

Statement of Detective Inspector David Anthony Waddell

Special Commission of Inquiry into matters relating to the Police investigation of certain child sexual abuse allegations in the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle

On 18 March 2013, I say:

Preliminary matters

1. My full name is David Anthony Waddell. I am a Detective Inspector with the New South Wales Police Force (NSWPF) and I am currently attached to the Tuggerah Lakes Local Area Command.
2. This statement is prepared by me for the sole purpose of responding to a summons dated 16 March 2013 issued on 16 March 2013 by the Special Commission of Inquiry (established by way of letters patent dated 21 November 2012 and varied by letters patent dated 11 January 2013) for me to produce a statement in relation to a number of defined issues. This statement is produced by me to the Special Commission of Inquiry pursuant to the said issued summons unwillingly and only on the basis that, without exception, section 23(2) of the Special Commissions of Inquiry Act 1983 applies to restrict the use of this statement and the documents referred in it, and attached to it. Pursuant to section 23(2) of the Special Commissions of Inquiry Act 1983 I object to the information contained within this statement, and the attachments to the statement, being used in any criminal, civil or other proceedings or inquiries or investigations of any kind.

Background

3. I was attested as a police officer in 1990. After date of attestation I carried out general duty policing for a period of approximately 3 years. Thereafter, I was attached to the State Protection Group carrying out high risk policing (tactical policing) for a period of approximately 3 years. After carrying out those duties with the State Protection Group I then went back into general investigative policing duties. This involved me being engaged in criminal investigation from 1996 up until the present time. From 1996 the criminal investigation in which I have been involved has included investigations relating to anti-theft, drug activity and general criminal investigation. The general criminal investigation related to such matters as common assaults, sexual assaults, break and enters, armed robberies and homicides. In that period of time I have also been engaged in investigating critical incidents matters and police internal investigations. I would consider myself to be highly experienced in terms of carrying out police criminal investigations.
4. As part of my duties from 1990 up until the present date I have worked in areas such as the Sydney Metropolitan area, and rural and country areas generally. In addition, I have worked in the coastal areas of New South Wales. I was promoted to the rank of Detective Sergeant in 2000. My promotion to that rank took place whilst I was attached to the Gosford Anti-theft Squad. In 2002 I commenced to carry out duties at the Tuggerah Lakes Local Area Command. I was promoted to the rank of Detective Inspector in 2006, at which time I was attached to the Waratah Command. In 2008 I went across to the Lake Macquarie Local Area Command. I remained in that command until 2011 at which time I returned to Tuggerah Lakes and I remained in that local area command up until the present time.

Strike Force Georgiana and Strike Force Lantle

5. When I transferred to Lake Macquarie in 2008, I commenced to carry out the position of Crime Manager for that local area command. At the time of transfer, as part of my duties I was required to be briefed by police officers and detectives engaged in current investigations before that local area command. I was briefed on Strike Force Georgiana by Detective Sergeant Kristie Faber. After receiving such briefing, it was my understanding that Strike Force Georgiana had at the time some 5 targets, or suspects, as objectives of the investigation, with respect to alleged sexual assault matters.
6. As the Crimes Manager for the Lake Macquarie Local Area Command I was responsible for all investigations within that command in the sense that the management of such investigations were to be my responsibility. This required me to liaise with those police officers who were involved in the individual investigations being carried out by the command. I also had a role in the resourcing of such investigations, and in ascertaining the status of each investigation within the command. The general briefing received by myself from Detective Sergeant Faber was in relation to the status of the investigation. It was my understanding as Crime Manager when I first arrived at the command that the officers attached to Strike Force Georgiana were in the process of compiling briefs of evidence against the persons of interest. Attached to the Strike Force at that time were a number of detectives.
7. **Annexed to this statement and marked with the letter "A" is a true copy of a letter forwarded to me by AL dated 30 April 2010. Annexed to this statement and marked with the letter "B" is a true copy of a letter forwarded to me by Peter Gogarty dated 3 May 2010.**
8. **Annexed to this statement and marked with the letter "C" is a true copy of a document prepared by me dated 3 May 2010. The purpose of me preparing the document on 3 May 2010 was that I was seeking to have the substance of the complaints I had received looked at and investigated by the Newcastle Local Area Command. It was for that reason that the document had, at the bottom of page 2, the reference to Superintendent Craig Rae, Superintendent Max Mitchell and Detective Chief Inspector Taylor. As the 2nd last paragraph of the document itself indicates, in my view at the time, the subject matter of the complaint did not come within the terms of reference for Strike Force Georgiana and thus I felt it appropriate to refer the matter to the Newcastle Local Area Command for their attention and further investigation.**
9. At the time of my preparation of the document dated 3 May 2010, I was aware that the subject matter of sexual abuse by members of the clergy of the Catholic Church had been the subject of media publicity in the Newcastle Herald. The reasons why I thought it inappropriate that the subject matter of the investigation be carried out by the Lake Macquarie Local Area Command was also dealt with in a later document prepared by myself dated 12 December 2012. I shall refer to the contents of that document later in my statement (see annexure "G" below).
10. On 18 August 2010 I received a telephone call from Joanne McCarthy who was a journalist with the Newcastle Herald. The terms of the conversation were noted in my diary. Ms McCarthy was inquiring from me as to whether we had received the subject matter of the investigation back from the Newcastle Local Area Command. I took her inquiry to mean that she wanted to know whether the Lake Macquarie Local Area Command was going to conduct the investigation itself. I had previously

had a telephone conversation with Ms McCarthy prior to 18 August 2010 when I had advised her that the subject matter of the complaints raised had been referred by myself to the Newcastle Local Area Command for their consideration as to taking over the investigation itself.

11. After these conversation with Ms McCarthy I spoke to Inspector Anthony Townsend and Commander Craig Rae and advised them that the Lake Macquarie Local Area Command should not be given the investigations to carry out in relation to the substance matter of the complaints. **Annexed to this statement and marked with the letter "D"** is a true copy of an email forwarded at 09:28 hours on 18 August 2010 by myself to Craig Rae.
12. I spoke to Detective Chief Inspector Peter Fox on 31 August 2010. During the course of my discussion with him on that date, I also advised him that the Lake Macquarie Local Area Command had not received the investigation back from the Newcastle Local Area Command and it was my belief at the time that the matter would not be investigated by Lake Macquarie.
13. **Annexed to this statement and marked with the letter "E"** is a true copy of an email forwarded by Inspector Townsend to Fay Dunn. At the time, Fay Dunn was the staff officer to Assistant Commissioner Carlene York.
14. After 25 August 2010 it was my understanding that the Newcastle Local Area Command took over the investigation of the matter by way of the setting up of Strike Force Lantle.
15. **Annexed to this statement and marked with the letter "F"** is a true copy of an email forwarded at 15:34 hours on 16 September 2010 from Peter Fox to Kirren Steel. As the first paragraph of the email indicates, Detective Chief Inspector Fox refers to having recently spoken to me at the time of forwarding that email. It is my understanding that what is being referred to by Detective Chief Inspector Fox is a conversation had with me on 31 August 2010. At the time of my conversation with Detective Chief Inspector Fox on 31 August, I had made a submission that Newcastle Local Area Command be allocated the further investigation to be carried out as a result of the complaints made (see the emails at "D" and "E"), but at that stage I was not aware (at least as at the date of our conversation) as to whether or not the Newcastle Local Area Command itself had formally taken on the investigation.
16. **Annexed to this statement and marked with the letter "G"** is a true copy of a report generated by myself on 12 December 2012. Such report was generated in accordance with a request made to me by Inspector Tracy Chapman, who at the time was the staff officer of the Northern Region to Assistant Commissioner Carlene York. In the report of 12 December 2012, I set out all the information available to me, in relation to the history of the receipt of the complaints made, and the circumstances surrounding the setting up of the investigation by Strike Force Lantle. At page 2 of annexure "G" are six matters referred to by me that set out my concerns and objections as to why the Lake Macquarie Local Area Command should not have taken over the investigation of the complaints made. Paragraph 2 of that report refers to an earlier report of mine dated "3 May 2012". That date is incorrect and should read "3 May 2010" (being the document referred to at annexure "C"). Also, the reference to the Newcastle Herald article of "28 April 2012" should have read "28 April 2010". Otherwise, I confirm that the other information contained within the body of annexure "G" is to the best of my recollection and belief true and correct.

Signed _____

Signature of David Anthony Waddell

18/3/2013

Date

" " A "

Signed

THIS IS THE ANNEXURE MARKED "A"
ANNEXED TO STATEMENT OF David Waddell

SIGNED THIS DAY OF
18/3/2013.

Detective Inspector Dave Waddell
Lake Macquarie Crimes Unit

Dear Inspector,

You will no doubt be aware of media coverage regarding the crimes of deceased priest Father Denis McAlinden, and the attempts by Catholic Church officials in the mid 1990's to "defrock" him.

I am the person who made the complaint to the church which precipitated that action, and it is documents obtained by me to which recent Newcastle Morning herald reports refer.

I am very concerned about the process undertaken by the church at that time and to constant references in documents about the good of the Catholic Church and of Father McAlinden, while at the same time expressing precious little concern for his victims or to the possibility of him committing future crimes.

I have advice from a Senior Counsel that based on the documents which are now in the possession of the NSW Police, there are sufficient grounds to warrant an investigation by the Police. It is my view that the then Bishop Leo Clarke, Current Bishop Michael Malone, and current Redacted failed in their duty of care to me and other victims, and that they failed in their responsibility to comply with the laws of NSW.

The purpose of this letter is to formally complain about the conduct of the people noted above, and to request on behalf of all of the victims of father Denis McAlinden that you undertake an urgent inquiry into their conduct.

In October 2007, Bishop of Newcastle/Maitland Michael Malone acknowledged that McAlinden had multiple victims who suffered "...lifelong distress and impacts", and that up until that point those victims had been forgotten and denied by the Catholic Church.

On behalf of all of the victims of Denis McAlinden, I am seeking justice. To date, the Catholic Church has been able to claim that pedophilia was a crime limited to the behaviour of a few priests and that there was no conspiracy of silence within the Church. The documents relating to the defrocking of McAlinden prove that this is not the case.

Please do not ignore my request -- I need to know that the state of NSW cares about me and other victims, and that the Catholic Church is not treated as a special case when it comes to concealing crimes.

AL

30 April 2010.

Annexure B

**Redacted at
Commissioner's
Direction**

Signed

THIS IS THE ANNEXURE MARKED "C"
ANNEXED TO STATEMENT OF David Waddell

SIGNED THIS

DAY OF

12/2010/11570

18/3/2013



NSW Police Force
LAKE MACQUARIE LOCAL AREA COMMAND
CRIME MANAGER

Crime Manager
Lake Macquarie LAC
Charlestown Police Station
Ph. 02 49429921
Fax. 02 49429952

To: Detective Chief Inspector Brad Taylor
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 at Commissioner's direction 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 at Commissioner's direction

Redacted at Commissioner's direction

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 Rose, 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.

Signed

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

Signed

Superintendent Craig RAE, Commander, Lake Macquarie,
FOR CONSIDERATION.

.....
CRAIG RAE/
SUPERINTENDENT

Superintendent Max Mitchell, Commander, Newcastle City LAC.

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

" D "

Signed

THIS IS THE ANNEXURE MARKED 'D'
ANNEXED TO STATEMENT OF David Waddell

SIGNED THIS

18/3/2010
DAY OF
25/08/2010 15:14



(In Archive) Fw: Catholic Church
Anthony Townsend to: Fay Dunn
Bcc: Anthony Townsend

Archive:

This message is being viewed in an archive.

Fay

As per our discussions below is the email I received from Detective Inspector Waddell the Crime Manager Lake Macquarie making representations about the preliminary investigation being allocated to their Command. They have indicated it should be allocated to Newcastle City LAC.

I understand that the file was allocated to them on the basis that they had the expertise to speak to the witnesses based on their Commands experience in dealing with matters relating to the Catholic Church. The rationale for that decision was sound. If statements were taken from the primary victims AL and AK and some issues clarified (particularly if they wanted the matter reported to the police when they disclosed the offences to the catholic church) it may become self evident which the victims would accept that there was no basis to pursue the matter.

Steve Rae indicated that he would be prepared to assist when the witness are debrief which I would fully support.

In my view there is some merit to their request to review the allocation to Newcastle.

Additionally we are now requesting assistance from Lake Macquarie to make Sergeant Al Janson available to assist in the planning for Camp for Climate. He has expertise in planning the please response in relation to environmental protests on Power Stations. We would be seeking that he come off line asap in relation to this event. His release has come more problematic because Sergeant Mark Plant also from Lake Macquarie is due to start a secondment to the Region Office in September to fill the PSM Sergeant role that has been vacant for 18 months.

I have spoke to Brendan about deferring Sergeant Plant's secondment till after the Camp for Climate to ensure that event is properly planned for as the State Planning Unit are only offering consultancy and it by far how highest riks job in the Region for this year.

If you could advise Ma'am's thoughts in this regard it would be greatly appreciated.

Regards Tony



Inspector Tony Townsend
Northern Region Operations Manager • Northern Region • NSW Police Force
☎ (02) 4929 0603 (70693) ☎ (02) 4929 0945 (70945) ☎ 0400 306 344 ✉ ttownsent@police.nsw.gov.au

----- Forwarded by Anthony Townsend/20978/Staff/NSWPolice on 25/08/2010 14:26 -----



David
Waddell/27431/Staff/NSW
Police
18/08/2010 09:28

To Craig Rae/22212/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice
cc Anthony Townsend/20978/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice
Subject Catholic Church

Superintendent RAE,
Commander,
Lake Macquarie

cc. Insp Townsend, Operations Manager, Northern Region

As you are both aware I am very disappointed with the decision to allocate the recent sexual assault investigation relating to the Catholic Church to Lake Macquarie for further investigation. I am aware that Inspector Townsend is going to forward me the hard copy of the file and discuss further, but I feel compelled to voice my dissatisfaction with this decision.

The information initially came to Lake Macquarie due to our investigation of SF Georgiana relating to the Catholic Church. I still have two Detectives, including Detective Sergeant Faber and PS SC Gardiner, investigating and preparing ongoing briefs of evidence in relation to SF Georgiana, when time permits. The current complaint has nothing to do with this investigation and relates to Newcastle City and Hunter Valley LACs.

Lake Macquarie Detectives are stretched at the moment from a workload and resourcing point of view. Only yesterday I had a meeting with Detectives due to issues associated with their staffing and workload. This was initially set down for last week, but had to be cancelled due to a search warrant last week requiring significant resourcing and ongoing investigation. This matter again being one that should be investigated with a significant strikeforce response, but one that we are having to manage on a lower scale that will not ultimately reflect the true criminality, due to a lack of available resources.

Lake Macquarie Detectives ran a significant industrial campaign two years ago to address their staffing issues and were successful in getting three additional overstrength (not to be de-activated) positions with an indication that they would get more Detectives from the promised two hundred additional LAC based Detectives soon to be allocated. The Lake Macquarie Detectives were the instigators of the Northern Region project in relation to Detectives workload allocation formula and based on this analysis ranked highly and are obviously in need of further staffing.

In relation to this specific issue, Lake Macquarie are already investigating SF Lozano - an historical sexual assault investigation relating to St John of God at Morisset. This will be a protracted investigation with about 4 POIs and 20 victims identified at this stage and we would anticipate that these numbers will grow significantly during the course of the investigation. A request for assistance was submitted to Sex Crimes, SCC but declined. I would anticipate that based on the current staff that we have been able to allocate to the investigation that this investigation will take at least six months, or more, to complete. Ideally we should be allocating further staff to assist with the investigation, but unfortunately do not have the available resources.

I have prepared a document (attached) setting out our current staffing and availability. The spreadsheet indicates in red those that are unavailable due to strikeforces, sick report etc and in blue those that would not be considered to undertake this type of investigation due to workload, role and welfare issues.



Lake Macquarie Detectives staffing submission to Region.doc

As indicated there are very few Detectives that are in a position to conduct an investigation of this nature and in reality it would be allocated to a Detective Senior Constable working on the floor to manage amongst their other cases and workload coming into the office. With the media attention and interest that this matter would generate I do not see this as an ideal situation and it would only exacerbate the staffing and workload issues that already exist within our Detectives office.

My view is that this investigation relates to Newcastle City and Hunter Valley and has nothing to do with Lake Macquarie and based on our available resources we are not in a position to provide an adequate investigation of this matter.

I would request that the Region Commander and HR Manager be again reminded of the staffing issues in relation to our Detectives and that a strong priority be given to our investigative resources when additional Detectives staffing are allocated in December.

For your consideration.

David Waddell
Detective Inspector
Crime Manager
Lake Macquarie LAC
Ph. 02 49429921 / EN. 71921
Fax. 02 49429952 / EN. 71952

MAOUARIE DETECTIVES STAFF

D/Insp David Waddell	Crime Manager
Det Sgt Kristi Faber	<p>Detective Sergeant - in last two years has been Supervisor / OIC of two protracted and lengthy investigations in SF Adrienne (homicide) and SF Georgiana (Catholic Church). Still running investigations and briefs of evidence in relation to SF Georgiana (and St Flux relating to Newcastle City LAC) from office. Decision made not to assign any further protracted sexual assault investigations (particularly those relating to the Church) due to welfare concerns.</p>
DSC Russell Turnbull	<p>SF Lozano - historical sexual assault investigation relating to St John of God at Morisset. This will be a protracted investigation with about 4 POs and 20 victims identified at this stage. RFA submitted to Sex Crimes, SCC declined. Additional staffing required but not available due to general LAC workload. Anticipated that investigation will take at least six months with current staffing / resources.</p>
DSC Todd Clayton	<p>Involved with SF Georgiana and SF Adrienne with D/Sgt FABER. Two protracted and lengthy investigations in SF Adrienne (homicide) and SF Georgiana (Catholic Church). Decision made not to assign any further protracted sexual assault investigations (particularly those relating to the Church) due to welfare concerns.</p>
DSC Jacqui Filipo	
DSC Shaun McLeod	Sick report - issues specifically relate to SF Georgiana.

REDACTED -
RELEVANCE

" E "

Signed

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David Waddell
Detective Inspector
Crime Manager
Lake Macquarie LAC
Ph. 02 49429821 / EN. 71921
Fax. 02 49429952 / EN. 71952

Signed

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SIGNED THIS

DAY OF
18/3/2013

18/09/2010 15:34



{In Archive} Church File

Peter Fox to: Kirren Steel

Cc: Stephen Rae, Anthony Townsend, Charles Haggell

This message is digitally signed.

Archive:

This message is being viewed in an archive.

Kirren

I have recently spoken to Dave WADDELL & Steve RAE and understand you have, or are about to be allocated a file concerning alleged paedophilia and cover-up within the Catholic Church.

I was involved in a number of investigations in the late 90's & 2000's concerning a number of paedophile priests. During that time I interviewed Vince RYAN, James FLETCHER, Leo CLARK, Michael MALONE and other clergy regarding abuse. Mark WATTERS and I took out the warrant for Denis McALINDEN in 1999 and I spoke to Leo CLARK. If material I have read in the Herald is correct Leo CLARK told Ann JOY and I deliberate lies to conceal crimes committed by McALINDEN. It may be that I will have to do a statement regarding what he told me.

Further to this I have a number of statements concerning McALINDEN. The primary witness approached me some time ago after speaking to a number of victims I have dealt with over the years. At this time she has asked I not disclose her identity but has very strong evidence of first hand dealings with CLARK, Redacted and LUCAS and her own abuse by McALINDEN. This resulted in me speaking to Mike STANWELL, AL and AK. I don't believe the main witness would not be known to the church, police or media.

It appears a lot of the material I have compiled may cross over with what you have been allocated.

Today I was handed a TRIM file D/2010/133845 that has been through the AGs and Police Minister's office alleging 'possible cover-up of the crimes of paedophile priests by senior people within the Catholic Church'. It refers to some matters I investigated in addition to others that were looked at Lake Macquarie. A copy of an Intel Report I 21949203 is cited where I raised connections with a number of clergy paedophile matters and possible paedophile network and concealment back in 2004.

Unfortunately today is my last day until 18/10/10. No doubt this matter will take some time but can you contact me when I return as we probably need to put our material and heads together on this.

Peter Fox
Detective Chief Inspector
Crime Manager
Port Stephens LAC
Redacted

Information Report Summary

Ref No	Short Title
I 21949203	POSSIBLE PAEDOPHILE NETWORK WITHIN CATHOLIC CLERGY

Intelligence Category

PAEDOPHILES

Status	REVIEWED
Security	IN-CONFIDENCE
Source	POLICE OFFICER
Admiralty Rating	A 1 CONFIRMED

Event Date From	30/08/2004 to 30/08/2004
Event Time From	15:00 to 15:01

Police Operation	ANPR Session(
Submitting Station	MAITLAND
Submitting Officer	FOX, PETER RAYMOND

Narrative

Redacted at Commissioner's direction

POI 2. FLETCHER, JAMES PATRICK
RECTORY, 44 STATION ST, BRANKTON, NSW, 2335
POI 3. RYAN, VINCENT GERARD
COOMA CORRECTIONAL CENTRE, VALE ST, COOMA, NSW,
For 2 years Police at Lower Hunter have been investigating allegations that Catholic Priest POI 2 had sexually abused a number of young boys. Two victims have indicated their intention to pursue the matters at court whilst the third wishes only to give evidence. During investigations Police became aware that Priest POI 3 was committing similar offences against young boys at the same time POI 2 in a neighbouring parish. POI 3 has been convicted of sexual assaults against more than 30 young boys which occurred in overlapping periods as those connected with POI 2. Many of the alleged victims of both priests were altar boys at the times of the offences. POI 3 has been convicted & is serving a substantive gaol sentence. POI2 is awaiting trial on 22/11/04. Throughout the investigation of POI 2 members of the local clergy impeded police investigations. The local Bishop & other priests advised POI 2 of information not available to him at that time. Police felt many of the priests were reluctant to assist with inquiries & their memories failed in relation to significant events & conversations. During these inquiries Police were advised that a pornographic video of male to male (homosexual) sexual intercourse was allegedly found by POI 2 in the presbytery at

Information Report Summary

Narrative

Lochinvar. Police interviewed another priest who had occupied that presbytery earlier & he became upset & admitted to police he owned that video & being a close friend of POI 2 was given back the video which he had since destroyed.

Redacted at Commissioner's direction

In view of all the circumstances surrounding these persons & their offences, the similarity of victim's ages, location of crimes & time frames there is concern that there may be a paedophile network within the Catholic Church & other clergy members are assisting to conceal this. Police have notified the Ombudsman's office of concerns.

Entities

657816910 FLETCHER, JAMES	PERSON
RECTORY, 44 STATION ST, BRANXTON, NSW, 2335	
40034459 RYAN, VINCENT GERARD	PERSON
COOMA CORRECTIONAL CENTRE, VALE ST, COOMA, NSW,	
16012225	PERSON

Redacted at Commissioner's direction

"A"

THIS IS THE ANNEXURE MARKED "A"
ANNEXED TO STATEMENT OF David Waddell
SIGNED THIS DAY OF

with comments

Signed
18/3/2013



NSW Police Force
TUGGERAH LAKES LOCAL AREA COMMAND
CRIME MANAGER

Crime Manager
Tuggerah Lakes
Wyong Police Station
22 Hely Street
Wyong NSW 2259
Ph. 02 43596202

To: Inspector Tracy Chapman, Staff Officer, Northern Region.
From: Detective Inspector David Waddell
Subject: Information sourced on behalf of the Region Commander for the Special Commission and other enquiries relating to police investigations in the Hunter into the Catholic Church
Date: 12 December 2012

I refer to your request to supply all relevant information in preparation for the Special Commission and other enquiries relating to police investigations in the Hunter into the Catholic Church for the Region Commander.

As per the attached report completed by myself, dated 3 May 2012, an article appeared in the Newcastle Herald on 28 April 2012 in relation to allegations of concealing serious indictable offences by the Maitland Diocese of the Catholic Church in relation to sexual offences committed by Father Dennis McA Linden.

In this report I have indicated that copies of these documents were provided by Joanne McCarthy to Detective Senior Constable Shaun McLeod due to his involvement in Strike force Georgiana. These documents were handed to myself and I attached them to the aforementioned report and forwarded them to Detective Chief Inspector Brad Tayler at Newcastle City Local Area Command. As per the report, this was due to the fact that this matter did not come within the terms of reference of Strikeforce Georgiana and then offences related to the Maitland Newcastle Diocese of the Catholic Church based at Newcastle.

My understanding from this point of time was that Detective Chief Inspector Tayler submitted an Request for Assistance to State Crime Command and that this was declined and sent back to Northern Region. A number of months later I had inquiries from Joanne McCarthy and Detective Chief Inspector Peter Fox asking whether this matter had been returned to Lake Macquarie for investigation. It had not and I did not discuss the matter with them any further.

I do not condone this type of behaviour, nor the failure of any organisation not to report it, or worse still to cover it up. I have personally managed a number of long term protracted investigations, whilst at Lake Macquarie, that investigated multiple offenders and victims, including strike forces Georgiana and Lozano. I will always maintain to ensure that these matters are investigated in timely and effective manner based on the resources available and ensuring the welfare of those staff.

My referral of this matter to Newcastle City LAC and subsequent objection to undertaking the investigation of this matter by the Lake Macquarie LAC was based on the jurisdiction where the offence occurred, as well as the available resources, whilst taking into account the nominated welfare issues. At no stage was there any intention to stall this investigation, or cause for it not to be investigated. Quite the contrary, part of my rationale was on the basis that Lake Macquarie Command would not have been able to give it priority based on other investigations, as well as available resource and welfare issues.

I am aware that this matter was subsequently referred to Newcastle City LAC to investigate, under the auspices of Strike Force Lantle.

Signed

David Waddell
Detective Inspector
Crime Manager
Tuggerah Lakes LAC
12 December 2012.



Highly Confidential - Information Request
Tracy Chapman to: David Waddell

19/11/2012 15:45

History: This message has been replied to.

Detective Inspector Waddell,

In preparation for the Special Commission and other enquiries relating to police investigations in the Hunter into the Catholic Church, I am sourcing all relevant information on behalf of the Region Commander. I understand you had some small involvement initially due to documents being sent to Lake Macquarie LAC by report Joanne McCarthy. Can you please provide a briefing relating to your involvement and/or knowledge in this matter. Please include all relevant documents including but not limited to emails, reports or records of meetings and conversations you may have had particularly relating to Strike Force Lantle.

Please advise if you require a formal memorandum from the Region Commander to comply with this request.

Regards
Tracy

Inspector Tracy Chapman
Staff Officer
Northern Region
Phone 4929 0642 E/N 70642
Redacted