

WRITTEN SUBMISSION

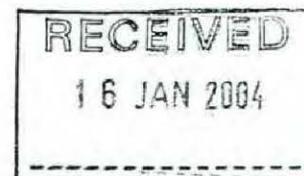
to the

Board of Inquiry into the Processing of Complaints of Inappropriate Sexual
Behaviour by persons holding positions within the Church of England

of

Mrs CBC

REDACTED
REDACTED SA REDA
CTED



RE: NOTIFICATION OF SEXUAL ABUSE REDACTED REDACTED
REDACTED BY ROBERT BRANDENBURG

1. Brief History

My husband CBB and I were long time parishioners of REDACTED before moving to REDA 13 years ago where we joined the parish of REDACTE REDACT. I am a Christian and although I do not attend Church as frequently as I used to I still attend at least a couple of times a week.

Over the years I have been involved in the life of both churches, having been on a number of committees. I am still a member of the Bush Church Aid Society.

We have four children, RED our eldest son, REDACTE REDAC and RED RE REDACT and RED were members of CEBS.

Bob Brandenburg was a frequent visitor to our home and we would often invite him to have meals with our family. REDACTE was also a frequent visitor. I think he had something to do with the Department of REDACTED and worked with REDA etc.

As stated by REDAC, he began CEBS at the age of four. In or around 1977/78, when REDACT was 14, he asked if he could go on what I think was a national camp. Because Bob was such a good friend of the whole family and because I was worried about REDAC as he was a bit inclined to be shy, I asked Bob if he would keep an eye on him for me. Bob assured me that he would. So I let REDACT go off on to this camp.

REDACTED was also at the camp and REDAC told us when he got back from the camp that REDACTE had been 'spoiling' some of the boys.

A few days after they returned from the camp Bob came around and told us that he had to go to Melbourne on some CEBS business and wondered if [REDACT] would like to come along to keep him company. He said that he was going to stay on an extra day after he finished his CEBS business. We agreed.

It is difficult to explain but both my husband and I trusted Bob because he had been in and out of our house and he was high up in the CEBS and we were pleased that somebody cared about [REDACT] as much as we did. In some ways [REDACT] had needed more nurturing as a youngster and was our favourite.

When [REDACT] found out that [REDACT] had gone off to Melbourne with Bob he immediately rang us. It was the day after [REDACT] had left. He asked why we had let him go away with him. When we asked why, he replied that he had seen him playing around with other boys on a bus trip to Perth. I think he may have been referring to a national camp in Perth about 3 or 4 years before.

[REDACT] also warned us about [REDACT] at the same time.

Bob had given us a phone number where he could be contacted while in Melbourne. My husband's statement will cover the phone call.

I was very worried even though my husband told me that [REDACT] seemed alright and that he had told him what [REDACT] had said. I was very relieved when they came home a day early.

When we asked [REDACT] what had happened he just told us that Bob had tried to fondle him but that he had been strong and that was all that happened.

[REDACT] continued to go to CEBS for a few more years after this trip and we did not stop him because he had said that nothing had happened and also because Bob had promised never to play with little boys again.

We thought that now that the Church knew that Brandenburg was a paedophile that they would keep an eye on him and see that he did not abuse the boys.

2. Disclosure of Information Provided to the Church.

I knew through my involvement with the Church that Brandenburg was still involved with CEBS and was responsible for running camps. Over the ensuing years, every time I had to ring Church Office I would ask if Brandenburg was still working there and I would tell anyone I spoke to about his behaviour. I probably did that about half a dozen times over twenty years. I would say words to the effect of '*are you aware that Bob Brandenburg is a child molester*'. I once asked why he was still working with children.

I was treated as though I was talking through a hole in my head. Not once did anyone say that they would pass my information on to a higher authority and I never once had a phone call from anybody in the Anglican Church to investigate my serious allegations against Brandenburg.

A short time before Brandenburg suicided I was at a function held by the Bush Church Aid Society to thank the various secretaries for their work. It was at St Michaels Church at Springfield and I think it was in June 1999. Some ladies were there from St. Georges, Magill. I asked her if Brandenburg was still involved with the boys there and again made some comment about him molesting boys.

I told my local priest [REDACTED] about Brandenburg in 1999, during a series of counselling sessions. [REDACTED] had once been a parishioner at St George's. Not long after telling [REDACTED] about what had happened with [REDACTED] Brandenburg suicided. I was just going in to Church one day when Father Irving asked me if I had heard that Brandenburg had suicided in the bath. That was all he said as he was preparing for the service. I was absolutely shattered. I thought that it was my fault. I had been ringing the Church Office, then I had told the St Georges ladies at Bush Aid and I had told [REDACTED]. I thought that someone had taken it further and as a result Bob had killed himself and it was all my fault.

Eventually I had to ask [REDACTED] if it was my fault that Brandenburg was dead and he assured me that his death had nothing to do with me telling people about him.

In 2003 when the newspapers were covering the Brandenburg matter Archdeacon Brian Smith came to our Church as a guest as part of the parish-swapping program. I did not know that he was the person my husband had told about Bob many years before. I went up to him after the service and told him that I did not know whether to speak to the boys, that I had been a complete mess and hadn't been able to sleep since I found out that Brandenburg had suicided and the extent of his abuse. He replied, "*Definitely not*".

When I got home I told [CBB] that I had spoken to Archdeacon Brian Smith and told him what he had said. I was surprised when [CBB] told me that he was the person who had 'run' the meeting which had been held 11 years before at which Brandenburg had promised that he would never again touch little boys.

After that I went to see the Police and they contacted [REDACTED]. I understand that [REDACTED] has had several interviews with the Police and as a result he has now told his father and I about [REDACTED] Brandenburg.

As a result of the trauma and distress of the past six months, I am now having
counselling with REDACTED. I feel tremendously guilty about what
happened. REDACTED

Signed:

CBC

CBC

20/12/03