

To: Members of the Parliamentary Enquiry into Sexual Abuse

From: Mrs Varlie Fifis, [REDACTED]

In support of my submission to the above enquiry, I enclose the following documents:

1. Report taken by Terry Ranger of "Towards Healing".
2. Email from Fr. Frank Moloney dated 12 December 2011
3. Letter to Fr. Harry Dyer dated 23 April 2012
4. Reply from F. Harry Dyer dated 10 May 2012
5. My submission

Submission to the Enquiry by Mrs Varlie Fifis

Looking back, I would say I was intimidated by Fr. Harry Dyer by his priestly attire – dark suit, clerical collar, cross and chain lying on his chest, hands joined together as in prayer, consequently creating a barrier, as I felt, between the anointed and unanointed. Fr. Frank Moloney, on the other hand, was completely the opposite, dressed in street clothes and very relaxed

Throughout the meeting in December 2011, I was not able to get any answer as to Fr. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] past history, other than that he had had his priestly duties removed. Although, one comment I do remember, was "he [REDACTED] does have his rights, you know". Never at any time did I feel Fr. Dyer had the slightest understanding of what had happened to a fourteen year old boy.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] At that meeting, I asked Fr. Dyer to confront Fr. [REDACTED] (The Perpetrator) with the knowledge of what he had done to Jon. When I had not had any reply by the end of April, I wrote and asked if he had done what I had asked of him. His reply is why I am upset (copy attached). My reaction was to reply but realised the man had not the capacity to understand – or did not want to – and to further it any more would only do me more harm.

However, when I heard Glen Davies speaking on ABC radio with Raphael Epstein on 9 August 2012 about the submission to the Parliament on Sexual Abuse, I now wish to add my story of the Catholic Church not acknowledging this abuse and how they hid what was done to our beautiful children, destroying many lives. My son did not take his life but it was surely destroyed by what had happened to him. And the flow on to my other children has been substantial with them never being able to look up to their big brother, as well as not being an involved member of the family for almost 40 years. I am so grateful we at least had him back for the last 3 ½ years of his life.

My wish with this submission is that ultimately there is a Royal Commission – I think THAT is the only way the whole truth can be told. With an Enquiry, there are always ways of getting around the truth.

I am willing to consider giving verbal evidence if necessary.

Signed [REDACTED]

Varlie Fifis

Date: 23 August 2012