

Anglican Church Diocese of Sydney

Dr Peter Jensen - Archbishop



5 September 2003

Dear Colleague

Rectors, CICs

SCREENING OF CEBS AND OTHER BOYS-ONLY MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS

The Child Protection Legislation which was introduced in NSW in July 2000 provided that all volunteers in child related positions must complete a Prohibited Employment Declaration. I have been encouraged by the fact that an audit of all the parishes in the Diocese revealed that there is a high level of compliance with this legislation in respect of volunteers.

The NSW Commission for Children & Young People has been considering the issue of screening of volunteers who work with children. They have recognised the problem that whilst all employed persons in child related positions are screened, volunteers are not. Before recommending amending legislation to deal with this anomaly, they have decided to conduct a pilot program to assess the best way forward. The Diocese has been asked to co-operate with the Commission for Children & Young People in the program.

An area which has been of high risk historically in the issue of child protection is CEBS - The Anglican Boys' Society and other boys-only ministries. It has been decided to arrange for all volunteers in CEBS and all boys-only ministries to participate in the pilot program of volunteer screening. The Sydney Council of CEBS strongly supports this initiative.

Could you please complete the enclosed form and forward it to the Director, Professional Standards Unit, together with signed Prohibited Employment Forms and Consent Forms for all volunteers who currently work in CEBS branches or other boys-only ministries. The PSU will then request a working with children screening check under the pilot program and advise you of the outcome.

If you are not able to complete and return the enclosed form I would appreciate receiving a response in writing as to why you are not able to do so.

In the interest of protecting children and so that the Church can be known for the care it takes of children in its ministries, your co-operation is greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Peter F Jensen
Archbishop