '76.

During my time as Provincial I had to deal with 2 other complaints about sexual abuse that didn't involve Sutton.

In about '73 or '74 a headmaster reported that a Brother had interfered with a boy. I travelled to the school and interviewed the brother and the headmaster. He admitted the allegations and I removed him from the school. I arranged counselling for the boy and his parents from another brother. The Brother concerned worked with a priest for a time but he left the order after we made it clear to him that it was not his life.

Also in about '73 or '74, at another school some boys complained to the headmaster that a Brother in the dorm who was also the sports coach was inviting them into his room allegedly for massaging them. I went to see the Headmaster and the brother and moved him to another school after he denied any wrongdoing. I gave instructions that he not be in a dormitory. The brother was also counselled.

David Doherty said nothing to me about any of his suspicions in a way that made his concerns clear to me in '73 or '74. I certainly saw him on at least 2 occasions during those years while I was on visitation.

In his affidavit he says that he spoke to me about it in '75. If he had raised such concerns with me I would have spoken to the brother concerned and to the headmaster as I had done in the past. I can't deny that we did discuss it but if it did happen I wouldn't have acted in the way suggested. I can only point to my track record as to my actions taken before.

Sutton was an inexperienced teacher who had difficulty with relationships with other adults, such as teachers and other brothers. There were only 4 teachers in the school which was quite small. He was the teacher in charge of the primary school.

There were only 4 or 5 brothers at the community at that time. Doherty was the Deputy Director of the community at the time. He would have been in charge when the director was absent. He did have some responsibility to see that things were right. He was not a great letter writer.

I would have spent 3 days there during visitation. I would talk to all the brothers, visit the school, talk to the Parish Priest and to the lay teachers. The community was so small that I am sure that he would have known what was going on and that he would have raised it with me. His name was Father Larry Maher who is now deceased.

There was another brother who visited the school at least twice a year. It was his job to inspect the school and review the teaching of the brothers. his name was Brother Kelvin Canavan. He is the present director of Catholic Education in Sydney.

Dated: 8th April 1997