

SEXUAL ABUSE RESPONSE GROUP

Notes taken at a meeting held on 6 August 2002 at 5.30pm
in the Anglican Church Office

Present: Archdeacon John Collas (Chair), The Diocesan Secretary, Mr Mark Pickhaver, Mrs Margaret Chittleborough, The Revd Peter Stuart

Apologies: Mr Paul Kassapidis

1 Discussion with Ted Sandercock:

- Some contacts do not follow up in writing
- There were early difficulties in setting up
- Contact person now reports to Ted and Archbishop on all contacts made
- Concern about the time it takes to deal with formal complaints; particularly when additional information is required from the complainant
- Written records of the DRG are kept (somewhere) in Church Office.
- Would a panel of paid experts improve the outcomes?
- When DRG makes a recommendation to the bishop, the bishop takes any further action
- The DRG sees itself as a clearing house, and forms an opinion which it passes on to the bishop
- Should DRG be responsible for ensuring pastoral care for complainant?
- What criteria does the bishop use in referring complainant to professionals and other supports? This is not clear. One suggestion is for a panel of professional persons
- Appointment process may need to be reviewed. Do names go to Diocesan Council?
- We need to advertise more; speak to clergy groups, to raise awareness much more
- Can DRG handle a sudden influx of enquiries? If so, we would need one or two persons to handle calls, not voice mail

2. Discussion with The Ven. C B Patterson

- Only the Modbury branch and the Morphett Vale branch are still in existence (Ken Pidgeon and Geoff Skein)
- Assets are \$1000 in the bank and a licence to use the Diocesan Gold Fields
- CEBS is insured by the Diocese
- At a CEBS General Meeting, members were asked whether they knew of Bob Brandenburg's alleged offences. There were no positive responses
- There is still the annual national CEBS meeting
- Should we try to identify ex CEBS members? Records are in the Diocesan Archives. Probably not, because there has already been extensive advertising. What will extra advertising achieve?

3. Discussion with The Rev'd Dr Don Owers

- estimates of Bob Brandenburg vary from 30 – 200
- offenders do not have confidence in the complaints system
- we need to make sure we are dealing realistically with the problem
- outcomes expected include acceptance that an offence occurred

- D.O. knows 4 survivors from CEBS at Magill
- B.B. offended in 80s and 90s; he was an Anglicare employee and in CEBS leadership for all or some of this time
- D.O. believes that there may have been abuse in some other CEBS groups
- National CEBS camps do not have a good name among survivor groups
- D.O. does not know any abused person outside of the Magill branch
- Those offended want realistic acknowledgement and genuine engagement with the church, want some mediation process, some compensation
- Church needs to set up process which can be trusted. D.O. does not trust DRG
- DRG needs survivor advocates
- D.O. spoke to Abp in April 1999, before BB was arrested. Was DRG involved/consulted by Abp?
- We must use survivors in designing our processes in ways which minimise confrontation
- There are protocols developed by survivors on a website
- Catholic Bishop Parramatta could be helpful
- D.O.'s immediate concern is survivors of B.B.'s abuse; need to name Brandenburg
- D.O. met with Abp, Asst Bp, JWR, Andrew Luckhurst-Smith

4. Date of next meeting

Thursday 15th August at 5:30pm at Anglican Church Office.