

Gerard Menses
REDACTED

28 September 2004

Ven. John Collas
Vicar General
Anglican Diocese of Adelaide
C/- Adelaide Church Office
26 King William Road
NORTH ADELAIDE SA 5006

URGENT

Dear Vicar General,

Board of Inquiry Report published 26 May 2004

Please find **enclosed** for your consideration as Vicar General of the Anglican Diocese of Adelaide an analysis of the Board of Inquiry report commissioned by the Synod Council and delivered on 26 May 2004. The analysis conducted by Blake Dawson Waldron solicitors demonstrates that the report is unquestionably wrong in relevant respects, suffers from serious process failures, and the conclusions recorded are clearly unsafe and unsatisfactory.

A copy of the analysis document was provided to the former Board members, Justice Olsson and Dr Chung, for their comment prior to finalization of the documentation. I also **enclose** a copy of the covering correspondence to the Board members dated 15 September 2004. Neither Justice Olsson nor Dr Chung has to date provided a response to the matters raised in the analysis. You will note that that correspondence contemplated that I would approach the Synod for redress in these circumstances.

In order to obtain a further independent perspective on the material that has now come to light (and is referred to in the analysis by Blake Dawson Waldron), I have sought the views of public relations advisors. I **enclose** for your information a draft copy of the views they have provided of how these revelations would be treated by the media.

The publication of the Board of Inquiry report has caused me considerable pain and financial loss. As a direct result of the Inquiry I have lost my job. I have been publicly humiliated and defamed by the Inquiry on a national scale. I have been hospitalized with heart problems. My integrity has been tarnished and my career severely affected by the publication of the Inquiry report. As a direct result of the Inquiry I now face an extremely uncertain future.

I initially followed the Dioceses' wish not to refute the report out of respect for those who survived abuse. I can no longer accede to such an approach given the loss I and my

family have suffered as a direct result of the gross inaccuracies contained within the document and the unreasonably harsh and unfounded criticism it makes of me. I have been greatly and unfairly hurt by the Inquiry and seek redress from you.

I am writing to you as chair of the body who authorised and published the report to advise that I seek redress from the Synod, through you, as follows:

- A written apology and retraction of the Inquiry's comments about me;
- Reimbursement for the considerable legal expense I have had to incur; and
- Compensation for loss of income, damage to reputation, pain and suffering.

While each of these matters requires a measure of redress, the most urgent requirement relates to public acknowledgment that the contents of the report as it relates to me are incorrect. Due to the potential loss of a further opportunity to obtain employment, I seek an immediate response on this issue. A specific opportunity of suitable employment is open to me subject to a public acknowledgment of the inadequacies in the report as it relates to me. However, this offer of employment may be (and certainly would be) withdrawn without notice at any time after end September 2004.

The damage I continue to suffer to my career and employment prospects may therefore be mitigated by prompt action to provide a written statement. Other aspects of the redress sought, while no less important to me, are not attended by the same level of urgency. I am prepared to discuss those aspects with you in the near, as opposed to the immediate, future.

I ask that you make an urgent executive decision to publish a public statement in the following terms:

Additional material has now come to light which clearly demonstrates that Mr. Menses' testimony was sound. It is now clear that the basis for the Inquiry's finding of a "gross process failure" by Mr Menses was wrong. The Church apologises to Mr Menses for the inadequacies of the Inquiry. Mr Menses was an effective employee of the Diocese whose contribution to the Diocese was greatly valued

You will see from the attached material that a public statement in these terms is justified. I followed legal advice at all points to ensure a fair and diligent process. I did not have evidentiary material before me as stated by the Inquiry. I did have an open mind. I at all times acted promptly and with due process. The Inquiry implies that I lied. The attached material clearly demonstrates that the Inquiry is incorrect in such an assertion. I am at a loss to understand how the Inquiry has been able to come to the conclusions it has.

I publicly apologized for being fooled by Brandenburg, because I accept that leaders must be judged all the more strictly. However, I have not failed in any other respect. I was a

faithful and effective employee of the Diocese, who now deserves the support of the Diocese. I now expect such support to be shown through your correcting the inaccurate statements made by the Inquiry.

The process of this Inquiry has denied me justice at many points. I must now, and will, take the strongest possible action to clear my name, restore my health and financial circumstances.

In the event that you wish to speak to me about this matter in person, I urge you to travel to Melbourne urgently if you feel it necessary to do so before providing the redress I seek, noting the timeframe detailed in this letter. Should you wish to contact me by telephone, my number is REDACTED.

Yours faithfully,

Gerard Menses