



NSW POLICE FORCE

P190A

Version 4.3 (01/2014)

## STATEMENT OF A WITNESS

**In the matter of:** Historical Indecent Assault - St Mary's College  
**Place:** Casino  
**Date:** 29 April 2014

**Name:** John HAMILTON

### STATES:

1. This statement made by me accurately sets out the evidence that I would be prepared, if necessary, to give in court as a witness. The statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I will be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything that I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.
2. I am 62 years of age.
3. I am a teacher at St Mary's Catholic College, Casino. I first worked there from 1983 through to 1991. I went to Trinity College for 15 years and then I returned to St Mary's from May 2006 to present. I am a teacher and also the College Chaplain.
4. From 1983 – 1989 I was the deputy Principal and the Principal Brother Dominic left at the end of 1985. I also know Brother Dominic as Darcy O'Sullivan.
5. I first met Brother Dominic in 1977 at Hamilton Marist Brothers, I was a Prac Teacher at the time. He was just a full time teacher at the time, he taught 'Tech Drawing'. I would describe Brother Dominic as a gentle and compassionate person. I would describe him as a large strong man, very well spoken and educated. He had very dark hair, black in colour. I was only at Hamilton Marist Brothers for 6 weeks.
6. After my Prac Teaching I would go into the Monastery to see if there were any jobs, I would see Brother Dominic during these times. I worked at Hamilton for 5 years, there was nothing suspicious about Brother Dominic that I ever had heard or seen in Hamilton. My wife was from Casino, I would drop in when I visited to see if there was any work here.

Witness:

REDACTED

Rachel BAXTER  
 Detective Senior Constable  
 Casino  
 29 April 2014

Signature:

*John Hamilton*  
 John HAMILTON  
 29 April 2014

**Statement of John HAMILTON**  
**In the matter of Historical Indecent Assault - St Mary's College**

7. I got a letter from Brother Dominic in July 1982, to inform me that his Deputy and a Nun was retiring and he asked that I apply for the job. I got the job and moved to Casino in 1983.
8. I worked with Brother Dominic from 1983 to 1985 as his Deputy Principal. I always felt I had a good rapport with the kids, none of the kids ever made a complaint about Brother Dominic to me. I do recall times when boys were sent to Brother Dominic for corporal punishment, but they came to me instead. I know that Brother Dominic used to strap the boys on the backside. Now I think that is unusual because the Marist Brothers were taught to use the cane, not the strap. I always used the cane on their hands when they were punished. This didn't happen very often, usually only in cases of stealing. I never liked using the cane and I only did it infrequently.
9. In about 1985 I recall an incident where I walked into the sick bay, this was next to my office. Part of my role was to supervise kids in sick bay. On this occasion I knew there was a student in the sick bay room. I walked into the room and I saw Brother Dominic sitting on a fold out bed (stretcher), he was rubbing the kids head, he was definitely rubbing the boys forehead with either his hands or a wet cloth. I assumed the kid had a temperature. I felt uncomfortable about seeing this but I thought it was unusual now I look back. I'm fairly sure he left the room then. If he hadn't have left I would have gone back into the room.
10. There was a saying that I heard amongst the children at the school, "Bums to the wall Dom's on the crawl" or something to that effect. Now when I think about it, it meant that he was on the prowl, there may have been substance to that saying. At the time I thought it was kids being kids, and making fun of Brother Dominic's gentle nature.
11. In 1983 or 1984 we had the first encounter of graffiti in the school. It was sprayed on what is now the western end of B Block. The writing was sprayed in black it said, 'Br Dom is a poof'. It was done on a Friday night. I remember on the Saturday morning I was going out to the dump on West Street. I remember looking across the yard, I saw Brother Dominic and he was trying to remove his name from the graffiti.
12. After Brother Dominic left St Mary's in 1985 a lot of the boys would comment on his sexuality, 'Bums to the wall'. I never responded to them.

Witness:

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Rachel BAXTER  
 Detective Senior Constable  
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13. Detective BAXTER asked me if I recall seeing an ex student <sup>CQX</sup> at the Cecil Hotel one afternoon. I don't have any memory of him discussing Dominic with me. I only saw CQX two or three times after he left the school.
14. There have been ex students that have commented on Brother Dominic's sexuality to me in the past 10 years. About July 2013 I heard that he had been charged with sexual matters that had occurred in Hamilton. I heard from someone in Newcastle about it. I didn't say anything to anyone, the Marist School's association contacted my Principal to be made aware. I've recently been made aware that Brother Dominic's charges have circulated on Facebook and I have been approached by ex students asking me if I was aware, my responses have been, "Yes I was and that none of the charges related to Casino". When one of the ex students claimed that he was aware of Brother Dominic committing offences, I told him to contact the Police or tell the Victims to contact the Police and I gave them the contact details for Charlestown Police, Strike Force Georgiana.

Witness:

REDACTED

Rachel BAXTER  
Detective Senior Constable  
Casino  
29 April 2014

Signature:

  
John HAMILTON  
29 April 2014