

Diocese of Adelaide

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ANGLICAN CHURCH OFFICE



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

1. The Anglican Diocese of Adelaide has received comments from the legal advisors to Mr Gerard Menses which are highly critical of the report of the Board of Inquiry established to comment on the Diocese's response to allegations of sexual abuse.
2. The Diocese commissioned the Board of Inquiry as an independent body which would offer its own conclusions about the Diocese's handling of allegations of sexual abuse. The Diocese has accepted, and continues to accept, the Board of Inquiry's criticisms of the manner in which the Diocese addressed these issues in the past and has taken steps, based on the Board of Inquiry's conclusions, to address the criticisms that have been made. Given the independence of the Board of Inquiry, it is inappropriate that the Diocese attempt to influence any action that may be taken by the Members of the Board of Inquiry with respect to any matter that may now be raised in relation to its report. Rather, the Diocese continues to support the status of the report and to accept its fundamental significance to the Diocese's response to the allegations of sexual abuse within our Church.
3. However, the Diocese has now received additional documents relating to Mr Menses which were not previously supplied by any person to the Members of the Board of Inquiry during the process of the Board's investigations. These documents support Mr Menses' claim that he took legal advice prior to conducting an interview with an alleged sexual abuser and have been provided to the Board of Inquiry. The Board of Inquiry has now made a further statement in relation this matter based on these documents that have now come to light.
4. The Diocese does wish to acknowledge the contribution that Mr Menses made to the Anglican Church while serving with Anglican Community Services over a substantial number of years. Any fair assessment of Mr Menses' time serving with the Anglican Community Services must, by necessity, take that contribution into account.

November 2004