

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
FILE  
KOSTRA CASE

DD

NOTES ON BR. JC

A complaint was received from a certain Damien Demarco, **REDACTED** regarding inappropriate hugging, squeezing and touching during 1980 at MCC. The lad at the time was in Year 7, 13 years old. He is now 26.

The accusation was that it took place for three or four months, certainly not extreme and not anything inside clothes or even genital. Nevertheless, the young man felt quite uncomfortable. He was alone in a room with Brother quite often and felt that this was contrived and sometimes he was given lollies and chips and he felt bribed. He himself broke off the relationship after three or four months, or at least the closeness.

He then felt that Brother's attention turned against him very negatively and had the feeling of a vendetta and difficult communications, even up to year 12. He was concerned about one other lad who was constantly in the company of JC.

Damien spoke to a lay teacher in Year 12 who dismissed the concern and said that nothing could be done about it. Damien was very disillusioned about this and made no further move. His concern was that others would not get into a situation which he saw as serious.

The Headmaster to whom Damien came reported the matter to me (Br. Chris Wade) and I immediately contacted Damien by phone, flew down to Canberra and spent two hours with him at the airport. After this discussion it was decided that, subject to Brother who had already been interviewed by me once, following up with therapy, it was not the sort of difficulty that demanded that he come out of school. I gave the assurance that he would be carefully supervised, that he would not be in situations where he was alone with boys, that he would go into therapy. I would also follow up the other young man that he referred to.

I called JC to Sydney and together we went for an interview with Fr. Brian Lucas. The outcome of this was certain admissions from many years back in the past, but no awareness of anything serious more recently. He had little awareness of Damien and was adamant that nothing of a serious, or genital nature had taken place between them.

Two situations in the past, some thirty five years ago, one at Lismore, one at Peshurst, where there was a possibility of harm being done to lads, have since been followed up by myself and both now are happily married and contented. **REDACT**

**REDACTED**

JC is now in therapy with Margaret Rootes of Centacare in Canberra. At this time there is no concern from the young man who made the complaint, from the Headmaster, or from Margaret Rootes, that there is a danger in JC continuing to teach, although the teaching will be from Grade 9 and above. The only difficulties in the past have been with younger boys. I also spoke to JC regarding a constant caller to the monastery who is about twenty years old, an ex-student. There does not seem to be any problem here, other than a resentment of the Brothers at an intrusion into their privacy. This will stop.

I stressed with Damien the need for himself to get some help, but he was adamant that he had dealt with the situation quite well, that there were no after effects and that he was not damaged. I made a very clear offer to him that the Brothers would be happy to provide any therapy should he feel in any way disturbed by the past.

Summarising the response when the complaint was made: JC was removed from school, interviewed by the Provincial, acknowledged the closeness and the hugging, all of which was in public. He was shocked at the accusation. He agreed to go into therapy for the point of view of assessment and ongoing therapy. I will maintain contact with Damien Demarco. Through Br. John Mullins I verified that REDACTED who had been teaching at Grafton, was an exemplary man whose life was well and truly integrated. It was considered that any contact at this stage would be inappropriate and unnecessary.

The second checks were with REDACTED of Penshurst and Fr. Paul Jacobs considered there was no problem there or any signs of instability or unhappiness.  
REDACTED