

The Anglican Church Diocese of Grafton  
 The Right Reverend Keith Slater,  
 PO Box 4  
 Grafton  
 NSW 2460

Richard 'Tommy' Campion

REDACTED

Dear Bishop Slater

January 4, 2008

**Church of England North Coast Children's Home (Photograph enclosed)**

I again respond to your letter dated Monday December 24, 2007.

With respect to Mr Garth Blake's allegations, you need to note what Mr. Tony Madden has said. As I mentioned to you a few times, which you ignored, Mr. Madden was a former Manager of the Department of Community Services in Lismore. He had a 20 year association with the Church of England North Coast Children's Home. Drawing on the conversations I had with Mr. Madden in 2007, this is a small part of what he had to say:

"I had 20 years of contact as the manager of DOCS with the North Coast Children's Home and there's no doubt in my mind that there were two licenses issued to the North Coast Children's Home. One was a Conduct License which was held by the Matron at any one time. The other was a Control License which was held by the Anglican Church."

"There were those children in State homes entirely run by DOCS and Denominational homes run entirely by religious organisations but receiving casework support and financial aid from Community Services. Allowance's was paid to the auspice authority, in this case, the Anglican Church, for each child in residence."

"DOCS remained the licensing authority for all denominational homes and it would not have been possible for a Home Board to run the North Coast Children's Home without an overarching body – that being the Anglican Church."

"The fact that the Anglican Church held the license for the North Coast Children's Home clearly allowed Anglican clergymen free access to the residents at all times of the day and night thus allowing them a pastoral service role and must carry with it the responsibility of duty of care to ensure that the resident children were not exposed to at risk situations."

"Members of the staff were employed by the Matron at the time; and the Matron and a few members of the Board had the responsibility of the day to day running of the place and the Matron related to the Home Board – the same Home Board that had been appointed by the Anglican Church."

"Church homes used to be able to apply for a license under section 27A and that license was a payment for each child per month that was payed by the state to the religious organisation in charge – so that money would have been paid to the Anglican Church who held the license for the North Coast Children's Home."

"Aside from their own recourses and community support the money that was paid by the State enabled the Anglican Church to run the North Coast Children's Home; because each time we increased the numbers (when I was there the numbers increased from about 40 to 56) I put through a variation payment with a list of all the children who were there and I asked for the payments to be made to the Anglican Church."

"The fact that Mr. Pat Comben said the Anglican Church was 'not sure' that it ever owned the home is a load of nonsense. The Home is on church property and the funding from the State Government went to the Anglican Church and there should be no doubt in their mind that they did own the North Coast Children's Home."

"The Children's Home was always a non-government organisation in that it was owned by the Anglican Church and not by the State Government. In fact, the Anglican Church still have control of part of the premises because Mr. Chris Hawke currently uses part of the old dormitory as his office – being the Anglican Church Youth Support Group."

“The Anglican Church didn’t physically appoint staff to the North Coast Children’s Home - that was done by the Board and the Matron, but the Anglican Church gave the Board the responsibility to run the place and they have to accept duty of care responsibility if the clergymen are allowed unrestricted access to the residence during and after business hours.”

“I attended a number of functions to do with fund raising and all were presided over both by Archdeacon J.V.J Robinson and the Bishop of Grafton and there could be no doubt that the Anglican Church was responsible for the running of the home and their sign at the front entrance said so too. My recollections is mirrored by current DOCS District Officer, Graeme Farrelly, who has been in Lismore since the mid 70’s.”

“I am prepared to say to any investigative panel that I am quite certain of these facts and I don’t believe that the Anglican Church can distance itself from duty of care responsibilities especially when their clergymen had as free access to the homes residents as did the employed staff and the church must accept responsibility for the conduct of the clergymen.”

**With the above information in mind, some of which I sent to you before, which you totally and apathetically ignored, I ask for you and the Anglican Church to meet with Mr. Tony Madden and myself to discuss the matters. Mr. Madden will tell of his understanding of the relationship between the Anglican Church in Lismore and the Church of England North Coast Children’s Home. It is vital that we are allowed to have our say. Please set a date for the meeting as soon as possible.**

When we have exposed the truth it is essential that the Anglican Church accept and admit liability for the abuse of innocent children who lived in the Church of England North Coast Children’s Home – the same home the Anglican Church held the license for. You must accept and admit responsibility for the abuse of the people – the people who you gave an apology too.

**The fact that you keep denying the truth is sinful and pathetic. I can not understand why you do that - but as long as the horrors of the Church of England North Coast Children’s Home disturb my mind and a filter of light trickles through the daunting corridors of the dormitories I will keep fighting for justice the best I can.**

The fact that the Anglican Church are avoiding the truth of abuse I put them in the same mould as the shameless James Hardie Industries. That is; you know the abuse happened, and the Anglican Church are to blame but you’d rather it not be mentioned.

**\* Bishop Slater, I refer to the ‘apology’.**

- \* I refuse to accept the ‘apology’ because most of what is written are lies.
- \* The ‘apology’ is hollow, characterless and could refer to my neighbours goldfish.
- \* The ‘apology’ wasn’t written on the appropriate letterhead. Your letterhead usually doesn’t look like a photo copy. You know very well the shocking abuse I suffered in the home and it can not be glossed over.
- \* You made no mention that I was horribly and cowardly abused by members of the Anglican clergy.
- \* You made no mention that I was abused by staff employed by the Anglican Church.
- \* You made no mention to the extent of my injuries I received in the home – some of which I still carry on my body.
- \* You made no mention of my welfare and the turmoil I am going through today.
- \* To add insult; in the ‘apology’ you did not even mention my name.

You also wrote in your ‘apology’ that the Children’s Home was a ‘community based facility.’ That is not true. Mr. Madden, who, for 20 years was in close contact with North Coast Children’s Home as DOCS Manager, said:

“The members of the Board were Anglican Church attendants and prominent businessmen. The members of the Board were never appointed by an open advertisement – they were selected by the Anglican Church and other Board Members. The day to day running of the Home was under control of the Matron, who was oversighted by a Board. The Board members were prominent citizens selected by the Anglican Church, so it’s not like they walked in off the street and became members. The fact that they were selected by the Anglican Church means the Anglican Church is ultimately responsible for the abuse.”

\* Bishop, I see that the 'apology' is personally from you, and not the Anglican Church. It is the Anglican Church as a whole I deserve the apology from. Many of the words in the 'apology' are of you telling me how you feel. I am not interested in how you feel. Besides, I do not trust you – you have lied to me before (as Pat Comben has) and I can not trust you again.

On January 2, 2008 I made contact with Mr Geoff Morton. Mr. Morton was a former Board Member of the Children's Home. He also attended the North Coast Children's Home Monthly Meetings. (I have the Minutes) The Bishop of Grafton, the Right. Reverend. R.G. Arthur also attended some of those meetings with Mr. Morton – along with eight or ten other Board Members. I needed to chat with Mr. Morton about the Children's Home, but nine times he told me he wasn't prepared to answer my questions - nonetheless he never denied any either.

In the Church of England North Coast Children's Home minutes of the monthly meeting of the Executive Committee on March 20, 1964 with Grafton Bishop R.G. Arthur in attendance, it read: "Diocese of Grafton – forwarding cheque in the sum of 187.10.0 pounds representing monthly grant to the Home."

**What used to be the matrons residence, when the North Coast Children's Home was a institution housing dozens and dozens of innocent children, is now the Anglican Church's Support Services and they have their administrate offices in that former matrons residence. One of the current St. Andrew's clergy has an office there this very day.**

Although it seems like yesterday I will remind you of a letter written to me in 2005. It concerns Pat Comben, the Diocese of Grafton and yourself as the Bishop of Grafton. I write part of: "I am unable to adequately express my feelings of revulsion, sorrow and helplessness which the letter ( my letter of complaint) raises inside me. While the Bishop is away I have no hesitation in speaking on behalf of the diocese in saying that we will do all we can to assist you to move beyond that pain caused in an Anglican place that should have been safe, but which was clearly not."

No mater what Senior Counsel Garth Blake believes in, or what you or the Diocese of Grafton believe in – ultimately it is the Anglican Church who are liable for the abuse of the innocent children who lived in the Church of England North Coast Children's Home in Lismore. You certainly can not blame the Catholics for the abuse, as your church mate Kevin reflected on at our 'meeting' recently in the Tweed Mall. Kevin's comment was a load of twaddle, and you know it.

With those words in mind I hope to hear from you post-haste.

Regards,



**Richard 'Tommy' Champion**

c.c: CA  
 c.c: Archbishop Phillip Aspinall  
 c.c: CLAN  
 c.c: Bravehearts

The Church of England North Coast Children's Home sign stood near the front entrance of the home. As a child, I'd swing on the support bars as I waited for my father to visit. After a time he didn't come and I never ever saw him again. When I was older I'd climb to the top of that sign. The Church of England sign was there when I arrived at the home in 1948 and was there when I left in 1962 – in fact it was still there in the 80's.



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