



## BISHOP OF THE ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF GRAFTON

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Thursday, 23 August 2007

Mr Richard Campion

REDACTED

Dear Richard,

I refer to your recent letter raising the issue of the ownership of the North Coast Children's Home and requesting that we meet. I am happy to do so.

However I have a sense that you may believe that this possibly new information could fundamentally change the situation established by and with your former solicitors in respect to the allegations brought against the church. This may not be so.

It would seem to me that even in the unlikely event that some form of greater connection between the Church and the North Coast Children's Home was made out this cannot change the legal situation (based on Senior Counsel's advice) that there was and is no case to answer.

The Church compromised the action on the basis that whilst no legal claim was proven our long term association with the Home suggested that we should provide support to the former residents. This remains our position.

The matters in dispute covered a range of intricate issues including the proper defendant in the action, vicarious liability of the church for independent acts of others, the Statute of Limitations and the relationship between Church and Home.

Ownership was only one issue, a small part of a complicated picture. A recent decision of the NSW Court of Appeal also demonstrated the difficulties in proving the argument which I believe you seek to promote.

Additionally I am uncomfortable in considering matters of an apparently legal nature in this informal way when you previously changed from an informal approach to a legalistic approach. It is potentially a poor process which acts to the detriment of others, with whom you were previously joined, if we revert to an informal system which you have previously refused.

I note that you mentioned in your letter that there was no need to turn to advocates, but as I reflect I wonder if perhaps the proper course is for the material to be properly presented by lawyers on your behalf to the Church's lawyers? If this is not the way you want to proceed then I am happy to meet with you for informal conversation, and I would be happy to ask Jenni Woodhouse to be present.

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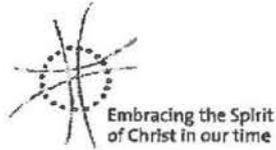
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My further reflection regarding the handling of other potential claimants is that in such situations I would require the advice and expertise of my Staff. The assurance I can give is that if such claimants need initially to speak face-to-face then I would be the person with whom they speak.

In peace and with blessings,

The Right Reverend Keith Slater  
Bishop of the Diocese of Grafton



**The Anglican Church of Australia**