



DIOCESE OF GRAFTON

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November 16, 2013

CA



Dear CA

My name is David Hanger. I am the new Chair of the Professional Standards Committee in the Diocese of Grafton. I spoke with your brother Tommy on Thursday evening and he indicated that it was appropriate to write to you. In this letter I want to say a number of important things to you.

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. I have had the privilege of reading the correspondence between you and the Diocese. I was deeply moved by your story and the articulate and dignified manner in which you responded throughout the course of the correspondence. I am ashamed of the manner in which you were treated in the correspondence you received.

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. You have previously received \$5000 as an initial payment of assistance. That amount will be deducted from the final settlement.

I look forward to your response to this offer. If you, or anyone on your behalf, want to discuss this offer with me, I am happy to do so. When an agreement is reached 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 a 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.

CA 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 come to Port Macquarie to meet with you if that is helpful to you. 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