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08/08/2005 10:03 AM

To: mchugh@banco.net.au, srushton@selbornechambers.com.au
cc:

Subject: Ellis: Sullivan and Penton

Dear Stephen and Richard,

We have interviewed Fr Sullivan and Judith Penton in relation to the Ellis matter.

Fr Sullivan

Fr Sullivan was private secretary to Cardinal Freeman and then to Cardinal Clancy in the early 1980s and worked at St. Mary's Cathedral at the same time as Fr Duggan and Fr McGloin. He described Fr Duggan as a very loyal, conscientious and hard-working priest. He does not remember John Ellis or a complaint being made by SA [redacted] about Fr Duggan's conduct.

Fr Sullivan discussed the role that Fr McGloin had in the Cathedral. He was the Dean/Administrator and his primary role was as caretaker for the Cathedral and also for the Woollomooloo parish. Fr Duggan reported directly to Fr McGloin who unofficially report to Fr Sullivan. Any complaint made by SA [redacted], would have been made to Fr McGloin, however, he stated that the reporting procedures were unclear at the time.

Judith Penton

Fr Duggan would come to her home for dinner on a regular basis. She described him as very quiet, placid and overall a brilliant man, however naive. In the later 1970s, she moved to the central coast. Every few months, Fr Duggan would come up for a holiday. He never stayed in her home. Fr Duggan would discuss Ellis with her and told her that every night he coached him in the presbytery as he wanted to "help him". Fr Duggan brought Ellis with him on a few occasions. She recalled a night when Fr Duggan came over after he claimed Ellis had hit him. She described how Fr Duggan often alluded to "all the boys love me and I love all the boys". After hearing Fr Duggan state this one night, Ellis apparently became quite upset and wanted to leave the Penton home. She witnessed Ellis kiss Fr Duggan that night. That was the last night that Mrs Penton saw Fr Duggan and said she was shocked at Ellis' apparent power to manipulate Fr Duggan. She described Ellis as quiet, however he "thought he knew the world". She believes that SA [redacted] was a member of the choir at St. Mary's and considering how Fr Duggan often described his loving relationship with "all the boys" would not be surprised if there other choir members came forward with similar allegations. REDACTED

REDACTED

In short, it does not seem that we would want to depose an affidavit from either Fr Sullivan or Mrs Penton.

Regards,

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