

**NEWCASTLE CITY  
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION**

1st Floor  
Newcastle Police Station  
Cm Wall and Church St  
Newcastle NSW 2300  
Tel: (02) 49290999 / 70008  
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D/

**ISSUE:**

Request for information by Assistant Commissioner York regarding delays associated with the investigations conducted by Strike Force Lantle, including investigation contacts with Detective Chief Inspector Peter Fox of Port Stephens Command.

**BACKGROUND:**

On 12 July 2010 Operations Manager, Northern Region, Inspector Anthony Townsend produced a eleven page document addressing allegations of the concealing of serious offences by former and current clergy attached to the Newcastle Maitland Diocese of the Catholic Church. This appears to have been as a result of information, including statements, received by Lake Macquarie LAC from Journalist Joanne McCarthy. The file was furnished to the Region Commander, Northern, who signed off on her instruction to the Commander Newcastle City LAC on 1 September 2010. Those instructions included the identification of suitable investigators, initial assessment of evidence, the utilisation of State Crime Command in an advisory capacity with a view to handing over the investigation at a later stage, if deemed appropriate. Should the matter fall outside the charter of the State Crime Command, Newcastle LAC would retain investigative carriage of the matter.

In early October 2010 Strike Force Lantle commenced investigations into allegations of sexual misconduct by clergy from the Newcastle/Maitland diocese of the Catholic Church. The Strike Force consisted of Detective Senior Sergeant Justine Quinn, Detective Sergeant Kiren Steel and Detective Senior Constable Jason Freaney and was under the hegemony of Detective Chief Inspector Bradley Taylor, the then Crime Manager of Newcastle City LAC. At that time an E@glei investigation was also commenced.

It is clear from records within the E@glei holdings that difficulties between Investigators/Managers of Lantle and Detective Chief Inspector Fox seem to have commenced almost from the beginning of the investigation. This would appear to relate to issues concerning investigative responsibility for the complaint and the possession of files/statements pertaining to Lantle. There is also an underlying issue regarding the probity of the investigation, particularly to what appears to be a constant leaking of information to Ms McCarthy.

On 2 December 2010 a meeting was held between officers from Newcastle City LAC, Port Stephens LAC and Northern Region to resolve issues surrounding Strike Force Lantle. Superintendent Mitchell commenced the conference by explaining that Newcastle City LAC had carriage of the

investigation at the express direction of the Region Commander, Assistant Commissioner York. As such he required DCI Fox to hand over all documents pertaining to S/F Lantle. DCI Fox indicated that he was happy to comply, but had mistakenly left the documents in question back at the Raymond Terrace Police Station. DCI Fox also mentioned a report he had recently supplied to the Region Commander.

Superintendent Mitchell directed that no officer was to speak to the media, including Joanne McCarthy without his knowledge. He added that any contact by Ms McCarthy needed be reported to him.

On 13 December 2010 Detective Sergeant Steel reported off on sick report and did not return to duty.

On 20 December 2010 Detective Chief Inspector Taylor reported off on sick report and did not return to duty.

On 21 December 2010 Detective Senior Sergeant Quinn reported off on sick report. He returned to Duty on 21 February 2011 only to again report sick on 4 April 2011. He did not return to duty.

On 30 December 2010 Detective Sergeant Jeffery Little was seconded to Strike Force Lantle to replace Detective Sergeant Steel.

On 27 March 2011 Detective Inspector Parker commenced duties at Newcastle City Local Area Command as Chief of Investigations. As part of those duties I was responsible for managerial oversight of all investigation within the Command. This included Strike Force Lantle.

From this point the investigation progressed in a timely manner without further significant issue. While there were further delays associated with the investigation, these were not significantly different from those suffered during the course of any major investigation. These would include such issues as availability/reluctance of witnesses, analysis of voluminous information/intelligence, investigative delays and sick/annual leave. Any note worth delay has been documented within the Strike Force holdings, however, none would be deemed to have significantly affected the timeliness of the investigation.

Regarding the approaches made by Strike Force Lantle to Detective Chief Inspector Fox prior to 2 April 2012, interrogation of Strike Force Holdings indicates a total of 27 products associated with the name FOX.

After further review of these holding, eight products are considered to fit the criteria of the request. These documents are attached for your consideration. While some do not relate directly to contact with Detective Chief Inspector Fox, all are considered relevant as they reflect directly on the decision making processes relating to the officer, conducted during the management of this investigation.

The final document included, is a record of conversation between Journalist Joanne McCarthy and Detective Inspector Graeme Parker, shortly after he assumed managerial control of Lantle. While this document relates to April 2011, it does show remarkable relevance to the current situation.

**COMMENT:**

The holdings of Strike Force Lantle are extensive. What has been supplied is merely the result of a search conducted across the investigation on the key word fox using between dates of 1/9/2010 and 4/4/2012. This should not be considered to be definitive as to contact between the Strike Force and Detective Chief Inspector Fox. It does not, for example, take into account any phone contact between officers associated with Strike Force Lantle and Detective Chief Inspector Fox that may have been recorded in individual officer's duty books, diaries, writing pads or any other means of contemporaneously recorded documentation. If these records have not been uploaded to E@glei, they will not be captured during the conducted search.

What is, however, quite apparent is the Strike Force's willingness to accept assistance from Detective Chief Inspector Fox, even when he appeared to display an absence of enthusiasm to do so.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Submitted for information.

Signed

**Detective Inspector  
Graeme Parker  
Chief of Investigations  
Newcastle City LAC  
19 November 2012**

**Search Investigation****Warning**

Search results may not include information entered in the last 15 Minutes.

Search for

fox

Item Types

 Product Task Line of Enquiry Status Report Investigation LogItem Creation Date  
(dd/mm/yyyy)

From 01/09/2010

To 04/04/2012

Your search matched some items. Item 1 to 10 displayed, more are available.

Type	Num	Title	Date
1	Product	OD-28 Email from DSgt Steel to A/Sup Humphrey re DCI Fox	26 Oct 2010
Email from DSgt Steel to A/Sup Humphrey re DCI Fox Administrative Document. Email to Sup Humphrey re contact from DCI Fox regarding this investigation. Kirren Steel Kirren Steel			
2	Product	OD-21 Email from A/Sup Humphrey to Sup Haggett re DCI Fox	26 Oct 2010
Email from A/Sup Humphrey to Sup Haggett re DCI Fox Administrative Document. Email regarding DCI Fox contacting D/Sgt Steel in relation to this investigation. A/Sup Humphrey Wayne Humphrey			
3	Product	IN-3 Contact with AK	20 Oct 2010
these matters. She stated she has already provided a formal statement to Detective Inspector Peter Fox... and she advised me that she has already provided a statement to Detective Peter Fox back on the 29th			
4	Product	OD-47 REPORT by DCI P FOX	16 May 2011
REPORT by DCI P FOX Strike Force LANTLE was established to investigate allegations of concealing..., Peter COGARTY, AJ Attached is a report by DCI Peter FOX dated 18 October 2010			
redacted			
6	Product	OD-34 DCI Peter FOX report per TRIM 10/197839 CAVEATED	27 Jan 2011
DCI Peter FOX report per TRIM 10/197839 About 11:00 hrs on Thursday, 27 January 2011, D/Sgt LITTLE received the attached report (dated 25/11/10) with additional comments recorded on page 6 by Insp			
7	Product	IN-13 Case Conference 2 December 2010	3 Dec 2010

this investigation. The outcomes of the conference were: 1. Det. Insp. FOX to provide all relevant

documents...: Supt. MITCHELL Supt. HAGGETT DCI TAYLER D.I. FOX Det. Sgt. STEEL Det. Sen. Con. FRENEY Det. Sen. Sgt

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8 Product IN-106 Email from D/C/Insp Peter FOX 2 Apr 2012

Email from D/C/Insp Peter FOX Email from D/Insp FOX with attached report (copy of report (dated 25/11/2010) already on hand. Reply also by D/Sgt LITTLE. Products attached

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9 Investigation Log OIC (LITTLE) received letter from D/C/Insp. HUMPHREY by alleged victim AL who states she 30 Dec 2010

will only deal with Peter FOX. Phone call by D/C/Insp. Wayne HUMPHREY to alleged victim: AL on Redacted He inf'd her new OIC (D/Sgt Jeff LITTLE) has worked with D/C/Insp. FOX and would

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10 Product OD-45 Newcastle Herald Article 14th April 2011 20 Apr 2011

Investigation and more suitable investigators, DSC McLeo9d and DCI Fox. Newcastle Herald Joanne McCarthy

Next results

**Search Investigation**

**Warning**

Search results may not include information entered in the last 15 Minutes.

Search for:

Item Types

- Product
- Line of Enquiry
- Investigation Log
- Task
- Status Report

Item Creation Date (dd/mm/yyyy)

From

To

Your search matched some items. Item 11 to 20 displayed, more are available.

Type	Num	Title	Date
11 Status Report		Quarterly Status Report - September 2011	6 Feb 2012
of her typed statement (made to DCI FOX during June 2010) was more closely examined, <b>AJ</b> conceded... Information from DCI FOX, via chain of command; specifically details for 'good priest' and nun			
12 Product	IN-19	<i>Redacted: Relevance</i>	20 Apr 2011
13 Product	ST-6	S/W File: GOGARTY - Statement of Peter GOGARTY, 15/08/2004	14 Jun 2011
, <b>AL</b> and <b>AK</b> This file includes Peter GOGARTY's police statement, taken by Det Sgt FOX.			
14 Product	ST-5	Statement of <b>AJ</b> , <b>AK</b> . This file includes <b>AJ</b> 's	29/06/2010 14 Jun 2011
and <b>AK</b> . This file includes <b>AJ</b> 's police statement made to Det Sgt FOX on the 29/06/2010. <b>AJ</b>			
<i>redacted</i>			
18 Task	1	Obtain any relevant holdings from Ombudsman's Office	17 May 2011
in DCI FOX report dated 25 November 2011, p.2; also mentioned in KEEVERS document (p.2) b. OmbudsmanA			

19 Product OD-65 E8026529 - Sexual Assault complaint against Dennis Mcalinde 30 May 2011  
and whether victim desired to proceed. Reference by D/Insp Fox on 28/10/2005 to terminal illness by POI

20 Product IN-29 Contact by victim AK 31 May 2011  
to (DCI) Peter FOX had been "lost". I assured her it was not and I retained of copy of it. AK stated  
she'd been told by "someone in NEWCASTLE" that (DCI) "Peter FOX had been sacked for asking

Previous results Next results

**Search Investigation**

**Warning**  
Search results may not include information entered in the last 15 Minutes.

Search for

Item Types

- Product
- Line of Enquiry
- Investigation Log
- Task
- Status Report

Item Creation Date  
(dd/mm/yyyy)

From   
To

Your search matched some items. Item 21 to 27 displayed.

Type	Num	Title	Date
21 Product	ER-15	D-ERISP with Mr John DAVOREN (fmr Director -Prof. Standards)	13 Mar 2012

D-ERISP with Mr John DAVOREN (fmr Director -Prof. Standards) On 7 February 2012, Mr John DAVOREN - former Director of the Professional Standards Office of the Roman Catholic Church - participated in a electronically recorded Statement at NEWCASTLE Police Station. INTRAK: R 0 219 955

*redacted*

23 Product	ER-4	ERISP Transcript - Peter GOGARTY, 14/06/2011	6 Jul 2011
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, fairly shortly after that I contacted Detective Sergeant Peter Fox um, who was stationed at Maitland... to talk to, to Peter Fox. So I went and did that, and again agonised for a while about what I

*redacted*



**Product Details**

[Product History](#) [Cancel this Product](#) [Update Categorisation](#) [Link/Unlink this Product](#) [Create a Similar Product](#)  
[Create Task related to this Product](#)

**Title** Email from DSgt Steel to A/Sup Humphrey re DCI Fox  
**Type** TEXT DOCUMENTS:Other Text **File Number** OD-28  
 Document  
**Date Created** 26 Oct 2010 **Status** Accepted  
**Created By** DETSGT KIRREN STEEL **Reviewed By** CHFINS BRAD TAYLER  
**Source** Kirren Steel  
**Contact Name** Kirren Steel  
**Contact Phone Number** 49290004  
**Date Issued** 18/09/2010  
**Electronic or Scanned Copy** [Email from DSgt Steel to ASup Humphrey and DCI Tayler re contact from DCI Fox.pdf \(95.8KB\)](#)  
**Exhibit Type** None  
**Station**  
**Exhibit/MPB No.**  
**Brief Description**  
 Administrative Document. Email to Sup Humphrey re contact from DCI Fox regarding this investigation.

**Category**

- [EMAIL CORRESPONDENCE](#) \*
- [POLICE](#)
  - [Contacts made \(or attempted\)](#) \*

\* *category contains this product*

[Back to Search Results](#)

**From:** Wayne Humphrey/19634/Staff/NSWPolice  
**To:** Kirren Steel/26458/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice  
**cc:** Brad Tayler/21627/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice, Max Mitchell/19788/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice, Anthony Townsend/20978/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice

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**Date:** Saturday, September 18, 2010 09:29AM  
**Subject:** Re: Fw: Church File

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Kirren (Brad),

As if I knew this wouldn't happen!

No contact with him until after we (Brad and I) discuss the matter on Monday with you. Tony, I will also need to speak with you re this.

If this matter is Newcastle City's, and I believe it is, then we will run it. 'Getting our heads' together with Peter Fox will not necessarily be the most advantageous strategy despite his best intentions.

Lastly, Fox will address communications through the Crime Manager in future. I will address that.

I note he is now on four weeks leave so Kirren you shouldn't have any issues with contact until after our decision is made.

I look forward to some robust discussion on this matter.

regards

wdh

-----Kirren Steel/26458/Staff/NSWPolice wrote: -----

**To:** Brad Tayler/21627/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice, Max Mitchell/19788/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice, Wayne Humphrey/19634/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice  
**From:** Kirren Steel/26458/Staff/NSWPolice  
**Date:** 09/18/2010 06:06AM  
**Subject:** Fw: Church File

From memory one of you told me to let you know if Peter Fox contacted me in relation to this sexual assault file that I'll be doing when I get back to the D's. Anyway, he has and below is his email. Can you tell what I need to do with regard to him and whether I am entertaining any of his inquiries regarding this??

Thanks  
Kirren

Kirren Steel  
A/Inspector  
Newcastle City Police

[https://dommp07.gib.police.nsw.gov.au/mail/21627.nsf/\(\\$Inbox\)/B6DCCAA230E002...](https://dommp07.gib.police.nsw.gov.au/mail/21627.nsf/($Inbox)/B6DCCAA230E002...) 20/09/2010

-----Forwarded by Kirren Steel/26458/Staff/NSWPolice on 09/18/2010 06:03AM -----

To: Kirren Steel/26458/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice  
From: Peter Fox/18127/Staff/NSWPolice  
Date: 09/16/2010 03:35PM  
cc: Stephen Rae/26197/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice, Anthony  
Townsend/20978/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice, Charles  
Haggett/19499/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice  
Subject: Church File

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 Intell 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

[https://dommp07.glb.police.nsw.gov.au/mail/21627.nsf/\(\\$Inbox\)/B6DCCAA230E002...](https://dommp07.glb.police.nsw.gov.au/mail/21627.nsf/($Inbox)/B6DCCAA230E002...) 20/09/2010

## Product Details

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[Create Task related to this Product](#)

**Title** Email from A/Sup Humphrey to Sup Haggett re DCI Fox  
**Type** TEXT DOCUMENTS:Other Text **File Number** OD-21  
Document  
**Date Created** 26 Oct 2010 **Status** Accepted  
**Created By** DETSGT KIRREN STEEL **Reviewed By** CHFINS BRAD TAYLER  
**Source** A/Sup Humphrey  
**Contact Name** Wayne Humphrey  
**Contact Phone Number** 49266501  
**Date Issued** 13/10/2010  
**Electronic or Scanned Copy** [Email from A/Sup Humphrey to Sup Haggett re DCI Fox.pdf \(47.5KB\)](#)  
**Exhibit Type** None  
**Station**

**Exhibit/MPB No.**

**Brief Description**

Administrative Document. Email regarding DCI Fox contacting D/Sgt Steel in relation to this investigation.

**Category**

- EMAIL CORRESPONDENCE \*
- POLICE
  - Contacts made (or attempted) \*

\* *category contains this product*

[Back to Search Results](#)

**From:** Wayne Humphrey/19634/Staff/NSWPolice  
**To:** Charles Haggett/19499/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice  
**cc:** Anthony Townsend/20978/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice, Kirren Steel/26458/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice, Justin Quinn/26028/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice, Fay Dunn/19092/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice, Max Mitchell/19788/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice, Brad Tayler/21627/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice

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**Date:** Wednesday, October 13, 2010 01:18PM  
**Subject:** Re Strike Force Lantle

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Dear Commander Haggett,

As per our conversation regarding SF Lantle (the investigation into the alleged coverup by members of the Catholic clergy) I would ask for the following to occur.

Detective Chief Inspector Fox has initiated contact with Detective Sergeant Steel (OIC) of the Strike Force. DCI Fox has indicated that he has possession of a file in regards to this matter and other documentary and anecdotal evidence. An examination of trim indicates a file originated at State Crime Command, was sent to Central Hunter and then ultimately to DCI Fox. That file and any associated documentation should be collected and hand delivered to Detective A/Inspector Quinn, Crime Manager Newcastle City LAC as soon as possible.

DCI Fox should be advised that he will be contacted by DS Steele in due course regarding information pertaining to this investigation. DCI Fox should not initiate contact with DS Steele directly, all contact should be through the Crime Manager at Newcastle City LAC.

I probably don't need to remind all recipients of this email that this enquiry has been subject of much media interest (Commander Haggett you might also make the following very clear to DCI Fox please) It is my view that whilst this investigation rests with Newcastle City LAC then this command will be responsible for the overall management of the investigation, the investigative strategies and directions and any relevant media strategy.

I thank you all for your assistance in this matter.

kind regards

Wayne D. Humphrey  
A/Commander  
Newcastle City LAC

**Product Details**

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[Create Task related to this Product](#)

**Title** REPORT by DCI P FOX  
**Type** TEXT DOCUMENTS:Other Text **File Number** OD-47  
**Date Created** 16 May 2011 **Status** Accepted  
**Created By** DETSGT JEFFREY LITTLE **Reviewed By** DETSGT JEFFREY LITTLE  
**Source** DCI FOX

**Contact Name****Contact Phone Number****Date Issued** 18/10/2010**Electronic or Scanned** REPORT - DCI FOX dated 18102010.pdf (6120.1KB)**Copy****Exhibit Type** None**Station****Exhibit/MPB No.****Brief Description**

Strike Force LANTLE was established to investigate allegations of concealing offences by clergy formerly & currently attached to the MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE Diocese of the Catholic Church during the period 1985-1999, stemming from complaints made by AL, AK, Peter COGARTY, AJ

Attached is a report by DCI Peter FOX dated 18 October 2010 with annexures as outlined below. Ostensibly, the file pertains to BG alluding to concealment of offences of child sexual assault by (now) deceased Father James FLETCHER.

• Memorandum from Michelle BATTERHAM, Manager • Ministerial Liaison Unit to Ron JOHNSON, Manager • Commissioner's Secretariat

• Letter from BG to Attorney General John HATZISTERGOS

• Extract from statement by BG

• Response letter to BG by Angela D'Amore MP • Parliamentary Secretary for Police

• COPS I-21949203

**Category**

- WITNESSES - OTHER \*

- BG

- POLICE

- Reports \*

\* category contains this product

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[Create Task related to this Product](#)

**Title** REPORT by DCI P FOX  
**Type** TEXT DOCUMENTS:Other Text Document **File Number** OD-47  
**Date Created** 16 May 2011 **Status** Accepted  
**Created By** DETSGT JEFFREY LITTLE **Reviewed By** DETSGT JEFFREY LITTLE  
**Source** DCI FOX

**Contact Name**  
**Contact Phone Number**

**Date Issued** 18/10/2010  
**Electronic or Scanned Copy** REPORT - DCI FOX dated 18102010.pdf (6120.1KB)

**Exhibit Type** None  
**Station**

**Exhibit/MPB No.**  
**Brief Description**

Strike Force LANTLE was established to investigate allegations of concealing offences by clergy formerly & currently attached to the MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE Diocese of the Catholic Church during the period 1985-1999, stemming from complaints made by AL, AK, Peter COGARTY, AJ

Attached is a report by DCI Peter FOX dated 18 October 2010 with annexures as outlined below. Ostensibly, the file pertains to BG alluding to concealment of offences of child sexual assault by (now) deceased Father James FLETCHER.

Â Memorandum from Michelle BATTERHAM, Manager Â- Ministerial Liaison Unit to Ron JOHNSON, Manager Â- Commissioner's Secretariat

Â Letter from BG to Attorney General John HATZISTERGOS

Â Extract from statement by BG

Â Response letter to BG by Angela DA'Amore MP Â- Parliamentary Secretary for Police

Â COPS I-21949203

**Category**

- WITNESSES - OTHER \*

o BG

- POLICE

o Reports \*

\* category contains this product

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# NSW POLICE SERVICE

## Local Area Command, Port Stephens.



NSW Police Force  
www.police.nsw.gov.au

Raymond Terrace Stn  
Ph: 0418 201581  
18 October 2010.

### ISSUE:

Correspondence received from **89** re possible Catholic Church Conspiracy.

### BACKGROUND:

See attached file.

### COMMENT:

The attached file was received just prior to completion of my last shift prior to 4 weeks leave. After speaking to C/Inspector WADDELL & Sergeant REA I was unable to contact C/Inspector TAYLER. As a result I forwarded an E Mail to A/Inspector STEEL (cc to Pt Stephens Commander & Region Ops Commander) I have conducted no inquiries on that file.

The author initiating the file is known to me from investigations of the abuse of her brother **AB** and Mr Peter GOGHERTY by paedophile priest James FLETCHER.

In March 2010 I was contacted by the region office regarding my knowledge of alleged conspiracy or cover-up of child sexual abuse within the Catholic Church. I advised in 2004 I forwarded two files to State Crime Command. These files could not be located. I forwarded another through departmental channels to the Ombudsman's Office who initiated an inquiry. I also cited a number of intelligence reports (Including I21949203 attached) that I created and disseminated to SCC around the same time.

Over many years I interviewed a number of priests and bishops concerning sexual abuse of children. From evidence gathered in those investigations and included in my reports strongly suggested a paedophile ring existed in the Newcastle/Hunter area and other members of the clergy were concealing this. Matters investigated by S/F 'Georgiana' and the charging of a number of priests in the same areas over the same time periods lends weight to those 2004 suspicions.

In my own investigations I encountered interference from Bishop Michael MALONE, Mon Signior Jim SAUNDERS and Fathers Bill BURSTON and Desmond HARRIGAN. I considered charging these persons over what I believed to be lies to alert a pedophile priest of police inquiries, destroying evidence and covering up suspicious conduct.

In relation to Priest Denis McALINDEN, I have evidence that former Bishop Leo CLARK blatantly lied to Detective Ann JOY and I in 2004 with respect to his knowledge of McALINDEN's sexual offences. That evidence also implicates other senior clergy. It also supports they concealed McALINDEN's whereabouts from Detective WATTERS and me for a number of years prior to his McALINDEN's death.

Much of this evidence relates to conversations and inquiries conducted in the early part of this decade. I would be happy to provide statements or other evidence from my earlier investigations if deemed helpful.



**RECOMMENDATION:**

Forwarded at the request of Superintendent HAGGETT and A/Superintendent HUMPHREY.

Signed

Peter R. FOX  
Detective Chief Inspector  
Crime Manager  
Port Stephens Command

~~1. Port Stephens Commander~~

1. Forwarded to Det. Sgt. STEEL for reference to S.F. LANTLE.

Signed

DCL. TAYLOR  
27.10.10

2. D/Sgt STEEL

**ISSUE:**

Correspondence received from the Commissioners Office on the 20<sup>th</sup> August 2010 – regarding correspondence from *BC* –d/d 07/06/2010 – (possible conspiracy to conceal crime by senior clergy of the Catholic Church) (Annexure A)

**BACKGROUND:**

On the 20th August 2010 correspondence was received from the Commissioners Office at the NSWPF Sex Crimes Squad. The correspondence relates to information from *BC*

since replied to *BC* originally wrote to the Ministers office who has *BC* (Annexure B) and in turn forwarded her correspondence to the Commissioner of Police regarding a possible conspiracy to conceal crime by senior clergy of the Catholic Church.

Redacted

Inquiries conducted by this office indicate that Father James Patrick Fletcher was convicted of child sex offences in 2005 and in 2006 passed away whilst serving his custodial sentence. *BC* and her siblings were involved in the criminal proceedings against Father Fletcher.

Redacted

In August 2004, Detective Inspector Peter Fox, informant for the charges against Father Fletcher recorded difficulties encountered throughout the investigation of Father Fletcher and other priest sexually abusing young boys in the Lower Hunter. (refer I21949203 – Annexure C) Inspector Fox noted two members of the local clergy impeded police investigations through falling memories in relation to significant events and conversations. Detective Fox's stated....*'there is concern that there may be a paedophile network within the Catholic Church & other clergy members are assisting to conceal this'*. Inspector Fox subsequently notified the Ombudsman's office.

**COMMENT:**

The original investigation into the criminal offences of Father James Patrick Fletcher was conducted by Central Hunter Local Area Command – Detective Inspector Peter Fox was the informant. I recommend that this file be forwarded to Detective Inspector Fox for comment due to his intimate knowledge of the investigation, the hurdles encountered from the clergy possibly consistent with the issues highlighted by *BC*.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The attached correspondence be forwarded to Central Hunter LAC - Detective Inspector Fox for his attention and response.

Signed

**RL McKey**  
Detective Sergeant  
Investigations Coordinator  
Sex Crimes Squad  
5<sup>th</sup> September 2010

1. **Commander, Sex Crimes Squad**

*NOTED. FORWARDED TO DETECTIVE PETER FOX (CENTRAL HUNTER LAC) FOR COMMENT*

Signed

*Michael Hancock*  
Detective Inspector

6/9/2010

2. **Director, Serious Crime Directorate**

*Forwarded for consideration and attention of Det Insp Fox for his best involvement in the 2004 investigation into William Fletcher 7-9-10*

Signed

*John KERLATEC*  
Detective Superintendent  
A/Division

3. **Commander, Central Hunter LAC**

*Given this file relates to matters specifically referred to Det Insp Fox as the OIC, I am forwarding the file to Pt Stephens LAC where he is currently attached for a mention as requested.*

Signed

*John Gratton*  
Superintendent  
Commander 9/9/10  
CENTRAL HUNTER LAC

4. **Commander, Port Stephens**

5. **Det Insp Fox**

cc: Director, Serious Crime Directorate - SCC Det Spt KERLATEC



NSW Police Force  
www.police.nsw.gov.au

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

D(10/13 3845

# MEMORANDUM

M105373

**TO:** Ron Johnson  
Manager  
Commissioner's Secretariat

**FROM:** Michelle Batterham  
Manager  
Ministerial Liaison Unit

**DATE:**

**SUBJECT:** 12 AUG 2010  
Ministerial correspondence from BG

The Minister has received the attached letter from BG of  
and referred it to Commissioner Andrew  
Scipione APM.

This matter is forwarded for your information and referral to the relevant  
Command for consideration and appropriate attention.

A copy of the Parliamentary Secretary's reply to BG is also attached for  
your information.

Please note that the Ministerial Liaison Unit does not require a report in  
relation to this matter. I can be contacted on E/N 45276 for any queries on  
this issue.

Signed

**Michelle Batterham**  
Manager  
Ministerial Liaison Unit

DCoP/Director/Commander

SCC

- For attention and direct response O.B.O the Commissioner
- For attention and appropriate action O.B.O the Commissioner
- For advice, including draft response, by \_\_\_\_\_

Return via:

- Chain of Command to Commissioner's Office to L.E.P.B.

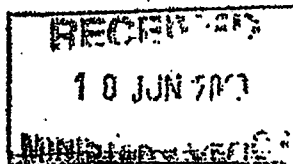
Manager, Secretariat  
Office of the Commissioner

Ext. 45442 CC:  
Fax. 45443 CC:  
Prev' Papers:

Signed

16/8/10

The Honorable John Hatzistergos  
NSW Attorney General  
Parliament House  
Macquarie St Sydney



Dear Sir,

I write to you regarding the possible cover up of the crimes of paedophile priests by senior people within the Catholic Church.

*redacted*

I do not know anything about Fr McAlinden or NP3 but I do have a lot of experience of Fr James Fletcher. My brother AB testified against Fletcher at his trial, and several members of my family including myself gave statements to the Police.

I know from media reports that Mr Peter Gogarty has said that he and other boys and young people were banned from the Bishop's House in Maitland and that he was then brought into the house by Fletcher by way of a back door.

*Redacted*

We used to enter the Bishop's House via a rear door into the kitchen. I remember often seeing other priests while I was in the house but cannot remember specifically which ones.

I do not personally know about any "ban", but I can say the following.

Myself and two of my siblings often spent time in the Bishop's House with Father Fletcher without our parents being present.

I was about 15 years old when Fletcher left the Bishop's House (around 1985). My brother AB (who was abused by Fletcher was 4 years younger than myself).

I started going there when I was about ten.

redacted

I remember that later in his time at the Bishop's House Father Fletcher had an office in the annex at the back of the house and the Parish Secretary also sat there, but I only remember Fr Fletcher ever having a bedroom in the upstairs of the main part of the house.

Redacted

Father Fletcher abused my brother after leaving the Bishop's House - a part of AB'S testimony referred to Fletcher abusing him when Fletcher was based at Derrinatt. How could anyone in the church let this keep happening to young boys?

Attached is a part of my Police statement which might be relevant to you.

BG

BG

7<sup>th</sup> June 2010

Extract from NSW Police Statement at Maitland Police Station on the 18<sup>th</sup> May 2004, taken by Detective Peter Fox.

As kids we always looked forward to Father Fletcher arriving and spending time with us. He seemed to have an inexhaustible supply of lollies, I cannot remember if he ate a lot of lollies himself, but there was always plenty for us kids. He liked the attention of us kids and took a delight in handing them out to us. I can recall that he had a jar of lollies at his residence at the back of the Bishops house; he also had bags of chips and cans of soft drinks. This thrilled us kids because there was no way mum and dad could afford to give us those sorts of things all the time and we would often ride our bikes to his residence. We often spent time up there with Father Fletcher, he helped me with some homework on one occasion, but it was mostly just his company and the goodies.

I recall that after a time AB became an altar boy, as did my other two brothers after they had made their first Holy Communion. I think they were about 8 or 9 years of age when they first started to serve on the altar. As a result of them working on the altar us kids would often walk to church with mum during the holidays for Friday Mass, but really I think we just wanted to see Father Fletcher & be given lollies & he would make a fuss over us. We all enjoyed his attention, we knew that we were one of his "Special Families" if I can put it that way. It was obvious to all of us that he would spend a lot more time with our family, call around home, talk to us after mass, that sort of thing. I have no doubt that other families would have been aware of this "special" relationship we had. We were not embarrassed or anything like that, we took a lot of pride in the fact that we had a special relationship with the parish priest.

redacted

BG

M105373

**COPY**

Dear BG

I refer to your letter to the Attorney-General, the Hon John Hatzistergos MLC, regarding a possible conspiracy to conceal crime by senior clergy of the Catholic Church. The Minister for Police, Mr Michael Daley MP, has asked me to reply on his behalf.

Section 316 of the *Crimes Act 1900* makes it an offence for any person who knows another person has committed a serious indictable offence and has information which might be of material assistance in securing the apprehension or the prosecution or conviction of the offender to fail to bring that information to the attention the police or another appropriate authority.

In any prosecution, it would be necessary for the Crown to prove, beyond a reasonable doubt, the accused had knowledge of the offence and willingly withheld this information from appropriate law enforcement authorities.

However, section 316 also provides that a prosecution for this offence cannot to be commenced against a person if the knowledge or belief that an offence has been committed was formed or the information was obtained by the person in the course of exercising their vocation as a clergyman.

I have referred your concerns about this matter to the Commissioner of Police for consideration of the matters you raise.

Yours sincerely

**Angela D'Amore MP**  
**Parliamentary Secretary for Police**



**Product Details**

[Product History](#) [Update Categorisation](#) [Link/Unlink this Product](#) [Create a Similar Product](#)  
[Create Task related to this Product](#)

**Title** DCI Peter FOX report per TRIM 10/197839  
**Type** TEXT DOCUMENTS:Other Text **File Number** OD-34  
 Document  
**Date Created** 27 Jan 2011 **Status** Accepted  
**Created By** DETSGT JEFFREY LITTLE **Reviewed By** DETSGT JEFFREY LITTLE

**Source****Contact Name****Contact Phone Number****Date Issued** 27/01/2011**Electronic or Scanned Copy** LANTLE - FOX Rpt 25.11.10.pdf (455.1KB)**Exhibit Type** None**Station****Exhibit/MPB No.****Brief Description**

About 11:00 hrs on Thursday, 27 January 2011, D/Sgt LITTLE received the attached report (dated 25/11/10) with additional comments recorded on page 6 by Insp. A TOWNSEND, A/C C YORK, Supt. HAGGETT & A/Supt. HUMPHREY

**Category**

- **POLICE**
  - Reports \*
  - Previous Police Investigators \*

\* category contains this product

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**Caveat** [View this Caveat](#) [Update this Caveat](#) [Remove this Caveat](#)

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**Review Date** 27 Jan 2016**Reason**

As per written direction by A/Supt. HUMPHREY on page 6 of report.

[Back to Search Results](#)

# NSW POLICE SERVICE

Local Area Command, Port Stephens.

0/2010/197839



NSW Police Force  
www.police.nsw.gov.au

Raymond Terrace Stn  
Ph: 0418 201581  
25 November 2010.

D/20 10 197839  
F20 10 1

Newcastle City LAC

## ISSUE:

Allegations of child sexual abuse and cover-up within the Maitland Newcastle Diocese of the Catholic Church.

## BACKGROUND:

In 1999 Detective Mark WATTERS and I investigated priest Denis McALINDEN following allegations by AE that he had sexually assaulted her as a child. The Catholic Diocese disclosed that McALINDEN was believed to be in Ireland and we were given an assurance to be notified upon his return. Incredibly the church was not in contact with McALINDEN. We took the assurances on face value and swore a warrant for McALINDEN's arrest.

In 2002 I commenced unrelated investigations of priests James FLETCHER and Desmond HARRIGAN. In 2003 I interviewed priest Vincent RYAN in Junee Gaol regarding suspected links to FLETCHER, HARRIGAN and others alleged to be involved with paedophilia in the Hunter area.

Soon after commencing investigations I learned that Bishop Michael MALONE and Vicar General James SAUNDERS had alerted FLETCHER to the police investigation and disclosed the identity of the alleged victim. This negatively impacted on the investigation and was reported to the ODPF for consideration of charges for hindering a police investigation; however it was elected not to proceed.

Bishop MALONE then refused a request by me to remove FLETCHER from his parish or restrain him from visiting schools. In defiance of my request MALONE extended FLETCHER's parish to include both the Catholic High School and Catholic Primary School in Lochinvar.

I later obtained statements from MALONE, SAUNDERS, HARRIGAN and priest William BURSTON. All had met with FLETCHER following the allegations. All those statements were remarkable for their author's poor recollection of critical conversations and smacked strongly of collusion and concealment.

It was intended to execute a search warrant for pornographic images on FLETCHER's presbytery; however I learnt FLETCHER removed a quantity of homosexual pornographic videos and magazines before this could happen. I suspected this material contained some images of young boys as mentioned by a victim. Undoubtedly this happened directly as a result of MALONE and SAUNDERS' forewarning.

I was told by a source that FLETCHER passed the mentioned pornography to priest Des HARRIGAN. HARRIGAN was heavily intoxicated when I confronted him in the presbytery at Raymond Terrace. He admitted being given homosexual pornographic magazines and videos by FLETCHER, but denied it contained illegal images of children. He claimed he owned the items and had inadvertently left them in FLETCHER's presbytery. He also said he had destroyed all these items but could give no plausible explanation why he decided to do so.

As the investigation progressed a priest and nun approach me separately to provide statements and information. That nun was later ostracised by her Order of St Joseph at Lochinvar for assisting police and forced to leave. She has not returned to the church. The priest disclosed to me details of inner workings of the diocese and what he referred to as 'the old boys club' of Hunter priests and his suspicions. He was pivotal in having another victim come forward with critical evidence that was later instrumental in FLETCHER's ultimate conviction.

The assistance rendered by this 'good priest' led to a series of clashes between him and senior clergy including Bishop MALONE. This priest suffered considerable stress from his treatment and was moved to Sydney. He has since elected to leave the priesthood and return to another profession. I have remained in contact with both these individuals who are highly critical of the silence within the church concerning child sexual abuse.

I was aware that Bishop Leo CLARK and Priest Patrick COTTER had been interviewed by police some years prior concerning alleged concealment of Vincent RYAN's activities. Sufficient evidence existed against COTTER but it was decided not to proceed purely on the basis of his age and health. I understand that the evidence was not in question.

Detective Ann JOY and I also spoke to Leo CLARK during my investigation. We predominately discussed FLETCHER and RYAN and his possible knowledge of their activities. I then asked about McALINDEN who I still believed to be overseas. (I later learned he had already returned to Australia and was residing in a Catholic facility near Perth.) I asked CLARK, "An alleged victim of Denis McALINDEN has told us that she believes the church is aware of at least two other alleged sexual assault victims of this priest. Do you have any knowledge of that?" He said, "No. You would have to ask Michael MALONE about that."

Redacted

I was becoming disturbed by the number of priests in the region alleged to have been involved in sexually abusing children. They were all in adjoining parishes and giving one another support. This was compounded by senior clergy interfering in investigations and potentially concealing their knowledge of crimes and admonishing those prepared to speak out. All of this caused me considerable concern.

I recorded most of this information in a number of COPS Intelligence Reports for dissemination to State Crime Command. I also forwarded two reports expressing concern that a paedophile ring possibly existed in the Maitland Newcastle Diocese and should be investigated. I have never been contacted in respect to my reports. Since that time Maitland Newcastle Priests NP3 Tom BRENNAN, NP4 and NP have also been charged with child sex offences. I understand that others may also be under investigation.

In 2003-4 I also forwarded a series of reports and complaints to Ann BARWICK of the NSW Ombudsman's Office which conducted an investigation. I have been told their report was critical of the church but the findings cannot be made public. Nevertheless this process finally saw FLETCHER stood down by the church and prevented from accessing schools.

Page No.2

In late 2005 I was advised by the Catholic Church that Denis McALINDEN was critically ill in a Catholic Retirement Home in Subiaco, Perth. I made inquiries regarding his possible extradition but learnt he was not able to travel and he died two weeks later. Despite the church knowing McALINDEN's whereabouts for some time I was not informed until his death was imminent.

COMMENT:

Earlier this year Joanne McCARTHY of the Newcastle Herald contacted me. She indicated a woman; **AJ** had confided in her allegations of being sexually assaulted in the 1960's by Catholic Priest Denis McALINDEN. **AJ** allegedly had knowledge of a number of other women who had also been sexually assaulted including. **AJ cy AK**

Although I had never met with **AJ** I had come across her name in 2003-4 when investigating FLETCHER. I was told **AJ** was reluctant to speak to police as her knowledge implicated a number of high ranking clergy in 'covering up' known paedophile priests. She stated I was the only police officer she would speak with as she had apparently spoken to victims of paedophile priests and their families with whom I have dealt with. **AJ**

redacted

Redacted **AK** provided me with a number of documents and a statement outlining McALINDEN sexually abusing her and her sister. **AL AN G**  
**AN** have also been sexually abused by McALINDEN and have never got over the trauma.  
**AK** still feels guilty at not being able to protect **AN cy AV**

redacted

Redacted

Redacted

Redacted

Documents in possession of **AK** and the statement of **AJ** confirm without a doubt that retired Bishop Leo CLARK knew of a number of McALINDEN's victims. He knew of the serious nature of the abuse. He also knew that victims had complained of their suffering to various clergy under his direct supervision. When Detective JOY and I asked,

*"An alleged victim of Denis McALINDEN has told us that she believes the church is aware of at least two other alleged sexual assault victims of this priest. Do you have any knowledge of that?"*  
He said, "No. You would have to ask Michael MALONE about that."

Clearly he told us a blatant lie and concealed the names of victims known to the church. By doing so he concealed crimes that McALINDEN committed and his admissions of abuse. Worse still is the fact that CLARK knew McALINDEN was still at large and had returned to Australia with the potential to continue committing his crimes.

During my service I have had to speak to hundreds of victims of sexual assault. All of them are disturbing. Sexual assaults of children are the most abhorrent and abuse of children by the clergy is amongst the worst. To conceal such a crime is akin to condoning that behaviour. I do not believe such conduct can ever, or should ever be forgiven by the law.

Page No.1

I have seen the pain of the victims of child sexual abuse within the Church. I have visited victims in psychiatric institutions and seen the damage it has caused their families. I spoke to a member of the Newcastle ODPP who broke down crying and was unable to continue reading a victim's statement, apologising to me when she requested to be removed from the case.

I took another statement from a mother who was unaware of years of sexual abuse her son was suffering at the hands of her family priest. As a teenager he came home in a drunken stupor. When he attempted to hang himself in the family barn his mother screamed hysterically trying to take the weight of his bending legs until another son arrived to cut him down. In desperation the family called their priest for the boy to stay overnight in his presbytery with the aim of counselling him when sobered. This priest took advantage of the situation and buggerised the boy again that night. This same priest, James FLETCHER is one of those whom fellow clergy went to such extraordinary lengths to protect.

Reprisals are another distasteful aspect of sexual abuse within the church. Some have reported to me having had their cars damaged and eggs thrown at their homes following guilty verdicts after a family member disclosed abuse. Most victims' families are devout Catholics who are surrounded by friends until someone comes forward with allegations of abuse. The family is ostracised within their community and particularly at church. They are no longer spoken to and made to feel unwelcome. They have backs blatantly turned on them until they no longer attend. Most believe this is silently condoned by other priests and perpetuates the silence of abuse in fear of speaking out.

### RECOMMENDATION:

I believe there is sufficient evidence to conduct a full and comprehensive investigation into the conduct of the Maitland Newcastle Diocese of the Catholic Church. There is more than enough evidence to put before the Attorney General under section 316 of the Crimes Act to prosecute a number of clergy based on evidence already cited. I strongly believe that further investigation will only enhance such a brief and possibly disclose other offences and or offenders.

AE revealed that in the 1990's she also told the church of her abuse but nothing was done and the police were not told until she decided to do so herself. Sadly AE died in 2007 after years of counselling and psychiatric treatment resulting from her abuse. Her husband BD spoke to me this year and is more than prepared to assist with any police inquiry as the failure of the church to act has impacted negatively on the lives of his entire family. The damage done by such abuse and concealment is enormous. The passage of time should never preclude the New South Wales Police Force from protecting these families and bring persons to justice for such crimes. If we fail to investigate and prosecute such conduct the potential for it to continue remains unaltered.

Over more than a decade of investigating members of the Maitland Newcastle clergy I have built up an excellent knowledge base. I also have an extensive network of contacts within and outside the church. I have also built up a reputation and trust among victims and their families as evidenced by AJ's approach to speak with me. I have spoken to Sister Paula REDGROVE who has also indicated her preparedness to speak with me and provide a statement of her knowledge. I remain objective but passionate to assist with any inquiry or investigation.

In view of the number of priests charged over the past decade within the Maitland Newcastle Diocese I am requesting consideration be given to the establishment of a task force to undertake a full investigation. I submitted similar reports in 2004 only to see more cases of abuse disclosed since that time. My own experiences coupled with recent evidence strongly indicates that paedophilia by the clergy is widespread in the Hunter and is being concealed by experienced and senior staff within the diocese. Without intervention these crimes are likely to continue.

In order to protect victims and put a stop to these ongoing crimes I respectfully ask that this request be given favourable consideration.

Signed

~~Peter R FOX~~  
~~Detective Chief Inspector~~  
~~Crime Manager~~  
~~Port Stephens Command~~

1. Port Stephens Commander. The recommendations of Det Chief Inspector Fox are supported. Given the nature of these allegations, these matters appear beyond the scope of an LAC investigation & could be more appropriately dealt with by a task force. Referred to region.

Signed

*1/Sup. 4/Commander*  
*23/11/10*

2. Operations Manager Northern Region

Newcastle LAC have been allocated to investigate allegations that Malone, Redacted and others failed to disclose information relating to sexual abuse of AL and AK. All material held by DCI Fox should be forwarded to Newcastle City LAC Crime Manager for their information. Assessment as to appropriate resources for the investigation is to be made by Newcastle City.

3. Commander Northern Region

Investigation shall continue by Newcastle LAC to ascertain the extent of the allegations. Consideration will be given to additional resources at the appropriate time. To ensure all matters are considered it should be noted the Newcastle investigators are the lead role & are to continue.

Signed

*Ingt A Townsend*  
*Ops Manager*  
*Northern Region*  
*3/12/10*

4. Commander Port Stephens LAC

*Notes: I have informed C/Insp Fox of this outcome*

Signed

*23/11/10*

5. Commander Newcastle City LAC

Page No. 6

*For filing & entry into Eagle 1 with appropriate entries*

Signed

*Wayne D. Humphrey*  
*Detective Chief Inspector*  
*Crime Manager*

*27/11/11*

*AKL*

**Product Details**

[Product History](#) [Caveat this Product](#) [Update Categorisation](#) [Link/Unlink this Product](#) [Create a Similar Product](#)  
[Create Task related to this Product](#)

**Title** Case Conference 2 December 2010  
**Type** TEXT DOCUMENTS:Investigators Note **File Number** IN-13  
**Date Created** 3 Dec 2010 **Status** Accepted  
**Created By** DETSSG JUSTIN QUINN **Reviewed By** DETSGT JEFFREY LITTLE  
**Maintained By** DETSGT JEFFREY LITTLE  
**Date of Note** 03/12/2010  
**Electronic or Scanned Copy** [IN Lantle 4.doc \(136.5KB\)](#)  
**Brief Description**

On 2 December 2010 a case conference was held regarding this investigation.

The outcomes of the conference were:

1. Det. Insp. FOX to provide all relevant documents pertaining to this investigation held by him;
2. Debrief to be held with Helen KEEVERS, SCC staff to be invited to attend meeting.
3. No officer to speak with media about this investigation without the knowledge of Supt. MITCHELL.
4. Summary document to be prepared by Det. Sgt. STEEL to facilitate assessment by SCC as whether investigation fits their charter.

**Category**

- **POLICE**
  - [Internal Communications](#) \*

\* *category contains this product*

[Back to Search Results](#)



**INVESTIGATOR'S NOTE**

**Investigation:** S/F LANTLE  
**Title of Note:** Case Conference in relation to S/F LANTLE

**Narrative:**

At 12.25pm on Thursday 2 December 2010, a meeting was held at Waratah Police Station in relation to S/F LANTLE. Officers present were:

- Supt. MITCHELL
- Supt. HAGGETT
- DCI TAYLER
- D.I. FOX
- Det. Sgt. STEEL
- Det. Sen. Con. FRENEY
- Det. Sen. Sgt. QUINN

Detective Inspector PARKER (Northern Region) arrived midway through the meeting.

Superintendent MITCHELL outlined that Newcastle City LAC has carriage of investigations relating to AK, AL and GOGERTY. This was at the direction of the Region Commander. Mr MITCHELL identified that the investigations presented a high level of risk to the organization and needed to be managed well. He acknowledged that Detective Inspector FOX had a strong background in relation to the nature of the complaints, and that for the investigation team to perform their function, it was essential that he disclose all relevant information to the team.

Inspector FOX indicated that he had compiled all relevant documents held by him, but had mistakenly left them behind. He indicated that he had no problem disclosing information held by him to the investigation team. He indicated that he would make arrangements for the documents to be presented to the investigation team. He indicated that the information available would indicate that the clergy abuse/cover up is widespread and that there is a need for a broad ranging task force to be established to investigate it. He indicated that he had recently documented this in a report to the Region Commander.

In order to control confidentiality in relation to the investigation, Supt. MITCHELL indicated that nobody was to speak to the media (including Joanne MCCARTHY) without his knowledge. Mr MITCHELL indicated that in the event police are contacted by MCCARTHY, he was to be advised.

Inspector FOX indicated that in addition to his knowledge of the AK and AL cases, he had interviewed another lady named AJ. FOX indicated that AJ had only wanted to deal with him. She is a victim and a witness and has information dating back to the 1960s about offending behaviour by high ranking members of the Catholic Church including ~~redacted~~ HART, CLARKE and LUCAS. He indicated that she was from an inter sanctum of the Church and had been privy to a lot of conversations. She is born in 1951 and was ten when offences occurred against her. He indicated that she was very fragile.

Inspector FOX also indicated he had a statement from a Mike STILLWELL who was a teacher at Merriwa.

Inspector FOX indicated that he had begun obtaining a statement from AK who resides in Queensland. He indicated that a loose arrangement had been made to complete that statement when AK returned to the Newcastle area over the Christmas break.

Inspector FOX indicated that he had interviewed Leo CLARKE after his retirement, primarily in relation to his investigations concerning FLETCHER and RYAN. He did however speak with CLARKE about MCALINDEN. He believes that CLARKE deliberately lied to him when CLARKE advised him that he knew of no other incidents involving MCALINDEN.

Inspector FOX indicated that he had come into the investigations on and off over the years. He indicated that in 2004 he submitted two reports to SCC calling for a far reaching investigation of the incident. He had also submitted a number of information reports. He indicated that he had informants in the form of a former priest and sister. He indicated that he had no doubts that there was collusion in the Church.

Det. Insp. PARKER arrived at this stage of the meeting.

Insp. FOX indicated that due to the scale of the investigation it was imperative that a task force was established.

Supt. MITCHEL indicated that there was a need for LAC investigators to collate available information at this stage in order to allow further assessments to be made.

Insp. PARKER indicated that the Region Commander's firm view that the file was to remain with the LAC. It was a matter for the LAC to collate the information and present that to S.C.C. if that was appropriate. Insp. PARKER indicated that if the information gathered went beyond the Terms of Reference, the L.A.C. would need to identify why.

Insp. FOX outlined that the information given by **AJ** discloses other witnesses and potential witnesses. He reiterated his earlier view that a task force needs to be pursued.

The meeting was concluded at this point and Supt. HAGGETT and Insp. FOX departed.

Inspector TOWNSEND arrived at this time and was briefed by Sgt STEEL. Present for this briefing were:

- Supt. MITCHELL
- DCI TAYLER
- Insp. PARKER
- Insp. TOWNSEND
- Det. Sgt. STEEL
- Det. Sen. Const. FRENEY
- Det. Sen. Sgt. QUINN

Det. Sgt. STEEL indicated that she had spoken with Helen KEEVERS earlier that morning. KEEVERS was the Manager of Zimmerman House for 30 years. She indicated that she had a high level of knowledge about MCALINDEN'S offending and other priests and victims. She indicated that she has seen numerous critical documents outlining such conduct.

She indicated that the most crucial documentation had been forwarded by Zimmerman House to the Catholic Church's insurance body. She made reference to a document authored by Monsignor COTTER where he indicated that it was fortunate that MCALINDEN'S offending was on children and not adults and females. She also indicated that MCALINDEN had engaged in a course of conduct regularly used by Catholic Priests where children were taken swimming in deep water so that they would need to hold onto the priest for assistance.

STEEL outlined the 'Encompass' program that was set up by Archbishop PELL to treat priests who have problems (primarily child abuse). The program maintained files outlining the problem behaviours and identified treatment plants. KEEVERS indicated that PELL had closed the program down without notice. She indicated that the files relating to the program had been moved by a man known to her for storage.

STEEL indicated that senior clergy moved MCALINDEN to P.N.G. for a period after his offending behaviour was discovered.

*redacted*

Other Senior Clergy (BURSTON/HART and LUCAS) were involved in cover ups.

KEEVERS told STEEL that police would only get one chance at a search warrant because she is certain that Church members would destroy documents.

Supt. MITCHELL indicated that the issue for the L.A.C. is the scope of the investigation. Inspector TOWNSEND agreed that the scope of the investigation had greatly broadened since it was first allocated to the L.A.C. It was agreed that the following would occur:

1. Inspector PARKER would contact Insp. JACOBS of S.C.C. to invite an investigator(s) from Sex Crimes to attend a debrief to be held with KEEVERS.
2. Det. Sgt. STEEL to conduct the debrief in the week commencing 6 December 2010.
3. Det. Sgt. STEEL to collate all information available to date after the debrief and formulate a summary document to be forwarded to S.C.C. for their consideration as to whether or not the investigation would fit their charter.

Meeting Concluded 1.15pm

<b>Prepared By:</b>	Detective Senior Sergeant Justin Patrick Quinn
<b>Registered No:</b>	26028
<b>Date:</b>	3/12/2010

## **Product Details**

[Product History](#) [Caveat this Product](#) [Update Categorisation](#) [Link/Unlink this Product](#) [Create a Similar Product](#)  
[Create Task related to this Product](#)

**Title** Email from D/C/Insp Peter FOX  
**Type** TEXT DOCUMENTS:Investigators Note **File Number** IN-106  
**Date Created** 2 Apr 2012 **Status** Accepted  
**Created By** DETSGT JEFFREY LITTLE **Reviewed By** DETSGT JEFFREY LITTLE  
**Date of Note** 02/04/2012  
**Electronic or Scanned Copy** [Email from Det Insp FOX.pdf \(1111.8KB\)](#)

### **Brief Description**

Email from D/Insp FOX with attached report (copy of report (dated 25/11/2010) already on hand. Reply also by D/Sgt LITTLE. Products attached.

### **Category**

- POLICE**
- [Internal Communications](#) \*

\* *category contains this product*

[Back to Search Results](#)

**From:** Jeffrey Little/27476/Staff/NSWPolice  
**To:** Peter Fox/18127/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice  
**Cc:** Graeme Parker/24632/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice

---

**Date:** Monday, April 02, 2012 13:05  
**Subject:** Re: Church Inquiry

---

Hi Pete,

Yes, I have that report dated 25/11/10 and am aware of that passage. However, Graeme mentioned you interviewed CLARK???

Cheers: Jeff

**Jeff LITTLE**  
Detective Sergeant  
Newcastle City Local Area Command  
Cnr Church & Watt Street, Newcastle NSW 2300  
Phone: (02) 4929 0004 | Easynet: 70004  
Fax: (02) 4929 0634 | Eaglefax: 70634  
Email: [litt1jef@police.nsw.gov.au](mailto:litt1jef@police.nsw.gov.au)

-----Peter Fox/18127/Staff/NSWPolice wrote: -----

**To:** Graeme Parker/24632/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice, Jeffrey Little/27476/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice  
**From:** Peter Fox/18127/Staff/NSWPolice  
**Date:** 04/02/2012 12:25  
**Subject:** Church Inquiry

*(See attached file: Church.doc)*

Gents here is a copy of the report I sent to region in December 2010. Para 4 on page 2 is the Leo Clark aspect I spoke to Graham about this morning. I am surprised they didn't forward my report to you but have a read and let me know if anything else may assist.

Peter Fox  
Detective Chief Inspector  
Crime Manager  
Port Stephens LAC  
Redacted

[attachment "Church.doc" removed by Jeffrey  
Little/27476/Staff/NSWPolice]



# NSW POLICE SERVICE

## Local Area Command, Port Stephens.



NSW Police Force  
www.police.nsw.gov.au

Raymond Terrace Stn  
Ph: 0418 201581  
02 April 2012.

### ISSUE:

Allegations of child sexual abuse and cover-up within the Maitland Newcastle Diocese of the Catholic Church.

### BACKGROUND:

In 1999 Detective Mark WATTERS and I investigated priest Denis McALINDEN following allegations by AE that he had sexually assaulted her as a child. The Catholic Diocese disclosed that McALINDEN was believed to be in Ireland and we were given an assurance to be notified upon his return. Incredibly the church was not in contact with McALINDEN. We took the assurances on face value and swore a warrant for McALINDEN's arrest.

In 2002 I commenced unrelated investigations of priests James FLETCHER and Desmond HARRIGAN. In 2003 I interviewed priest Vincent RYAN in Junee-Gaol regarding suspected links to FLETCHER, HARRIGAN and others alleged to be involved with paedophilia in the Hunter area.

Soon after commencing investigations I learned that Bishop Michael MALONE and Vicar General James SAUNDERS had alerted FLETCHER to the police investigation and disclosed the identity of the alleged victim. This negatively impacted on the investigation and was reported to the ODPP for consideration of charges for hindering a police investigation; however it was elected not to proceed.

Bishop MALONE then refused a request by me to remove FLETCHER from his parish or restrain him from visiting schools. In defiance of my request MALONE extended FLETCHER's parish to include both the Catholic High School and Catholic Primary School in Lochinvar.

I later obtained statements from MALONE, SAUNDERS, HARRIGAN and priest William BURSTON. All had met with FLETCHER following the allegations. All those statements were remarkable for their author's poor recollection of critical conversations and smacked strongly of collusion and concealment.

It was intended to execute a search warrant for pornographic images on FLETCHER's presbytery; however I learnt FLETCHER removed a quantity of homosexual pornographic videos and magazines before this could happen. I suspected this material contained some images of young boys as mentioned by a victim. Undoubtedly this happened directly as a result of MALONE and SAUNDERS' forewarning.

I was told by a source that FLETCHER passed the mentioned pornography to priest Des HARRIGAN. HARRIGAN was heavily intoxicated when I confronted him in the presbytery at Raymond Terrace. He admitted being given homosexual pornographic magazines and videos by FLETCHER, but denied it contained illegal images of children. He claimed he owned the items and had inadvertently left them in FLETCHER's presbytery. He also said he had destroyed all these items but could give no plausible explanation why he decided to do so.

As the investigation progressed a priest and nun approach me separately to provide statements and information. That nun was later ostracised by her Order of St Joseph at Lochinvar for assisting police and forced to leave. She has not returned to the church. The priest disclosed to me details of inner workings of the diocese and what he referred to as 'the old boys club' of Hunter priests and his suspicions. He was pivotal in having another victim come forward with critical evidence that was later instrumental in FLETCHER's ultimate conviction.

The assistance rendered by this 'good priest' led to a series of clashes between him and senior clergy including Bishop MALONE. This priest suffered considerable stress from his treatment and was moved to Sydney. He has since elected to leave the priesthood and return to another profession. I have remained in contact with both these individuals who are highly critical of the silence within the church concerning child sexual abuse.

I was aware that Bishop Leo CLARK and Priest Patrick COTTER had been interviewed by police some years prior concerning alleged concealment of Vincent RYAN's activities. Sufficient evidence existed against COTTER but it was decided not to proceed purely on the basis of his age and health. I understand that the evidence was not in question.

Detective Ann JOY and I also spoke to Leo CLARK during my investigation. We predominately discussed FLETCHER and RYAN and his possible knowledge of their activities. I then asked about McALINDEN who I still believed to be overseas. (I later learned he had already returned to Australia and was residing in a Catholic facility near Perth.) I asked CLARK, "An alleged victim of Denis McALINDEN has told us that she believes the church is aware of at least two other alleged sexual assault victims of this priest. Do you have any knowledge of that?" He said, "No. You would have to ask Michael MALONE about that."

Redacted

I was becoming disturbed by the number of priests in the region alleged to have been involved in sexually abusing children. They were all in adjoining parishes and giving one another support. This was compounded by senior clergy interfering in investigations and potentially concealing their knowledge of crimes and admonishing those prepared to speak out. All of this caused me considerable concern.

I recorded most of this information in a number of COPS Intelligence Reports for dissemination to State Crime Command. I also forwarded two reports expressing concern that a paedophile ring possibly existed in the Maitland Newcastle Diocese and should be investigated. I have never been contacted in respect to my reports. Since that time Maitland Newcastle Priests NP3 Tom BRENNAN, NP4 and NP have also been charged with child sex offences. I understand that others may also be under investigation.

In 2003-4 I also forwarded a series of reports and complaints to Ann BARWICK of the NSW Ombudsman's Office which conducted an investigation. I have been told their report was critical of the church but the findings cannot be made public. Nevertheless this process finally saw FLETCHER stood down by the church and prevented from accessing schools.

Page No. 2

In late 2005 I was advised by the Catholic Church that Denis McALINDEN was critically ill in a Catholic Retirement Home in Subiaco, Perth. I made inquiries regarding his possible extradition but learnt he was not able to travel and he died two weeks later. Despite the church knowing McALINDEN's whereabouts for some time I was not informed until his death was imminent.

COMMENT:

Earlier this year Joanne McCARTHY of the Newcastle Herald contacted me. She indicated a woman; **AJ** had confided in her allegations of being sexually assaulted in the 1960's by Catholic Priest Denis McALINDEN. **AJ** allegedly had knowledge of a number of other women who had also been sexually assaulted including **AK CyA**

Although I had never met with **AT** I had come across her name in 2003-4 when investigating FLETCHER. I was told **AJ** was reluctant to speak to police as her knowledge implicated a number of high ranking clergy in 'covering up' known paedophile priests. She stated I was the only police officer she would speak with as she had apparently spoken to victims of paedophile priests and their families with whom I have dealt with. I agreed to meet with **AJ**

Redacted

**AK** is one of McALINDEN's She provided me with a number of documents and a statement outlining McALINDEN sexually abusing her and her sister **AL AN Cy AV** - have also been sexually abused by McALINDEN and have never got over the trauma. **AK** still feels guilty at not being able to protect **AN Cy AV**

redacted

Redacted

Documents in possession of **AK** and the statement of **AJ** confirm without a doubt that retired Bishop Leo CLARK knew of a number of McALINDEN's victims. He knew of the serious nature of the abuse. He also knew that victims had complained of their suffering to various clergy under his direct supervision. When Detective JOY and I asked,

*"An alleged victim of Denis McALINDEN has told us that she believes the church is aware of at least two other alleged sexual assault victims of this priest. Do you have any knowledge of that?"*  
He said, *"No. You would have to ask Michael MALONE about that."*

Clearly he told us a blatant lie and concealed the names of victims known to the church. By doing so he concealed crimes that McALINDEN committed and his admissions of abuse. Worse still is the fact that CLARK knew McALINDEN was still at large and had returned to Australia with the potential to continue committing his crimes.

During my service I have had to speak to hundreds of victims of sexual assault. All of them are disturbing. Sexual assaults of children are the most abhorrent and abuse of children by the clergy is amongst the worst. To conceal such a crime is akin to condoning that behaviour. I do not believe such conduct can ever, or should ever be forgiven by the law.

Page No.1

I have seen the pain of the victims of child sexual abuse within the Church. I have visited victims in psychiatric institutions and seen the damage it has caused their families. I spoke to a member of the Newcastle ODPP who broke down crying and was unable to continue reading a victim's statement, apologising to me when she requested to be removed from the case.

I took another statement from a mother who was unaware of years of sexual abuse her son was suffering at the hands of her family priest. As a teenager he came home in a drunken stupor. When he attempted to hang himself in the family barn his mother screamed hysterically trying to take the weight of his bending legs until another son arrived to cut him down. In desperation the family called their priest for the boy to stay overnight in his presbytery with the aim of counselling him when sobered. This priest took advantage of the situation and buggerised the boy again that night. This same priest, James FLETCHER is one of those whom fellow clergy went to such extraordinary lengths to protect.

Reprisals are another distasteful aspect of sexual abuse within the church. Some have reported to me having had their cars damaged and eggs thrown at their homes following guilty verdicts after a family member disclosed abuse. Most victims' families are devout Catholics who are surrounded by friends until someone comes forward with allegations of abuse. The family is ostracised within their community and particularly at church. They are no longer spoken to and made to feel unwelcome. They have backs blatantly turned on them until they no longer attend. Most believe this is silently condoned by other priests and perpetuates the silence of abuse in fear of speaking out.

### RECOMMENDATION:

I believe there is sufficient evidence to conduct a full and comprehensive investigation into the conduct of the Maitland Newcastle Diocese of the Catholic Church. There is more than enough evidence to put before the Attorney General under section 316 of the Crimes Act to prosecute a number of clergy based on evidence already cited. I strongly believe that further investigation will only enhance such a brief and possibly disclose other offences and or offenders.

**AE** revealed that in the 1990's she also told the church of her abuse but nothing was done and the police were not told until she decided to do so herself. Sadly **AE** died in 2007 after years of counselling and psychiatric treatment resulting from her abuse. Her husband **BD** spoke to me this year and is more than prepared to assist with any police inquiry as the failure of the church to act has impacted negatively on the lives of his entire family. The damage done by such abuse and concealment is enormous. The passage of time should never preclude the New South Wales Police Force from protecting these families and bring persons to justice for such crimes. If we fail to investigate and prosecute such conduct the potential for it to continue remains unaltered.

Over more than a decade of investigating members of the Maitland Newcastle clergy I have built up an excellent knowledge base. I also have an extensive network of contacts within and outside the church. I have also built up a reputation and trust among victims and their families as evidenced by

**AJ** approach to speak with me. I have spoken to Sister Paula REDGROVE who has also indicated her preparedness to speak with me and provide a statement of her knowledge. I remain objective but passionate to assist with any inquiry or investigation.

In view of the number of priests charged over the past decade within the Maitland Newcastle Diocese I am requesting consideration be given to the establishment of a task force to undertake a full investigation. I submitted similar reports in 2004 only to see more cases of abuse disclosed since that time. My own experiences coupled with recent evidence strongly indicates that paedophilia by the clergy is widespread in the Hunter and is being concealed by experienced and senior staff within the diocese. Without intervention these crimes are likely to continue.

In order to protect victims and put a stop to these ongoing crimes I respectfully ask that this request be given favourable consideration.

**Peter R FOX**  
**Detective Chief Inspector**  
**Crime Manager**  
**Port Stephens Command**

1. **Port Stephens Commander**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. **Operations Manager Northern Region**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. **Commander Northern Region**

**Product Details**

[Product History](#) [Caveat this Product](#) [Update Categorisation](#) [Link/Unlink this Product](#) [Create a Similar Product](#)  
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**Title** Newcastle Herald Article 14th April 2011  
**Type** TEXT DOCUMENTS:Other Text **File Number** OD-45  
Document  
**Date Created** 20 Apr 2011 **Status** Accepted  
**Created By** DET INSP GRAEME PARKER **Reviewed By** DETSGT JEFFREY LITTLE  
**Source** Newcastle Herald  
**Contact Name** Joanne McCarthy  
**Contact Phone Number**  
**Date Issued** 14/04/2011  
**Electronic or Scanned Copy** NH 18 April.pdf (159.7KB)  
**Exhibit Type** None  
**Station**  
**Exhibit/MPB No.**  
**Brief Description**

Additional article in relation to the investigation into the Catholic Church and Fr McAlinden. Contains detailed opinion regarding ineffectual police investigation and more suitable investigators, DSC McLeo9d and DCI Fox.

**Category**

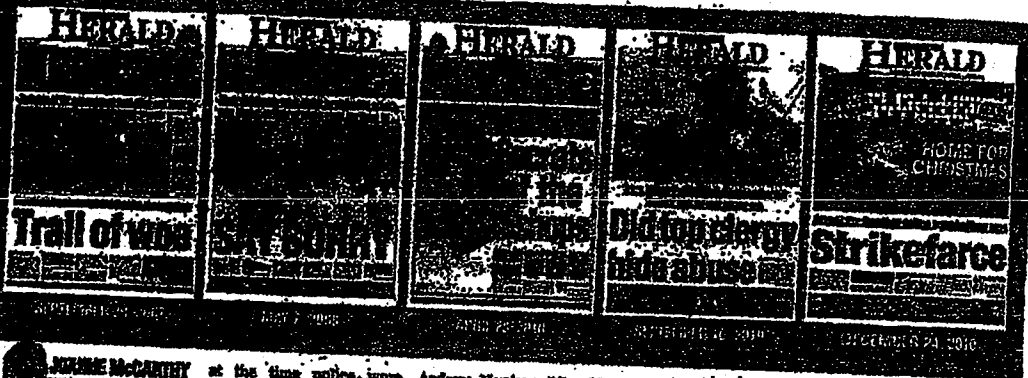
- **MEDIA \***
  - Newspapers \*

*\* category contains this product*

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# Inquiry into church cover-up 'disgrace'

HOW THE HERALD HAS BROKEN NEWS ON PAEDOPHILE PRIESTS



THE police investigation of an alleged Catholic Church cover-up of a Hunter paedophile priest has been branded a "disgrace" after nearly a year of delays, including the loss of a three-member strike force charged with investigating it.

**JEANIE MCCARTHY**  
headed over church documents related to McAllinden. The 1998 documents showed senior church figures tried to secretly force McAllinden from the priesthood, in full knowledge of the criminal nature of allegations against him, the "grave problems for the community" his behaviour represented, and without reporting him to police.

at the time police were investigating another notorious Hunter paedophile priest, **Vince Ryan**. One document assured McAllinden, whose victims were young girls aged four to 12, that his "good name would be protected by the confidential nature of this process".

Andrew Morrison SC said the police handling of the matter was a "disgrace", and "it seems to me there has been a failure by the police force to pursue very serious issues despite regularly having it drawn to their attention".

McAllinden cover-up was rejected by senior police. A reported rejection of Detective Chief Inspector Peter Fox's offer to work on the McAllinden case, despite his investigation of the priest in 1988 when he issued a warrant for McAllinden's arrest. The rejection last year culminated in an order that he hand over statements from several McAllinden victims and cease any involvement with the case.

were about to charge Vince Ryan, that the church tried to secretly remove McAllinden from the priesthood. The transfer of the McAllinden case between police commands and the appointment of Detective Superintendent Wayne Humphrey to manage the case in December after the loss of a three-member strike force to stress and sick leave in the space of a week.

"I'm not giving my mum a present this Mother's Day!"

"And I think it's great!"

The Mother's Day. Instead of just giving your mum a present, please make a donation to the Breast Cancer Institute of Australia for research and we'll send you a beautiful card to give to your mum. Because a world without breast cancer would be the best Mother's Day gift of all.

Visit [www.bcia.org.au](http://www.bcia.org.au) to make your donation today or phone 1800 423 444.

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Police handling of the matter has included: The failure of police to formally respond to a complaint about police treatment from several McAllinden victims contacted by investigators. The failure of a senior police officer with responsibility for the McAllinden matter to respond to an offer of help last year from the then police officer **Troy Grant**, who investigated Vince Ryan. Mr Grant, a newly-elected NSW government MP said this week he was "obviously concerned there still seems to be issues that have to be fully investigated".

## Police bad as institution: victim

A WOMAN who was sexually abused by paedophile priest Denis McAllinden while in primary school said police were "as bad as the church" if they failed to investigate an alleged cover-up of a priest's crimes.

NEWCASTLE HERALD Monday, April 10, 2011



**Product Details**

[Product History](#) [Caveat this Product](#) [Update Categorisation](#) [Link/Unlink this Product](#) [Create a Similar Product](#)  
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**Title** Record of conversation between DI Parker & Joanne McCarthy  
**Type** TEXT DOCUMENTS:Investigators Note **File Number** IN-19  
**Date Created** 20 Apr 2011 **Status** Accepted  
**Created By** DET INSP GRAEME PARKER **Reviewed By** DETSGT JEFFREY LITTLE  
**Date of Note** 14/04/2011  
**Electronic or Scanned Copy** [Investigators Note.doc](#) (28.5KB)

**Brief Description**

Record of conversation between Detective Inspector Graeme Parker and Joanne McCarthy (Newcastle Herald) regarding McAlinden investigation. Also contained opinions regarding possible inappropriate police association

**Category**

- **POLICE**
  - [Contacts made \(or attempted\) \\*](#)
- **MEDIA \***
  - [Newspapers \\*](#)

\* *category contains this product*

[Back to Search Results](#)

## Investigators Note

### Telephone Conversation between Detective Inspector Graeme Parker and Joanne McCarthy.

Date: 14 April 2011

Time : 2pm

On Friday 8 April 2011, I was contacted by Ms Joanne McCarthy, journalist from the Newcastle Herald. She told me she was the person responsible for initiating the investigation into allegations against the Catholic Church to which she believed I was currently in charge. She stated she wished to discuss this matter with me. I told her I had only just taken carriage of the matter and that it was my intention to familiarise myself with the Investigation Plan over the weekend. I agreed to call her on Monday, however, this did not eventuate.

On Thursday 14 April 2011, I received another phone call from Ms McCarthy. She again stated her position as an involved person in an attempt to justify her need to be included in information dissemination about this matter.

I would state at this point that my assessment of her position is more one similar to that of an 'Early Complaint' witness, and therefore not subject to the requirements of the 'Charter of Victim Rights'. I also believe that even if she genuinely felt she was a 'victim' in the matter, she has a clear 'conflict' between her personal position and the requirements of her job. I believe she would not hesitate to place her job interests before those of this investigation or any of the other victims involved.

At the beginning of the conversation, Ms McCarthy stated her intention to publish a story in the NH regarding police ineffectiveness in the investigation of this matter. She made it quite clear that her issue was not with me, but rather with the previous management of the matter. I told her that, as I had only just taken over the matter, I was not in position to comment on this area. I made it clear that I was not across the full scope of the investigation, but that I was able to speak with her in general terms about the direction the investigation was taking. She asked me the investigations current position and I told her that investigators had re-established relations with the victims and that some victim/witnesses would need have further statements taken from them.

About this point, she started to supply her analysis of the previous 12 months of the investigation. She was extremely critical of the both the progress and management of the investigation. She cited, in her opinion, a general lack of progress and the fact that several officers associated with investigation were now off on long term sick report. She stated that it was quite clear to her, through several discussions with officer associated with this investigation, that none of them had the interest or desire to pursue this matter with the vigour required.

She told me that she had met with DCI Taylor, DSS Quinn, DS Steele and a Barrister she had engaged to discuss this investigation. On completion of the meeting both the barrister and her had separately concluded two of the officers would be of 'no use whatsoever' in the further investigation of this matter (she did not identify to which officers she referred).

She also related the fact that she believed that she had been 'sounded out' on several occasions, by investigators, to see where she would open to simply dropping that matter on the grounds it was either too hard or simply unwinnable. I told her that I was unaware of any such issue.

She spoke at length about Section 316, which I too to mean Section 316, Crimes Act of 1900, Conceal Serious Offence. She made it clear that she had taken advice from legal advice in this area and was aware of the difficulties of pursuing this indictment, given the fact that the original statements obtained by the church, from the two girls, did not disclose a 'serious offence'.

*redacted*

She believed that rigorous investigation by a skilled senior investigator would disclose far greater improprieties allowing the standards for 316 to be met. She felt with their background in these types of matters either DCI Fox or DSC McLeod would have been a suitable candidates.

At this point she asked if I was aware of how the matter had come to police notice. I told her I was not. She told me of *ALJ* disclosure to her and how she first came to speak with DSC Scott McLeod about the matter including his passion to pursue the matter. She told me that DI Waddell was strongly opposed to McLeod (or Lake Mac LAC) following up on the complaint, and that Waddell had "chucked a wobble" over the matter to get it transferred to Newcastle. I again indicated that I was not aware of any of the issues she was raising.

She told me that she understood that and while she was not critical of me, at this point, it was her intention to drop a bucket on the Police over the matter. She stated that it was wrong that the senior investigator in the area was not allowed to run the investigation.

*redacted*

redacted

She then told me that it may be in the interest of the investigation for me to speak with an ex-police officer who was recently elected as the member for Dubbo. When I enquired who and why, she told me Troy Grant, because he had already investigated Vince Ryan during his service as a police officer. She believed he had important information that would benefit the investigation. When I enquired as to what that may be she simply indicated that I should contact Mr Grant. She stated that she had already spoken with him and that he was only too willing to assist, if requested.

At some point in the conversation, we discussed the position of the victim AL, whom she openly stated was a 'friend'. She told me that over a number of conversations/meeting she had gained AL's trust and as such was the catalyst for AL's disclosure. She was critical of D/Sgt Steel's involvement with AL. She claimed most of the issues arising between Steel and AL were due to Steel's poor people skills and a genuine lack of interest and empathy for the investigation and the victim.

She then questioned on what grounds D/Sgt Little would need to speak with AL again. I told her that investigator's had their reasons for wishing to clarify certain areas, and that I would not elaborate on this area. She stated she had no desire to know these reasons, but acknowledged AL could be difficult to deal with and even uncooperative. She did, however, feel that an experience investigator should be easily able to overcome these road blocks, which to date, she felt had not occurred. She felt that AL would be more accommodating towards testifying if she were part of a multiple faceted prosecution, similar to a class action.

While these notes are accurate, they are not intended to be an exact record of every aspect of what was a very long telephone conversation. That said, the recorded areas are accurate and are areas I felt should be documented for future reference.

Although my knowledge of this matter, at this time, is very limited, it was quite transparent from this conversation, that someone/s within this organisation is 'leaking' discrete/classified information and investigative strategies to Ms McCarthy. Given her position as a journalist intent on crusading this issue with little or no regard for either the investigation or those involved in it, it is hard to envisage how this can be anything other than detrimental to a successfully outcome. She seems intent on having Detective Chief Inspector Fox given carriage of the matter for a purpose that is not clear to the author at this point. Without prior knowledge of DCI Fox relationship with Ms McCarthy, I can only speculate as to why this would be the case.

I will say, however, that during the conversation I formed the opinion that DCI Fox and or DSC McLeod are the most likely source/s of Ms McCarthy's

**information. Further, from her own admissions, DCI Fox has spoken with her regarding this matter despite being under direction not to do so. It is difficult to say why DCI Fox would wish to be in charge of this investigation given that most experienced investigators would quickly identify it as one which would fall into the category of 'undesirable'. The likelihood of obtaining an outcome satisfactory to all, or for that matter any, of the parties involved is highly unlikely. By nature the investigation will, indeed already has, generate a large amount of media attention. Given the problematic nature of historic sexual assault investigations involving the Catholic Church, there is a better than average chance the investigation will attract adverse comments from the media. Given this fact, any investigator who deliberately sets about systematically derailing another's investigation, for whatever reason, should be subject to censure.**

**Graeme Parker  
Detective Inspector  
Strike Force Lantle**