



Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle

Zimmerman House

Child Protection & Professional Conduct Unit

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Laurie Rolls
7 Monash Avenue
Olinda
Vic 3788

29 October 2008

Dear Laurie,

Re: coverage with CGU for complaints by **AZ** and **AX**

When copying **AZ**'s file for you, I realized the dates we were working on were incorrect and that this probably affects the likelihood of CGU coverage. **AZ** alleges abuse by DM in the years 1951 - 1953, not 1961 - 1963. I'm presuming this means you don't now need the details of **AZ**'s complaint to prepare a letter to CGU. Please let me know.

We are correct however with the dates for **AX**, 1965 - 1966. I have enclosed some material I prepared about DM's style of abuse and his whereabouts in the diocese from year to year. I believe there is sufficient information here to verify **AX**'s claim. Additionally I have enclosed the impact report on **AX** prepared by independent psychologist, Rhonda Murray which again affirms **AX**'s story. The impact report also gives information about **AX**'s family of origin and details the effects of the abuse on **AX**'s later life.

I hope this is now sufficient information for us to approach CGU. If we need anything more please let me know. I'd be really grateful if you could draft a letter to CGU for us regarding **AX**'s claim.

As always Laurie, thanks so much for your help.

Kind regards

Signed

Helen Keever

Manager,
Zimmerman House
Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle

Co Bishop Michael Malone
Greg Bayne

Fr Dennis MacAlinden

Was a priest of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle from 1949 to 1993 when his faculties to minister were removed following allegations of sexual abuse in Bunbury W.A. A warrant was issued for his arrest by NSW police in 1999. Fr M's whereabouts were unknown for several years. When he was eventually located in Subiaco, W.A, he was dying in a hospice. Police visited him but were unable to charge him because of his health. He died a few days later.

Diocesan records indicate he worked in the following parishes in the years indicated.

Tighes Hill : 1949 -1952
Raymond Terrace: 1952 – 1954
Taree: 1954 – 1959
Singleton: 1959 – 1963
Muswellbrook: 1963 -1965
Hamilton: 1964 – 1965 (supply)
Murrurundi: 1965
Boolaroo: 1966
Greta: 1966 – 1969
New Guinea: 1969 – 1973
Toronto: 1973
Murrurundi: 1974
Kendall: 1974
Forster-Tuncurry: 1975
New Guinea 1976 - 1979
Shortland: 1979
Forster: 1980
Belmont: 1981
Geraldton W.A: 1981 – 1983
Merriwa: 1983 -1984
New Zealand: 1984
Dungog: 1984
Morisset: 1985
Merriwa: 1985
Adamstown: 1986
Bunbury W.A 1987 - 1993

Profile of abuse

DM commonly took groups of young pre pubescent girls on picnics or for drives in his car. He often targeted sisters, cousins or friendship groups. The girl sitting next to him in the car on these trips was usually fondled as he drove. The last girl delivered home usually suffered further fondling, digital penetration or sometimes exposure of his genitals.

He is known to have abused young girls in the confessional, usually sitting them on his lap after confession and inserting his fingers under their clothes into their vagina.

Another of his tactics was to offer swimming lessons, taking young girls who could not swim into deep water where they depended on him for safety and

slipping his hands inside their swimming costume as he held them up in the water.

On more than one occasion he took girls on bush walks and got "lost" with one of them. He would then expose himself or perform digital penetration.

MacAlinden perpetrated abuse in this diocese over a 30 year period. His victims are yet to be counted but are in double if not triple figures. Accounts of the abuse by his victims, who have never met one another, are very similar.

For example

AL - "He would take me out into deep water and hold me up while he fondled my body. He also took me for long drives in his car. On these occasions he would expose himself to me". The abuse began when I was 8 and continued till I was 11."

AZ - "after I made my confession he would sit me on his lap. He touched me in places that he shouldn't. He took me and three other girls on a picnic and we went swimming. I was not a very good swimmer so he said he would teach me. Whilst doing so, his hands came inside my tights on more than one occasion."

ABE - "He took me and another girl on a holiday to Victoria. He made us take turns sitting next to him. When I was next to him he would say to lie down and put my head in his lap. He would then move his pelvis back and forward. In 1956 he took me and another girl on a bush walk and he and I got lost. I fell asleep and awoke to find DM's hands under my slacks and his fingers in my vagina."

AE - "He would offer to take me and a few other girls for a drive. After he dropped the other girls off, he would take me to a secluded place and would expose himself to me and make my hand rub his erect penis. When we drove I sat in the front seat of the car next to him. He would fondle my genitals as he drove."

AX ' account of abuse is similar to those above (people she had not met when she made her claim) and the dates she gives (1965 -1966) coincide with DM being in Muswellbrook as well as the Murrurundi and Greta areas which are equidistant from Muswellbrook. The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle accepts the veracity of her claim