

PSO Update

1. **RE** – GW is handling the case well. He is hoping that DPP will accept his proposal and **RE** plead guilty to most charges. Bernie Murphy will be at the court on November 1st for support. RM mobile phone: 0419 427 877. GW mobile: 0414 970 132.

It is not clear at this stage if the matter will be finalised on November 1st. It is unlikely. Even if pleas are accepted the sentencing could be reserved for a later date so hopefully **RE** will be free for the time being.

2. Canberra situation.

- a) There was an anonymous complaint re **RE** passed on to the Parramatta CEO by the Marist Brothers who investigated and stood down PS. The complainant who was originally anonymous but has been located and identified will only communicate through a rather aggressive lawyer in Canberra, Jason Parkinson. As yet there has been no further response. The response from the anonymous or Parkinson. It is unclear if and when it becomes a matter directly for FMS. Parkinson does not favour Towards Healing. We don't know if the police are involved. (37 yrs ago)
- b) Lawyer Parkinson has complaints re KC and is preparing his approach probably through the Civil Court. At this stage we have nothing more from him regarding other complainants.
- c) The police have called at Marist College for personal details re KC. They say it is independent of lawyer Parkinson. We expect charges.
- d) Journalist Kate Hanlon ? from the Canberra Times has emailed asking to talk re KC and **RE** (Lismore). She also asked for the school policy and personal details re students and abuse. Rick Sidorko indicates good policies and I have a copy of these and the parents handbook which all parents receive has a very good 'safe school' details outlined. The matter has been raised with the students and they are directed to tutor group leaders or house Deans if they have concerns. A letter has gone out to parents as well as a media release. I have not spoken to the journalist.
Our position regarding public statements is

- Sexual abuse is abhorrent to us and will not be tolerated.
- We are shocked to hear that people have complaints in this area.
- We want to hear from anyone who has suffered in any way through contact through Marist Brothers or the college. We have every confidence in our College administration and the protocols and policies that are in place.
- We have initiated an independent investigation of the matter with whatever information we can obtain.
- We would want to cooperate fully with the police in any investigation.
- We would not be commenting specifically on matters regarding the investigation while it is a police matter.
- We totally endorse and use as our model of response to complainants the churches excellent protocol Towards Healing.
- We also support the principles of conduct outlined for church personnel in the Catholic Church document "Integrity in Ministry".

Note: As a general principle we did not intend to divulge where Brothers live for privacy reasons. eg KC or RE
 It is normal procedure for anyone under serious accusation or investigation to be removed from any child related ministry. We adhere strictly to this policy.

- There have been a number of articles in the Canberra Times relating to Daramalan and Marist and another school, St Francis Xavier. No names have been mentioned in these articles although one former Brother is mentioned without the name being specified as having been convicted. This is clearly REDACTED.

Bishop Pat Power thinks that the media may come again as Daramalan have the current case of abuse to investigate which is most unfortunate. We suspect that new headlines may not arise till the election clears the front pages.

Two complainants have come forward recently regarding KC both of these I have had contact with in the past. It is unclear although unlikely that they have had police contact. These two complainants are Damien Dimarco and ACN together with his father REDACTED. Their recent approach was initiated by stories that they heard that KC was working with needy kids. This is definitely not true and seems to be being propagated by someone unless by chance they have heard that he is living at Mittagong and therefore would be associated with kids who are coming to the Retreat Centre. Pat Power has since reassured ACN about KC and he is happy. Rick remains in contact with Dimarco.

The RE matter I thought was thoroughly addressed and there was no substance to it. From memory the Police Force have looked at it and said that there was no case. It was a matter where a girl and her mother made complaints. The girl seems to have been in the Duke of Edinburgh program and objected to hugs being used in bonding sessions. Everyone defended RE. Under the circumstances he decided never to go near the work again even though there have been many reunions regarding ex participants of the DV program. I think Kev used the model of Ziggy Ziggler.

3. REDACTED is an ongoing case at the moment regarding Coogee and Hosey. The details are very unclear and there is psychological disturbance involved. This whole matter is still under a Towards Healing umbrella and Michael Salmon is aware of everything. The investigator is John Wakefield who has been extremely good in calming down the said Mr REDAC.

Melbourne.

There are a number of Melbourne cases running at the moment which I don't think should come up. I mention the names just in case they do and you can simply put them on hold for the moment. The names are: REDA and REDACTED and REDACTED. The REDAC matter is in the hands of CCI and Patrick Monahan.

I have been talking with Mike Watson recently and we have agreed on the points outlined in terms of contact with the media. We also agree that we must get together for a coffee soon!

Thanks Michael for your help in this matter. I will be back in business on November 16. I will be away as of October 29.

Alexis