

CTJH.053.07009.0210

This is Exhibit "K" to the Statement of
DK

Dated: 24 OCTOBER 2013

REDACTED

Mindful. Simple. Growing. Marist Missionary
Professional Standards Office

14 April 2010

DK

REDACTED

Dear DK

I am writing to thank you for agreeing to meet with us with your wife REDA and DL. I appreciate the time and effort you, REDA and DL put into this. I know that it was a most important meeting for you and that it was very stressful as you prepared for it. I realise that this is a very important time in your life even without the considerations of your painful experience at St Augustine's College.

I apologise to you for the pain and suffering that you endured during your time at St Augustine's not only through the abusive events you describe but also through the effect of these matters on your academic performance and your own self confidence. Your senses of betrayal was clear for us to see. I admired your courage in speaking out so clearly as you described your experience.

The Marist Brothers remain committed to providing education of the highest quality and failures such as you describe are a source of shame for us. There have been mistakes in the past and our learnings in these matters have been painful. It is also true that times have changed significantly especially in the world of education.

You have a copy of the Diocese of Cairns Child Protection Policy and Protocol for responding to such matters. It is very comprehensive and is similar to the policy and protocols of all of our schools in Australia. I can assure you that they are implemented thoroughly and regular in-service for staff is a matter of legislation in all states now. These documents reflect a similar thoroughness to state legislation regarding child care and protection. The Marist Brothers are totally committed to the implementation of these policies and a full cooperation with police where they are involved.

It is a source of encouragement to us that even with the extensive media coverage such matters received today and the published request from the Brothers for victims to come forward that contemporary complaints are rare.

I know that Brother Gerald and Brother Andrew share the sentiments that I have expressed here. You heard them voice their own sadness at your time in Cairns. I have conveyed to Brother Ross your appreciation of his message to you. Again he expressed his profound apology to you as well as his admiration for you. He was extremely sorry to hear of the difficulties that you have had in your life.

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