

Bishops Registry  
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## Diocese of Grafton

Foott Law & Co  
56 Victoria Street  
Grafton NSW 2460

16<sup>th</sup> January 2005

Dear Sir,

### **North Coast Children's Home**

Enclosed please find letter from Nicole Robinson Halletts concerning allegations of abuse by former staff and clergy connected with the North Coast Children's Home. We ask that you act for the Church in this matter.

It is my intention to discuss with the Bishop on his return, the church's approach to this matter. The letter will also be put before The Corporate Trustees, Professional Standards Committee and Bishop-in-Council for their comment.

I would be very happy to receive your advice as to a response. As a minimum I am happy to supply the list of Bishops requested, I would however demur from "providing the details" of a number of staff members without a better idea of the allegations. It is my view that this is a fishing expedition.

The church would possibly be happy to provide an undertaking to supply information reasonably available to it, but is not prepared to act as the honorary research assistance for solicitors against it. Your thoughts on bringing to the attention of the solicitors the legal cases which deny the liability of an employer for the criminal acts of employees would be appreciated.

It might also be appropriate to advise the solicitors that the Diocese is interested in obtaining as quickly as possible details of the matters so that they may act not only in response to the potential legal matters but also to assist with a Christian response the present needs of the individuals and to be able to ensure that wrong doers within the church are properly dealt with.

I look forward to discussing with you this matter in further detail at your convenience.

Yours faithfully



Pat Comben  
Registrar

**The Anglican Church of Australia**

NSW LEPORE  
6/1/2005

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