

## Attachment to Claim for Financial Settlement

1.

I was born in North Queensland on [REDACTED] and attended schools in Mt Isa. I was initially taught by the brown St Joseph's and subsequently the Christian Brothers. I was also an altar boy. The family moved from Mt Isa to Bondi in mid-1961. I was eleven or twelve. I immediately commenced school at St Anne's Bondi and was placed in year 6 with Br K as class teacher. He was class teacher in both 1961 and 1962. I also continued my role as an altar boy. School should have been a safe environment for me.

2.

I still remember how in awe of Sydney I was on arrival. I was excited to be attending a new school and was welcomed by the other pupils. It seemed a relaxed and wholesome place. Not long after commencing at St Anne's some of the other students in my class told me of Br K's habit of putting his hand in students pants and playing with their genitalia. I didn't really understand what they meant until it happened to me.

Within a couple of weeks Br K would sit beside me in class and put his hand in my shorts and play with my penis and testicles. At the same time his other hand would be in his pocket and (as I came to later realise) he was masturbating.

The sexual assaults continued through to the end of First year (1962) when I left the school. They occurred in the classroom and, in the warmer months, on the beach after school and/or at weekends. The assaults on the beach happened when I was in my swimming costume. He would sit on the sand leaning back against the concrete wall on the beach and I had to sit between his legs leaning back against him. He would put a towel over my groin, play with my genitals and masturbate.

On one occasion he took me and two other boys on an overnight trip to another Brother's family home in the Southern Highlands. Br K was watching me in the swimming pool all afternoon and I became quite frightened. I noticed that the other Brother's father was watching Br K. I remember that the man seemed to concern himself with my welfare and I think that saved me from actual sodomy.

3.

I felt powerless to stop the assaults. My parents revered priests and religious. Once in Mt Isa I had complained when a visiting Irish missionary priest had slapped, after Mass, the other altar boy and myself for some minor transgression. My parents did not believe my complaint. Although I tried to bring up the problems I was having with Br K, it was to no avail.

Within a short time I was totally in his power. When K told me to meet him at the beach I did. My relationships with most of the other pupils simply stopped.

At the end of 1962 I was given the opportunity to transfer to another school and with my parents agreement I did so. It was an enormous relief to be away from Br K. I have come to realise, however, that a lot of damage had been done to me.

4.

There are a number of events that occurred in subsequent years that still often re-enter my mind and my dreams.

- A few years after leaving St Anne's I was at the Sydney Town Hall for a function and bumped in to a group of very young students. I looked at the brother in charge of them and

was shocked that it was K. He had obviously seen me first and had a very unpleasant grin on his face. I pushed rudely through people to get away from him.

- Just after leaving school in 1967 I attended a party in the Eastern suburbs. Present at the party was someone from my class at St Anne's. He came over to me with some other people and as I smilingly said 'hello RED' he abused me for being a poffter. I was shocked and just remember wanting to get out of the house. Other people present that I knew mocked me. I have avoided contact with those people again.
- Approximately 13 years ago I took my three young children to Taronga Zoo for the day. We were having a good day when I saw RED coming towards us along the same path. I panicked and dragged the children off to the side out of view. The day was ruined. I just wanted to get away. The children never understood what had come over me. Just that I had spoilt their outing with ridiculous behaviour.
- In 1994 I bumped into RED's brother in the carpark of the building I worked in. He sneeringly said "Hello". I froze then hurried to the lift. I was in turmoil as to what to do. I dreaded him telling people that knew me. The only thing that I could think to do, other than to resign from the job, was to ensure that in future I arrived at work early and left late so as to avoid him. This thankfully worked as I only subsequently saw him a couple of times at a distance.
- In early 1996 there was a more senior manager at work, with whom I was not close friends, who viewed me as a competitor. This particular man came to me one morning and said in an unfriendly manner "Did you go to school at St Anne's, Bondi?" I felt shock and grief overwhelm me as he smiled in a nasty manner. Over the next few months I have no idea how I continued to function. When the new Prime Minister announced that anyone in the Australian Public Service could volunteer for retrenchment I grabbed the opportunity and left.

5.

After lodging my complaint with the Standards Office Br Alexis Turton advised me that the Marist Brothers would pay for me to attend counselling. I attended the counsellor on 8 or 9 occasions. It was of great help to me.

I now know that Kostka was a predator and that I do not have to be ashamed of what had happened. I have come to realise the serious affect that Kostka had on my life. This includes

-my very heavy consumption of alcohol from about fifteen years of age for fifteen to twenty years. I needed alcohol to be able to sleep. It blacked me out and kept dreams at bay. It also resulted in my behaviour became abusive. I lost numerous friends because of my drunken abuse. I understand now that it was because I felt unworthy and undeserving of the friendship of decent people.

-the lack of true joy at the births of my three children. The happiness I exhibited I didn't really feel. I now understand that I didn't think I was entitled to be happy.

-my fear and intense dislike of senior adult males in the workplace. This led me to the public service where I perceived myself to be safer than in private industry. I still had great difficulty in relating to senior managers and this undoubtedly hindered my career progress. I was also very critical of managers senior to myself.

-In 1968 I had commenced a career with an excellent future in the NSW Justice Department. In Sydney the job required close contact with Stipendiary Magistrates. I was very frightened of any contact with them. To eliminate this problem I requested a transfer to a country town. As some country Magistrates tended to look after the courts in a number of towns, they were often away.

After some months in the town a more senior officer invited me to share his flat. The previous occupant had been transferred from the district. I accepted with some reluctance which I didn't understand at the time. Within a few days I was like a frozen rabbit. The stress of living with a more senior male with authority over me was too much. Within a few weeks I had resigned from the Department and gone to North Queensland where I had relatives and where I would be safe.

-my inability to allow any male to touch me or put their arm around my shoulders. While I now understand the reason for this attitude it caused great difficulty with friends who were obviously very disconcerted with my attitude.

-my voluntary retrenchment from the Commonwealth Public Service, in June 1996 at the age of 47 years, has been at significant financial cost. I had a very good reputation within the Department and very senior officers tried to dissuade me from leaving. I was even advised that my departure would not be approved. However, my desperation drove me and threats of complaint to the Prime Minister resulted in approval being given.