

14 SEP 1995


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12 September, 1995

Your Ref:

Our Ref:

PAK:CAM:DK1:

The Mercy Sisters
 ISMA National Office
 1 Thomas Street
 LEWISHAM NSW 2049

*(NB) nearly 7 mths
not 7 yrs coming
to Neerkoll*

Dear Sirs,

MR DAVID OWEN
CLAIM AGAINST THE ESTATE OF FATHER ANDERSON, THE TRUSTEES OF
THE SISTERS OF MERCY, THE DIOCESE OF ROCKHAMPTON AND THE
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

We refer to previous correspondence in this matter, in particular to our letter of 30 June 1995 and advise as follows:


Our client was sent to St Joseph's Orphanage, Meteor Park, Neerkoll via Rockhampton at the age of approximately 6 months on the 14th January 1939. Our client resided at St Joseph's Orphanage from that time until 1953 when he was approximately 14 years old.

Our client's earliest recollections of the orphanage are that at 4 to 5 years of age he was housed in the nursery or "small boys dormitory". There our client was subjected to severe physical abuse, for example, any failure on our client's part to learn by rote the catechism resulted in physical blows to the head with a willow ruler. Similarly, our client recalls the nuns at the orphanage standing on his bare feet with the heels of their shoes.

*nearly 7 weeks
he came to Neerkoll*

At the age of approximately 10 or 11 years our client was moved to the "big boys dormitory" where the physical abuse worsened. Our client was beaten with a strap by the nuns in the "big boys dormitory", particularly Sister Assumpta. Our client recalls one occasion where he soiled his bed and was forced to stand in front of the entire dormitory with the soiled sheets placed over him prior to being flogged.

In 1950 our client was asked to assist Father Anderson at mass. Father Anderson gave mass at churches in outlying parishes including a township called Cabra. On the way to officiate as mass Father Anderson instructed our client to put his hands on the priest's penis.


 ELLISON MINTER
 & MORRIS FLETCHER

The severity of the sexual assaults escalated. On the pretext of giving Latin lessons to improve our client's Latin, Father Anderson regularly called our client to the presbytery. In the presbytery our client was sodomised by Father Anderson. Thereafter for the next two to three years our client was regularly sodomised between once and twice weekly.

Our client repeatedly complained to the nuns at the orphanage about Father Anderson's conduct but his complaints were ignored and he was punished for being "evil". In addition, our client attempted to speak with another priest on an occasion when Father Anderson was away from the parish. Our client was told he was never to go to any other priest but Father Anderson.

Our client often refused to go to the presbytery. Our client's refusal to go to the presbytery resulted in further floggings.

When aged approximately 11 or 12 our client's head was shaved by Sister Aslum for telling "evil lies" about Father Anderson.

Please note that our client has thus far declined to approach the media or the police in respect of his past at St Joseph's Orphanage and that he has instructed us to attempt to settle this matter by way of negotiation. Accordingly, we look forward to your early response.

Yours faithfully

McCabe Brown

McCABE BROWN

Partner: Peter Karp

Solicitor: Christine MacKenzie

Rec'd 18/9/95

*18/9 - Copy to CCI 18/9/95 after phoned Laurie Rolfe CCI
- " " Bishop Meaney
19/9 - Copy to John Shaw.*