

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

CBB
 REDACTED
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DOB

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

1. Brief History

I agree with the details as outlined by my wife, CBC in her submission to this Inquiry.

2. Disclosure of Information provided to the Church.

As soon as my eldest son REDACTED told us that he had seen Bob Brandenburg playing with little boys on a bus trip to Perth, I rang the phone number that Bob had given us if we needed to contact them in Melbourne. REDACTED is seven years older than REDACTED

I told REDACTED what REDACTED had said and asked him if Brandenburg had tried to molest him. He said no. I told him to be careful and to look after himself.

When REDACTED returned home and told us that Brandenburg had tried to fondle him, I went to see REDACTED, whose son REDACTED was a leader at our local CEBS branch. REDACTED was a very bright, nice lad who was going to be a doctor but I think he ended up doing something else.

REDACTED was very concerned and immediately suggested that we should go and see our local parish priest, Reverend Donald Grey-Smith. REDACTED was determined that there would be a meeting with Brandenburg as soon as possible and it was agreed to meet at a Church at Rose Park, behind the Queen Victoria Hospital – I think it was St. Theodore's. I do not know why the meeting was held at St. Theodore's.

The meeting took place a week after Brandenburg and [REDACTED] returned from Melbourne. Present were [REDACTED], Donald Grey Smith, Brandenburg, the Revd Brian Smith, who I believe was later an Archdeacon, and myself. I was told that Rev. Smith was there because he was the chaplain for CEBS.

Revd. Brian Smith seemed to run the meeting. Actually I felt a bit railroaded. But I got to say that [REDACTED] had told me that he had seen Brandenburg playing with boys on a bus trip to Perth and that [REDACTED] had said that he had tried to fondle him. [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Reverend Smith said something like, 'Look he's been a naughty boy,' and 'Bob, you won't do this again, will you?' Bob said he wouldn't. He admitted that he had been playing with the boys and had a guilty look on his face but it struck me at the time that he did not look at all worried. He seemed to have Smith backing him up all the time. I would have thought that having been caught out at molesting little boys you would be looking very scared, but he wasn't.

Reverend Smith then said words to the effect that 'if you do it again, you'll lose your job'.

I tried to introduce the topic of [REDACTED] into the meeting but was told that we were not there to talk about [REDACTED] we were there to talk about Bob Brandenburg.

Neither [REDACTED] nor Bob Brandenburg ever came near our home again and [REDACTED] did not come to our Church again either.

I saw [REDACTED] shortly after all the Brandenburg publicity and he asked me if I remembered the time we went out to Rose Park and confronted Brandenburg and he promised that he 'would never to do it again'.

I feel sorry that I hadn't been stronger at the time and that I had not been so trusting of church authorities. Maybe I could have prevented further abuse. But you trusted the Church then. I thought they'd be keeping an eye on Brandenburg.

Signed

CBB

CBB

/12/03