

21st March 2002

The Most Rev'd. Dr. Ian George  
Archbishop of Adelaide  
Anglican Church Office  
26 King William Rd  
North Adelaide

Dear Archbishop,

**Re: Responses to disclosures of sexual abuse**

Thank you for your telephone call on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February in which we discussed your press release. I am encouraged by your acknowledgement of the need to be more pro-active in our response to people who have suffered or are alleging abuse.

The recommendations (attached) which I made in 1999 at the request of the group called together by you to consider the Brandenburg situation remain, in my view, the beginnings of a pro-active response (except that para 1(C) may need to be re-written to avoid any suggestion that the church is seeking to avoid liability.) As far as I know only recommendations 3 (B) and (C) have been implemented.

In addition to this I believe we must seek urgently to contact young men (and/or their families) whom we know have been harmed (through information from other survivors) and others for whom we have reasonable cause for concern. It is essential that those who may have been harmed should be informed of the extent of the abuse that has taken place and of our readiness to provide whatever assistance they might find helpful. Likewise, I believe we have a duty of care towards parents. An informed understanding on their part can play a vital role in the healing process – both for their sons and for themselves.

I suggest that a list be drawn up from CEBS membership lists and other sources and that ex-members or their families be contacted by letter and personal follow-up. Since, in this area, there is a great redundancy in communication it would be helpful if this action were reinforced by an additional press release.

I would appreciate it if you could check this suggestion with the insurers and respond to me. If it is necessary to put this matter before Diocesan Council could I suggest that its urgency would justify it being added to the agenda for April 2nd. Whether or not this is required it seems to me that we ought to be able to get an answer from our insurers before then.

Sincerely,

D.W. Owers, Rector

cc: The Diocesan Solicitor