

ANGLICAN CHURCH OFFICE

*The Synod of the
Diocese of Adelaide of
the Anglican Church of
Australia Incorporated*

May 30 2003

To the people of South Australia

We have all heard the very disturbing news about the predatory behaviour of Robert Brandenburg who sexually abused boys and young men.

In 1999 he was charged by the police with offences but failed to appear in court to answer the charges and was subsequently found drowned.

We now know that his abuse took place over a long period of time, perhaps three decades or more, and involved a significant but as yet unknown number of boys and young men.

Sexual abuse is abhorrent and totally unacceptable in the life of our church and our community.

I want to publicly acknowledge the hurt that has been done to a large number of people, the individuals whom Brandenburg abused and their families who are living with the consequences.

I apologise unreservedly to those who have been so wounded and to the community and promise you that we will do everything we can to assist in the healing of those wounds.

We invite people who have been affected by abuse to make contact with the independent, outsourced sexual abuse helpline.

I want to assure the diocese and the general community that our prime concern is the wellbeing and healing of people affected by this appalling behaviour. We will do everything in our power to assist the healing process and ensure the protection of children and young people.

We are saddened by the suffering endured by so many. We are ashamed and apologise that our processes were sometimes inadequate. We confess that there have been times when we have not acted with the compassion of God and we have met human suffering with too little concern. As a diocese we seek the forgiveness of God and the community.

**The Most Revd Ian George AO
Archbishop of Adelaide**

* The independent sexual abuse helpline number is **8305 9383**.