

F/2010/11570



NSW Police Force
LAKE MACQUARIE LOCAL AREA COMMAND
CRIME MANAGER

Crime Manager
Lake Macquarie LAC
Charlestown Police Station
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To: Detective Chief Inspector Brad Tayler
From: Detective Inspector David Waddell
Subject: Complaint of concealing serious offence by Joanne McCarthy, Newcastle Herald, in relation to offences committed by Father Denis McAlinden a Catholic Priest and reported to members of the Maitland Newcastle Diocese of the Catholic Church.
Date: 3rd May 2010.

The Newcastle Herald, on Wednesday 28 April 2010 and Thursday 29 April 2010, carried front page articles in relation to allegations of concealing serious indictable offences by the Maitland Newcastle Diocese of the Catholic Church in relation to sexual offences committed by Father Denis McAlinden (now deceased).

The allegations relate to claims that AL disclosed to REDACTED in 1995, that she had been indecently assaulted by Father Denis McAlinden. It is further alleged that the Catholic Church's hierarchy in the Maitland Newcastle Diocese failed to report these matters to Police, commencing their own proceedings to have him removed from the Church.

Joanne McCarthy, Journalist from the Newcastle Herald, handed the documents that she had in her possession in respect to this matter to Detective Senior Constable Shaun McLEOD on 23rd April 2010 - due to his involvement in strikeforce Georgiana. Joanne McCarthy has also forwarded McLeod a number of emails in relation to her inquiries relating to this matter. Copies of all these documents are attached herewith.

REDACTED

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REDACTED It is alleged that as a result of this complaint, Bishop Leo Clarke (now deceased) and later Bishop Malone commenced proceedings to have Father McAlinden removed from the Catholic Church. From documents provided it would appear that Father McAlinden ceased active ministry in 1993; the matter was reported to the Catholic Church's Professional Standards in 1999 and finally to the Police in 2003.

The current Bishop of the Newcastle Maitland diocese of the Catholic Church, Bishop Michael Malone has publicly acknowledged victims of the Catholic Church, including those of Father McAlinden. He has further made public comment that he could have handled matters of a sexual assault better. Bishop Malone has cooperated fully with the investigations of strikeforce Georgiana, as did Zimmerman Hose, a child protection unit of the Maitland Newcastle diocese of the Catholic Church, established by Bishop Michael Malone. Since these reports the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has developed "Towards Healing" a comprehensive policy and procedure for dealing with abuse allegations.

These documents relate to the offence of conceal serious indictable offence under section 316 of the Crimes Act, relating to members of the Maitland Newcastle diocese of the Catholic Church located in Newcastle. This matter does not come within the terms of reference for strikeforce Georgiana and the matter is referred for any further investigation.

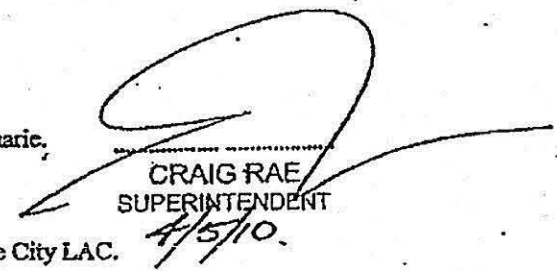
I have advised the person reporting, Joanne McCarthy, of the Newcastle Herald, that these documents have been forwarded to the Newcastle City LAC.



David WADDELL
Detective Inspector
Crime Manager
Lake Macquarie
19 April 2010.

Superintendent Craig RAE, Commander, Lake Macquarie.

FILED FOR CONSIDERATION.


CRAIG RAE
SUPERINTENDENT

Superintendent Max Mitchell, Commander, Newcastle City LAC.

Detective Chief Inspector TAYLER, Crime Manager, Newcastle City LAC.

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