

*Holt*  
 This is a 'parent' report  
 to me.  
 - based on what you read at +  
 I'll talk to you about.  
 T.S.H.

REPORT REGARDING HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL DOVETON

Sister Marie Therese Harold and myself met with Mr. Ray Adams the Principal of Holy Family School regarding a recent situation that has grown out of their sex education program.

The program is organized through a cluster of Ministry Schools and the Catholic School. The program is run by the local Community Health Center. At the last session the presenter, Meridth, was concerned with some of the responses that were made by the Year Six boys and her knowledge of Father Searson from working in the area. The responses, in her opinion, were too mature and out of character for boys of their age. On Thursday Meridth approached the Year Six teachers to discuss her alarm.

While speaking with the teachers Meridth mentioned that there was a girl of 16/17 years who was undergoing counselling for sexual

molestation. The girl claimed that she was molested by Father Searson some eighteen months to two years ago while he was driving her home from school. The girl is being counselled at present with the possibility that she may go to the police and report the incident.

Meridth reported to the teachers that some of the boy's remarks to her were: "Father Searson has more than a bible under his cassock."

"We don't like some of the things that Father Searson says."

One boy, BTW who has been having trouble at school and who does not relate well with his father has come forward for counselling with a Rayma Ward from the Community Health Center. BTW says that all the Year Six boys talk about Father Searson along the lines of:

"I do not like Father."

"I do not trust Father."

"I do not like doing what Father asks."

One of the Year Six teachers has refused to take her class to the School Mass with Father Searson..

None of the Year Six boys in the school want to continue serving Mass with Father Searson. One particular boy, REDACTE, refuses to be in Father Searson's presence. Father apparently used to single him out to stay behind after Mass when the other boys had been dismissed.

Father Searson often calls boys out of class to go over to the Presbytery. The practice of single boys going to serve Mass for Father Searson has stopped. Boys now go in three's. No boy is to stay back with Father by himself.

The Meridth from the Health Center is asking what the Chruch is going to do with the situation.

Father Searson regularly checks the boys toilets for graffiti and has made a point of pointing this out to the principal.

Father searson does not know of the conversation between this Office and the principal Mr. Ray Adams. It has been pointed out to Mr. Adams that he has acted in conformity with the guidelines as they have been written for cases such as this and that he is protected by law. Any Pastoral Care that can be provided to the school will be given.

At present only the Health Center workers and the Year Six teachers know of the situation regarding the girl and the boys.

C. Adams