

Protected - Non-National Security

Information Report - Full Response Report**Details**

IR Number:	INT13IR550687
Subject:	O'DONNELL, Phillip - former diocene priest. Information from same.
Submitted By:	MBR 1557521, Leading S/C David Ian RAE, VP21886, SANO TASK FORCE, Active
Submitted By (From Web IR):	Leading S/C David Ian RAE
Work Unit:	TASKFORCE SANO
Date Submitted:	08-MAR-2013
Source Type:	Member of Public
Date Info Received:	05-MAR-2013
Time Info Received:	14:30
Source Evaluation:	E - Untested Source
Info Evaluation:	4 - Cannot be judged
Security Classification:	Protected - Non-National Security
Dissemination Code:	4 - May be disseminated within the originating agency only.
Member Assigned:	MBR 1557521, Leading S/C David Ian RAE, VP21886, SANO TASK FORCE, Active
Date Assigned:	08-MAR-2013
Information:	D/S/C RAE 21886 08-Mar-2013

At 1430hrs on Tuesday, 05-MAR-2013, D/S/C RAE interviewed Phillip A O'DONNELL (19-JUN-1950) of **REDACTED** at the Sano Taskforce office. O'DONNELL stated the following:

- He became a Catholic ordained priest during 1975 after leaving school and 7 years training;
- He served as a priest at various parishes in Victoria for approximately 20 years;
- He left the church approximately 15 years ago, married and had children. He is now employed in the Funeral Industry;
- During his 27 years with the Catholic Church in Victoria, he came to know many Catholic priests. Many of these priests were subsequently charged with child sex related offences;
- He has previously compiled an extensive paper regarding priests in the Catholic Church and why he believes they tend to sexually offend against children;
- Stated that he could not provide specific information regarding offending by priests but could provide contextual information regarding the church and personal information regarding some of the priests that have been charged;
- He previously provided a submission to the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry Into Child Abuse by the Clergy. A large part of the submission was gleaned from his paper. Further stated that he believed practicing Catholic priests now disliked him. Stated that he still maintained a friendship with Father DILLON from Geelong who is also outspoken regarding controversial church matters. He then provided the following information regarding individuals and the Catholic Church:

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Re the Catholic Church:

- A good insight regarding the view of the Catholic Church and homosexuality can be demonstrated by an incident that occurred when O'DONNELL was in training. O'DONNELL spent approximately 12 to 18 months at the Seminary at Glen Waverley (the Vic Police Academy). During his period there an individual named REDACTED joined the Catholic Church to become a priest. REDACTED was overtly gay with a very strong and engaging personality. REDACTED quickly associated with a group of between 5 - 10 trainee priests who were also gay and REDACTED was the leader of the group. O'DONNELL could name 3 members of this group to be Fathers Graeme REDFERN, John TRACY and REDACTED. Members of this group were overt in their speech and activities and began to refer to other trainees as their feminine male name. Father Kevin MOGG was the Rector of the Seminary at the time. The Vice Rector was Father Thomas DOYLE. Both these persons tried desperately to destroy the ring with no success. O'DONNELL believed that all members of the group were ordained and that many of the group were subsequently charged with child sex offences. Father MOGG was still alive (now aged in his late 70's -address N/K) and residing at George MAHER House @ Clifton Hill (retirement home for priests). Father DOYLE was retired and residing in a private house in Brunswick or Thornbury. Father REDFERN was still a practicing priest at a Parish in Sorrento and Father TRACY and REDACTED were current parish priest in Bendigo. Father DOYLE went on to become an influential member of the Catholic Education Office. His assistant for many years was a secretary named Anne O'BRIEN. Anne O'BRIEN does not like Bishops and would be worthwhile speaking to. She is aged approx 80 years but is still employed by the Catholic Education Office. She resides off REDACTED Essendon. O'DONNELL believed that DOYLE would be the 1st person to consider speaking to. He believed MOGG will 'tow the company line' and not be co-operative with police. Father REDACTED is now deceased;
- The Catholic Church has had to deal with much worse inquiries in its history and that they will 'ride out the storm' in respect to the allegations of child abuse. The church will take the long term view that 2 - 3 generations of victims over a 60 to 70 year period is only a very small number of parishioners and time period in the history of the church. O'DONNELL firmly believes that the Catholic Church will not do any more to assist victims.

Other Information:

- O'DONNELL stated that investigators needed to identify who the Vicar Generals of the Victorian Catholic Church were for the period 1945 to 2000. They were permanent ongoing appointments (similar to public servants). The Vicar general read all correspondence that came across the Bishops desk and often made recommendations on behalf of the Bishops. O'DONNELL stated that ◀ Peter ▶ ◀ CONNORS (Vicar General to Bishop Frank LITTLE) would have extensive knowledge regarding Church practices of transferring priests, however he did not believe that CONNORS would co-operate with police;
- A Mrs Maria KIRKWOOD would be worth speaking to. She is a 'trouble shooter' with the Catholic Church and would often receive and deal with complaints of sexual abuse within the Catholic education System;
- He could recall that Fathers John SILVANO (now at deeper Park Parish) and a Father Noel BRADY (now at St Albans West) approached a Vicar general regarding allegations of sexual abuse committed by a Father O'DONNELL (no relation to Phillip O'DONNELL). he does not believe any action was taken in respect to this matter;

- He believed that father FOX (now at the Vatican in Rome, Italy) will never return to Australia unless under arrest and extradited.

O'DONNEL was happy to speak to investigators in the future if further information was required.

Inquiries pending.

Comments:

Comment Type: Validation
 Comment Role: Analyst
 Comment [1]: No LEAP on O'DONNELL - linked and associated with IR.

Phillip O'DONNELL (16-JUN-1950)

REDACTED Belmont

L/N 19866185

IR validated associated with IRRUPTING and e-mailed to D/S/C RAE for update.

S.READ 35172

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Last modified on 05-AUG-2013 15:19:51 by VP35172.

Comment Type: Additional Information
 Comment Role: Analyst
 Comment [2]: E-mail again sent to DSC RAE re update.

DSC RAE on leave to 02-DEC-2013.

S.READ 35172

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Last modified on 12-NOV-2013 11:51:52 by VP35172.

Comment Type: Additional Information
 Comment Role: Analyst
 Comment [3]: **V292110 - SEIDEL HOOKE - Analyst**

Email again sent to DSC RAE re update.

Last modified on 22-JAN-2014 10:22:24 by V292110.

Comment Type:	Additional Information
Comment Role:	Analyst
Comment [4]:	V292110 - SEIDEL HOOKE - Analyst
	Email sent to DSC RAE for update.
	Last modified on 03-MAR-2014 13:50:50 by V292110.

Comment Type:	Result
Comment [5]:	Information provided by O'DONNELL is for background info and Intel purposes only.
	This I/R is now complete.
	Last modified on 03-MAR-2014 13:55:04 by VP21002.

Classification

Offence Category:

1. Category: Sex Crime Child sex offence (non rape)

Identified Commodities:

1. Response Zone: MELBOURNE WEST

Identified Crime(s):

Licensed Premises Related:

Motivation:

1. Identified Crime Theme: Another

Dissemination History

Forwarded to:	Internal Taskforce Sano
Method Of Dissemination:	Security Group
Reason:	Create Response Event Entered On 08-MAR-2013 14:26:45 By VP21886

Forwarded to:	Internal VP21886
Method Of Dissemination:	Email Entered On 03-MAR-2014 13:55:11 By VP21002

Person Charged

Offence(s):

Results

Details of Property Recovered:

Details of Drugs Recovered:

Traffic Safety Enforcement Outcomes:

Outcomes: (x)

Attachments**Reason for Cancellation****Links**

Link Class:	General-General-Associated to
From Record:	IRt 08-MAR-2013, INT13IR550687, O'DONNELL, Phillip - former diocene priest. Information from same., , , VP21886, VP21886, 08-MAR-2013, Completed, Taskforce Sano, Member of Public, Protected - Non-National Security
To Record:	MBR 1557521, Leading S/C David Ian RAE, VP21886, SANO TASK FORCE, Active
Link Class:	General-General-Source of/Source is
From Record:	IRt 08-MAR-2013, INT13IR550687, O'DONNELL, Phillip - former diocene priest. Information from same., , , VP21886, VP21886, 08-MAR-2013, Completed, Taskforce Sano, Member of Public, Protected - Non-National Security
To Record:	PER , INTMPN01326593, Phillip O'DONNELL, MALE, 19-JUN-1950, , , VICPOL,
Link Class:	General-General-Associated with
From Record:	IRt 08-MAR-2013, INT13IR550687, O'DONNELL, Phillip - former diocene priest. Information from same., , , VP21886, VP21886, 08-MAR-2013, Completed, Taskforce Sano, Member of Public, Protected - Non-National Security
To Record:	Current VicPol Investigation
Link Class:	
From Record:	IRt 08-MAR-2013, INT13IR550687, O'DONNELL, Phillip - former diocene priest. Information from same., , , VP21886, VP21886, 08-MAR-2013, Completed, Taskforce Sano, Member of Public, Protected - Non-National Security
To Record:	DOC INTMDN325073, Archdiocese of Melbourne background information., 47's/Memos/E-mails/Sundry Forms, Another, VP34140, Locked Down, Sex Crimes,
Link Class:	General-General-Associated with
From Record:	IRt 08-MAR-2013, INT13IR550687, O'DONNELL, Phillip - former diocene priest. Information from same., , , VP21886, VP21886, 08-MAR-2013, Completed, Taskforce Sano, Member of Public, Protected - Non-National Security
To Record:	TSK INTMTK096548, Assist in Investigations, Re-canvass former priest Phillip O'DONNELL regarding any information he could provide in relation..., Low, 04-MAY-2015, VP27981 Leading S/C Sally Jane MCCURRACH, Pending Review, Taskforce Sano, 24-APR-2015, Sensitive: Personal
Link Class:	General-General-Associated with
From Record:	IRt 08-MAR-2013, INT13IR550687, O'DONNELL, Phillip - former diocene priest. Information from same., , , VP21886, VP21886, 08-MAR-2013, Completed, Taskforce Sano, Member of Public, Protected - Non-National Security
To Record:	Current VicPol Investigation

Record Status

Record ID:	4292391	Status Level:	Completed
Created By User:	VP21886	Modified by User:	VP32300
Date Created:	08-MAR-2013	Date Last Modified:	18-JUN-2015
Security Group	Taskforce Sano	External Reference:	

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Printed By: V291752 at 23-JUL-15 02.30.22 PM