

REDACTED

6th May 1994

Dear Bishop Brian

Now that the secret is out I feel that I can be more open. It has been so hard all these years protecting Reg because I felt so sorry for him - I still do. It is about 8 years since I have had to see him and when he appeared at the door on Wednesday I was so overcome with shock. He seems to have shrunk and has got so old and grey looking and even frail.

My initial reaction was to call the whole thing off as I felt so guilty putting an old man through this hell. Then I had to surrender it all and believe that inside that frail body was the person who abused me for 7 years.

Even though the abuse finished 28 years ago the private pain all that time has been enormous. The part that I found so hard to accept was that Reg could keep his public face and continue to be Mr. Personality. Everyone thinks he is so wonderful especially my parents. After talking with him I now know that he too wore masks and that his private pain was also enormous. This was helpful for me to know this.

As I said to you once before, it is not so much what happened way back then but the intrusion of it on my intimate life now. At least Reg doesn't have to go to bed with a wife so he is spared the memories and the flashback during love making. Thankfully, I do have a beautiful, loving, caring, gentle, patient husband who loves me as I am. On 27th September this year we celebrate our 25th Wedding Anniversary so please God I can go into our next stage of our married life being more open and more whole.

I suppose I would never have faced Reg if it wasn't for Broken Rites. I know I told you that they would not get my story from me and they haven't. The reason I phoned them was because they offered a support group. Even after a few sessions with the psychiatrist I was still feeling in a mess so when I read how they had helped "Kate" I phoned. I told them that I was involved with a priest in Qld. but because he was part of our family I could not speak about it. I mentioned the Y.C.W. Chaplain in Melbourne who abused me when I tried to speak about the situation I was in when I was 18 years old. During this conversation Jim Spence's name came up and the Telephone counsellor told me about another lady in the 075 area who had also seen Jim Spence and how she felt abused by his attitude. He went on to tell me what had to be REDA's story. I was absolutely shocked as all the facts added up. Knowing the truth about REDA was devastating to me as I did so much want to believe he was different.

A few nights later they phoned me at 9.35pm and said they had information on the priest in Melbourne and to please phone them on the 008 number. During this conversation I just casually asked what response they had had from the Bishops in Qld. He went on to say that Rocky diocese was REALLY BAD. He mentioned John Moran, Pat McCluskey and Mike McArdle. I knew of these before but didn't let on I knew the area at all. I then asked what response from the orphanages in Qld. had they had and again he was very open and said Reg's name. He proceeded to say that there was so many complaints about him but because he was old they were just going to let him stay there and do nothing. Again, I stayed cool and didn't let on I knew him or the diocese. Bernard also told me that they had it confirmed by a priest in Rockhampton that Reg was a well known child molester. I was also told that there was a woman in Rockhampton who was working with B.R. to flush out all the bad priests. He also gave me the names of 3 Marist Brothers from Ashgrove. Can you understand now why I went over the edge? I was honestly a real mess and couldn't function properly at all.

I shared this information with REDA only and then kept it to myself for a couple of weeks. It became very obvious that I had to do something or end up in a mental institution. That is why I phoned Myoline and I must say how wonderful she has been. Without her love and support I hate to think what would have happened. She went through all my options with me and together we felt that I had to meet with Reg.

Unfortunately, his memory is poor and he doesn't remember what I needed to know the most. I believe for very good reasons that my mother was aware of the abuse but Reg cannot remember the incidents. Mum is too old and frail to ask her at this stage of her life but REAL healing seems to be impossible when I have so much resentment towards her. Reg also believes that they couldn't cope with knowing and I do believe that it isn't just a cop out for him.

I quietly asked Reg how many more children had he abused but he has denied it all and I don't want to waste any energy on did he or didn't he. It is very sad that I was motivated to act on the information from Broken Rites but I have to believe that good will come out of it. At the moment I feel so very drained as my health has suffered badly as a result of all of this. My asthma has been a real problem and the ulcer has flared again. I was in the Mater at 16 with an ulcer but nobody asked any questions. I remember leaving a note on Dr. Laurie Georgeson's table saying PLEASE HELP ME but he thought I was just sick of being sick. Even when I was in St. Anne's I spent 2 weeks in the Mater. All the signs were there but it just wasn't talked about. When I saw Archbishop Rush in 1982 he just gave me a blessing because he didn't know what to do. At least now people are listening. Most of all the CHURCH is listening. I am not a freak.

To me the greatest pain through all of this is the grief I am experiencing with the church. REDA has been so wonderful in coming to mass with me and probably hasn't missed for 5 years or more. I have prayed so hard that he would become a Catholic. When RED came he enriched our life with his homilies and we felt alive. We really were spiritually fulfilled. RED left and REDACTED came and everything died. After 4 months of perseverance I ran out of energy and resigned from Parish Council. Now after all that has happened I am so full of doubts and have even doubted the consecration. We have no church and our beliefs are shattered. We still pray to our God but I doubt that he is Catholic.

REDAC is not someone I can approach and his pride would prevent him from contacting me. I have even thought about talking to him in Reconciliation but then after my experiences with confession I only go to the 3rd Rite. So, you can see I am really in a big crisis and I don't know what to do. I haven't been to Tugun for Mass since Christmas and I know that people like RED and REDACTED cannot understand us not going but that is how it is.

I know I shouldn't be pouring my heart out to you but my fingers have gone mad since I sat down here an hour ago.

Thank you for acting so quickly in sending Reg down to see me. I don't want any harm to come to him. I am not like that but I hope he can now be released and that he will find a loving forgiving God and not one who just punishes.

Please pray for me as I will for you.

Peace and Joy.

AYB