

CATHOLIC EDUCATION OFFICE

CONFIDENTIAL

DATE: 3th November, 1989

INTRA-OFFICE MEMO

REF. NO.: _____

MEMO TO: FR. DOYLE

FROM: NORM LALOR

RE: ELTHAM & DOVETON

(i) I met with Leonie Purcell and Sr. Gaye Reynolds re concerns re Fr. Baker. At a principal panel interview a comment had been made by a parent that a single woman wouldn't be appropriate for a position to work with Fr. Baker. Other people similarly commented. Leonie Purcell communicated this.

As a result the meeting with Sr. Gaye and Leonie was arranged. It would appear that single female teachers feel uneasy approaching Fr. Baker. There is no concrete situations which have occurred - it is an atmosphere he creates.

Sr. Gaye also expressed her great concerns re Fr. Baker's drinking and also relations with parents. Sr. Gaye has been to the Archbishop re these matters. His response seemed to be that there was a need for a priest to work with Fr. Baker. Sr. Gaye also mentioned that there were rumours that Fr. Baker would move.

(ii) Doveton

A **REDACTED** woman - Mrs. **REDACT** was rung one evening by Fr. Searson and asked to come to the Presbytery. She was unable because of her 3 children, but went the next morning. The **REDACT** family would appear to have economic problems - the father is on sick benefits, and the family has recently lost their home because of inability to meet repayments.

When Mrs. **REDACTE** went to the Presbytery she was verbally abused by Fr. Searson for not paying school fees and pushed in the chest.

Mrs. **REDACT** has contacted Bishop Pell, was thinking of contacting police and may contact the Vicar-General. Cath Briant is trying to establish the accuracy of the details which were passed onto her by the acting principal.

(iii) Other possible issues for discussion with the Archbishop:

SIGNED: Norm Lalor