

Hutchins

19th March 2002

Mr AOA
Clinical Psychologist
REDACTED

Dear AOA

Thank you very much for your letter concerning the Hutchins School.

I have met with the Chairman and Principal of the School to discuss your correspondence.

I feel that I should point out firstly that my role in the school is one of "Visitor" and therefore I have no power to deal with your particular dispute with the school.

This is a very difficult position to that in which other Diocesan Bishops find themselves in. Other Anglican schools, in fact, form part of the Diocese. The Hutchins school is not a formal part of the Diocese of Tasmania and my role in the life of the school is not as the Chairman of the school.

I have read the Policy and Procedures of the Hutchins School. These Policies and Procedures have been prepared in consultation with the Parents and staff of the School and are very comprehensive. I am sure the school would be happy to provide you with a copy.

It gives me confidence that the School takes very seriously indeed the whole issue of both creating a safe environment for pupils and also for providing a procedure for dealing with misconduct and abuse.

I am sure that one of your concerns is to note that the School is committed to healthy relationships.

I wish to express my sincere and deep regret at any abuse which you have suffered. From the beginning of my time as Bishop of Tasmania I have sort to deal justly and compassionately with all complaints relating to abuse within the life of the Diocese of Tasmania.

The pain experienced by survivors of sexual abuse is traumatic to say the least. I have found it most disturbing to sit with survivors of such abuse and hear their stories of suffering.

Please be assured of my commitment for the creation of a safe environment for children and the just carriage of the Diocese of Tasmania's complaints protocols.

Yours sincerely,



Dictated by
John Harrower
Bishop of Tasmania

Signed in his absence by
Mr. W. Haas
Registrar of the Diocese of Tasmania
(Bishop John currently in Western Australia)