

ALL BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS  
TO BE ADDRESSED TO  
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The Armidale and New England Hospital

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*Rusden Street*  
*Armidale, N.S.W. 2350*  
PO'N:ST

15th August, 1984.

John Satterthwaite  
Bishop of Lismore  
Catholic Presbytery  
LISMORE. 2480

Dear Sir,

Re: Paul Rex BROWN, aged 47 yrs.

Father Brown visited Armidale and attended for review of his condition on 7th, 8th and 9th August, 1984. Once again he has given permission for me to report back to you.

It had been intended that the review should have taken place two weeks after the initial meeting, but some flight problem at his end, and a difficulty at my end to find an earlier alternate date, resulted in the regrettable prolonged delay. He stated that he had initially remained abstinent, but during the last week prior to this review he had used small, controlled quantities on three appropriate occasions. He subsequently amended this statement to admit that he had used one on two other times during this week.

He was confronted with reports given to me by you and by Dr. Spencer that people in his community (whom I did not identify) were concerned by his evident return to uncontrolled use.

He was confronted with the fact that whether or not these reports were true, he had on his own admission failed in his absolute contract of nil use.

He was also confronted with the fact that he had not honoured realistically his contract to reveal what had transpired at our previous meeting to people close to him.

He was confronted with the fact that these failures confirmed the diagnosis of alcohol dependence, that it was a much more significant problem than he had been prepared to accept, and that he had demonstrated failure to control the problem on his own.

A.A. has an excellent record in helping those who are prepared to admit to an alcohol problem and failure to control it. Armidale does not presently boast a priest member, but an intelligent and sensitive A.A. member, Alan W., gave generously of his time. The contact appeared to be fruitful, for on his final day here Fr. Brown appeared to undergo a metamorphosis and spontaneously decided to admit himself to the house in Brisbane and place himself under the guidance of the house. He decided to do this after only a few days back in Tweed Heads to organise his affairs, and had also determined that he would immediately on his return there, contact two A.A. members already known to him.

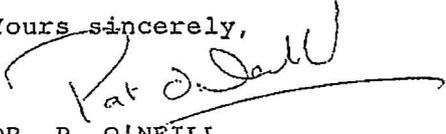
It is accepted that there may be other problems to be resolved. However his long term excessive and compulsive use of alcohol must be the first priority. The drug alcohol has a powerful mindaltering effect which may distort for a prolonged period after cessation of such use. There is no point in engaging in counselling directed to other mental issues until the alcohol dependence and resultant mental scrambling has been resolved.

We have agreed to maintain contact. However, no further arrangement has been made for a meeting, as it is envisaged that his stint in Brisbane and subsequent ongoing contact with A.A. should allow him to keep his alcohol problem under control, and after he has controlled that his involvement with Mr. Boyle should help him to sort out his other problems.

At this stage I am once again cautiously optimistic about the outcome. I certainly see the present contract as more realistic than the previous one.

I realise that you have your own political problems in relation to this matter. However, I urge you to keep the options open for the outcome of successful rehabilitation.

Yours sincerely,

  
DR. P. O'NEILL  
Co-ordinator  
Addiction Services