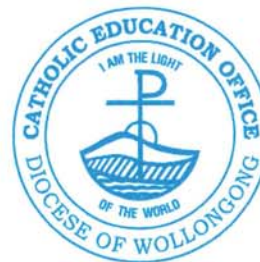


Catholic Education Office
Diocese of Wollongong



18 June 2014

Gilbert + Tobin
2 Park Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Ms Harrison

Re: St Thomas More School Ruse, in the region of Campbelltown

I am the Team Leader – Safety, Wellbeing and Professional Services, at the Wollongong Catholic Education Office (**CEO**). St Thomas More School Ruse (the **School**) is within the Diocese of Wollongong, and the CEO holds records for the School.

I have checked the records held by the CEO and made various enquiries including those set out below, with respect to the staff at the school.

I can confirm that the last year in which any Marist Brothers taught at the School was 1988.

One of the records which the CEO holds for the School is the mid-year annual Primary School Statistical Return (**Statistical Return**).

While the 1988 mid-year Statistical Return lists two Marist Brothers (including Br Mark May, who was the principal at the time), there are no Marist Brothers listed for 1989 in the 1989 mid-year Statistical Return (completed at 16 June 1989).

Also, those Statistical Returns ask for - "*NAME OF RELIGIOUS CONGREGATION(S) supplying staff to the school*". In the 1988 Statistical Return the entry includes "*MARIST BROTHERS*" as well as "*SISTERS OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN*". In the 1989 Statistical Return the entry does not include "*MARIST BROTHERS*" and provides only "*SISTERS OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN*".

I have enclosed copies of both of the 1988 and 1989 mid-year Statistical Returns to this letter.

I have also spoken to Mr Christopher Miller, a former principal at the School. Mr Miller confirmed that he took over from Br Mark May as principal at the start of the 1989 school year. Mr Miller also confirmed that Br Mark May did not continue at the school in 1989.

Mr Miller also checked a staff photo he had from 1989 which shows no Marist Brothers on the staff for 1989.

I also note that in the opening address in Case Study 13 of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, Counsel Assisting said that "*from 1984 to 1985, Brother Sutton spent two years at St Thomas More school, Campbelltown in New South Wales...*". According to the mid-year Statistical Returns, Brother Sutton in fact taught at the School in 1983 and 1984.

Yours sincerely



Margaret Chittick
Team Leader – Safety Wellbeing and Professional Services

Enclosures:

1988 annual mid-year *Primary School Statistical Return* for the *Catholic Education Commission, New South Wales* (as at Friday, 17 June 1988)

1989 annual mid-year *Primary School Statistical Return* for the *Catholic Education Commission, New South Wales* (as at Friday, 16 June 1989)