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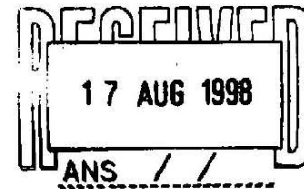
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***Private & Confidential - Client Legal Privilege Applies***The Most Reverend Michael Malone  
Bishop of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle  
PO Box 780  
NEWCASTLE NSW 2300

11 August, 1998



Dear Bishop

**RE: CLAIMS BY THE VICTIMS OF FATHER VINCENT RYAN**

We refer to previous correspondence herein and now enclose herewith copies of the following documents:-

1. Filenote re: discussions with Father Ryan regarding **REDACTED**
2. Statement regarding these matters generally.

There are a number of matters of interest in the enclosed statement. Firstly, it is of interest that Father Ryan never took confession with a Diocesan priest. Had that occurred, it may be that a Court or an insurer would have been of the view that that person, without breaking the sanctity of the confessional, ought to have taken action to see that Father Ryan was not placed in a position where he had contact with children. As we understand it, the Redemptorist priests were present at the invitation of the Diocese, but were not part of the Diocesan management team or had any role with regards to the governing mind of the Diocese. Secondly, Father Ryan's

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Bishop of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle

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recollections of his contact with Monsignor Cotter in 1976 is of interest in terms of the matters which were not said when Monsignor Cotter and Father Ryan spoke. It may seem that Monsignor Cotter was asking Father Ryan who he was progressing with his problems of a sexual nature without asking the question in those terms. Father Ryan responded that he was getting along fine and we assume that Monsignor Cotter took this to mean that his problem had been dealt with. Unfortunately, whilst the two men may have been in conversation with one another, they may not have been communicating effectively. Lastly, it would seem apparent that Bishop Clarke was entirely unaware of these matters.

We will need to consider whether or not we make Father Ryan or his statements available to the insurers herein.

We will keep you advised regarding developments.

Yours faithfully

Carroll & O'Dea

Per: 

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