

FAMILIES, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CARE

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28 April 1998

AYB

REDACTED

Dear AYB

I refer to your enquiries regarding your contact with the former Department of Childrens Services in the early 1980s. Unfortunately to date I have been unable to locate any documentary record of your contact with the Department. However I have spoken with one of the two officers with whom you had contact at the time. They have confirmed that the contact occurred and related to your childhood experiences of being the victim of sexual abuse.

Both officers, Mary Twomey and Jennifer Wiltshire have retired from the Department. I have been able to speak by telephone with Ms Twomey. She has confirmed that she visited you on the Gold Coast at the request of Jennifer Wiltshire. Mrs Wiltshire is one of Queensland's foremost authorities on child abuse and at the time of your enquiry was working in the Child Protection Unit of the Department of Childrens Services. Ms Twomey recalls that she spoke with you at length regarding the impact of the legacy of being sexually assaulted by a Catholic Priest as a child. It is her recollection that your family were active participants in the parish and that you told her that the assaults took place when you were collecting laundry from the priest. She recalls that at the stage you spoke with her you did not want to make a formal complaint. She does not recall the name of the priest.

I hope this information is of some assistance.

Yours faithfully

Susan Horton
Manager
Freedom of Information Branch

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