



# NSW POLICE SERVICE

## Local Area Command, Lower Hunter.

Investigations Unit  
Maitland Police Sta  
Ph: 4934 0310  
27 April 2004.

**ISSUE.**

Request by Detective Sergeant Peter FOX for a copy of Ombudsman's Report regarding James FLETCHER.

**BACKGROUND.**

During 2002 I made contact with the State Ombudsman's Office in relation to a sexual assault upon a child (Now adult) AH by a member of the Catholic Church, priest James Patrick FLETCHER. Up until this point no other person had reported the matter to the Ombudsman & I would therefore be classified as 'the complainant'. Additionally I later provided numerous statements, reports & other documents to assist the Ombudsman's Office with any investigations into this matter.

**COMMENT.**

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April 2004 I was inadvertently told by a third party that the Ombudsman's Office had completed their investigation, finalised the report & forwarded a copy to the Catholic Church. I spoke to members of AH's family who were just as surprised as myself that we (As the complainants) has not received a copy of the report, nor had we been notified that the investigation had been completed.

I then spoke to Ann BARWICK of the Ombudsman's Office who confirmed that the investigation was finalised & the final report completed. I was also told that a copy had been provided to the Catholic Church.

As the complainant I am formally requesting a copy of the Ombudsman's Report & any recommendations resulting from the investigation of the Catholic Church's handling of the FLETCHER matter.

**RECOMMENDATION.**

Perhaps this file might now be forwarded to the Ombudsman's Office of a copy of the request report.

  
Peter R Fox  
Detective Sergeant  
Lower Hunter



→ KS for response please

AK  
27/4/04