

REDACTED

Vermont 3133

7/7/93

Monsignor Cudmore.
Vicar General.
Archdiocesan Centre
Albert Street,
East Melbourne.

Dear Monsignor Cudmore,

I wish to formally express to you my concerns, for your attention.

I am deeply concerned that the children at Holy Family School, Doveton are at risk and feel there is reason to believe the problem is becoming more acute.

I am also deeply concerned for the Church community, that children are being damaged and that this will affect their futures, and secondly that many people know of this problem and are talking. People are disillusioned that the Church "does nothing about it".

As a teacher I tried to protect the children, and followed correct procedures, both in teaching practice and in handling

2

complaints/disclosures.

I was subsequently subjected to pressures from management - was under stress and eventually lost my job.

I was employed initially for two and a half years as Special Resource Person on the Disadvantaged Schools Program, and when the funding for this program discontinued, thereafter as classroom teacher.

I taught the seniors for the first time in 1992 - and found myself continually confronted with complaints and disclosures. I was contacted by an outside authority - the Doreton-Hallam Community Health Centre in relation to particular disclosures.

There were also many discussions with colleagues and some parents regarding similar complaints and concerns.

Attached are copies of some writings from children about Sept. 1992. I took typed up copies to the Principal and was advised to "cover" my "arse" and that the Principal would do the same. He reminded me that a previous principal had lost his job over it and has

3.

not been employed in teaching 200/2007
years later.

In conscience I could not do this,
though allowed time for action.

I am now aware there were
investigations being conducted into
the matter which came to a head
through November.

In November, the Principal handed
me totally by surprise, a letter
accusing me of bad practice.
It was the FIRST TIME any of these
allegations had been made. The
Principal could not substantiate any of
these allegations.

The Principal appeared to be
under considerable stress, in daily
activities, and drinking fairly heavily
after school.

Staff and children are under
stress. Some parents are manipulated
into punishing children unjustly.

As a result of the stress I felt
compelled to resign even though
I've just turned fifty and know the current
difficulties re employment.

I have had no job since and am
now a sole parent with a house and

4.

mortgage, hence am now in a DESPERATE financial position. DSS does not cover the basics. I'm faced with selling the house

I wish to make several requests.

- a) I require written confirmation that you have received this letter.
- b) Confirmation that action is being taken for the children of Holy Family School.
- c) That a full investigation into the problem at Holy Family School, Doreton, is made, bringing about change for the better for all concerned.
- d) Advice on any process of approach to the Director of Catholic Education regarding my re-employment within the system, teaching or otherwise.

With thanks

I am

Your faithfully
C. Rafferty

Carmel RAFFERTY
Formerly CIDDINGS