

Gould.

11 July 2002

Mr David Gould

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Dear David,

Thank you for your recent correspondence.

I have recently set up a Committee to advise me regarding the issue of compensation for victims of sexual abuse. As you are aware it is a complex issue. Legally the Diocese is not responsible for compensation but legal action can be taken against particular priests. The Diocese has offered to pay for counselling for any victim of sexual abuse as part of its pastoral response to supporting and assisting victims. I will be reviewing all of these matters in consultation with the Committee.

The Diocese has jurisdiction only in respect of persons who are resident in Tasmania and is therefore unable to hold Tribunal hearings in respect of any person residing out of the State.

Investigations will shortly be completed which will enable proceedings to be instituted against L. Daniels in respect of his Holy Orders. As he resides outside of Tasmania that action has to be taken in the diocese in which he currently resides.

I repeat my offer to you that this Diocese is prepared to pay for your counselling expenses as part of our pastoral response to you. Please forward accounts to my office if you wish to take up this offer.

I assure you and others who have been hurt in this way of my prayers and the prayers of the many faithful and diligent priests in this Diocese, for healing in every way to take place.

Yours sincerely in Christ's Service
Shalom,

John Harrower
Bishop of Tasmania