



Diocese of Broken Bay

Communications

Statement

8 September 2010

An article in The Australian newspaper (07-09-10; p7. Author: Lanai Vasek), relates a visit to the Apostolic Nuncio, His Excellency Guiseppe Lazzarotto, by an alleged abuse victim of Broken Bay priest Fr Finian Egan.

The particular article contains information that conflicts with actual events, and may cause confusion for readers. It is hoped the following may clarify some of those matters.

In this matter, the Diocese of Broken Bay followed the protocols of the Church's Towards Healing process, which was the process requested by Ms Wells.

At no time has this process made a judgement that Fr Egan was a paedophile.

The Church's Towards Healing process does not determine guilt or innocence of parties involved, but a finding based on a 'balance of probability' standard only.

The findings into Ms Wells complaint, by the independent investigation that is integral to the Church's Towards Healing process, was overturned by appeal on a technicality.

Bishop David Walker, however, accepted that more likely than not, Ms Wells' complaint did occur. Again, this was not a finding of guilt or innocence against Fr Egan. The process to determine the future for Father Egan's ministry is still underway.

The allegations referred to in this article do not coincide with the allegations made to the Diocese by Ms Wells.

The Diocese of Broken Bay has not been made aware that Ms Wells has new allegations against Fr Egan.

The Diocese of Broken Bay urges anyone who needs assistance with any matters related to abuse to contact either the Police, or the Professional Standards Office of the Catholic Church, *Towards Healing* on Tel: 1300 369 977.

For further information please contact

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