



MARIST BROTHERS

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Brother Michael Hill FMS Provincial

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CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Brothers,

I am writing this in the interests of those concerned and in order to forestall any inaccurate rumours which may start to circulate.

Last week a Year 7 boarder approached his dorm supervisor and made a complaint against Brother Patrick Butler. The appropriate protocol was immediately put in place and the police were informed. Several interviews were held and Pat was eventually charged with sexual assault. He strongly and consistently denies the allegation.

The matter is now in the hands of Task Force Argos, the branch of the Queensland Police Force which deals with child protection, and is due to be tested in court on 18 June. Bail arrangements are such that Pat may remain at Ashgrove subject to certain conditions.

The community at Ashgrove were informed within a day of the complaint being lodged and it would also be common knowledge among the staff at Marist College. Obviously this is a most distressing time for Pat; likewise the family of the boy who made the complaint. It would be inappropriate for me to speculate on the matter here, although it is evident that a most unfortunate misunderstanding has occurred.

Pat is very appreciative of the support of Alex and the community at Ashgrove at this most difficult time for him. He is aware that this letter is to be circulated to communities and I have assured him of our fraternal support at this difficult time for him.

Yours fraternally in JMJ

Michael Hill FMS
Provincial