

JS/dc

20th September, 1993.

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

The Most Reverend Peter Hollingworth
Anglican Archbishop of Brisbane
G.P.O. Box 421,
BRISBANE, Q. 4001

Re: Rev. John Elliott.

Your Grace,

Rev. John Elliott has been seen by me now on two occasions and has discussed openly his problem and given permission for my writing to you. At the present time he is upset, very anxious and frightened, but not clinically depressed.

Rev. Elliott has sexual attraction towards adolescent males and this has been present throughout his adult life. His sexual contact with young males came to light only recently after one male who is now a young adult told his parents.

Rev. Elliott tells me that he has had sexual contact with a number of young teenage boys over the years. This has involved kissing, genital fondling and mutual masturbation.

As a school boy he was sexually accosted by a bigger boy.

His first active sexual dealing with a youth was when he was aged about 23 and the boy was aged about 13. Rev. Elliott says he has developed strong emotional attachments to the youths and that this often lasted long after the sexual contact was finished.

He has been involved in position of trust in the Boy's Society, in his position as Bursar at The Anglican Boy's Grammar School and of course in more recent years as a priest.

Rev. Elliott tells me that he has refrained from any sexual dealings with males since ordination. He says he did not feel able to indicate at the time of selection or in the course of his preparation for ordination that he had this sexual problem.

Rev. Elliott says that he is feeling intense remorse for causing emotional upset to the young man who reported the matter and says he never coerced boys and always believed that he was not causing any emotional damage.

Sexual attraction to children and adolescents both male and female is considered by society as a sexual deviation.

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PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIALRe: Rev. John Elliott.

In my opinion it is a life long trait of personality which dates either from childhood or maybe from birth.

~~In my opinion the sexual orientation itself is not able to be changed, but there is evidence that some people are more able to successfully contain their sexual feelings than others, and that people are more vulnerable to acting out sexually when under stress or when depressed.~~

Despite Rev. Elliott's assurance that he has not had any sexual dealings with young males since ordination, and despite his assuring me that he has made a point of being careful not to put himself in a situation when he might be alone with an adolescent boy, it is not possible for him or anyone else to give an assurance that such episodes could not occur again.

At the present time, Rev. Elliott is also having prostate problems and is seeing Dr. Steve Stenning.

Should the Church's decision be that it is inappropriate for Rev. Elliott to continue in his role as a priest, I would feel it would be reasonable to issue a certificate of work incapacity on medical grounds for a limited time.

I have discussed in general terms the content of this letter with Rev. Elliott.

Yours sincerely,

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JOHN SLAUGHTER