

Witness Statement

Name	Kenneth William Payne (Br Ambrose Payne)
Address	An address known to the Commission
Occupation	Professional Standards Officer, De La Salle Brothers
Date	<i>13. December 2016</i>


- 1 My name is Kenneth William Payne. I am more commonly known as Brother Ambrose Payne. I am responsible for professional standards in the De La Salle Brothers.
- 2 I refer to the letter from Mr Tony Giugni to Gilbert & Tobin dated 9 September 2016 requesting that Br David Hawke, Brother Visitor (Provincial) of the De La Salle Brothers for the District (Province) of Australia, New Zealand, Pakistan and Papua New Guinea, provide a statement to the Royal Commission (9 September 2016 request). Brother Hawke asked me to prepare and provide the response on behalf of the De La Salle Brothers in response to the 9 September 2016 request.
- 3 This statement has been prepared in response to the 9 September 2016 request and subsequent correspondence between the Chief Lawyer, Truth Justice and Healing Council and Ms Amundsen of the Office of the Solicitor Assisting the Royal Commission.
- 4 This statement is produced in compliance with a Summons or Notice issued by the Royal Commission in connection with what the 9 September request refers to as a final hearing regarding the institutional response of the Catholic Church (final hearing). The statement is produced to the Royal Commission on the basis that it will be tendered and treated as evidence pursuant to the Commonwealth or State legislation applicable to that hearing.


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- 5 I provided the Royal Commission with an earlier statement in connection with the final hearing, dated 31 October 2016 (my earlier statement) [CTJH.500.90001.0104]. As there is some overlap between the 9 September 2016 request and my earlier statement, reference should be made to both my earlier statement, particularly responses to questions 9, 10 and 11, and this statement.
- 6 The Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools (the Institute) is a worldwide institution that conducts activities in 78 countries. Four major language groups comprise the body of the Institute. Australia is part of a District (Province) that also incorporates New Zealand, Pakistan and Papua New Guinea.
- 7 The Central Government of the Institute establishes principles that are to be implemented at the local, national and regional level. The overarching statement of the policies and procedures of the Institute is set out in the Rule of the Brothers of the Christian Schools (the Rule).
- 8 In preparing this statement, I have been shown the relevant extract of the Rule of the Brothers of the Christian Schools 2015 (the Rule) at Chapter 6, relating to formation of Brothers, which has been produced to the Commission [CTJH.050.90001.0182]. This part of the Rule regulates the program of formation for the Institute.

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- 9 While the Institute operates three Novitiate Houses in the Asia Pacific region, located in the USA (not operating in 2016), Vietnam and the Philippines, the last time an Australian candidate completed the novitiate program was in 2010, in California, USA.
- 10 There is no novitiate or house of formation currently operating, or intended to operate, in Australia. The last novitiate year held in Australia was 1991.
- 11 As a result, there are no staff currently engaged in the novitiate in Australia. While Australian Brothers have directed novitiate programs overseas, there are no Australian Brothers currently so occupied.
- 12 The District (Province) is aware of one potential Australian candidate for formation. He has made inquiries with the District (Province) and is currently undertaking a period of aspirancy, in which he is meeting regularly with a Brother, while working as a lay youth minister and undertaking university studies.
- 13 If this candidate decides to seek to enter the Novitiate and the District accepts him, it is possible that his Novitiate would commence in September 2017, or during 2018. It is most likely that the candidate would complete his Novitiate in the United States.
- 14 Given that the candidate's entry into the Novitiate is only a possibility at this stage, other than noting that his Novitiate would occur in accordance with the Rule, the District has no current information as to the Novitiate program that he would undertake.

Signature 
 Name Kenneth William Payne
 Date 13.12.2016

Witness 
 Name Martin Slattery
 Date 13/12/16

Signature  | Witness 