



DIOCESE OF GRAFTON

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Bishops Registry
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November 16, 2013

CC



Dear CC

Thank you for your willingness to speak with me by phone on Thursday evening. It was a privilege to speak with you. I appreciate and acknowledge the courage it takes for you to speak with a male Anglican priest.

Firstly, both personally and, on behalf of the Diocese of Grafton I express our deepest sorrow for the abuse you suffered at the North Coast Children's Home and apologise profoundly and unreservedly for the shameful manner in which you were treated when you courageously came forward to tell your story.

Secondly, I formally put in writing an offer of settlement from the Diocese of Grafton of \$75,000. The Diocese of Grafton acknowledges that financial assistance alone cannot make amends for the harm caused by the abuse you suffered as a child at the North Coast Children's Home, rather it is a means by which the Diocese acknowledges the harm caused and expresses our compassion for you.

I acknowledge your verbal acceptance of this offer and your understanding that you have previously received \$5000 as an initial payment of assistance and in anticipation of final settlement. You will be required to sign a Deed of Release. A Deed of Release will not prevent you from discussing publicly the events that gave rise to the allegations or telling your story. I strongly urge you to seek independent legal advice before you sign the Deed of Release. This legal advice will also enable you to understand, and respond appropriately to matters related to Medicare and Centrelink. The Diocese of Grafton will pay \$400 of the cost of you obtaining this advice. The Deed of Release and associated documents will be sent to you by the Diocesan Advocate in early December. I apologise for the unexpected delay in this. I discovered yesterday that the Diocesan Advocate is on leave until December 2.

CC I also offer you an opportunity to tell your story personally to a senior Diocesan leader and to receive a verbal apology in that meeting as a means of continuing your path of healing. I am willing to drive to Blayney to meet with you if that is helpful to you. If you accept this offer and meeting face to face with a male Anglican priest is too difficult I will arrange for a senior female Anglican Priest in our Diocese to meet with you in Blayney.



The Anglican Church of Australia

If you have any concerns at all as we move through this process please don't hesitate to contact me on 02 66541370 (the phone number of Northern Beaches Anglicans where I am the Rector). If I am not immediately available I will return your call as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Rev Canon David Hanger

**Chair
Professional Standards Committee
Diocese of Grafton**



The Anglican Church of Australia