



PRIMATE OF AUSTRALIA

Ms Anne Hywood
Acting Registrar, Diocese of Grafton
PO Box 4
GRAFTON NSW 2460

4 May 2013

Dear Anne

I acknowledge receipt of your emailed letter and attached timeline of 1 May 2013.. It details multiple allegations against Grafton's leadership of serious failings regarding historical sexual abuse in Grafton Diocese.

Thank you for your courage in bringing this matter to my attention. I also acknowledge your long-standing commitment to the church's child protection reforms in South Australia and now in Grafton.

I spent significant time yesterday beginning the process of considering the extensive details you reported to me and responses that will be warranted subject to confirmation of some matters.

Please be in no doubt that I am treating these matters with the utmost seriousness.

My Director of Professional Standards, Rod McLary, has already begun clarifying details to assist my formal response. I have asked Rod to be in contact to clarify certain aspects of your report to me. He is also available to assist you at any time.

In the interim there are, to my mind, two urgent matters. I have asked Rod to raise these with you, but do so personally because of their importance:

First, I believe it is of the utmost importance that all allegations of child sexual abuse, whenever and however occurring, are reported to the Police. While I am not aware of the details of any policy or procedure in place in Grafton in this regard, I urge you to ensure that has been or is now done without delay.

Second, it is also of the utmost importance that all files relating to these matters are secured and safeguarded. The General Synod office recently warned all Bishops to preserve and safeguard such records for the Royal Commission. Your letter raises questions about whether Grafton has done this.

As the necessary next steps are worked through, Ann, please be assured of my concern and prayers for you at this time.

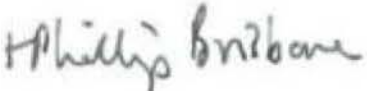
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Please contact Rod McLary on 07 3835 2266 (office) or REDACTED mobile) if you encounter problems or require any assistance. In particular, should you encounter any reprisals, threatened or actual, for taking these concerns beyond Grafton Diocese to me, please don't hesitate to advise Mr McLary.

With thanks and the assurance of my prayers for you,

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Phillip Brisbane". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

The Most Rev'd Dr Phillip Aspinall
Primate