

Draft Text
Email to Mark King

Dear Mark

Thank you for your email regarding the provisions for counselling assistance for sexual abuse claimants.

Following our discussions in December I requested that we put in place counselling arrangements to assist those who have a current a claim against the diocese in relation to Bob Brandenburg.

I am surprised to be informed that you have just received advice of these provisions. I considered it a high priority and, after arranging for the necessary provisions to be put in place, information on the service was forwarded to Duncan Basheer Hannon in early February.

The key principles guiding the provision include:

- Counselling is available to claimants and their families with the absolute minimum of church approval processes and without the need to contact the diocese
- A choice of counsellor is encouraged including access to an independent agency.

If a claimant wishes to continue with existing counselling arrangements the Diocese will meet up to \$140 of the cost of each counselling session up to a maximum of 15 sessions.

The service is designed to provide interim assistance to those who are waiting on the outcome of settlement negotiation. This service can be accessed by all sexual abuse complainants.

Since these provisions were put in place by the diocese we have been able to make significant progress towards settlement of claims for those who were abused by Robert Brandenburg. Because of the short time line involved for this group I have instructed that a provision of up to 15 counselling sessions be available for these persons regardless of when a settlement is agreed to. I will advise Duncan Basheer Hannon of this decision.

Thank you for your ongoing engagement with me on these issues.

Yours sincerely

Archbishop of Adelaide