



PRIMATE OF AUSTRALIA

15 May 2013

Justice Peter McLellan AM
Chair
Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to
Child Sex Abuse
GPO Box 5283
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Justice McLellan

I recently received a report dated 1 May 2013 concerning child abuse matters in the Anglican Diocese of Grafton (enclosed).

Based on documents held in Grafton Diocese, the report alleges repeated failings in handling child abuse matters in relation to the Church of England North Coast Children's Home.

I therefore submit the report for consideration by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

On receiving the report I arranged a meeting in Sydney on Friday 10 May 2013 with the Bishop of Grafton in the presence of Mr Martin Drevikovsky, General Secretary of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia.

This morning I received via email a letter (enclosed) from the author of that report, following a meeting to which she was called with the Bishop of Grafton and his Senior Leadership Team on Saturday 11 May 2013.

Further, I advise that from 2006, I was approached by lawyers representing victims in the Home and by victims themselves. In response I have repeatedly forwarded that material to Grafton Diocese together with advice about the approach I believe should be taken to abuse victims. On each occasion I have also offered support and resources to facilitate such responses. I offer to provide to the Royal Commission all the records pertaining to my dealings with this matter.

I also advise that I have written in similar terms and provided a copy of the report and subsequent letter to the Episcopal Standards Commission of the Anglican Church of Australia.

Yours sincerely

The Most Reverend Dr Phillip Aspinall
Primate

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