

23.7.99.

NOTES OF AN INTERVIEW BETWEEN BISHOP PHILLIP NEWELL AND BISHOP HENRY JERRIM AT WHICH ARCHDEACON PETER STUART WAS PRESENT

It appears that somewhere during 1981-82 the Right Reverend Henry Jerrim, who was Bishop Administrator, while the Diocese was electing and waiting for a new bishop, had occasion to summon the Reverend Lou Daniels to address an allegation. Either Mr. Daniels was on the staff of St. David's Cathedral or he was the Diocesan Youth Officer. Bishop Jerrim does not completely recall the circumstances.

Bishop Jerrim advises that he was approached by a now deceased Minister with the Uniting Church who was representing the parents of a boy who stated that he had been sexually interfered with by Daniels. Bishop Jerrim had no direct contact with the boy or his parents. The full details of the alleged abuse were not disclosed to Bishop Jerrim. The Minister advised the family against pursuing the matter with the police. It is possible that the boy was a member of the Church of England Boys Society, of which Lou was a leader.

Bishop Jerrim met with Daniels. There was no sense that this was a false accusation. He advised him of the seriousness, unseemliness and inappropriateness of his behaviour. Bishop Jerrim required that he correct his ways, referred him to a priest who might be able to give him wise counsel. No notes of the conversation were made, nor was their any record placed on Daniels' file.

Bishop Jerrim advises that at some stage he reported the matter to Bishop Newell. It might have been at the time of a proposed move for Daniels or at the time of Bishop Jerrim's retirement in 1985. I do not recall being advised by Bishop Jerrim but acknowledge that such advise could have been given.

In retirement, Bishop Jerrim heard some rumours of inappropriate on Daniels' part while Daniels was Rector of Deloraine. He did not feel the need to comment on those rumours to me or the Assistant Bishop of the day.

Bishop Jerrim advises that if he had been dealing with complaint today he would have handled the matter differently, in the light of our current knowledge. He had never been advised of any other complaint against Daniels and treated the matter as a one-time aberration.

In recent weeks a man saw the Rector of Moonah, Archdeacon Peter Stuart. He was referred to Archdeacon Stuart by the Diocesan Office. The man was seeking to know whether there was any record on file of his parents complaining to a senior member of the church about the behaviour of Lou Daniels. The man has been to the police and to a psychiatrist. He has been an alcoholic, suffered a marriage breakdown and been unable to find sustainable work. This man alleges that he was abused once by Lou Daniels when he was 12, around 1979. He states that his recent medical treatment has highlighted for him that the source of his problems is the abuse he received. The man is unable to corroborate his story due to his father's death and mother's severe illness. He is considering legal action. He was referred to the Anglican Support for Abused People information line and advised to seek legal advice as Archdeacon Stuart was not in any position to advise him of appropriate action. I do not know whether this person is the same person involved in the Jerrim complaint or another. In 1979 the Right Reverend Robert Davies was Bishop. We have not spoken to him. Bishop Jerrim indicated that he and Bishop Davies normally discussed such matters and no such matter had been raised with him.

Notes taken by Peter Stuart and forwarded to Dobson Mitchell and Allport on 23rd July 1999.