

PRESS RELEASE – 8 November 2005

Bishop Keith Slater, the Anglican Bishop of the Diocese of Grafton, responded to the ABC North Coast programme concerning the North Coast Children's Home:

"I am deeply saddened and concerned about Tommy's story regarding his experience of the North Coast Children's Home. I understand that this happened when Tommy was there between 1949 and 1962 - not from the present time."

"Whenever people publicly make known events from their past, especially as a child, in relation to matters of abuse which may be connected to the Church and its Office-bearers it is of profound concern to me."

"These matters, I can assure you, are taken seriously. They are not simply swept aside."

"When a person makes a formal complaint then a recognized process is put in place to investigate the allegation."

"I understand that the matter reported on ABC North Coast is before the Diocesan Professional Standards Committee. I am therefore not at liberty to say more as that would jeopardise the due process - for Tommy, and anyone who may be implicated - which will be put in place if an allegation proceeds."

**Bishop Keith Slater
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