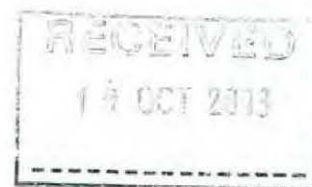




St. George's, Magill  
Part of the Anglican Church of Australia



Discovering Faith, Building Community, Sharing Hope

14<sup>th</sup> October 2003

Mr John Witham  
Executive Officer  
Anglican Inquiry  
PO Box 8168, Station Arcade  
ADELAIDE 5001

Dear Sir,

**PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL**

Would you please pass this submission with the enclosed documents to the Board of Inquiry.  
Please find enclosed (in addition to this letter):

1. History and Documentation (5 pages)
2. Enclosures to the documentation (42 enclosures)
3. Robert Brandenburg: Summary chronology and attachments re **REDACTED** and John Litton Elliott
4. 1 photocopy of "The Tasmanian CEBS Story" author Louis Victor Daniels
5. Index to "The Tasmanian CEBS Story"

The Tasmanian CEBS Story is not immediately relevant to the Inquiry but provides important background reading.

**It is my submission that in the handling of information concerning harm occasioned by the sexual abuse of children by Mr Robert Brandenburg and others:**

1. the Archbishop of Adelaide, the Most Rev'd Dr Ian George acted unfairly and inappropriately in that he:
  - (a) not only failed to disclose but consistently refused to disclose to the Adelaide community information about extensive child sexual abuse which I put before him on numerous occasions from September 1999. It is, and always has been, my argument that such disclosure was not only in the public interest but also vitally important for the pastoral care of victims and their families
  - (b) failed to make more than a token effort to investigate paedophile activity within the Anglican Boys Society (CEBS) in the Diocese of Adelaide and failed to investigate alleged links with paedophile activity in other Dioceses, most notably in the Diocese of Tasmania

- (c) either failed to notify the Diocesan Response Group (DRG) of the complaint as required under guidelines adopted by the Diocesan Council on 8/12/1999 (enclosure 42) or, if the DRG was notified, failed to ensure that the DRG followed through on the complaint
  - (d) failed to bring the information before the Diocesan Council
  - (e) failed to disclose or act on earlier information concerning Mr Brandenburg which, it is arguable, should have been available to him from the Venerable Brian Smith, the Diocese of Tasmania and/or Dr Phillip Aspinall and Anglicare SA.
  - (f) in press statements following the press conference conducted by the Rev'd Andrew King and myself, attempted initially to deny our claims (enclosure 38) and later attempted to mislead the Adelaide community concerning the time at which this information had become available to church authorities (enclosure 39a)
  - (g) in December 2002 made an unnecessary, unprofessional and, in our view, vindictive disclosure to the Diocesan Council of our son's name as plaintiff in a compensation claim against the Diocese
2. the former Assistant Bishop of Adelaide, now Archbishop of Brisbane, Dr Phillip Aspinall, acted inappropriately in that:
    - (a) notwithstanding his later statements that he was sympathetic to my views and would have liked to have been very "up front", for one reason or another he apparently followed directions from the Archbishop and failed to support appropriate disclosure. Had he acted otherwise the entire matter could have been handled constructively to the benefit of survivors and their families as well as the Church.
    - (b) he failed to disclose to the initial management committee his earlier association with the former Tasmanian Archdeacon Lou Daniels and with that his knowledge of the paedophile activities of Mr Daniels and of Mr Daniels' association with Mr Brandenburg.
  3. the Diocesan Council of the Diocese of Adelaide failed to act appropriately in that, once the information concerning the harm occasioned by Mr Brandenburg and others had been brought to its attention in June 2002, it failed to act with appropriate urgency and competence.
  4. following the request from the Diocesan Council for recommendations for action the Diocesan Response Group failed to act with appropriate urgency or competence
  5. either the leadership of the Diocese of Tasmania or the leadership of the Diocese of Adelaide failed to act appropriately on information available prior to 1999. (Note 32)

Sincerely,



D. W. Owers