

Diocese of Adelaide

ANGELICAN CHURCH OFFICE



*The Synod of the  
Diocese of Adelaide of  
the Anglican Church of  
Australia Incorporated*

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The Rev'd D Owers

REDACTED

Dear Don

Thank you for your recent undated letter and your email of a suggested draft for a Synod motion. I look forward to discussing that with you on 28 March.

I need to point out to you, in response to your letter, that you are incorrect in accusing the diocese of lack of action in relation to the Brandenburg matter. It is, of course, possible that any action taken would be inadequate from your point of view, recognising your personal interest in the matter.

You need to be aware that a considerable amount of work has been going on behind the scenes and indeed in public. Our solicitor has been seeking further information. Let me summarise:

1. There was no Coroner's Inquest into Bob Brandenburg's death therefore we cannot talk about suicide in any circumstances.
2. Our solicitor has made formal application to the Director of Public Prosecution for access to the record of interview with Bob Brandenburg. This has been denied, furthermore, inspection of the record has not been permitted. This means that we cannot make statements about Bob's behaviour because they are not proven, however we may personally feel about them.
3. The Diocese has spent a considerable amount of time and money updating our procedures for reporting to encourage victims of abuse of sexual misconduct to come forward.

I think we must recognise that this is a bigger issue than just Bob Brandenburg. You refer to the final Report of the Royal Commission into the NSW Police Service and the comments of Justice Wood about the church's reactions where they were involved. You know, better than most, that we have greatly increased our spread of literature urging people who have suffered abuse to come forward since the Brandenburg matter.

I have personally offered to come to the parish and make whatever statements I am in a position to make and to address any concerns that you wish to set up. I have not heard anything further from you on that.

It would be helpful if you were able to tell me what you are really seeking. I would like to be able to help you to achieve that where possible.

Thank you for your draft motion. I have discussed it with a number of people and suggest some amendments to make it more broadly applicable. It would thus read.

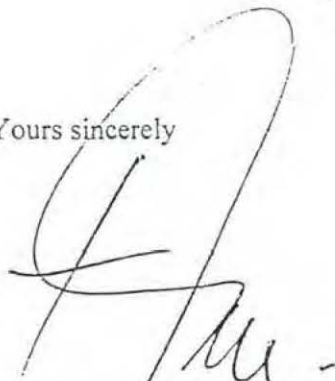
This Synod,

1. Acknowledges that, from time to time, people in this Diocese have suffered sexual abuse through their involvement with the Church or its associated organizations.

Points 2, 3 and 4 remain as you have written.

5. Welcomes
  - i. The recent review of the guidelines and processes by which the Church deals with complaints of sexual misconduct.
  - ii. the work done to develop a Code of Practice for the Protection of Children in the Church.

Yours sincerely



Archbishop of Adelaide