

4<sup>th</sup> August 2003

BYF

REDACTED

Dear <sup>BYF</sup>

I was very saddened to read your letter and to hear of your distress.

I admit that we in Tasmania have been on a very steep learning curve as we have tried to respond to disclosures of sexual abuse by clergy, and we have certainly not always got it right or foreseen all the difficulties that would require us to make changes.

The journey for someone bringing a complaint is never an easy one, but I am very sorry if the way we have tackled this has made your journey even harder than it needed to have been.

I am particularly saddened because in fact yours was one of the stories that really motivated us to ask questions about whether we needed to do even more for survivors after the task of testing and establishing a complaint and imposing penalty had been concluded. Yours was one of the stories that motivated us to try to set up a Pastoral Support and Assistance Scheme, and I assure you we are all acutely aware that no amount of money will ever make up for what has happened to you.

In your letter you have raised concerns about the behaviour of Phillip Aspinall and questions about whether people's concerns were listened to in the past. Thus I feel sure that you would want your concerns taken seriously.

My dilemma is that I want your concerns taken seriously, but I do not want to risk your health by embroiling you in any further church procedures, particularly over matters that may be too painful for you to consider at this time.

I will be passing an outline of your concerns to the Primate, but I will be advising him that in my judgement it would be detrimental to your health and well being for him to pursue this until you clearly indicated that you were ready to cooperate with any further inquiries. To this end, I will not give him your name, your contact details, or a copy of your letter until you give me permission to do just that.

I must advise you that it is my belief that the Primate will possibly be unable to progress any inquiry unless he is in possession of a signed complaint by you.

I respect your request to only communicate by letter and unless you tell me differently I will presume that this means that you would now find addressing Justice Wright unnecessarily distressing, and will rely on your application. We will then forward to you a cheque for the value he determines. Beryl remains available if you wish to contact her, but will also respect your request not to phone you.

I am terribly sorry that you have been caused further distress and I can only assure you that this was never our intention.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Harrower', with a stylized flourish at the end.

John Harrower  
Bishop of Tasmania