

Professional Standards Office

Marist Brothers
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REDACTED
29 April, 2009

Canberra and guidelines for child safety

Dear Martin,

I refer to my note from 1993 regarding Damian De Marco. My recollection is that in checking with the Headmaster regarding concerns around Br Kostka after the complaint of Damian De Marco that the follow up would be using the guidelines of Education ACT and the Marist staff handbook reference to professional conduct. I'm not sure that a specific set of guidelines was printed out. It was more in the nature of the discussion with KC reminding him strongly of the accepted standards or guidelines in teachers conduct with students. The complaint came at the end of 1993 regarding matters in the early 1980s. The matter was relatively low level of seriousness in the scale of sexual abuse.

The Headmaster had no concerns regarding Br Kostka himself nor had he received any complaints. I indicated that the Brother would be finishing his teaching. Br K attended John Usher and Brian Lucas for assessment. In 1994 the Headmaster focused on the matter of child protection and child abuse with staff and students. This was a follow up to the complaints of Damian De Marco and ACN [REDACTED]. As well as the matter being addressed with staff in staff meetings tutor group leaders were also directed to take up the question with students in their tutor groups. This included asking any who had concerns or who had been abused to come forward to get help.

Part of the response to this issue at the time was the consideration of the implementation in the school of the "How to say no" program which was specifically designed for the purposes of child safety and protection in education. I hope this helps to clarify the matter.

Yours sincerely

Br Alexis Turton