

THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF MAGILL

St George's Magill with St Barnabas' Firlle

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Rector: The Rev'd Dr Don Owers BTh (Hons) Dmin

7 September 1999

The Most Rev'd Dr Ian George,
Archbishop of Adelaide
Anglican Church Office
26 King William Rd
North Adelaide 5006,

CONFIDENTIAL

Copy

Dear Archbishop,

Re: Bob Brandenburg

Following the workshop held at St. George's on Tuesday 24th August, I have had conversations with two further victims of Mr Brandenburg's misconduct. Both are in their thirties and suffered extended periods of abuse as teenagers.

My conversations with these young men have convinced me that the abuse which has occurred is more extensive than previously thought. The indications are that one or more other CEBS branches may have been infiltrated and that substantial abuse took place at Diocesan Campsites and in at least one other Diocese.

The other clear message from the victims interviewed so far is that they feel that the Church will close ranks and leave them isolated.

I am now more firmly persuaded that some form of acknowledgement of the reality of this abuse is necessary, and that failure to act will be detrimental for those who have suffered and, in the long run, for the Diocese. I am not sure about the best way to do this – though the thought of some acknowledgement or apology through Synod (similar, perhaps, to our apology over the Stolen Generations) has occurred to me.

I have spoken to Bishop Phillip about these concerns and I know that he intends to discuss them with you. I think it would be helpful for the three of us (I understand that John Roffey is on leave at present) to meet at your earliest convenience.

The workshop held in August was, I think, very helpful in a number of ways. I am planning a further mailing to church members and former members of CEBS to reiterate our concerns and to advise of a follow-up workshop to be held on the evening of October 26th. One of the outcomes of the August workshop has been the formation of a self help group, under the supervision of a professional social worker, for female adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse. There is a possibility of a similar group for males.

Sincerely, and with best wishes,



Don Owers