



Marist Brothers' Province of Australia

Statement regarding Brother Peter Pemble

23 July 2015

Today Brother Peter Pemble, a member of the Marist Brothers for many years, was sentenced for the sexual assault of a young person at Maitland in the 1970's.

He pleaded guilty to the charge and has expressed remorse for his actions.

However, I also want to express my own personal apology, and the apology of the Marist Brothers Province of Australia to the victim and his family for the suffering this abuse has caused. While nothing can undo the harm done, we will provide him with ongoing support and redress.

Child sexual abuse is a serious crime and is contrary to the very purposes for which the Marist Brothers Institute was founded. It is a source of great shame to the Brothers and the Church that such actions could have been perpetrated against young people at a time in their lives when they were vulnerable and in need of nurturance and guidance. The trust that they and their parents gave Peter Pemble, the School and the Brothers was betrayed.

Between 1983 and 2008, Peter Pemble held leadership positions in a number of Marist schools. The crimes he has been sentenced on today are unrelated to those schools and there have been no reports of improper behaviour by him in these places.

The Marist Brothers Province of Australia is committed to confronting with openness and honesty the failures of the past. We are committed to working towards hope and healing for those who have been damaged by such incidents. We are committed to supporting victims.

Should anyone wish to make a complaint of child sexual abuse against a Marist Brother I urge them to take the matter directly to the Police who are in the best position to investigate such matters fully and objectively. Should anyone wish to discuss these issues with a representative of the Province they can contact the Professional Standards Officer, Mr Norman Maroney on 0287528204.

Brother Jeffrey Crowe FMS

Provincial

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23 July 2015

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