

The Right Reverend Keith Slater.
 Po Box 4,
 Grafton 2460.

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Dear Bishop Slater,
 I have been contacted by Richard Campion, a former resident of the Church of England North Coast Children's Home regarding the licensed statues of that establishment in past years.

I spent some 41 years with the then Child Welfare Department later to be Department of Community Services with some 11 years of that time spent as the Manager of the Lismore Office which had a supervisory role with Children's Home. That period was from 1970 to 1981.

The licensing framework at that time was legislated under Section 28 of the Child Welfare Act which provided for two types of residential care facilities. Once was the State operated establishments and the other Denominational Homes. The latter came under a religious auspice such as Cowper Homes established by the Catholic Church at Grafton, Sunnylands Boys Home at Wollongbar established by the United Protestant Association in Lismore and the North Coast Children's Home established by the Church of England in Lismore.

The Conduct license of the North Coast Children's Home was held by the Matron of the time whilst a Control licence was held by a committee of Anglican parishioners appointed by the Anglican Archdeacon of that time and in fact early records held by DOCS archives show such licences signed off by an archdeacon.

I had no doubt as to the auspice links between the Church of England at the Home in that:


- the Home was situated on Anglican Church grounds,
- the Home was called the Church of England North Coast Children's Home
- the local Archdeacon and deacons moved freely about the Home,
- an Anglican clergyman Rev. Kitchingman and his wife were appointed to a residence adjoining the Home for pastoral duties within the Home and
- I am personally aware of the presence at opening ceremonies which involved the then Bishop of Grafton at both the John Singleton visit in the mid 1970s and the opening of the Jean O'Neill wing also in the late 1970s.

Licences of that time were only granted to approved denominational organizations of amongst which the Church of England was numbered. Should you wish me to produce that section of the Child Welfare Act please advise me in writing or by phone and I will do so.

I have spoken to two former DOCS colleagues one of which was along term Manager at Lismore and both of whom had long term working relationships with the Children's Home. Their recall of the licensing status and auspice of the Home under the Lismore Church of England parish is as mine.

I am happy to confirm this information in any way you consider appropriate.

Yours sincerely,


Tony Madden JP
23/4/08.

Tel. REDACTED