

Solicitor Assisting the Royal Commission

Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse

6 September 2016

Dear Solicitor

My name is Sister Ursula Kauter. I am a member of the congregation of the Sisters of St Joseph Lochinvar.

I became the Principal of St Joseph's Primary School, Merewether in 1976, following Sister Margaret Anne Geatches.

I have read parts of two statements of Scott Hallett, dated 7 August 1995 and 5 September 2016, which refer to me. As he mentions me, I want to respond to his evidence.

I remember Mr Hallett as a student at St Joseph's Primary School when I commenced as Principal in 1976.

Mr Hallett says that he told me that Father Ryan had been touching him and other boys. I have no recollection of any such conversation with Mr Hallett, but I could not be absolutely sure today given my memory.

He also says that I responded by accusing him of lying. I am very sure that if this conversation did occur, I would not have responded that way. I don't believe I have ever called any child a liar and I would not have done so.

I have great sympathy for Scott Hallett and the other boys who were attacked by Father Ryan. If any action on my part contributed to their suffering, I am deeply sorry.

Yours sincerely



**Sister Ursula Kauter**