NSW Police FILE NOTE

Investigation:

STRIKE FORCE LANTLE

Title of Note:

Summary of Investigation

## Narrative:

On the 25<sup>th</sup> October 2010 Newcastle City Detectives commenced a review of allegations against senior members of Clergy from the Maitland-Newcastle Catholic Diocese. The principal allegations relate that in 1995 members of the Maitland-Newcastle Diocese became aware of serious allegations of sexual abuse on children by one of its Priests, Father Dennis McAlinden (now deceased) and failed to report that information to police. Instead they took action to have McAlinden removed as a Priest. A procedure referred to as 'defrocking' under Canon Law.

PRINCIPAL ALLEGATIONS RELATING TO FATHER DENNIS MCALINDEN

On the 10<sup>th</sup> October 1995 sisters, A and A disclosed incidents of sexual assault committed upon them by

Catholic Priest, Fr Dennis McAlinden.

These incidents date back to the late 1960's and early 1970's when the sisters were 7 and 11 years of age. (FOACTED)

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On the 19<sup>th</sup> October 1995 Bishop Leo Clarke drafted a declaration that he was satisfied from evidence that Fr Dennis McAlinden was impeded to exercise holy-orders pursuant to Canon Law, which in other words meant, he would be removed from the Calholic Church and not permitted to perform his functions and obligations as a priest. (SEE ANNEXURE C)

On the same day Bishop Clarke drafted a letter to McAlinden who was residing in Jollimont, Western Australia. In that letter he indicates that after discussing the issues with Bishop Michael Malone and the Deans and in light of his admission to Father Brian Lucas he would begin the process to declare that he had an impediment to exercise orders. The admissions to Fr Lucas are not known at this time. (SEE ANNEXURE D)



On the 26<sup>th</sup> October 1995 a handwritten letter was forwarded from Fr M

Prepared By: A/Inspector Kirren Steel

Registered No: 26458

Date: 12<sup>th</sup> August 2010