

10/12 2013 TUE 16:07 FAX

001/002

2013-12-10 16:19

Cornerstone

0 >>

P 2/6

Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse
Towards Healing | Witness Statement of Bishop John Steven Satterthwaite

Witness Statement

Name	Bishop John Steven Satterthwaite
Address	College Drive, Port Macquarie
Occupation	Retired Bishop of Lismore
Date	10 December 2013

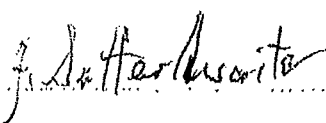
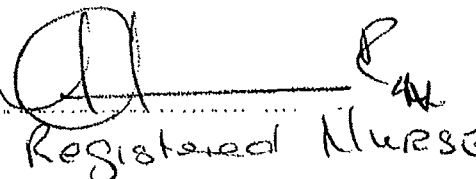
- 1 My name is John Steven Satterthwaite. I was born on 11 August 1928 and am 85 years of age.
- 2 I reside at St Agnes Retirement Village, College Drive, Port Macquarie.
- 3 I am making this statement in connection with the Royal Commission's hearing into Case Study 4 concerning *Towards Healing*, in particular in respect of a complaint made by Jennifer Ingham (Mrs Ingham).
- 4 This statement has been prepared in response to and in compliance with a Notice. It is produced to the Royal Commission on the basis that it will be tendered and received in evidence by the Royal Commission pursuant to that Notice and on the basis that the statement will be treated as evidence pursuant to section 8DD of the *Royal Commissions Act 1902* (Cth).

Background

- 5 I was ordained as a Catholic priest on 18 March 1967.
- 6 I was appointed as the Bishop of the Diocese of Lismore on 1 September 1971. I was the Bishop of Lismore until I retired effective 1 December 2001.

Complaint of Jennifer Ingham

- 7 I refer to paragraph 10 of the statement of Mrs Ingham in which she refers to attending a meeting in the Diocese of Lismore with "senior clerics" of the Catholic Church in 1990. Mrs Ingham says in paragraph 10 of her statement that she disclosed during that meeting that she had been abused when she was 16 to 20 years old by Father Paul "Rex" Brown (Father Brown).
- 8 I also refer to Exhibit "A" to the statement of Mrs Ingham which is an email from Mrs Ingham to Pat Mullins dated 30 August 2012 in which Mrs Ingham states that there was a meeting "In the early nineties when we met with the then Bishop and another priest to tell them of my abuse. Fr Mulcahy cried ... no sobbed ... and said he already knew. After this meeting there was no further communication."

Signature  Witness  Page 1

Registered Nurse

2013-12-10 16:20

Cornerstone

0 >>

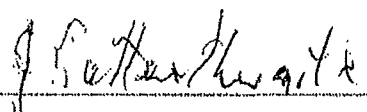
P 3/6


Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse
Towards Healing | Witness Statement of Bishop John Steven Satterthwaite

- 9 I did not attend a meeting in 1990 or at any other time with Father Mulcahy or any other person in which Mrs Ingham made a complaint about abuse committed by Father Brown.
- 10 I refer to paragraph 85 of the statement of Deacon Chris Wallace in which he states that he spoke to me on the telephone, and that I said that I had no knowledge of the incident. I assume the "incident" he refers to is the meeting in 1990 that Mrs Ingham says she attended.
- 11 I recall speaking to Deacon Wallace earlier this year when he contacted me in relation to this issue. I told him then that I did not have any knowledge of such a meeting. I did not know of the allegation by Mrs Ingham that such a meeting had occurred with or without me being present, until my discussion with Deacon Wallace.


Father Paul "Rex" Brown

- 12 Father Brown had been a priest of the Diocese of Lismore and was the Bishop's Secretary from 1970, before I was appointed the Bishop of Lismore, until 1981. Father Brown was also the Chancellor of the Diocese of Lismore from 1973 until 1981. In 1982, Father Brown was appointed as the Parish Priest of the Parish of Tweed Heads.
- 13 In the mid 1980s, I took steps to remove Father Brown as Parish Priest of the Parish of Tweed Heads, and then to withdraw his faculties as a priest of the Diocese of Lismore. On 20 June 1986, I issued a Decree that Father Brown was removed from the office of Parish Priest of the Parish of Tweed Heads effective 25 June 1986. On 26 October 1987, I issued a Decree informing Father Brown that his faculties as a priest of the Diocese of Lismore had been withdrawn as and from that date.
- 14 Given Father Brown's role in the Diocese during my time as Bishop, and given the steps I took to remove him as Parish Priest of Tweed Heads and to withdraw his faculties as a priest of the Diocese, any meeting in which a complaint of sexual abuse was made against Father Brown in 1990 would have been a matter of significance to me personally, and I do not believe I would forget such a meeting.

Signature 
 Name Bishop John Steven Satterthwaite
 Date 10 December 2013

Witness 
 Name ADRIENNE ARTON R/W
 Date 10th December 2013

Signature 
 Witness

 R/W Page 2