



BISHOP OF THE ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF GRAFTON

3 December 2008

Mr Richard Campion

REDACTED

Dear Richard

**Anglican Church Truthful Letter of Regret and Apology to
Richard "Tommy" Campion**

I write this Letter of Regret to provide to you a personal apology to the greatest extent that I can, in the hope that it will allow within you the commencement of a process of healing and closure.

The Anglican Church accepts that children at the Home were abused by clergy engaged and licenced by the Church. For this I express the profound regret of both me and the entire Church and offer a sincere and personal apology.

At times certain members of the Committee for the Home, some members of which were appointed by the Anglican Church through the Rector of Lismore, and certain members of staff did not comply with the expectations of the *Child Welfare Act 1939*. This lack of care and due diligence by some individuals, including clergy from St Andrew's Anglican Church, clearly contributed to the abuse and totally unacceptable and inhumane treatment of some residents. For those acts of people connected with the Church, which were less than right or appropriate and which had tragic outcomes, I apologise in the name of the Church.

Without hesitation I acknowledge the ongoing mental repercussions which flow from abuse and the life time effect that it will have on you. That you are in such a situation is profoundly regretted.

I accept that The Church of England North Coast Children's Home was a name used by many individuals to describe the Home, the sign at the front of the home used in your correspondence reflects this usage, as does some written correspondence.

I accept that the Anglican Church was the licensing authority for the North Coast Children's Home and consequently had attendant responsibilities.

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Neither I nor any member of this Diocese has ever expressed disbelief at your story. That we have listened to, and worked with, legal advice has led to a situation in which you have felt devalued, unbelieved and this has led to personal pain for you. I apologise unreservedly for the pain that you have felt as a result of the Church's actions in this respect.

An apology from the Diocesan Registrar, Reverend The Honourable Pat Comben AM is attached.

Blessings

The Right Reverend Keith Slater
Bishop of the Diocese of Grafton



The Anglican Church of Australia