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BY:.....

A report to Archbishop Wilson on the matter of Malcolm Robinson.

Since March 2004 there have been four meetings with Malcolm Robinson and several phone conversations involving Malcolm and Pauline Frick, and at times Monsignor David Cappo and the Archbishop. There have also been meetings with Malcolm Robinson's accountant, Suzanne Lee and subsequent phone conversations with her.

This report will summarize dialogue and deliberations throughout this period.

As mentioned in previous documentation (24-03-04) to the Archbishop and Monsignor Cappo, the focus of the meetings with Malcolm Robinson have been that of the impact of the Church's decision to cease paying for St. Anne's victims counseling appointments.

- Views held by Malcolm are that his work with intellectually disabled victims is a response to a spiritual vocation he believes he has and in that context he responded to the initial request for his counseling services from Alan Dooley.
- That victim's families viewed the Church's support for them to be evidenced by the church's support of Malcolm's work with them.
- That families were greatly disturbed and felt let down by their Church when they became aware that Malcolm would no longer be paid for his work with them.
- That as a matter of conscience Malcolm could not take money from any intellectually disabled victims or their families who had been sexually abused within the Church context.
- That Malcolm wanted to explore with the Church how the work could be seen to be honored by the Church (within the victim's families eyes), without the Church needing to cover the true cost of the service.
- That after the negotiations were settled Malcolm asked if a mass for all concerned, (including himself), could be held, as a healing experience for all, and as a sign of the spirit within which all negotiations had taken place.

To that end, a meeting was arranged (30-07-04), between Malcolm, Pauline and Mons. Cappo. The concept of a "retainer" was discussed, where Malcolm stated he was happy to accept Mons. Cappo's suggestion of an amount, as he did not have any thoughts on that himself.

Malcolm reiterated that the important thing for him was the arrangement would be seen by the families as the Church honoring the work he is doing, more so than the amount paid.

Malcolm informed us that the families are aware of our meetings and are relieved we are meeting, but they will not know the amount paid to him.

Mons. Cappelletti wondered if \$10,000 as a retainer for this year would be sufficient, with it being reviewed in twelve months time. Malcolm suggested that Pauline have a meeting with his accountant to work out an amount, as this was not an area he was concerned with.

During this meeting Mons. Cappelletti looked at the dynamics and learning we can take back to the system.

He suggested it would be good to complete the loop in terms of reflecting upon crisis and learning, sociologically, pastorally and professionally.

Malcolm offered to be available to talk to St. Anne's and St. Patrick's staff in a professional development capacity if ever needed.

It was mentioned that it might be feasible for Malcolm to address the new Child Protection Council instigated by the Archbishop.

In a subsequent meeting Pauline had with Suzanne Lee, (the accountant), it was noted that she had not been sufficiently briefed by Malcolm, and had been instructed to let Pauline inform her of the way forward. At that time (20th August) the invoices totaled \$11,000. It was agreed that with the Archbishop's approval, the Church would send a cheque for \$10,000, with a further \$10,000 being sent in twelve months time after review. Suzanne recognized the next twelve months would not be as busy as the previous as the cases were now fewer and appointments further apart. It was also agreed that the invoices would no longer be sent to the Church Office.

Given that invoices are currently totaling \$14,000, the understanding still exists that the Church would pay a \$10,000 retainer to Malcolm. At a St. Anne's Task Force meeting on Sept. 27th it was tabled that invoices were still being sent. Pauline contacted Suzanne Lee who apologized, stating that should not be the case and offered to follow this up. She confirmed our agreement invoices would no longer be sent and that if approved, they would be receiving a cheque for \$10,000. *

Pauline also contacted Malcolm's office (27-09-04) regarding his ineligibility for the AASW, and was informed that Malcolm is at a conference in Brisbane and will be away for a fortnight. A message has been left for him to contact Pauline.

Given the sensitive nature of not only the negotiations with Malcolm, but of the families involved with Malcolm, the payment of the initial retainer would be a step forward. The contact Pauline has with Malcolm around his ineligibility for membership of the AASW may influence decisions around the Church's further involvement with his services. Malcolm's confidence in the quality of the communications he has experienced with the Archbishop, Mons. Cappelletti and Pauline may be eroded if another group became involved in negotiating or communicating at this stage.

Please let me know if you require further information.

Pauline Frick

