

St Vincents Boys Home,
Darcy Road,
Westmead.

05 February, 1997.

HOLDSWORTH John
Marist Community, 31 Darcy Road, Westmead.
Marist Brother

STATES:

1. I am a member of the Institute of Marist Brothers (hereinafter called the Order). I was born on the 19 September, 1935 and have been a Marist Brother since 02 July, 1952. At the present time I am involved in after care - welfare work, following up on the boys who were previously residents of St Vincent. I have been attached to St Vincents Boys Home for the past sixteen years.
2. I am aware that a former Marist Brother, Gregory Sutton, is serving a term of imprisonment in New South Wales, having been convicted of sexual offences against a number of students, whom he taught between the years 1976-1987. I am told that several former students have now brought civil actions against the Order as a result of Gregory Sutton's behaviour. I have been asked to provide my knowledge of this former Brother and whether anything of a detrimental nature surfaced about him when we were both attached to REDACTED in the 1970's.
3. In January, 1974 I took up the appointment as Superior of the REDACTED replacing Brother John Mullins. Gregory Sutton had been teaching primary at REDACTED for the previous twelve months. He remained at REDACTED during the years 1974-75, following which he was transferred to the Sacred Heart Primary School at Mosman.

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4. He was youthful in his outlook, quite outgoing and had the concern of the young boys who were in care. He developed a strong rapport with the children and he organised father and son camps. I recall that he would make use of a truck to move the boys about to the various camps; he had a hobby which related to model trains. He set the trains up in a section of the classroom and this added to his popularity with the children. During the period that we were together at [REDACTED] there was nothing about his behaviour which caused me concern. There was never any suggestion of sexual impropriety on his part. I did notice that he tended to support a number of the less advantaged children, giving them greater support.
5. During his time at [REDACTED] Gregory Sutton would have taught a pupil named [ADO] and other members of the [REDACTED] family. We had a very good relationship with the [REDACTED] family at [REDACTED]. I personally maintained that contact with the family in later years, more especially after they moved to Brisbane.
6. I learned that [ADO] had taken his own life on the 05 April, 1989. Upon learning of this I hastened to Brisbane to console the family. I was unable to attend the funeral, but I am aware that Gregory Sutton assisted with the arrangements for the family.
7. It came to pass in the subsequent months that [REDACTED] the eldest brother, informed the family that [ADO] had confided in him matters of a sexual nature. It would seem that [ADO] had related incident/s which had occurred early in his childhood involving Gregory Sutton. [ADO] apparently felt inadequate in relationships with women. It came to pass that [ADO] wanted to front

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Gregory Sutton on the allegation and he requested that I accompany him whilst he spoke with Greg on the matter. I was then attached to Westmead and Greg Sutton was living in one of the houses at Hunters Hill.

8. This occurred some time after the death of ADO ADO On the day of our visit Greg was ill in bed and we saw him in his bedroom where REDACTED had a conversation with him. I sat in the living room which was adjacent and did not participate in the discussion. I had assumed that the allegation as made by REDACTED had substance. Following upon REDACTED meeting with Gregory he did not relate the intimate details of the discussion which had taken place between him and Gregory at Hunters Hill. However, I was of the belief that the scenario was essentially true.
9. I had appraised the Provincial Brother Alexis Turton of REDACTED allegations and of REDACTED meeting with Gregory Sutton. REDACTED had made it known that he believed Greg had a need for counselling. I gained the belief that REDACTED did not want to proceed further with the matter and was satisfied once he had the confrontation at Hunters Hill.
10. Subsequent to that meeting Gregory Sutton was sent to a counselling course overseas. REDACTED was concerned that the Order was sweeping the problem under the carpet and I had to reassure him that this was not the case. After awhile he appeared quite satisfied with the action which had been taken.
11. Greg Sutton had also been friendly with the REDACTED family whilst at REDACTED and had taught several of the sons. Following upon the meeting between REDACTED and Greg,

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both REDACTED and myself established contact with REDACTED and he made discreet inquiries of his sons if anything of a like nature had occurred with them. He satisfied himself that there had been no sexual relationship between his boys and Gregory Sutton. I personally spoke to ADL and came to the same conclusion.

12. I am aware that allegations were made against Gregory Sutton in respect to his behaviour whilst at 'St Carthage's' at Lismore. I have no independent recollection when those allegations first came to my notice.

Witnessed.....

Signed.....

