

Professional Standards Office

Marist Brothers
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 REDACTED
 28 April, 2009

Dear Helen,

Marist Canberra Claims

I finally have a response to your note of 8th April regarding various matters and persons connected with the Canberra Claims.

1. REDACTED
 REDACTED was a teacher at Marist College Canberra in the 1980s. He started in the Primary School and about 1983 moved into the Secondary School. He was the first teacher in a trial scheme of a Primary Teacher taking his class through to Secondary and going through with the class. Br Jerome, Marshal McMahon (ne Br Joseph) and Br Terry Heinrich have no complaints about REDACTED and say that they never received any complaints about REDACTED from students or parents.
2. Jerome Hickman
 Br Jerome Hickman was the Primary Principal at Canberra from 1979 to 1984. He had no complaints about Br Kostka while he was at Canberra. Nor did he hear of complaints from any other school. Br Kostka did teach in the Primary School for a short period but it was not while Br Jerome Hickman was the Principal of the Primary School. At that time Kostka was in the Secondary School. Br Jerome has no recollection of seeing ACM being interfered with by Kostka or of any moment when he ordered Kostka out of the classroom at a time when he was alone with ACM.
3. Dianne Staddams.
 Dianne Staddams was a lay teacher at the college in the time of Marshal McMahon, the former Br Joseph. Marshall remembers her well. He employed her and found her to be a good teacher. She stayed at the school for 2 or 3 years was his recollection. He does recall that Staddams and Br Kostka never seemed to get on. She would have used words describing Kostka similar to those quoted in your note that Kostka gave her the 'shivers'.
4. Toni Ingram
 Toni Ingram was a lay teacher at the college and very highly regarded by Marshal McMahon. McMahon confirms that when he was speaking with Ingram recently he asked her whether she had any suspicions about Kostka. She indicated that she had no suspicions whatever about him and was quite happy with all of her contacts with Br Kostka.
5. Br Walter Cranney.
 Br Walter Cranney who I understand is still alive apparently had some knowledge that Br Kostka had acted inappropriately with AAI. My understanding is that AAI may have said something to Br Walter. Br Walter I understand informed the parents and the parents contacted Br Phillip, now Br Des Phillips, who

confirmed that Br Kostka had admitted misconduct. Not reported to the Provincial. I have not been able to obtain an address for Walter Cranney who I believe lives in Bondi (Beach Rd?) area of Sydney. I was not able to find his name in the phone book.

6. I am not able to obtain any information regarding cleaners at the college in 1982. Certainly Br Terence Heinrich was never contacted by any of the cleaning ancillary staff regarding Br Kostka's behaviour at the college.

7. Fred and Father Caldwell.

Br Jerome Hickman confirmed that each year Grade 6 at Marist College would go for a camp to the farm of Mr Gerald Whitaker who was also an ex-student of Marist Brothers. In coming to set up the camp each year Mr Whitaker authorised one of his employees named as RED to help in the erection of the tents and other camp materials as well as obtain some fire wood for the students on this annual camp. Br Jerome knew Mr Whitaker and RED well and also Br Joseph (Marshal McMahon) knew him well. Neither had complaints regarding RED nor did they receive complaints from any students or parents.

There is no evidence of any Father Caldwell being associated with the college at any time. There was a Father Kevin Caldwell who was involved in welfare work with Centacare in Brisbane, Queensland. I understand that Father Caldwell did have some time on the national committee for Catholic Social Services in Canberra in the late eighties. I am not aware of any other reports regarding Father Caldwell or his contact with Marist College. It seems a female counsellor from Centrecare did visit the College for a few hours a week in the 1980's. (Sheelah Egan)

8. Br Gregory Sutton.

The former Brother Gregory now married and released from prison after serving a lengthy jail term for abuse lives presently in Sydney. I was not able to make contact with him directly but spoke with his brother, REDACTED who informed me that Gregory did not wish to be contacted or interviewed regarding any of the matters connected with Canberra.

I hope this is of some help Helen. Thank you.

Br Alexis Turton
Marist Professional Standards