

THE BISHOP OF TASMANIA

The Right Reverend Phillip K. Newell, A.O.

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22nd May, 1997

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PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Mr Michael White,
Acting Chief Executive,
Department of Education and Training,
P.O. Box 1584,
TUGGERANONG ACT 2901

Dear Mr White,

Re: Louis Victor Daniels

It is with deep regret that I must write to you in relation to the above-mentioned person, who was formerly a priest of the Diocese of Tasmania. On the 21st day of November, 1994, he resigned from his position as Rector of the Parish of Burnie and Archdeacon of the Burnie region, and shortly thereafter he moved to Canberra. I understand that he has now obtained a teaching position with your Department.

Daniels resigned from his position following the making of serious allegations against him in relation to sexual impropriety with a young male.

The allegations were made to me by the **REDACTED** of the complainant, who at the relevant time was a minor, and involved sexual impropriety of a serious kind. I understand that the allegations were referred to the police, but that, while the police investigation has not been closed, it is now unlikely that Daniels will be extradited from the ACT to face charges in relation to the matter.

I am not in a position to confirm or deny the allegations, but I do not believe them to be untrue. Immediately upon the allegations becoming known to me I required Daniels to resign, and he did so.

Unfortunately these allegations are not the only ones against Daniels of which I have knowledge. Very recently I have received another complaint, alleging sexual impropriety of a very serious kind.

The allegations cover the period comprised of 1973 and 1974, during which the young male was about 11 years of age, and include allegations of touching and requiring the young male to perform oral sex, on at least one occasion with the use of a degree of force.

I am not in a position to confirm or to deny the allegations, but I have interviewed the complainant, who is now a young married man with a responsible job, and I do not believe them to be untrue.

There are other matters, only in degree less serious.

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In or about the early 1980's, I became aware of and I spoke to Daniels in relation to allegations that were made by two young males. These allegations were of a less serious nature. Again I am not in a position to confirm or deny the allegations, but I do not believe them to be untrue. The young males who were minors at the time did not wish the matter to be referred to the police or to their parents, but wished only that I be aware of their allegations and take action within the church in relation to the matter. I did so by requiring Daniels to resign from the Anglican Boys' Society and requiring that he amend his ways and take counsel from another priest. I was satisfied at the time that he did amend his ways, and I later appointed him as Rector of the parish of Burnie and Archdeacon of the Burnie region. At the time he was the outstanding candidate for the position.

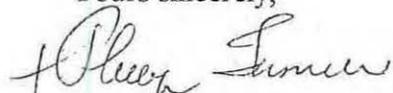
Subsequently, one of the two young males, having grown to manhood, raised the matter a gain. I issued to Daniels a letter of solemn admonition, with which he agreed to comply. This is a formal document by which Daniels was required and agreed to not offend again. The complaint which led to his resignation indicates that, if the allegations then made are true, Daniels was in breach of the letter of solemn admonition as well as the criminal law.

I consider it my moral duty to advise you of these allegations.

I am very concerned that in the course of his employment with you Daniels may come into contact with young males in circumstances in which he may have the opportunity to abuse the trust reposed in him in his capacity as a teacher.

I am advised that for legal reasons I am unable to take the matter further. I would be grateful for your acknowledgment of this correspondence and I request that you treat the matter as being in the strictest confidence. The young man who has made the most recent allegations is presently in my pastoral care, and he is anxious only that Daniels not be in a position to repeat his conduct against other innocent persons.

Yours sincerely,



Phillip K. Newell