



MARIST BROTHERS
Province of Australia

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1 September 2020

Note: This statement has been published on our website.

We respectfully ask that this statement be provided in full as part of any story you may choose to publish.

STATEMENT FROM BROTHER PETER CARROLL, PROVINCIAL OF THE MARIST BROTHERS, IN REPLY TO THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD

“Father Glen Walsh contacted the Professional Standards Office of the Marist Brothers in 2017, requesting a review of the findings of an Independent Investigation conducted into allegations made by Father Walsh in 1997.

The Professional Standards Officer at the time, Mr Norm Maroney, agreed to Father Walsh’s request. The review was undertaken and, consequently, the original allegations made by Father Walsh were substantiated. This information was conveyed to Father Walsh.

In November 2017, Father Walsh agreed to a pastoral meeting with Norm Maroney and the Vice Provincial of the Marist Brothers. This meeting was to discuss the results of the second review, to hear from Father Walsh and for the Vice Provincial to respond. The meeting was arranged for 7 November. The timing was to coincide with an appointment Father Walsh had in Sydney. The meeting at the Marist Brothers’ Professional Standards Office was scheduled for 9.30am to allow Father Walsh to keep his afternoon appointment. Tragically, Father Walsh did not appear, because as was later revealed, he had taken his life the night before.

It needs to be stressed that the Marist Brothers’ Professional Standards Office cooperated fully with Father Walsh’s requests. The date for the meeting was set in consultation with Father Walsh, not imposed by us.

It’s disappointing that comments made in a recently published book, and questions subsequently asked by the Sydney Morning Herald, could be interpreted as to suggest there was some malignant Church conspiracy in the timing of the meeting and the review of Father Walsh’s case. The Marist Brothers were never approached prior to the book’s publication to have such suggestions put to us, nor afforded the opportunity to respond to such suggestions prior to publication. These inferences may have the effect of impugning the motivations of Mr Norm Maroney. Mr Maroney is of the most outstanding character. He is a man of enormous integrity who has rendered immense service to New South Wales and the Nation. Mr Maroney was a member of the NSW Police Service for 39 years. He retired as Assistant Commissioner. From 1984-89, he was the Deputy Director of Investigations for the National Crime Authority. He has been a member of the State Emergency Services Board, and from 2002 to 2013, was the Official Visitor under the NSW Mental Health Act. He has given his time to a wide range of community groups. His integrity is without reproach.

I would like the record to show that Mr Maroney responded with compassion to Father Walsh and which Father Walsh recognised, expressing his gratitude for the work Mr Maroney was doing for his wellbeing and a safer society.

Father Walsh's suicide is a tragedy. Like all suicides, we are left with many unanswered questions.

In respect of any names of awards and buildings, these are matters for individual school communities.

Br Peter Carroll FMS
Provincial