

"E"

C A R - [ACU]
LOFTVILLE VIA LISMORE

Section 29

attended the office on 25/11/91. [Section 29] reported the following:

1. [ACU] had alleged significant sexual assault occurring over about 1½ years and ceasing about 5 years ago. She is currently seeing Helga Jolley at the Sexual Assault Service. Her parents have been informed and her mother is receiving support from the Sexual Assault Service. Father also needing considerable support which he is receiving at the moment. Child is prepared to be interviewed by Police. Sexual Assault Service is organising. Perpetrator was alleged to be Brother Gregory Sutton who now apparently resides in the United States.
2. [Section 29] has concerns about at least 2 other children who may have been sexually assaulted by Brother Sutton. Basis of these concerns are:
 - a) information given by [ACU] that the perpetrators behaviour towards other children was the same as towards her.
 - b) boy and girl involved now 15 years old. [ACU] saw girl who had gone to Monastery one night leave crying. It was alleged to be part of a reward system used by Brother Sutton for children to go to the Monastery to see him alone.
 - c) Deputy Principal at the time at St. Carthages Jan O'Grady kept records of her suspicions and would be available to be interviewed. School had become suspicious and eventually Brother Sutton was moved but nothing was put in place to assist the children involved.
 - d) [ACU] revealed to [Section 29] that she had been having nightmares since turning 16 years of age on [ACU] Brother Sutton had allegedly told her that when she turned 16 he would be back to get her and take her away.
 - e) [Section 29] felt [ACU] would be willing to supply other names of children possibly involved.
3. I informed [Section 29] that I felt the best plan of action was to call a meeting of Child Mistreatment Unit, DOCS, Sexual Assault Service and Trinity Staff to co-ordinate our responses.

Section 29

[Section 29] I told [Section 29] we would have to officially notify any children under 16 years of age disclosed by [ACU]

BM for information & attachment &

[ACU]

file

I attempted to contact CMU to speak to Adrian or Donna but could not raise them. I sent the attached referral of CAR notification to the Police by fax and by post on 25/11/91.

I then contacted Bronwen Myers of Sexual Assault Service. Bronwen informed me that ACU had been very distressed and was not yet ready to give a statement to the police but she expected this would occur soon. She also said the parents were very distressed.

I again attempted to contact Donna Tipping but was unsuccessful. Bronwen later indicated that a statement was now to be taken and that she or Donna would liaise with me after the statement was taken particularly if ACU indicated the names of any other children involved who are under 16 years of age.

This matter has been extremely slow in reaching any finality. ACU has eventually been interviewed by CMU and made allegations that need serious criminal follow up. Other children have been implicated.

On 4/5/92 I phoned Det. Sgt. Trevor Beaumont 066 520262 of the Child Mistreatment Unit in Coffs Harbour to get advice on future action with CMU. Trevor very concerned over significant delay in taking a statement from ACU excessive even despite staffing problems of CMU in Lismore over many months. Trevor agreed to take over co-ordination and to see Sister Mary at Trinity on 6/5/92 with DOCS and Sexual Assault Service. Co-operation between DOCS and CMU discussed with Trevor. This action was later discussed with Area Manager Denis Myers who also supported our actions. Denis also suggested the following:

1. establish group for children involved possibly run by the Sexual Assault Service.
2. encourage school to establish Protective Behaviours and develop protocol for students to follow should this ever arise again both at Trinity and St. Carthages.

It is proposed to call a case co-ordination meeting before intervention with other children so that all agencies intervention is well planned and supportive of children and their families.

It is understood from ACU that some children now 16 years of age may not wish their parents to know and it is felt their wishes at 16 years should be respected. It is felt that they should be referred to Sexual Assault Service for counselling and this may assist them to take some future action.

Helen Hills sought advice from Susan Maddock in Central Office Casework standards Child Protection who supported the above action.