



## ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF GRAFTON

Hon. & Reverend Pat Comben  
General Manager/Registrar

Bishops Registry  
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14 June 2007

Mr Peter Roland  
Foott, Law and Co  
Solicitors  
56 Victoria Street  
Grafton NSW 2460

Dear Sir

**RE: NORTH COAST CHILDRENS HOME**

I refer to the Nicol Robinson Halletts letter kindly forwarded by you concerning the apologies sought by the former North Coast Children's Home residents.

Attached please find a draft of the apology being considered by the Bishop. The request for review of the draft by the Solicitors acting for the Claimants is noted, but the Bishop is comfortable with the proposed draft.

The Bishop confirms his willingness to meet with and hear the stories of CL REDACTED and REDACTED and to provide them with an apology. However, it is the church's view that the suggestion of an apology being provided at a church service is inappropriate and against the spirit of the mutually signed Deed.

It is also, in our view, an inappropriate style for an apology as it would not allow the Bishop to fully hear the personal stories of the Claimants or to enter into meaningful dialogue with the individuals over their journey's and the issues raised. The requested action might also be seen as a form of disparagement which the parties mutually agreed would not occur (cl 8).

Further, I note, that the Deed states that apologies had previously been taken up to the extent desired by the claimants (cl18). This was accepted by the Bishop as being a written or individual personal apology. The Deed by clause 5(b) provides a warranty from the Claimants that the Releasees have not agreed to do more than is in the Deed, the Bishop appreciates this warranty and will honor it by ensuring that the apologies will be consistent with clause 18.

The Bishop looks forward to keeping the commitments made at the time of signing the Deed.

Will you kindly advise the solicitors for the Claimants of the Bishop's views?

Yours faithfully

Pat Comben  
Registrar



**The Anglican Church of Australia**