

THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF MAGILL

St George's Magill with St Barnabas' Firle

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Rector: The Rev'd Dr Don Owers BTh (Hons) DMin

11 April 2000

The Most Rev'd Ian George,
Archbishop of Adelaide
Anglican Church Office
26 King William Road
North Adelaide 5006

Dear Ian,

Thank you for your letter of 27th March and for making time to meet with me on the following day.

As I received your letter immediately before our meeting I had time only to glance at it before we spoke. A more careful reading of it has left me feeling quite concerned.

Firstly, I am concerned at the suggestion, made at two points in your letter, that personal interest is driving my action in this matter. I am not sure what to infer from this. I think this needs to be discussed personally.

I am also concerned by your assertion that we cannot make statements about Mr Brandenburg's behaviour because nothing was proved in court. Such tacit denial can have a very negative impact on the emotional health of survivors. I think there is also a danger that it may impel survivors, simply in an effort to be heard, to a litigious response in the civil courts.

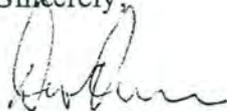
Finally, I am concerned over the sentence on page two of your letter in which you state, 'It would be helpful if you were able to tell me what you are really seeking.'

You will recall that I was asked at the meeting held on October 12th 1999 to make recommendations about what pastoral action could be taken following the disclosure of Mr Brandenburg's activities. The first and main recommendation, contained in my letter of 26th October 1999 was that the Diocese make a formal statement acknowledging the harm done and inviting survivors to access appropriate care. This recommendation was reiterated in my letter of 10th December 1999 to Bishop Aspinall (copied to you) and again in my letter (undated but sent on 13th March 2000) to you. I have also discussed this main recommendation and the reasons for it a number of times in meetings with Bishop Aspinall. I was under the impression that the contents of these meetings had been discussed with you. Finally, in some frustration, I have suggested a motion for Synod which again seeks to acknowledge the harm done. I feel I have done all that I can to be clear and consistent.

I still hold to the opinion that a formal statement (that is, a press release) from you, which acknowledges the harm done through Mr Brandenburg's behaviour and our regret and concern, is a better way forward than the Synod motion because it is more pro-active and more controllable. However, if you prefer to work through the Synod I would like to meet with you, Bishop Aspinall and the Diocesan solicitor so that we can seek some agreement on what is to be said.

Thank you again for making the time to meet with me. I found the meeting positive and helpful. I write now to clarify concerns which have arisen since that time.

Sincerely,



Don Owers