

17/12 '98 THU 12:19 FAX 61 02 49262974

RANKIN & NATHAN

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OUR REF: RNC:rs:981494
Reply to Newcastle Office

YOUR REF:

10 December, 1998

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

Mr A Deegan
Sparke Helmore
Solicitors
DX 7829
NEWCASTLE

Hand Delivered

Dear Sir,

***THE ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF NEWCASTLE & JOHN FARRAGHER
REMOVALS***

We acknowledge having received your letter dated 7 December, 1998 regarding the recent events surrounding the removal and transportation of household furniture and effects from Maitland to Hamilton and have obtained the Diocese's instructions thereon.

We note that Farragher's employees originally asserted that some of the material they were required to pack contained printed material of a paedophilic nature. We also note that Farraghers and their employees now withdraw that suggestion and have apologised for any distress or concern which may have been caused.

The Diocese has followed up the concerns expressed by Farraghers and has received the co-operation of the Priest in this matter. The Priest has acknowledged that he possessed material of an explicit sexual nature, but that it did not include any paedophilic material. The Priest has handed over to the Diocese the material in question of which an inventory has been taken. Having done that, it has now disposed of the material given to it. Our client can confirm that the material, while of an explicit sexual nature, did not contain any paedophilic material.

The Diocese has required the Priest to undertake extensive spiritual and psychological assessment and has been advised that the Priest requires a period of spiritual reflection and growth, rather than further psychiatric treatment.

If Farragher's are prepared to provide us with copies of their employee's statements the Diocese would undertake that confidentiality of the statements be maintained by the Bishop and his advisers. Given that the Diocese has now seen the material which caused offence to the Farragher's employees the Dioceses does not believe that it is reasonable or necessary to consent to indemnify John Farragher Removals.



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Messrs Sparke Helmore

However, the Diocese would like to have an opportunity to meet with the principals of John Farragher Removals in any event in order that the Diocese may express its regret that the material caused concern and offence to their employees. The Priest has also offered to meet with the men and offer his personal apology. We would be grateful if you would ascertain whether John Farragher Removals would find it helpful to meet to receive such an apology and discuss whether they and the Diocese both consider that sufficient action has been taken to resolve this matter satisfactorily.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully
RANKIN & NATHAN

Robert N Caddies

Direct email: rnc@rankinnathan.com.au