

RECORD OF CONVERSATIONS

12 March 1997

Phone conversation between Ian Baker and Sister Sonia Wagner.

Sister Sonia received a phone call from Ian Baker from the Catholic Education Commission concerning allegations made about a man named ^{CID} - a carer in the boarding residence at Mater Dei Camden.

Ian Baker stated that it is alleged that a matter of sexual abuse occurred involving a student on 15 May 1991. (Later identified by the school at ^{CIB})

He also stated that there was a second allegation made against the current Principal, Ms Sue Dixon claiming she was advised of the incident and did nothing about it.

Ian Baker stated that these allegations were made via the Hotline established as a result of the Police Royal Commission.

Sister Sonia was asked to follow up the allegations by:

- 1 Establishing whether or not ^{CID} was currently employed by the school and to obtain his record of employment, his surname and present whereabouts.
- 2 Contacting Ms Sue Dixon and discussing her memory of the incident and requesting any documentation she may be able to find.

Ian Baker said that he had been appointed to cover any allegations made in regard to Catholic Schools and indicated that he would be meeting with the police the next day (Thursday, 13 March 1997).

12 March 1997

Phone conversation between Janice McLeay and Sister Sonia Wagner

Janice McLeay rang from the Catholic Industrial Office and said she had been speaking to Ian Baker. She stated that they would need to respond to the allegations made about ^{CID} and Sue and that it could be possible that if ^{CID} was still in employment that he would be stood down immediately and likewise Sue Dixon.

12 March 1997

Phone call to Sue Dixon

Sister Sonia rang Mater Dei to speak to Ms Sue Dixon and she was unavailable. Sister Sonia then spoke to Debra Phillips the Assistant Principal and to Tina MacManus In-charge of residential care. They were able to verify the following: that Mater Dei had an employee by the name of ^{CID} ; that ^{CID} was not currently employed at the school; that he left 'under a cloud' some years ago and it is believed that he is now living in England.

12 March 1997

Telephone conversation between Howard Harrison and Sister Sonia Wagner

Sister Sonia informed Howard of the events and the allegations and he suggested Ms Sue Dixon and Sister Sonia Wagner meet with him on Thursday, 13 March 1997 at his office.

13 March 1997

Telephone conversation between Michael MacDonald and Sister Sonia Wagner

Michael MacDonald telephoned after a meeting with Ian Baker, himself, representatives from the Child Protection Unit, DOCS and the Police.

Michael stated that the police requested access to ^{CID} 's file. He stated at this point in time the police did not wish to pursue the allegations against Ms Sue Dixon. He indicated that a list of 'cases' from Mater Dei existed. He requested at this point in time that Peter Fitzgerald (Chairperson of the Mater Dei Board) not be contacted - he stated this was a police request.

Sister Sonia stated that she would cooperate fully with the police in this investigation but wished to do so with legal advice from the Sisters' solicitors Carroll & O'Dea.

13 March 1997

Meeting with Howard Harrison, Sister Sonia Wagner and Ms Sue Dixon

Howard Harrison took a statement from Sue Dixon and stated that he felt confident that all appropriate action had been taken by the Principal and the Board.

He suggested that Peter Fitzgerald should be acquainted with the situation as soon as possible. Howard Harrison will follow up with Michael MacDonald to check whether this is possible and appropriate.

Sue Dixon undertook to provide any extra information she could find concerning ^{CID} and will send this to Howard Harrison.

Howard Harrison offered on going support for Ms Sue Dixon.

Sister Sonia and Ms Sue Dixon stated that they are open to look at Pastoral Care for ^{CIC} and her daughter ^{CIB}.

It was agreed by all that all documentation be held by Howard Harrison and that these documents can be viewed in the offices of Carroll and O'Dea.

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Telephone conversation between Sister Sonia Wagner and Mr Michael MacDonald

Sonia Wagner rang Michael MacDonald and told him that the files are at the offices of Carroll & O'Dea and he is welcome to view these as necessary.

13 March 1997

Telephone conversation between Sister Sonia Wagner and Mr Michael MacDonald

Mr Michael MacDonald rang Sister Sonia Wagner at Lodge Street, Glebe and stated that he had returned a call to Mr Peter Fitzgerald about another matter relating to the Mater Dei Board. Still no mention of the matter to Peter Fitzgerald.

18 March 1997

Message from Howard Harrison to Sonia Wagner

Contact if you have any questions [REDACTED]

Had a meeting with Inspector Jenni Davidson (aged 35-45 his opinion an aggressive, hard-headed, smart operator. "A catholic from a large family that sees paedophiles under the bed").

Meeting went well and overall she seemed to think that all was done on your part that could have been done. She said she was following through from the angle - could the police or DOCS have done more?

Be very guarded as to who knows at this stage. Limit the knowledge of this case to only those that must know. Sue has been told she can discuss with chairperson and if she sees fit the board but keep information limited.

No information to past Principal or to Marie Cassamento. Use discretion at all times. Most people at the Royal commission got into trouble not from their actions but from who they spoke to (bugged phones).

May be one or two other cases against Mater Dei.

For the meantime it is important to dot the i's and cross the t's

Said that the Sisters have offered pastoral care if required.

The mother is dying and he feels there is a lot going on in her life at the present time. She is angry and there may be some publicity generated.

He feels the police are happy with what Sue had done but there may be an interview needed in which case he will attend with Sue. The charge against Sue was that she could have handled the situation better but the police are satisfied that all was done.

At this stage there is no proof that ^{CID} is guilty.

Police viewed only the documents he thought were relevant. (He held some back). He felt they saw more than they needed.