



St. Georges, Magill
Part of the Anglican Church of Australia

Discovering Faith, Building Community, Sharing Hope

30th May 2002

The Contact Officer
Diocesan Response Group
Anglican Church Office
26 King William Road
North Adelaide 5006

Re: Abuse carried out by Robert Brandenburg prior to 1999

In April 1999 I notified the Archbishop that a disclosure of sexual abuse of a young person had been made to me. The alleged perpetrator was Robert Brandenburg, a former employee of Anglicare and CEBS, former Commissioner of CEBS in South Australia and former CEBS leader in the Parish of Magill.

Mr Brandenburg was arrested in June 1999, interviewed by police, charged and bailed to appear in court. Police informed me that, in interview, he had admitted the offences and offences against other boys. Before the court appearance Mr Brandenburg died by drowning in Stradbroke Park lake. There was no coroner's inquest.

It is clear from statements by survivors, police opinion and Mr Brandenburg's proven association with Louis Victor Daniel (former Archdeacon of Tasmania, gaoled in 1998 for child sex offences) that there are many more victims than the one complainant. Police estimated at least thirty, one survivor suggested over one hundred. This information has been conveyed to both the Archbishop and the former Assistant Bishop on a number of occasions over the last three years.

Since October 1999 I have been requesting that the Diocese make a clear and public announcement about this abuse and its extent so that survivors and their families could be provided with appropriate care and be better equipped to deal with its consequences.

The recent session of the Synod of the Diocese passed a motion requesting that the Response Group, in addition to responding to complaints, should find ways to reach out to survivors of sexual abuse.

I write now to request that the Group take pro-active measures to provide for the care of survivors of abuse by Mr Brandenburg. I have enclosed copies of my original recommendations made in October 1999 and my latest letter to the Archbishop.

I look forward to your early response.

Sincerely,


Don Owers

cc: Archbishop Ian George
Archbishop Phillip Aspinall