

Your ref:

Our ref: ARM:RJH:

18 June 2003

Attention: Mark Pickhaver
Chancellor of the Diocese of Willochra
John Bray Chambers
142 Wright Street
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Dear Mark,

Sexual Abuse Complaints

I refer to your letter of 23 May and apologise for my delay in responding. Since that time our Bishop has announced our Pastoral Support Program involving financial payments to victims of sexual abuse. As you could appreciate it has been a busy time.

I refer to the allegations and information provided to you by legal representatives of the victims of abuse and respond as follows:

I am sure that Bishop Aspinall will deny that he was aware of the activities of Brandenburg. I have not spoken to him and obviously those allegations require his direct response. However I am aware that Bishop Aspinall denied that he was aware of any of the activities of Hawkins which were the subject of the Tribunal hearing which resulted in Hawkins being found guilty of offences relating to the abuse to boys. Prior to the complaints which lead to the prosecution in 2002 the Diocese was unaware of any complaints about Hawkins relating to sex abuse.

The Diocese does not know whether there was any connection between Lou Daniels, Brandenburg and John Elliott. There were no allegations made to this effect during the public inquiry in 1998.

The "Not the Way of Christ Inquiry" report was prepared by Tonia Kohl (barrister) and Michael Crowley (psychologist) who were both independent of the Anglican church. At that time we were completely unaware of Michael Crowley's own activities and it was only last year that these matters came to light when he was

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charged with having a sexual relationship with a person under the age of 18 years. We understand that these events occurred some 20 years ago. It is incorrect to say that the Report lead to these charges. The matters are currently before the Courts and at this stage we understand Mr Crowley has entered a plea of not guilty.

In relation to your specific questions I advise as follows:

- a) I refer to the above comments.
- b) No claims have been received from Messrs BYN, REDACTE or REDACTED against the Diocese or against any persons connected with the Diocese.
- c) In 1998 a public inquiry was established called "Not the Way of Christ" and as a result of this a report was released to the public. There was also a confidential appendix attached to the report which was not released. The "Not the Way of Christ Report" does not refer to Mr Brandenburg. The writ which was issued by Mr Skipper does make allegations against Mr Brandenburg.
- d) Lou Daniels was charged with criminal offences and was sentenced to a term of imprisonment. I *enclose* for your information a copy of the reasons for judgment when he was sentenced in our Supreme Court. Prior to this he had left the priesthood and as result of proceedings which we initiated last year the Diocese of the ACT where he currently resides deposed him of holy orders. The only civil action taken against Daniels has been by Mr Skipper.
- e) A Supreme Court writ had been issued by Mr Skipper against the Anglican Church, Brandenburg and Daniels. No judgment has been given. The writ is still in the pre-trial stages and suffers from a number of technical defects. In particular the Plaintiff has not sued a legal entity representing the Diocese in Tasmania and the writ is also subject to the time limit defence. The case is not likely to be listed for hearing within the next 12 months.
- f) The Diocese has not received any complaints against Bishop Aspinall and therefore no investigation has taken place. Bishop Aspinall did give evidence in relation to the prosecution against Hawkins because he was attending Hawkins home at a time when acts of abuse were alleged to have taken place. However Aspinall has denied that he had any knowledge of the abuse which took place.

I hope that the above is of some assistance to you. If there are any others matters where we can assist or provide information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

AUDREY MILLS
Chancellor Diocese of Tasmania