



**Marist Brothers Darlinghurst
Old Boys' Union
*Blue & Blue***



mbhsdarlinghurst.org
30 March 2025



Gentlemen,

Welcome to the Autumn edition 2025 of the Blue & Blue

With a long-awaited response only reaching me days ago, I sadly address the matter pertaining to this excerpt from the Christmas 2024 B&B edition: “Richard Quinn, AMS Exec. Director, is following up Darlo’s support for 3 Vietnamese, visually-challenged people, made in 2022, to progress the Children’s Manifesto.”

Mr. Quinn continues his tenure as Executive Director of Marist Association of St Marcellin Champagnat Ltd. since 1993, which he extended to Executive Director of Australian Marist Solidarity in 2016 and he subsequently extended that inclusively, to Acting-CEO of Australian Marist Solidarity from 2025.

Mr. Quinn is adamant that the position of AMS on this matter be made clear to Darlo OBU members. It is my responsibility to convey that position to members, regardless of my request in the strongest terms, that he reconsider continuing down the path that he has chosen, which constitutes a serious, protracted denial of rights to people in great need, while under AMS care.

Summary of events:

For well over a decade, many Darlo Priests have celebrated Masses for the progression of a statement of rights by children. They have been supported by Brothers, thousands of Marist students, teachers and many more. It’s become part of the legacy of Darlo OBU, which had approved a donation for that cause.

Australian Marist Society issued a brochure in 2022, which used pics & the circumstances of three sight-affected young people from Vietnam to raise funds for the noble projects of AMS. The three were in the care of AMS and benefitting from inclusion in the project “**Give the Gift of Dignity**”.

An OBU donation was directed by Marscom Television to go to assisting those who endorsed the rights of children, maintaining the decade-old legacy of Darlo priests, teachers and thousands of Marist students, who have strived to proclaim the rights of children with “The Children’s Manifesto.” It remains entrenched in Darlo legacy, carried forth under our colours by students of Marist Canberra with a multitude of other Marists.

‘Class of’ is a Year reference for those who sat, or would have sat but for leaving earlier, final exams in that year.

**Marist Executive
Br. Paul Murphy**

**Adviser to OBU Exec.
Reg Richardson AM**

**Adviser to OBU Exec.
Michael Blakeney**

**Treasurer
Peter Dawson**

**Secretary
Tony Morrissey**

**Vice President
Tony Smith**

**President, OBU
Kym Derriman**

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Copies from an AMS brochure are enclosed in which, there are statements from the three sight-affected youths concerned, such as “I struggled with depression and a sense of failure and felt like I was a burden on my family”; “it is essential that I can learn and support myself and my

family in future”; “My family was poor and could not take me the hospital for treatment”; “Your donation to AMS will allow young people like me with disabilities to break cycles of poverty and gain independence.”

Instead of donating to AMS directly, as we would normally do, because of the nature of the plight, an offer of work from Marscom to those desperate for independent income, was made to address both issues. If the three people wished to carry forth the message of rights of children for remuneration, it'd certainly help maintain their dignity, apart from assisting their poverty-stricken families. “Give the Gift of Dignity”, AMS proclaimed.

The advice of an offer of \$1,000, to be divided equally among the three Vietnamese, was remitted to AMS, if the three youths wished to record and disseminate the statement of rights of children in Vietnamese.

That offer was deliberately and systematically withheld from the three sight-challenged people, while AMS inundated Marscom with requests to donate to AMS directly.

For over two years, I have fought to keep this in-house, trying to have it rectified by AMS but regretfully, that won't happen under the current administration. *The deliberate and protracted denial of advice of a remunerated offer, to the three youths in desperate need of financial assistance, who were in the care of AMS, is inexcusable. It goes to the very foundation of Marist ethos within Australian Marist Solidarity.* Action is needed to correct a GRAVE injustice, deliberately pursued under the current administration of AMS. At no point was AMS asked to endorse or recommend the offer made by this Marist entity.

Marist students, teachers, Brothers & Priests have done a magnificent job in solidarity across nations and cultures, to get the children's statement of rights out there, giving the most vulnerable and destitute children hope, knowing that others actively seek to enforce the rights of all children. This has been achieved with no support whatsoever to the many entreaties by Darlo OBU and Marscom to AMS. Under the current administration, Australian Marist Solidarity has about as much solidarity as a clay humpy on the San Andreas fault line.

Mr. Quinn's position: [Responses by OBU President to Mr. Quinn's assertions are in RED]

Richard Quinn: I acknowledge receipt of your emails, and am now in a position to provide a considered response.

Contact with Vietnamese youth

AMS will not be providing you with direct contact with the Vietnamese youth, as requested by you. AMS works closely with registered and approved donor and recipient partners in Australia and overseas in accordance with the established protocols of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID). All reputable Australian-based international aid agencies are affiliated with ACFID.

I did not request direct contact details of the Vietnamese people in question. I asked that Marscom's work offer be conveyed to them.

AMS does not facilitate personal payments to individuals overseas, but only to registered aid projects.

At no point did I request AMS to facilitate personal payments to individuals overseas. I raised the obligation of Australian Marist Solidarity to bring awareness to those Vietnamese people, that an offer of employment had been made, which they could then follow up, if they chose to do so.

I'll ask you to reflect upon “All reputable Australian-based international aid agencies are affiliated with ACFID”, which implies that our organisation, along with the numerous other organisations not registered with ACFID, while providing international aid, are not reputable.

I take great exception to that remark, not only regarding our organisation but also to the many small, reputable Australian organisations assisting those in great need, that are not registered with ACFID.

MARSCOM

As previously advised, MARSCOM is not an approved or endorsed ministry of the Marist Brothers in Australia. All such Marist ministries have appropriate governance and operational management structures in place, with clear procedures and policies evident. Marist ministries also provide accountability through the appropriate safeguarding frameworks of governments and Australian Catholic Church. None of this is evident in any available information about MARSCOM.

I advised that the offer is by Marscom. To be technical, the offer is by Marscom Television, which is often abbreviated to “Marscom”.

I'd be grateful for clarification of what the “approved or endorsed ministry” status of Marscom Television is with Marist, which was founded by Br. Oswin McKinney and transferred by him to me, when his passing was imminent. Its very name is an abbreviation of Marist Communications, chosen by Br. Oswin.

Kids4Kids Inc and Marist Brothers Darlinghurst Old Boys Union (MBDOBU)

MBDOBU appears to be a trading name of Kids4Kids Inc, a public benevolent institution which is not a Marist entity. Kids4Kids Inc has not submitted their 2024 Annual Information Statement (AIS) and Financial Reports to the ACNC, both of which are overdue. Previous years' AIS and Financial Reports do not meet the appropriate standards of reporting required by Marist entities (eg. audited accounts), nor the appropriate governance standards of Marist-related ministries.

As stated previously, **“MBDOBU is assuredly not a trading name of Kids 4 Kids Inc.”**

The “screenshot from the Australian Business Register and from the ASIC Connect register which show that MBDOBU is a registered business name of Kids4Kids Inc.” **It does not.**

It shows that it was protected as a business name for a period when it was ‘under attack’, being 2013-2020. Prior to that and subsequently, MBHSD has not needed registration, as many, if not most, OB unions are not registered.

To save my time, any of the OBs, who you are encouraged and most welcome to contact, will advise the background behind the protection that was necessary for a time.

I would be delighted to attend a duly constituted meeting of the MBDOBU at a mutually agreeable time to explain all of this to MBDOBU members, should they wish to know more about the position of AMS and the Marist Brothers Star of the Sea Province on these issues.

It is reasonable that the position of the AMS be presented to members of MBDOBU and it is my job to do just that.

In subsequent communication: Regarding “MARSCOM is not an approved or endorsed ministry of the Marist Brothers in Australia”, I advised that the offer is by Marscom. To be technical, the offer is by Marscom Television, which is often abbreviated to “Marscom”.

I'd be grateful for clarification of what the “approved or endorsed ministry” status of Marscom Television is with Marist, which was founded by Br. Oswin McKinney and transferred by him to me, when his passing was imminent. Its very name is an abbreviation of Marist Communications, chosen by Br. Oswin.

Despite a number of attempts, no response was ever received from Mr. Quinn regarding the status of Marscom Television with Marist.

Following the passing of Br. Oswin McKinney, Sister Betty Wallace, who was a devoted Sister of the Order of the Presentation Sisters, was also the Honorary Principal of Marscom Television from 2004 – 2009.

