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Although Bishop Clarke officially retired in 1995-1996 for health reasons he was still actively working for the Catholic Church as evidenced by the volume of paperwork scattered throughout his room. We spoke for some time about Father Ryan and Father Fletcher before I asked, "An alleged victim of Denis McAlinden has told us that she believes the church is aware of at least two other women who are alleged

sexual assault victims of this priest. Do you have any knowledge of that?" He said, "No." Retired Bishop Clarke then suggested I speak to current Bishop Michael Malone. I said, "Do you know why Father McAlinden left Australia or where he might now be." He said, "You'd have to speak to Bishop Malone I afraid. I cannot help you."

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## **Destruction of Evidence**

Annexure W Copy of Detective Fox's duty book for 29 December, 2003

During the aforementioned period on Monday the 29th of December 2003 I received a telephone call from Raymond Hanley who told me he'd been assisting Father Fletcher at the Lochinvar Presbytery some time after his transfer to that parish. Whilst there he came across a number of pornographic magazines and videos. They contained images of a homosexual nature showing men engaged in various sexual acts. He was concerned some of the images may have shown males in their teens. Father Fletcher saw Mr Handley with the items and quickly took them from him. Father Fletcher then said they probably belonged to the previous priest and he would return them.

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83.

After brief introductions I said, "I am told that you resided at the Lochinvar Presbytery earlier this year prior to James Fletcher. Is that right?" He said, "Yes." He also told us that he and Father Fletcher had been friends for many years. I then said, "I have been told that after you left Lochinvar Presbytery and Jim Fletcher moved in a number of homosexual pornographic magazines and videos were found in that presbytery. I need to know if those items belonged to you or Father Fletcher." He said, "They were mine." I looked directly at him and said, "Are you sure?" He began to become upset and said, "Yes." I said, "Do you have them. Did James Fletcher hand them back to you?" He said, "Yes he did and I have destroyed them. When is all this going to stop? It has hurt a lot of people." He began to cry and I said, "I would expect Jim Fletcher's trial about mid-2004. I am sorry for any hurt or embarrassment this has caused you. Have you ever seen any similar material in possession of Jim Fletcher?" He said, "I suspect he had some but I never saw him with it."

We spoke about minor issues for a short time which allowed Father Harrigan to compose himself. I then asked, "Why did you destroy the magazines and videos?" He said, "I don't know." I said, "Did any of them have images of men under the age of 18?" He said, "No they never." I said, "Did you loan them to Jim Fletcher or forget to take them with you?" He said, "I am not sure. I think I just left them there." He again became upset and said, "This has hurt so many. When is all this going to end?" I said, "I suppose when allegations stop of clergy sexually abusing children." He was still upset and I said, "That's all I need to speak to you about at the moment. Can I phone anyone for you?" He said, "No I will be fine." He remained seated and we let ourselves out.

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