

(Copies)

To Whom it may  
concern.

- 2 Submissions
- 1 "Villa Maria"
- 2 "St Annes  
ophanage"

J. M. Clough  
10/4/03



**SISTERS OF MERCY (SINGLETON)**  
Congregational Centre  
9 Steel Street, Hamilton  
Postal Address: PO Box 299, Hamilton NSW 2303  
Australia  
Phone (02) 4940 8325 Fax (02) 4940 8569

28 April 1998

Dr G A Rickarby  
Consultant Psychiatrist  
PO Box 485  
WARNERS BAY 2282

Dear Dr Rickarby


Re: **Juliette Margaret Doyle**

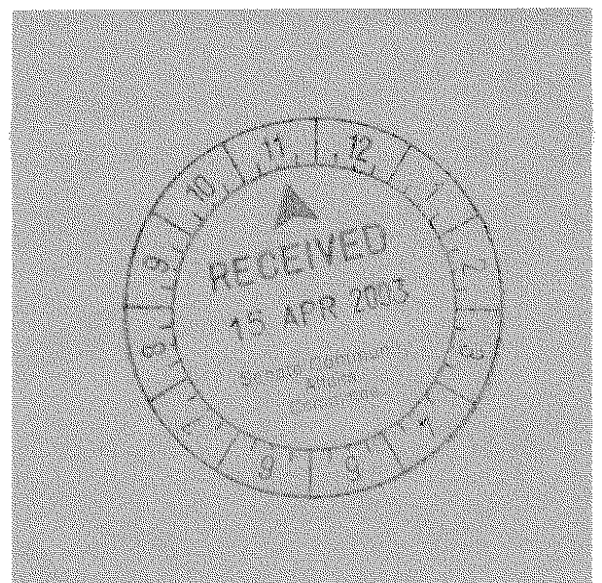
Your letter dated 27 March 1998 addressed to the Secretary, Catholic Archdiocese of Maitland was passed on to our office.

I contacted our Archivist at the convent in Singleton regarding your request for information. Apparently the Sisters of Mercy do not have any records from the Villa Maria and it is suggested that you try the Social Workers at the Mater Hospital or the Catholic Welfare Office.

I am sorry we cannot be of more assistance and I hope the above information helps with your search.

Yours sincerely

*for*   
Sr Berice Livermore  
Congregational Leader



Congregational Centre  
20 Union Street  
TIGHES HILL NSW 2297

PO Box 299  
HAMILTON NSW 2303



Telephone: 02-4940 8325  
Facsimile: 02-4940 8569  
Email: [somsing@ozemail.com.au](mailto:somsing@ozemail.com.au)

## Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia Singleton Congregation

Tuesday, 3 December 2002

Mrs Juliet Clough  
3 Doongara Close  
WINDALE NSW 2306

Dear Juliet,

I am writing to inform you about what has happened since you met with Anne Foat in the role of independent assessor in the matter of your complaint against Mother Rosario, Sister Jude and Villa Maria.

The process under the Church's Towards Healing guidelines is similar to other investigations. The aim is to discover the facts as far as it is possible given the length of time since the matters in the complaint are alleged to have occurred. Beside the information provided by you, information was also sought from other sources including Sr Jude who was given the opportunity to respond to the allegations made by you against her and Villa Maria. Mother Rosario has been deceased for some years and it is impossible to verify those parts of your complaint against her.

The assessor has examined all the information and presented her report to the responsible person in the church, in this case myself, Sr Berice Livermore, Congregational Leader of the Sisters of Mercy, Singleton. The assessor spoke to Sr Jude who denied the allegations made by you. In addition two previous residents of the Villa supplied information that failed to support some of the information given by you.

As you would appreciate a basic principle of our justice system is that someone is innocent until some wrongdoing is proven. A significant difference existed between your memories and those of Sr Jude around the events or issues discussed. For some wrong to be established against Sr Jude or Villa Maria there would need to be sufficient evidence to give weight to your claims. No other complaints have been made against Sr Jude, Mother Rosario or the Villa. Historical records of the time support the information provided by Sr Jude. Without further evidence the complaints made by you cannot be established.

The conclusion I came to on the information provided by you was that you were not a victim in any of the events you have described, at Villa Maria.

I very much regret any hurt that you have suffered earlier in your life and since. However, for the reasons I have set down it is not possible for any church agency to take the matter any further.

Yours Sincerely

*Berice Livermore*

Sister Berice Livermore  
Congregational Leader



# Sisters of Charity of Australia Congregational Office

16<sup>th</sup> April 2003

**Mrs Juliet Clough**  
3 Doongara Close  
WINDALE NSW 2306

Dear Mrs Clough,

I am writing to you to let you know about the concluding assessment of your complaints.

I am sorry that there has been some delay since your meeting with Wendy Tuckerman, an independent assessor in the matter of your complaints. I have recently been appointed as Congregational Leader, and I wanted to be personally briefed on your complaint before writing to you.

As you will appreciate, an assessment under the Church's *Towards Healing* guidelines is similar to any other investigation. It involves a search for the facts as far as they can be discovered. As many of the people as possible likely to know about the matters in question are approached for an interview and asked in detail about them, and the relevant records are examined. The persons named in your complaint are approached towards the end of the process, when all other information has been gathered, and each is given an opportunity to respond to the complaint. In this case Sr Herman is frail and aged and has dementia. Sr Phillipa left the convent in 1968 and could not be located.

Once all the available information has been gathered, the assessor analyses it and presents her report to the responsible person in the Church, in this case to me, as Congregational Leader of the Sisters of Charity. It is then my responsibility to make a determination on the facts as presented.

Mrs Tuckerman was unable to find any evidence about the physical abuse you described. Although some corporal punishment may have been administered at times, she was unable to find any evidence that the discipline at St Anne's took a form that would not be considered acceptable at that time.

Mrs Tuckerman was unable to find any other evidence indicating that children were watched whilst bathing or showering as you described. Finally the assessor examined your complaint about the quality of food, attention to childhood needs and monies stolen, but was unable to substantiate these matters.

As a result of the assessor's findings, I am sorry to advise you that I am not able to conclude that the matters you complained about have been substantiated.

I very much regret any hurt that you feel, but for the reasons I have set down here, it is not possible for the Sisters of Charity or any Church agency to take the matters of your complaint any further.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "E. A. Dodds".

**Sr Elizabeth Dodds RSC**  
*Congregational Leader*

**CONFIDENTIAL REPORT ON THE INTERVIEW WITH MS JULIET CLOUGH(NEE DOYLE) CONCERNING HER COMPLAINT AGAINST SISTER JUDE AND MOTHER ROSARIO, SISTERS OF MERCY AT VILLA MARIA, EAST MAITLAND.**

Information Sources in Clarifying Ms Clough's Complaint:

- Copy of Statement made by Ms Clough.
- Copy of Statement of Complaint made in conjunction with Ms Meredith Crowe, appointed Contact Person.
- Two hour interview on 16.09.02 with Ms Clough while her support person and sister, Ms Maureen Green was present.
- Phone contact of approximately one hour fifteen minutes encompassing four phone calls made on the 17.09.02, 18.09.02, 23.09.02 and 22.10.02.

**History reported by Ms Clough:**

Ms Clough reported that she was a resident of Villa Maria, 50 King St., East Maitland between May 1969, one month after her sixteenth birthday, and January 1970. Within the first few minutes of the interview Ms Clough stated that she was not clear on what happened day to day while in the home. Previously she had received approximately twelve session of Eye Movement Desensitization Reprocessing Therapy(EMDR) as part of counselling received from Dr Tony Aguado over a two year period and she acknowledged that details were not as easily discerned since then.

Ms Clough believed that the Department of Child and Social Welfare (now know as DOCS) made the arrangements for her to be placed at the Villa after her landlady called the Department when Ms Clough informed her that she was pregnant. Ms Clough stated that she had been repeatedly raped, while only 15, by a fellow resident over several months prior to the pregnancy. Her mother had committed suicide in May 1967 after four admissions to psychiatric institutions over an eighteen month period due to schizophrenia. Ms Clough spent time in an orphanage with her older sister while her mother was in psychiatric institutions. Ms Clough's father had been estranged from the family for three years prior to

her mother's death because of his violent behaviour. After the suicide of her mother Ms Clough revealed she was initially cared for by her Aunt who, after three months, found the responsibility too much. Ms Clough remembered Fr Brian Bailey was approached for accommodation assistance and referred her to Mrs Marshall who ran a boarding house at 658 Pacific Highway Belmont. Initially, the accommodation was satisfactory. According to Ms Clough difficulties occurred after a new lodger arrived and repeatedly sexually assaulted her. Ms Clough could not remember any alternate accommodation being offered to her at that time.

Ms Clough chose to be known by the name Margaret Richards at the Villa because the policy at the time was for each resident to be known by a different name to protect her identity if some one inquired after an individual.

During Ms Clough's time at the home she remembers only Sister Jude and Mother Rosario being the only nuns residing at the Villa. She cannot remember any time they were away due to holidays, retreats or because of illness.

**The alleged claims Ms Clough has against the home and St Jude and Mother Rosario include:**

1. Sometime in December when Ms Clough thought she was in labour during the night she woke Sister Rosario who "grabbed me by the hair, told me to get back into bed and don't disturb her sleep." Ms Clough stated she went back to her room and was taken to hospital the following day but returned after a false labour diagnosis. No one was told about that incident at that time.
2. That she had to work physically hard up to the birth of her baby.
3. The nuns told her (and all the girls) to wipe their seat each time they had sat on it. She claimed this was a rule for everyone and was part of "the brainwashing to give the message we were unclean because we were unmarried mothers."
4. At the Sunday Mass, held in the Villa Chapel, the girls had to sit up the back and were unable to receive the sacrament of communion.
5. On one occasion when Ms Clough attempted to escape while cashing a cheque she remembers being brought back to the Villa by the police. She believes the either Sister Jude or Mother Rosario called the police.
6. She was told by the nuns and the social worker that " she had no way of being a fit mother to her son".



7. She felt shamed because Sister Jude and Mother Rosario said that the girls were "they were dirty and unclean."
8. The rules of the Villa demanded that each individual use a different name during her period of stay at the Villa.
9. When her sister Maureen and her husband visited Ms Clough remembers one of the residents becoming upset because she knew Maureen's husband. The resident was concerned about the confidentiality of her situation being compromised. Ms Clough remembers her sister being refused permission to visit after that incident.
- 10 Being told not to leave the Villa until her baby was born.
- 11 Being told not to go swimming as it might hurt her baby when the girls went on a picnic at a Newcastle beach.
- 12 Being told "to keep this a secret and never tell anyone."
- 13 "I was drugged when I had him",
- 14 "It should never have happened." This refers to her being separated from her son and not encouraged to keep him. She believes that she should have been given support to keep her son by being given information about the allowance available through the Department of Social and Child Welfare. Ms Clough believes she should have been assisted with accommodation and told about Department of Housing: "Instead of feeding up bullshit they should teamed us with other mothers in the same situation and helped us look after our babies. If a baby is taken away it buggers up your whole life and totally destroys your life".
- 15 She was unable to see her son after his birth. Ms Clough remembered touching his head when he was born but reported that she was unable to see him after his birth.

---

**Name :** Juliet Clough ( nee Doyle)  
**Address :** 3 Doongara Close WINDALE NSW 2306  
**Occupation :** Pensioner  
**Telephone :** 02 49657076

**States :**

*This statement made by me accurately sets out the evidence which I would be prepared, if necessary, to give in a court as a witness.*

*The statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have willfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.*

*My full name is Juliet Margaret Clough I am 49 years of age and I was born on the 6 April 1953. I currently reside at 3 Doongara Close, WINDALE. I am on a disability pension and I am a divorcee. I have four adult children.*

*In the beginning of 1965 my sister, Maureen and I were taken to St Anne's Orphanage, Liverpool. My mother had taken ill and had been admitted to Gladesville Hospital. My father and mother had separated 1964. My father was unable to care for myself, Michael my older brother, Maureen my sister and my younger brother Timothy. Michael lived at Petersham with a friend of my mothers, Timothy was placed at St Anthony's at Croydon and Maureen and I was placed at St Anne's Liverpool.*

*I believe St Anne's was one of the better orphanages and I never witnessed or knew of any sexual abuse towards any child at the orphanage. However, I remember being uncomfortable when I was being watched by all the nuns whilst was I was bathing or showering. The nuns I recall at the orphanage were Mother Phillipa who was in charge, Sister Herman and Sister St Jude. I think but I am not certain that Mother Phillipa may have left whilst I was there and a Sister Hildergard took over.*

*The food was not nourishing, there were no fresh vegetables or fresh meat. We ate macaroni and cheese, one sausage on a bun on Tuesday and Thursday nights. It was very bland food. The best day was Saturdays when we would have a meat pie. The only fruit we had were apples but most of them were rotten. The apples were in a big box and available seven days a week. The nuns ate separate from us and I recall going into there eating quarters and I saw them eating fresh vegetables and meat.*

*I know Mother Phillipa took our pocket money because Dad had asked us if we had received the money from Mother Phillipa. Dad would visit us nearly every week. After he realized we were not receiving the pocket money he would then give it to us directly. We would often spend the money at the tuck shop at St Mary's High School.*

*I remember whilst we at St Mary's High School the other children wanted nothing to do with us because we were from the orphanage.*

*I remember being separated from my sister as she was with the older girls and I was with the younger the girls. I was not allowed to see Timothy at St Anthony's. I wasn't able to see Michael either. I recall only seeing Timothy when Dad took Maureen and I to Luna Park or the zoo. This was about three or four times during my stay at St Anne's.*

*The nuns used to lock the big green doors at the back of the orphanage at night. This made me feel claustrophobic. The nuns made us feel unwanted and did not show us love or affection. We were never held or shown any comfort. When we were sick we were not taken to the Doctor.*

*I can remember playing music in the recreation room with some other girls. We were playing Herman's Hermit's and one of the girls made a comment and Sister Herman was standing behind us. Sister Herman did not allow us to play music for a couple of months after this incident.*

*Cathy Carr a girl at the orphanage was often humiliated because she wet the bed every night. Sister Herman humiliated her. Sister Herman would tell everybody that she had wet the bed again and then get her to wash her own sheets. I recall seeing Sister Herman hit some of the girls with a cane. She would hit them on the legs, arms and hands. I cannot recall whom she hit. I remember*

---

*seeing Sister Herman chase my sister around the sewing room table, she had the cane in her hand. But Sister Herman did not catch her and I never saw her hit my sister.*

*There was no privacy at the orphanage because the beds were very close and we were not given any bras to wear.*

*This has affected the way I relate to my own children and I believe I couldn't bond with them. I find it very hard to trust people.*

*I left the orphanage in February 1967 and I lived with my mother and my siblings. In June 1967 my mother committed suicide by gassing herself. She had Timothy with her and he died as well.*

*I have received a copy of a report written by Miss E Harwood a Social Worker, which had been written in February 1966. (Attachment A )*

*I do not recall telling anyone about how I was feeling at St Anne's.*

*My expectations from making this complaint are;*

- a) the right to be heard*
- b) the right to tell my story, and*
- c) compensation of some monetary value.*

*Juliet Clough*

*Statement taken and signature witnessed  
by me at 3 Doongara Close, Windale NSW  
2306, on the 27 November 2002.*

**W M TUCKERMAN**

DOYLE, Dorothy

12

Dr. Rec

Mrs. Doyle's daughters are living at St. Annes' Convent, Liverpool, and are attending secondary school there. One of the nuns contacted me about them as they are not settling in and refused to mix with girls their own age. She felt that they were both rather strange.

On the 10th February, 1966 I interviewed the two girls. They believe their mother's paranoid delusions and strongly backed up her story about the shadows on the wall. They believe that their father was trying to send their mother mad and caused shadows to play on the wall. The shadows depicted rats, the sign of the cross, the sign of death and other filthy things that they didn't want to mention. Both girls said that they had seen the shadows themselves and were not just repeating the story of their mother's.

Miss Bailey, a Social Worker from the Catholic Family Welfare Bureau contacted me concerning Mrs. Doyle who has been known to her for some time. She said that although Mr. Doyle has terrorised his wife in the past he is perfectly amiable when visiting the children. She thought that both parents were competing strongly for their childrens love and that this was upsetting the two girls and so preventing them from settling in at school.

(Miss) E. Harwood.  
Social Worker.

February 1966.

Mrs W. Letton