

REPORT ON DISCUSSIONS AT TRINITY COLLEGE.

On 1.7.92, following discussions with Sr. Mary Cannane, at Trinity College, approximately thirty students were interviewed in three groups, from 1.35p.m. to 3.00p.m. From the original list of identified students, seven REDACTED

REDACTED have left the school, and three REDACTED are not known. The groups consisted of:

Group 1.

REDACTED  
REDACTED ACZ REDACTED (REDACTED was absent from school.)

Group 2.

REDACTED

Group 3.

REDACTED REDACTED  
ADB

Following the discussion with the students, they were all given a Dept. of Community Services contact card and requested to contact the Dept. should they have any information, or know of any other student who may need to talk to someone about incidents/observations involving Br. Gregory Sutton. Some students remained behind to discuss issues which concerned them.

REDACTED a Yr 11 student, told me that while he was not in ACU class with Br. Gregory, he was aware that during wet weather ACU spent a lot of time with Br. Gregory, sitting on his desk, rather than playing with other students. He did not see any abuse occurring.

REDACTED a Yr 11 student, told me that in Maths Class, he remembered that while other students were set tasks to complete, Br. Gregory would call ACU to the front and talk to her. He was not aware of what happened, or what was being discussed. He also noticed that at recess, Br. Gregory would call ACU over to him, and often there was another girl, whose identity he has forgotten, who joined them.

ACZ a Yr 11 student, told Judy Duggan that he was abused by Br. Gregory over a period of time when he was in 5th and 6th class at St. Carthages. He stated that he was aware that Br. Gregory was sexually assaulting ACU as Br. Gregory had

told him all about it. He also admitted to his mother later that he had been abused when his mother became concerned and questioned him directly. He said that he would be prepared to make a statement to the Police concerning this matter, and he would advise his parents of this decision this evening. ACZ was upset during this interview.

REDACTED told Judy Duggan that two friends once told her that they walked in on Br. Gregory doing something with ACU in a classroom. The girls were identified as REDACTED who is currently on two weeks holiday in Bali, and REDACTED who is now living in Toowoomba.

REDACTED a Yr 11 student, described herself to Judy Duggan as ACU current best friend. She originally became aware of the sexual assault of ACU when she disclosed to her at a school retreat some years ago. REDA once observed Br. Gregory at a school sports carnival, some years ago, lift REDACTED skirt, and expose her underwear. REDACT wasn't aware of what he was doing, and when REDA expressed mock horror to Br. Gregory, who said, "Lookey, lookey, no touchy!"

REDACTED and REDACTED Yr 11 students, described themselves to Judy Duggan as part of Br. Gregory's group of pets, who were often given lollies and other privileges, such as listening to tapes. They identified others as ACU ACZ ACZ and REDACTED the latter being given lifts home in Br. Gregory's car. They both denied that they had been sexually abused. REDACT claimed that her parents had warned her not to associate with Br. Gregory or to accept lifts in his car. He once came to their home looking for her, but she was not at home.

REDACTED a Yr 11 student, stated that ACU told her about the abuse when she was in Yr 7. She said that at the time ACU was very serious, which was not her usual nature.

ADB a Yr 12 student, told me that she was "touched" by Br. Gregory, when in his class in 1985. She said that he touched her on her legs, and she pushed his hand away. She told her mother, and asked that her mother not tell anyone else.

ADB mother discussed the situation with St. Carthage's Principal at the time. ADB said that she was then victimised in class, and Br. Gregory carried her to his desk and threatened her if she ever told anyone about what had happened. She told one other friend about this incident. ADB was very emotional during the interview, and admitted that she had not dealt with her feelings concerning this abuse. She agreed to see a Sexual Assault Counsellor.

Group 2 students collectively stated that they were aware of the system of favouritism, such as listening to tapes, which was happening in Br. Gregory's class, and they wrote stories about the fact that they did not like the favouritism. They identified approx 4-5 girls in the group of pets, and 3-4 boys. They also

stated that Br. Gregory threw cricket balls at them if they were talking in class, and on one occasion, he picked up a boy in class and dropped him onto his head.

Following the interviews with the children, Judy Duggan and I spoke with Sr. Mary Cannane, who suggested that we make contact with Kay Rolfe, social worker with Centacare, who was involved with the previous allegations concerning Br. Gregory at St. Carthages. She was aware of the impact of the interviews on the student body, as a whole, but was satisfied with the process. She was advised of the action which we would now be undertaking.

FOLLOW-UP:

- 1) Advise C.M.U. of outcome of interviews. ✓
- 2) Refer ADB and ACZ to the Sexual Assault Counselling Service. ✓
- 3) Contact Kay Rolfe who has been involved with the ADB and ACZ families in the past. ✓
- 4) To follow-up any referrals from the day's interviews.

*S. D. Froniechs*

S. D. Froniechs,  
District Officer,  
Lismore Community Services Centre.