

DK

/RM 15TH FEBRUARY 2010

On the 15th February 2010 I had a phone call from DK who had been in contact earlier regarding abuse by RM at SAC. DK had earlier expressed his concern regarding the responses of Peter Rodney, Gerry Burns and Andrew Moraghan at the time he was a student at SAC and that RM had had inappropriate relationships with him.

DK was very familiar with the history of RM over recent years and had read a number of accounts of charges and court cases. DK in fact considered himself a close friend of RM and felt sorry for him even though he acknowledged that he needed to pay his dues and was presently in prison.

DK was much more concerned about his own welfare and also the future life and development of his recently born son. His wife was aware of the whole story. We discussed a number of aspects of the case including Church response to these matters, the handling of media and public relations and current policies including the Towards Healing Policy and the policy of SAC in these matters. DK was very upset that he initially contacted the Deputy Principal of Cairns who was a former classmate of his who did not seem to be concerned or have any productive response. I outlined the history of the matter, the Towards Healing process and the options for DK.

DK said that he had been thinking over the matter for many months now and had a number of objectives. He did not particularly want to go down the formal legal track. I outlined the main steps in Towards Healing and he was happy with that. He indicated that an extensive record of the events of abuse which occurred with him had been given to Jason Parkinson at an earlier meeting and he would use that as a contact report. I pointed out the need for a signed statement not only of his story but in regard to the usual matters with not being involved with the police. He was urged to take the matter to the police but that was not his desire.

After the discussion about Towards Healing he indicated that he had 3 main objectives:

- a) He would like to have a meeting with Peter Rodney, Gerry Burns and Andrew Moraghan as he wanted to clarify for himself how much they knew at the time and whether or not they were trying to protect RM from any allegations. I indicated that Peter Rodney and Gerry Burns had indicated their willingness to speak with him. I also indicated that Peter Rodney was away for some months and he was going to consider whether he wanted a number of interviews or wait and talk to the three of them together. As yet I have not approached Andrew Moraghan with regard to speaking with him.
- b) DK expressed a wish to see the current policies and procedures which were in place at SAC regarding sexual abuse. I indicated that SAC was a slightly unusual arrangement as far as the Brothers and Catholic Education Office were concerned. He was happy for me to follow up this matter and to view either the Catholic Education Office Policy on abuse of SAC. I will follow this matter up with Michael Green. I will also forward a copy of the recently published revised edition of Towards Healing.

- c) DK expressed a desire to have suitable compensation for what he had suffered even though he had no wish to employ a lawyer or go through the courts on this matter. I pointed out that the Church's approach was one which did include financial amounts and these were regarded more as a gesture of healing than strict compensation or reparation. We discussed the many forms that healing can take.

In outlining the Towards Healing procedure I indicated that RM will probably acknowledge that there had been inappropriate contact and so it is unlikely to be any need for an assessment. This was not certain but it would be followed up. We also discussed the people the Church usually uses for mediators in these matters. No decision was made as to who the mediator would be.

DK also asked about the time involved in completing the mediation process. I indicated that sometimes the mediation process can stretch out over a long period, even years but this would be unusual. In this case given the likelihood of RM acknowledging the events and the contact report virtually been already written and no assessment being necessary, the process would hopefully be finished in months. It would certainly be my desire to have it complete as soon as possible so that DK could put this behind him and get on with his life. He indicated that when the mediation process occurred he would have his wife present as a support person and no lawyer. I failed to point out to him that we usually make a strong recommendation that a legal expert at least be used for the Deed of Release that is necessary in these cases.

Alexis