



WESTERN AUSTRALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

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HON MINISTER FOR POLICE

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YOUR REF:

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ENQUIRIES:

To enable you to be informed regarding the current status of the police investigation into complaints against members of the Christian Brothers Order I advise.

The Police Child Abuse Unit is currently conducting ongoing inquiries into allegations of sexual and physical abuse committed upon children whilst in the care of the Christian Brothers Order at Bindoon, Tardun, Castledare and Clontarf between 1941 and 1975.

Although this investigation has become known as the 'Christian Brothers Inquiry' it is not one inquiry but in fact consists of numerous individual inquiries. To date 36 individuals have made complaints requesting police investigations into their allegations.

Of these 36 complaints:

- 2 have withdrawn their complaints.
- 3 cannot now be located.
- 13 have had their complaints completed and have been advised that there is insufficient evidence to proceed
- 18 of the original complaints have yet to have their inquiries completed.

There have been 33 current or former members of the Christian Brothers Order nominated as suspects by the various complainants of which:

- 12 of the nominated suspects are now deceased.
- 4 cannot be located, their present whereabouts are unknown.
- 13 suspects have been interviewed and have either declined to make a comment or denied the offences.
- 1 nominated suspect being Gerard William DICK was charged with ten counts of Indecent Dealing of a boy under 14 years.
- 2 of the suspects are residing in Victoria and inquiries are being conducted in that State and are yet to be forwarded back to this office.
- 1 is still to be interviewed.

- 2 -

Some time after these investigations were commenced and 16 complainants had been interviewed and statements obtained from them outlining alleged offences committed upon them whilst in the care of the Christian Brothers Order, a report was formulated seeking advice from the Department of Public Prosecutions (DPP) in relation to possible charges.

Advice was received from the Director of Public Prosecutions that after considering all the available evidence he was of the opinion there were no reasonable prospects of conviction in any of the cases submitted.

Since the submission of the report to the DPP another 20 complainants have come forward and made allegations. The circumstances and allegations are similar if not identical to the original evidence submitted to the DPP. As these allegations did not differ in that respect the DPP's position on indictment would not change.

Due to the large number of complainants, suspects and allegations all of these investigations have not yet been completed.

Two suspects have been interviewed by Victorian Police and we are currently awaiting transcripts of these interviews.

Further delays have emanated from efforts to obtain corroboration through medical records and non-involved personnel.

COMMISSIONER OF POLICE