

**Commission into Sexual Abuse
Peter O'Callaghan Q.C.**

Optus House
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Melbourne 3000

21 May 1997

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PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

**Reverend Father W.N. Baker
St. James Parish
177 Somerset Street
North Richmond 3121**

Dear Father Baker,

I am an Independent Commissioner appointed by Archbishop Pell to enquire into allegations of sexual abuse by priests, religious and clergy within the Archdiocese of Melbourne. I enclose herewith a copy of the Terms and Conditions of my appointment, and also a copy of my appointment as a delegate of the Archbishop pursuant to Canon 1717.

I have received information and complaints alleging that (within the meaning of the above Terms and Conditions) you have sexually abused three persons, namely BTL [REDACTED] (in or about 1963), [REDACTED] (in or about 1964-65) and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (1992).

I have also received information as to other allegations of sexual abuse.

In the circumstances I have decided that I should recommend to Archbishop Pell that you be given administrative leave pending further investigations into the above, and possibly the holding of hearings in respect of these complaints.

In so recommending, and if the recommendation is implemented, it is stressed that this does not signify in any way whatsoever that I have made any decision as to the validity or otherwise of the complaints.

I have provided a copy of this letter to Archbishop Pell. I will be communicating with you further in the near future.

Yours sincerely,


Peter O'Callaghan
Independent Commissioner