

## POLICE INTERVIEW

On Monday 7 April I received a telephone call from a Detective Sergeant Christie Faber asking me to call her back. (REDACTED). When I did so she told me she wanted to interview me about sexual abuse matters that had taken place during my time at Hamilton. I arranged to meet her on Tuesday 8 April at Randwick at 11.30.

She arrived with a male detective whose name I have forgotten. She cautioned me that I had been implicated in some of the complaints and that what I said could be used in evidence. She specifically mentioned she had been investigating complaints against Brother Romuald, Brother Dominic and Brother Patrick, although the last mentioned matter would not proceed as the person involved was deceased.

She wanted to know about our living arrangements at Hamilton. I told her we lived on the property in a house attached to the school. Romuald, Dominic and Patrick had been members of the religious community. In common parlance, they had been members of my staff. She asked if that meant that I was their boss, and I told her I had been.

I told her there had been one instance brought to my attention about Romuald, but I could not recall any detail of how the information had come to me – not the source of the information, not the nature of the alleged offence, not what boy or boys were concerned. I told her I questioned Romuald about it at the time, using the then familiar terminology as to whether he had “interfered” with a boy. He denied it saying he thought he “had been good in that area recently”, or some similar form of words, which led me to infer that there could have been matters in the past.

While I was talking about Romuald she asked me whether there was any element of the “seal of confession” about what transpired between him and me. I assured her there was absolutely no connection between that and my conversation with him.

She brought up the suicide of Andrew Nash. She told me the thinking now was that he suicided as a result of his being abused. She asked me if I had been at the Nash house on the evening of his death. I told her I might have been but could not recall it. I told her that, at the time, there had never been any mention or suggestion that the boy’s suicide was anything other than inexplicable, but she quite clearly thought that this had not been the case. The suicide had taken place in late 1974 and she insinuated there was some connection between that, and Romuald’s transfer in December 1974. I said that if there had been any connection, I had not been aware of it in any way. I had no memory of when Romuald had been transferred.

As far as Dominic was concerned, I told her that when his name came up in the media recently, it had been a complete shock to me, since to the best of my recollection, no-one had ever made any complaint to me about Dominic. By no-one I meant no student, no parent, no member of staff.

She mentioned in passing other students at the school: CQS, REDACTED and some boy whose surname was CNP. I told her I could remember CQS, and that there was a staff member called REDACT who had a boy at the school but that in no case had any of them brought to me any complaints about abuse, as far as I could recall. She also mentioned a boy whose surname was CNS who was supposed to have reported some abuse to me. I told her I could recall a boy with

that name but was unsure whether he was the one being referred to; and that in any case, no abuse had been reported to me.

At one stage she asked me if I was saying that people who were making complaints were lying. I replied that I was not saying that, but rather that I had no memory of any such event, or report, or conversation.

She asked whether I kept any notes of interviews or phone calls or meetings with parents and I told her I did not do so at that time.

She told me that ultimately the DPP must decide about whether the matters mentioned would go to trial. If and when they did, it was likely that I would be sub-poenaed as a witness and that she would be in touch with me again.

Brother Chris Wade

(William Henry Wade)

8 April 2014

Witness:

Kevin Francis Blyth

8 April 2014