

ATTACHMENT E

**CONTEMPORANEOUS NOTES****Meeting with Bruce Hoare**

4 April 2013

Present: Cec Shevels – Chief Executive  
 Lee Thistlethwaite – Human Resources Manager  
 Bruce Hoare -- Volunteer (Home for Good Program) – No Support Person Chosen

Cec met with Bruce today and I took notes as best as I could. Cec approached the discussion in a conversational like manner initially confirming with Bruce what has occurred to date and explaining why we have to make such a report. Cec also explained that whatever is said today will be recorded in notes and will be provided to the Ombudsman's Office as part of the investigation notes and findings. Bruce acknowledged he understood this.

Bruce expressed that he didn't understand why as <sup>CKO</sup> himself had said in his statement that nothing inappropriate had happened. Bruce continued on to discuss the fact that he was <sup>CKO</sup> parish priest and that they attended many events/functions/things together and with other kids over the years. Bruce highlighted Melbourne as a place they visited several times. Bruce explained that <sup>CKO</sup> was an alter server in the parish and his family were parishioners. Bruce also explained that <sup>CKO</sup> family were good friends with him and they were still in contact. Bruce confirmed with Cec after Cec asked that he was not in contact with <sup>CKO</sup> now as he is in **REDACTED** just the family in **REDACTED**

Conversation continued around these facts and <sup>CKO</sup> statement was referred to several times. Cec asked Bruce if <sup>CKO</sup> had provided him with a copy of the statement but Bruce confirmed his copy had been provided to him by the Diocese.

Conversation continued and Bruce confirmed questions to say that he and <sup>CKO</sup> often shared a room when they traveled but sometimes it wasn't a room but it would be staying with the same people in the same home, it just depended on where they were staying. Bruce confirmed that other kids went with him too and that he used to teach kids to drive with the L-plates and that trips were good opportunities for the kids to improve their driving skills with him as the licenced supervisor. Bruce explained that he is still in contact with lots of these kids now and has even attended important occasions of theirs such as weddings. Cec asked and Bruce confirmed that there were lots of kids involved in the parish and as the parish priest these things were all considered normal and nothing untoward ever occurred. He referred to <sup>CKO</sup> statement as <sup>CKO</sup> states he always felt protected (or words to that effect) by Bruce over the years.

Cec then asked specifically about the trip to Naraderra and Bruce explained that he can't remember specifically being at that one and the Diocese cannot even provide a copy of the receipt for him being there either yet they had everyone else's receipts. Conversation continued and it was confirmed that the occasion in Naraderra was a Clergy Conference. Cec then asked that CKO wouldn't have been there for such an conference then and Bruce agreed but said that Youth Synod was another possibility and yes, it is possible he was there for that and if CKO had of wanted to attend it, he would have driven him there, that was normal. Bruce explained that he did not remember going to Naraderra though at any time or ever being there with CKO but it was possible he could have gone at some stage but not at the stage that has been alleged. Bruce said it was hard for him to determine where he was or if he was there as he didn't have his diaries with him.

Cec then took the conversation to CKH and Bruce responded that he had no recollection of being there with CKH. Cec then said if it were a Clergy Conference then why would CKH have been there? Bruce confirmed that CKH REDACTED so maybe he took his REDACTED to it but he concluded that he didn't know. He also made statement that CKH REDACTED would have also had the option of attending with the other Griffiths clergy members so would not understand why CKH would have had to take him there?

Conversation returned to Bruce being in Naranderra around the stated time and Bruce questioned if a time had been stated and Cec confirmed that CKO had confirmed a time in his statement. Bruce then responded that it was possible but he couldn't specifically remember.

Cec then asked Bruce specifically if he had sexual relations with CKH and he denied that had ever occurred.

Cec then specifically asked if CKO was in the room at the time and Bruce again declined that nothing had ever happened between himself and CKH

Cec then specifically asked why CKH would have brought forward such allegations and Bruce responded that he did not know. Bruce explained that CKH's family had moved to Griffiths after Bruce had left and that CKH and CKO knew each other and were friends. Bruce continued to explain that it is quite possible that he had met CKH along the way but he had no specific recollection of ever having done so even though CKH says he did and has said that at another time he had met Bruce in the rectory for guidance on a spiritual life/career. Bruce explained that CKH did not allege anything had occurred at that time just that he had visited Bruce in the rectory for advice. Bruce further stated he did not even recall this event happening, but CKH had said it did.

Cec then spoke about drinking alcohol with CKO and Bruce confirmed that it was possible that they would have had a drink when they were away on trips with dinner as that was something CKO was allowed to do. Bruce continued that the families in the parish trusted him and it was a different era back then, if Bruce was going somewhere and there was something on, they all just piled into the car and went. Cec asked again and Bruce confirmed that yes, he and CKO might have had a drink at times with dinner. Cec then asked if he ever recalled having drinks with others during trips away? Bruce responded that he couldn't remember really, nothing specific and not about drinking with others. Bruce

continued to say he hardly knew <sup>CKH</sup> and that he doesn't know why <sup>CKH</sup> has said the things that he has said. Cec asked Bruce if he had spoken to <sup>CKO</sup> about the matter and Bruce said he had not. Bruce continued on to say that <sup>CKO</sup> had written the statement and that was it, he didn't think to talk any further with him about it, he could have at any time if he wanted to but he had not.

Bruce continued on to say that the police fully investigated the whole matter with <sup>CKH</sup> and found nothing and then the Diocese took it up and took <sup>CKH</sup>'s side. Cec then said that our concern was not with the matter surrounding <sup>CKH</sup>, just the part the concerned <sup>CKH</sup>, Bruce and <sup>CKO</sup>, the rest was not our concern here. Bruce indicated he understood.

The conversation continued on for a bit going over the already stated matters and then finished with nothing further.

I then explained to Bruce that we would consider everything from here and make a decision/finding to report back to the Ombudsman but before we do that, we would most likely want to meet with him again to inform him of what that finding will be. Bruce indicated he understood. I then left the room and Cec continued to speak with Bruce about the Home for Good Program.



Lee Thistlethwaite  
Human Resources Manager