



The Anglican Diocese of Newcastle

CONFIDENTIAL

File Note

Re: Keith Allen

Date: 29.01.13

Name: Michael Elliott

Position: Director of Professional Standards

phone call received

meeting

other

phone call made

Details:

At 3pm on the 29.01.13 I met with Bishop Peter Stuart and Diocesan Business Manager John Cleary at Stuart's request. At that meeting Stuart informed me that Keith Allen had been to see him earlier that day and had told him certain things regarding professional standards including;

1. That there were 27 Brown envelopes on hand in the diocese that contained details of past complaints.
2. That Allen was part of a group who conducted bi-annual reviews of those complaints. Other members of that review panel were Alf Holland, Graeme Lawrence, Richard Appleby, Robert Caddies and Jim Hellman. They would see if any further information or updates were available in each of the matters. If there was no formal claim being instigated by a complainant the practice was to do nothing with the complaint.
3. That Fr. James Brown (deceased - not to be confused with convicted paedophile Jim Brown) had an association with Peter Rushton and others and he inferred that they were part of an organised paedophile network that was largely centred around the Cessnock area.
4. That he believed it was not George Parker who abused the REDACTED (Allen represented Parker in court proceedings and the case was not billed) but that it was REDACTED (I do not believe this to be true. Incidentally in 2012 Allen visited and caught up with Parker in Ballarat on his way back from a holiday in Tasmania)
5. That Stephen Gray was an active offender. He was eventually convicted of having intercourse with a Police Officers step son.



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6. That he was aware Michael Elliott had been making enquiries regarding Alf Holland and that he was concerned about this and it should not be occurring.

I advised Stuart that Allen's disclosures regarding inaction on cases of sexual abuse constituted an offence and he needed to report this information to Police.

Stuart said the he would take advice on this as it may be the case that Allen's actions could be subject of legal professional privilege. I told him that was not up to him to determine. Stuart also put forward that what Allen and co. were doing was standard practice of the day nationally throughout the Church. I reminded him not to underestimate the significance of this and the deviance from community norms and expectations.

During the course of discussions it was determined that it was likely there were a number of files that may relate to sexual misconduct that could be on hand at the legal firm where Robert Caddles was formerly employed and also the legal firm still owned and operated by Keith Allen. Stuart wished to attempt to secure those files and I raised concerns that they may then be destroyed and perhaps this was a job for the Police or Royal Commission. Stuart replied that he did not want to be embarrassed before the Royal Commission by having unknown files at several locations and that he wanted to make efforts to obtain them and further that the Royal Commission would possibly not make attempts to secure them as they would not know about them. When I put forward that I would notify them Stuart replied well you may not be summonsed, inferring that if I did not receive a summons I should not be volunteering such information to the Royal Commission. This is not the first time Stuart has made such an inference. I advised him that I had a duty to volunteer such information to the RC. Following the meeting Stuart said to Cleary, I hope we have a good confidentiality agreement in place with Michael. I am concerned Stuart has an expectation that I will not volunteer any information to the RC unless they specifically request it under subpoena. I had always intended to be co-operative, transparent and forthcoming with the RC and I feel that course of action will leave my employment position vulnerable.

reported to Det Sgt Rob Waugh Newcastle 12/3/13

Signed _____