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NSW POLICE SERVICE

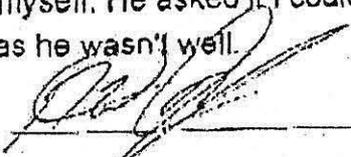
STATEMENT OF A POLICE/WITNESS

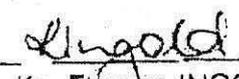
In the matter of:	James Patrick FLETCHER
Place:	Maitland Police Station
Date:	29 May, 2003

Name:	Kay Therese INGOLD	Tel. No:	4938 1548
Address:	14 Station Street, Branxton		
Occupation:	Registered Nurse		

STATES:

1. This statement made by me accurately sets out the evidence which I would be prepared, if necessary, to give in court as a witness. The statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything, which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.
2. I am 43 years of age.
3. I was born at Maitland but have lived in the Branxton area for most of my life. I have been a practicing catholic all of my life & had involvement in the local church. I got to know Father Jim FLETCHER when he first came to Branxton in January 1995. I have become a personal friend with Father Jim since that time. He would call around home for a cup of coffee or a talk. I was also involved with various functions within the church as were my children. I also helped him out with his health following his stroke. It was unofficial but being a practicing registered nurse it was reassuring for me to check on Father Jim & he appreciated my assistance.
4. I recall a time last year; it was a Sunday night when Sixty Minutes showed a programme concerning Archbishop George PELL. I cannot remember the date but I am told that it was the 2nd of June 2002. I remember I had watched the segment & was ironing when the phone rang. Father Des HARRIGAN spoke to my husband then myself. He asked if I could attend the Branxton presbytery to check on Father Jim, as he wasn't well.

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5. It was about 8.30pm to 9.00pm & my son Nicholas (Who was 17 years of age.) decided to come with me. We went down to the presbytery & Father Des met us at the door. He told us that Father Jim was in the lounge room & he was very upset following a phone call he received after the George PELL story on television. I went to the lounge room & saw Father Jim sitting in an armchair. He was obviously upset & crying. I spoke to him & he was able to talk to me for short periods before becoming upset again & weeping. He was also shaking & very pale. He looked like someone in shock & I didn't even bother trying to take his blood pressure, as it was obvious that it would have been high. Nick got the heater out & tried to warm Father Jim.
6. Though Father Jim was shaking & crying he told me in broken conversation that he had received an abusive telephone call. He told me that he could not recognise the voice but it was a young man. Probably someone about Nick's age. He said, "He said 'you fuck little boys (or kids). He also said you & your little mate Dessy know all about it.'" I said, "This was probably someone ringing as a prank. They probably watched the George PELL story on television & decided to have a go at you " I remember Father Des saying something similar. He said, "Why would they pick me?" Saying it may have been a prank call didn't seem to console him much. He then said, "He told me that it all happened so many kilometres from here as the crow flies." (The distance had been stated in the phone call but I cannot now recall the distance nominated.) I believe that Father Jim was so upset not knowing whom the caller was, the context of the allegation itself & the general offensive nature of the call. It was probably a combination of all these things & I just tried to reassure Father Jim that it was probably just a malicious call & settle him down.
7. Once we had settled Father Jim a little we were concerned about him staying alone. It was suggested he come up home with my family & myself for the night but he declined that offer. It was then suggested that Nick stay the night to keep a check on him. Father Jim also disagreed with this & told us he would be alright. At that point Nick & I left with Father Des staying with Father Jim for a while longer.
8. The following morning I returned to the presbytery & I remember there was a bit of coming & going. I don't remember the order that everyone arrived but I can recall Catherine & Maureen BRIDGE being there, as was Joanne HANCOCK. Father Des was also there & I remember Will CALLINAN arriving just before I left. The call was not really discussed with myself that morning as I think Father Jim had basically told me about it the night before.

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I just made a general check of him & he had settled noticeably from the preceding night. He was crying intermittently & I was still concerned, but not as much as I had been the night before. I knew he was in good hands & left shortly after.

9. It may have been later that week or a bit longer that I was speaking to Father Jim & he told me that he had been informed of the identity of the person who had telephoned him. I don't think he actually told me this person's name but he did say that this person had been to the police. In this conversation he also indicated to me that he did know the person who had complained.

10. I did not have much more, if any discussion at all with Father Jim about this issue until he left the parish in March this year. My dad died on the 11th of April & Father Jim telephoned mum on the 12th of April to offer his condolences & also speak to myself. He spoke to myself in confidence & told me that he would be unable to attend the service for dad saying, "That matter concerning the phone call I got last year has reared its ugly head again."

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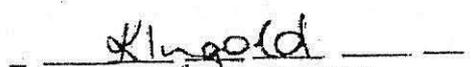
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