

Commission into Sexual Abuse
Peter O'Callaghan Q C

Optus House
Level 25 Suite 36
367 Collins Street
Melbourne 3000

22 May 1997

Tel 9221 6190

Fax 9221 6191

Senior Constable Mark Domchi
Prahran Community Policing Squad

Fax: 9520 5250

Dear Senior Constable,

Re: Emma Foster,

I refer to our discussion of today and confirm that I have been appointed as an independent commissioner by Archbishop Pell to enquire into allegations of sexual abuse by priests, religious and clergy within the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

I enclose herewith a copy of the Terms and Conditions of my appointment, which you might note require that I remind persons of their rights to report sexual misconduct amounting to criminal conduct to the police and encourage them to exercise that right.

However, with respect to the abovenamed this is no longer an issue because of the fact of Kevin O'Donnell having died. However, I require to be satisfied that Emma Foster was the victim of sexual abuse by Fr. O'Donnell (dec.) before I can refer her to the Compensation Panel which will accept my finding, and will then consider what amount of compensation ought to be paid to her, to a limit of \$50,000.

In addition, given my aforesaid finding, I would be in a position to refer Emma to Carelink which is a psychiatric and counselling agency set up by the Archdiocese which either provides free psychological and support counselling or bears the cost of the victim having done that with a practitioner of her choice.

I understand that you had an interview with Emma on 24 April 1997 and that she disclosed to you certain information in relation to her position with O'Donnell (dec.).

It would be of considerable assistance to me for such information to be provided to me so that I can fit that into the other material that I have received in relation to her complaints. For instance, she has complained to nurses and medical practitioners and this may well constitute verification of the complaint of abuse.

Naturally I would be happy to discuss any matters arising out of the above.

Thank you in anticipation.

Yours sincerely,



Peter O'Callaghan
Independent Commissioner