

ANGLICAN  
CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA



The Archbishop of Brisbane  
The Most Reverend Dr Phillip Aspinall

**CONFIDENTIAL**

The Rt Rev'd John Harrower  
Bishop of Tasmania  
GPO Box 748H  
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13 March 2002

Dear John,

Following the flood of media attention to matters of sexual abuse in the church I received a most disturbing telephone call recently. BYF [redacted] an old friend and colleague of mine in youth ministry days in Tasmania, now resident in western Australia, telephoned me and disclosed that he was abused in Tasmania by two Anglican priests, Lou Daniels and Garth Hawkins.

BYF [redacted] gave me permission to discuss his disclosures with you.

I was shocked by these disclosures. More than that I was distressed and grieved because BYF [redacted] believes that I may have inadvertently added to the harm he suffered. I expressed my heartfelt apology that this had happened and assured BYF [redacted], as I now assure you, that I knew nothing about the abusive behaviour of Daniels or Hawkins.

I indicated to BYF [redacted] that I wanted to do all I could to support him on the road to healing and to take whatever action he thought appropriate in response to the abuse he had suffered. I went on to canvass the options he had as I understood them. These included:

- Reporting the abuse to the Bishop of Tasmania
- Reporting the abuse to the Police
- Taking civil legal action
- Taking action under church tribunal legislation in Tasmania and/or Canberra and Goulbourn (where Daniels now lives)

I also indicated that the Diocese of Tasmania may be able to provide support, counselling and possibly financial assistance with the costs of care and therapy he had already incurred.

I told BYF [redacted] I would be in Perth for the bishops meeting in a few weeks and would like the chance to catch up with him and talk over these options further if he would like to do that. He responded positively.

I spoke with BYF [redacted] and his wife [redacted] again by telephone on Monday this week to make arrangements to meet. BYF [redacted] informed me that he had written to you about the abuse and had also reported it to the Tasmania Police. I congratulated BYF [redacted] on taking these significant steps. BYF [redacted] indicated that he had had a letter in reply from you which he found very supportive and encouraging.

In one or other of the conversations BYF [redacted] also disclosed to me that he believed [REDACTED] had also been abused by Daniels. I think I recall correctly that he said this had been reported

to him by a [REDACTED] Both these people were involved in the youth ministry networks in Tasmania in the 1980s. I don't know the whereabouts of either of these people now.

I believe it appropriate to mention one other matter for your information. When I was a theological student in my mid twenties in Melbourne during 1985-88, Sue Clayton informed me that she had seen behaviour by Daniels that caused her concern and had reported it to the then Bishop of Tasmania. Sue Clayton is currently operating a photographic business in Melbourne.

I mention all this because though I worked closely with Daniels over a good many years and also spent some time with Hawkins I never personally saw any behaviour which I regarded as untoward or which indicated to me that abuse was occurring. You are probably aware that I was requested by Daniels' solicitors to provide a reference for the court's consideration in sentencing Daniels in May 1999. I provided such a reference indicating that I was aware of the nature of the charges, that I was aware Daniels had pleaded guilty and outlining what I had known personally of his ministry.

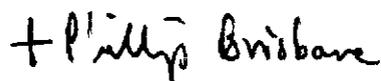
[BYF] s disclosures to me in recent days seem to me to indicate that abusive behaviour was concealed from me and others through these years.

I believe our first priority in these matters is to provide support and counselling to victims of abuse and to see that they take whatever actions they wish to in seeking redress. I have confirmed my desire to assist [BYF] in whatever way I can. I make the same offer to you as you investigate these matters and take appropriate action. If I can assist in any way please let me know.

I look forward to seeing you at the bishop's conference where we can discuss any of this further if that would be helpful.

This comes with the assurance of my prayers for you as you work through these difficult and painful matters.

Yours sincerely



The Most Rev'd Dr Phillip Aspinall  
Archbishop of Brisbane