

Professional Standards Office

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 REDACTED
 3 April, 2009

Dear Howard,

Re ACN [REDACTED]

I am writing in response to your note of the 26th March concerning the questions from Helen O'Brien regarding ACN [REDACTED].

I first became aware of general allegations regarding Br Kostka in September or October of 1993. I don't have a specific date of my interview which was my first awareness. I became aware of the allegations of ACN [REDACTED] on or a day before 19 December 1993. On the 4th December I met with the school counsellor, LAJ [REDACTED].

With regard to the other question raised about teachers who counselled ACN [REDACTED] or suggested a strategy a number of things need to be noted. The simple answer is I have no idea who the teacher was if there was a teacher. My notes from that interview are very rough and taken on the run. The ACN [REDACTED] who was a student at the time stated clearly that he did not want to discuss the matter and was not even sure of all the details or what he wanted to discuss. Part of one of the interviews was at the request of his parents.

Given that all I can say from my notes is that he seems to have mentioned it to a fellow student in 1990 about the time that he claims the offence occurred. That he discussed the matter with a fellow student. And advised the student to keep away from the Brother concerned. My notes indicate that he may have approached the teacher whether it was then or later. They seem to indicate that it was later but I am not sure of the date and have no idea who the teacher was. The only people I recall mentioned by name were LAJ [REDACTED] the school counsellor and Mr Frank O'Shea and Br DH in my notes and I think that is Br David Hall who was on the staff at the time but the reference to those two teachers was in regard to his difficulties with school attendance and wearing school uniform. There is no indication that they had any knowledge of abuse matters.

Again I note the vague nature of the allegations, the advice of both the police and the community youth advocate that the matter was not probably one of sexual abuse but possibly physical abuse.

I hope this helps to clarify at least what I know. I am certainly not aware of any teacher going to the school principal regarding Br Kostka.

Yours sincerely,

Br Alexis Turton