



Royal Commission
into Institutional Responses
to Child Sexual Abuse

Statement

Name CQQ
Address Known to the Royal Commission
Occupation REDACTED
Date September 2016

1. This statement made by me accurately sets out the evidence that I am prepared to give to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The statement is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.
2. My full name is CQQ . I am 58 years old.
3. I was born in Quirindi, NSW. REDACTED . My parents were religious, we went to mass on Sundays, had baptisms and Holy Communion, and we went to Catholic schools, the whole thing.
4. Dad was in REDACTED , so each time he got promoted we moved towns, so we moved around. I can't remember all the schools I went to because we moved around so much, we were in small towns for short periods of time.
5. We got to Newcastle when I was about 10. My parents liked Newcastle and we settled there, so Dad quit REDACTED and got another job. We didn't have any other family in Newcastle, Dad's family lived in REDAC and Mum was an only child.
6. When I came to Newcastle I went to Corpus Christi Primary School in Waratah. When I was about 11 or 12, I was an altar boy at Corpus Christi church which was opposite the primary school. I did that in Year 6. I think most of the kids were altar boys.

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Marist Brothers

7. In 1970, I went to Marist Brothers High School Hamilton (**Marist Brothers**). I was in 'A class'. Each year we had a class master. In my first year my class master was Br CASSIAN, second year it was Br ROMUALD, third year I think it was Br PHILLIP, and fourth year it was Br PATRICK. They taught religion and one other subject, they looked after our class for the year. They also took us for sports lessons. There were plenty more Brothers, and maybe more than half of the teachers were lay teachers.

Physical abuse by Br CASSIAN

8. In Year 7, I had Br CASSIAN, I think he was our maths and religion teacher. He was an absolute sadistic lunatic, he had a piece of conveyer belt that he mercilessly beat us with. I actually saw him throw a desk at a kid one day, and he jammed the kid against the wall. I was hit by him with his cane and his belt, and he seemed to thoroughly enjoy it. I had bruising and swollen fingers from the canings he gave me. I saw him hit students in the head with his hand, and he would regularly line people up and ask 'who doesn't know the answer?' and then you'd get hit either way. At the time, I just thought, 'oh well this is life'.
9. I think I may have told my parents about Br CASSIAN hitting the students, but I don't remember their reaction.

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Br ROMUALD

10. In Year 8, Br ROMUALD was the teacher for the A class and he taught religion and science. Like Br CASSIAN, he also hit the kids, although not as often as Br CASSIAN. I think Br ROMUALD used a cane. It was my impression that he also enjoyed it.
11. I was one of the students that Br ROMUALD would hit. I don't remember exactly why, whether it was because of my ability in the class, or I might have been a smartarse, but it got to the stage where if anything happened in the class, it was my fault. He lined me up and I copped a few floggings for no reason.
12. We also spent time in the summer months going swimming for school sport with Br ROMUALD. I recall Br ROMUALD had his favourite boys and he spent a lot of time with them. I remember one occasion at Merewether baths when I was in second form or Year 8 and Br ROMUALD took us out for sport. I can't remember which other teachers were present but Br ROMUALD was the main teacher. I recall Br ROMUALD was herding kids into the showers, he said 'get over here, get in the showers, get your shorts off, get your swimmers off'. They would say 'no' and he would go over to them and take their swimmers off. Br ROMUALD was wearing a very small pair of budgie smugglers and it was obvious he had an erection. This happened outside, in front of other people as it was outside of the shower block.
13. When I saw this happening, I took off and jumped on the bus, I was still dirty from swimming in the seawater but wanted to avoid Br ROMUALD. A couple of kids followed me and we sneaked down the back of the bus. There were other teachers there, but they were looking after their own classes.

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14. Many years later, I read an article in the newspaper about Br ROMUALD abusing kids at Merewether baths. I nearly fell over, I thought that was exactly what happened, like the person who wrote it had been standing right next to me.
15. In Year 8, Br ROMUALD had a go at me, tucking my shirt in one day. I turned around, and although he was a big man, I pushed him. He flogged me for that. The same thing happened on about two or three other occasions, in the classroom and I think maybe once in the playground. I remember he tried to tuck in my shirt from behind, he came up behind me and leant over to physically restrain me. He then put one hand down the front to tuck in my shirt, and then he put both hands down the front of my pants. Each time he did this, I pushed back and then I would get a flogging.
16. I remember it happening to other kids. The boys all talked about it. I remember the kids who made it known to Br ROMUALD that they weren't going to wear it, they were the kids that were isolated and weren't given any time in class. He looked after his favourites in the class scholastically.
17. Once I started Year 9 with I think Br PHILLIP, I did not have any other interaction with Br ROMUALD.

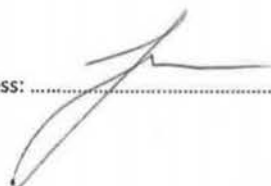
Sexual abuse by Br PATRICK

18. In Year 10, when I was about 15, Br PATRICK taught us religion and another class I can't remember. I remember sitting at the front of the class, and he would walk around behind my desk when I was copying off the blackboard. He would put his chin in my neck, and then he would start tucking my shirt in from the back, work his way around the front, and then grab my genitals. I would say he did this most days. I remember he

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would then move on and do the same thing to the boy next to me, and I would just be so relieved when he walked away. He was always over every boy in the class.

19. This went on and on, and then one day I just hit him, I swung up with my elbow and hit him in the chin. He told me to 'get out', so I went out of the classroom. He didn't tell me to go see the Principal or anyone, he just told me to get out of the classroom. So for a few weeks, I just didn't go to his class. I would go to walk into the classroom and he would tell me to get out. So I would wander around outside or I'd go to the library. No teacher said anything to me about it. One day Br PATRICK just let me walk back in. After this, he continued to tuck my shirt in, but he didn't grab my genitals anymore.

20. Br PATRICK wasn't a nasty or violent man like Br ROMUALD or Br CASSIAN. I don't think he hit anyone. I remember Br PATRICK would take kids out of class for some reason, he would say he would take them for a smoke with him, and I noticed he had a lot of one-on-one time with kids.

Disclosure and report of abuse

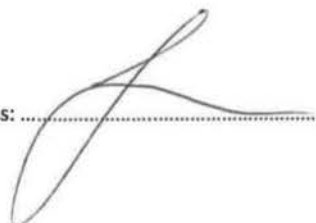
21. When I was in around Year 10, I remember talking to a lay teacher, Mr REDACT. I think Mr REDACT was an English teacher, he was in his 20s, he wasn't much older than us. On this occasion, I was talking to him with a group of kids in the playground, and I said something along the lines of 'will you stop these bastards? Tell them to leave us alone'. I recall Mr REDACT's response was neutral.

22. On one occasion in the classroom, I can't remember the exact conversation, but I made a quip about Br PATRICK touching boys. Mr REDACT told me to 'get out'. I can't

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remember what he said, but I think he defended Br PATRICK. He kicked me out of his class.

23. I also remember speaking to other teachers including Mr REDACTED who taught me English.

I do not now recall specifically what I said to any of them, but I believe it was to the effect of the Brothers touching the boys and tucking in shirts. What the Brothers were doing was a hot topic among the boys and teachers.

24. I do not know if Mr REDACTED or Mr REDACTED or other teachers did anything in response to what I told them. If they did, they never told me about it.

25. I remember telling my parents sometime in the early 1970s that Br PATRICK and Br ROMUALD touched boys, but I can't remember exactly what I told them or their reaction. I found out many years later that my father had been abused by a priest when he was a child.

26. When I got to Years 11 and 12, I don't remember having any further problems with the Brothers. By then, I was 17 or 18 and big enough to fight back, so they left me alone. I'm not a violent man but I did react to those blokes.

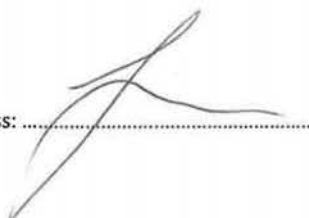
Life after school

27. After school I saw very few of the kids. About 10 years after school, I ran into a guy from school in a pub in Hamilton. I asked him how he was and he said terrible. He told me, 'I'm on heroin, I've never had a job, never had a girlfriend after what they did to me'. I knew this meant that he had been abused by the Brothers at Marist Brothers'. I was pretty close to this guy at school but I never knew that the Brothers were getting to him.

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28. Other than what I have described above, I didn't tell anyone what happened to me at Marist Brothers, although I think I told my wife. She passed away in 2002.

Discussions with police

29. About three years ago, in 2013, a police officer rang me up out of the blue, I think he was a Senior Constable from Newcastle. He knew my name and asked if I went to Marist Brothers in the 1970's. He said he was investigating what went on there, and he asked me about Br PATRICK. I said I was in his class, and he told me he was dead. I asked about Br ROMUALD, and he told me he was still alive. He asked me if I wanted to make a statement, and whether anything had happened to me, but I said no, nothing happened. I just let it slide.

30. About 12 months later, the police rang me again. They asked the same questions, but I still didn't tell them what had happened to me. The police rang me again last year and told me to ring them back when I am ready to talk to them. I then saw on the TV and in the newspaper they put Br ROMUALD away.

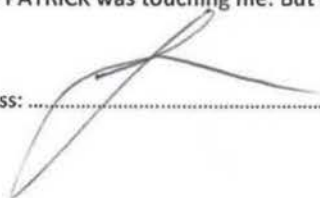
31. In July 2016, a friend cut out an article by Joanne McCARTHY on child sexual abuse and gave it to me. This friend also gave me information about the Royal Commission's public hearing in Newcastle. I rang up the police and they told me to ring Maureen O'HEARN at Zimmerman Services. Maureen organised a counsellor for me and put me in touch with the Royal Commission.

Impact of sexual abuse

32. The abuse really affected me scholastically. Up until end of Year 10, I was getting A's and A's at school even through the year when Br PATRICK was touching me. But after that

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year, I went on a downhill slide. I didn't want to be there, I didn't care, and I didn't get very good marks. I went to bed at night thinking that bastard grabbed me on the dick today, and the next morning I woke up wondering if he was going to grab me again. It was horrible.

33. After school, I got offered an engineering traineeship at the steelworks but just couldn't stand the idea of being in a classroom again. I feel that if I'd gone to the local high school, I would have been an engineer by now and I would have been a lot better off.

34. Instead I became a tradesman, then I worked in the mining industry. I did a TAFE course and have done a lot of courses for work. I can do it now, I can sit in a classroom, and I can study and listen and learn. But for 10 to 15 years I couldn't, because of what happened. I feel that what happened at Marist Brothers definitely affected me career-wise

35. I have no time for teachers now, because of all that. I have three kids, two sons and a daughter. If there are any issues with my children at school, I go straight in there. I am very overprotective, particularly in the school environment. I have told my kids all about what happened to me at high school, I told them specifically so that they know to tell me if anything happens.

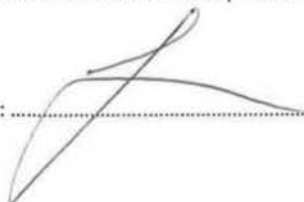
36. When I recently had a session with the counsellor, she pointed out a few things which I hadn't realised before. Habits which I started at school, like how I won't stand with anyone behind me, I have this fight or flight response, and I get anxious for no reason.

37. I don't have any faith now. My kids initially went to Catholic schools, but then I gave them the choice about their religion, and they weren't interested. My middle son went

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to Marist Brothers, the same high school I did, for Years 11 and 12. I nearly couldn't go in there to enroll him, it was horrible.

38. I haven't really dwelled on the abuse over the years, but I've never been afraid to talk about it. The counselling sessions I'm now getting seem good. But I don't know about closure, you don't forget something like that.

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Signed:

Date: 12/09/2016

Witness:

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