

The Most Reverend Bishop Clarke,
C/- Suore Doretee,
Salita S Onofrio 38
ROMA 00165

Dear Bishop Clarke,

As you are aware The Australian have requested that in each diocese in which a priest or religious has been convicted of sexual abuse, undertake an independent review of how the notification was handled by Church authorities.

Elizabeth Seysener and myself have been appointed by Bishop Michael Malone to undertake this review. In an interview with Bishop Michael we were informed that in 1975 a notification of abuse was made to Father Cotter and that as a result Father Vince Ryan was sent to Melbourne. We understand that by the time of his return you were the Bishop of the Maitland Diocese. As there is no available documentation in relation to this we need to learn from you your recollections of these events.

Further, again because of lack of documentation, we need to know from you how the allegations of abuse were responded to in relation to the 1992 Protocol (attached).

We have to hand the notes of your visit to the Taree Parish and letter of advice to Mons. Hart from Catholic Communications in relation to this. We do not have copies of requests to this or any other body for advice or assistance, for example Special Issues Resource Group.

We are sorry to impose on your vacation time but the deadline for the submission of the report is 31st October 1996. We would therefore be grateful if you could provide us with your comments on these matters as soon as possible, by fax if available. Fax number 0011 61 49433739.

Yours Sincerely in Christ,

Vivienne Llewellyn.