

From: Anthony Townsend/20978/Staff/NSWPolice
To: Brad Taylor/21627/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice
cc: Wayne Humphrey/19634/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice

Date: Monday, September 20, 2010 11:18AM
Subject: Fw: from Joanne McCarthy, Newcastle Herald

Brad

Forwarded for your information. (There was a second email sent to me which I will forward separately but it is related.)

I received this information unsolicited on Friday. McCarthy rang the office and I was unavailable one of the staff provided my email address. I have not responded.

It apparently relates to Father Brian Lucas who was mentioned in the file that has been forward to your command for investigation. Lucas is mentioned in a letter sent from McAlinden to Maion 1995 protesting about the church taken action to remove him. In the letter he states he was up that he had told Father Lucas information in confidence and now it was being used against him. has been interpreted as McAlinden making an admission of sexual assault to Lucas. There is no other supporting information in the file to support this.

It seems that Joanne McCarthy is using this as a basis to suggest Lucas lied to the Royal Commission based on what I assume are extracts of his testimony to the Commission contained her email below. On my brief reading it seems very tenuous.

I do not intend to respond to Joanne McCarthy about the information and if contacted I will be saying that it has been forwarded to Newcastle City for their information (Not Investigation).

Regards



Inspector Tony Townsend
 Northern Region Operations Manager • Northern Region • NSW Police Force
 ☎ (02) 4929 0503 [70603] & (02) 4929 0945 [70945] ☎ 0489 306 341 ✉ town1ant@police.nsw.gov.au

----- Forwarded by Anthony Townsend/20978/Staff/NSWPolice on 20/09/2010 11:07 -----

Joanne McCarthy
 <jmccarthy@theherald.com.au>

17/09/2010 11:58

To "town1ant@police.nsw.gov
 <town1ant@police.nsw.gov>
 cc

Subject from Joanne McCarthy,
 Newcastle Herald

Dear Inspector Townsend,

I am forwarding the following after contact with the office of former Justice James Wood this morning. I rang his office after reading Father Brian Lucas's testimony to the Wood Royal Commission/pedophile inquiry April 1996 which was given exactly six months after the attempted secret defrocking of Denis McAlinden. Lucas was one of only two Catholic Church representatives to give evidence. He did so because of his senior in the church and involvement in the handling of this kind of matter, including a fairly notorious case at Wollon in 1993/94.

Brian Lucas was involved in the McAlinden matter. The defrocking was initiated in part because of an "admission" to Brian Lucas by McAlinden and other evidence.

Potential witnesses I have already spoken to are prepared to give statements that his involvement went considerably further than that.

I contacted Mr Wood's office seeking comment or an interview with him, and raised the issue of Lucas's evidence.

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to the inquiry and its possible inconsistency with matters in Newcastle six months earlier. I will forward the response from Mr Wood's office. In the light of that response I would like to raise the matter formally with police. Can you advise me how I should do that. My phone number is 0419977330.

The evidence quoted below follows questions to Lucas about how the church had changed its approach to pedophile priests in an internal sense. It's also worth noting that elsewhere in his evidence he made the statement that:

"There's nothing that I am aware of in Church law
55 that would prohibit a priest following the
56 provisions of the Crimes Act."

Regards. Joanne McCarthy.

From: Joanne McCarthy
Sent: Monday, 31 May 2010 5:24 PM
To: Joanne McCarthy
Subject: also Brian Lucas to the Wood Royal Commission, April 1996

I would certainly think that the nature of any
12 organisation where people belong to an
13 organisation and some offences occurred to them
14 within the context of that organisation, creates
15 quite significant, what I might call
16 institutional organisational problems, that
17 tendency to keep the matter within the family, if
18 I might put it in those terms, is certainly very
19 real. What we have tried to do in implementing a
20 protocol is to break that culture so that people
21 understand that the very worst thing that can be
22 done is to try, to use the word that's very
23 popular in the media, to engage in a cover-up.
24 That is the very worst way of approaching it.
25
26 Q. You believe, do you, the Catholic Church of which
27 you have direct knowledge, would now abandon that
28 kind of approach?
29 A. It is a matter of absolute policy.

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Force

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