

Northern Region Commander Carlene York.
NSW Police Service.
C/ Newcastle Police Station
Cnr. Watt and Church Sts.
Newcastle 2300.

Dear Commander,

Re: Complaint regarding conduct of NSW Police Service and Detective Kieren Steele.

Please accept this letter as a formal complaint regarding the specific conduct of Detective Kieren Steele, (of Newcastle LAC) and of the NSW Police Service generally.

As children, AK and I were sexually abused by Catholic Priest
Dennis Mc Alynden.

Some years later we brought his conduct to the attention of members of the hierarchy of the Catholic Church in the Newcastle Diocese, and at their request, attended interviews where we were asked to elaborate on McAlinden's crimes. We were assured that steps would be taken to address our complaint and to ensure that McAlinden would be stopped from committing further assaults.

More recently, after receiving information about church efforts to "defrock" and having seen a letter to him which includes the statement "your good name will be protected by the confidential nature of the process..." I chose to make a report to the NSW Police regarding what I believe to be the concealment of a serious crime, and the aiding and abetting of further serious crimes by Denis McAlinden. The way I have been treated by the Police since that time is almost as bad and inappropriate as the treatment AK and I received at the hands of the church.

Detective Steele has variously told me that she "was not up to speed on the matter", that she was "offended" by me being upset and angry at having to reveal the most intimate details of my abuse, and that she needed to know if I was prepared to make a formal statement "then and there". She also told me that a statement taken by Detective Peter Fox from AK, which had been passed on to her group had been lost. Further, Detective Steele rescheduled our appointments at short notice and with little regard to my needs. I was expected to merely conform to arrangements which suited her.

Detective Steele's approach to me showed a clear lack of understanding of the hurt and turmoil that reliving my sexual abuse creates. She failed to tell me why I had to revisit McAlinden's crimes in such vivid detail, and failed to appreciate my pain and difficulty in any way. She seemed to have achieved what she was intending when I told her that I could not continue with this matter.

You will be aware that numerous highly qualified people have gone on record suggesting that there is ample evidence in the case of Dennis McAlinden that a serious crime in the form of a cover up has occurred. These people include Barrister Geoffrey Robertson, Mr Tom Doyle, The head of the Australian Lawyers Alliance, prominent Newcastle barristers and even a former deputy Police Commissioner.

At a time when our politicians call for formal inquiries into all manner of politically expedient issues, and where the NSW Police Service has established a task force to examine betting irregularities in one NRL game in August, the best that can be offered to me is more abuse.

Could you tell me why there appears to be such little interest in, and such poor management of, my complaint and why it appears that no one wants to upset the Catholic Church? We have heard story after story about paedophile priests being moved on from parish to parish.

Redacted at Commissioner's direction

I seek your urgent response to this letter, and I would like your immediate assurance that this matter will receive the attention it deserves – either a specific task force or a commission of inquiry.

Yours Sincerely,

AL

09 November 2010.

Cc : - Chief Inspector Wayne Humphreys,
- Northern Region Command Operations Manager Tony Townsend,
- Newcastle LAC Commander Max Mitchell,
- Joanne McCarthy, The Newcastle Herald.