

3 May 2002

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Mr Gilbert Case
 Executive Director
 Anglican Schools Office
 Ann Street
 BRISBANE 4000

Dear Gilbert

Further to the meeting with Heads and Chairs of School Councils on Friday 26 April I am writing to ask if you could forward this letter to them expressing my sincere thanks for making the time available and for participating in the first round of consultations in relation to a number of proposals.

I am pleased that there seems to be general support to develop uniform protocols for dealing with complains of sexual abuse. This can only enhance the standing of Anglican schools in the wider community. Of course consideration of details will be required.

I believe the establishment of a Diocesan Litigation Committee to ensure a consistent and proactive approach to settling matters outside litigation and to managing litigation well, is another step in the right direction.

In relation to the Abuse Response or Child Protection Unit, this is still in an embryonic stage and I would look forward to any contributions which the schools could make in relation to the establishment of such a unit and to appropriate funding proposals.

Some time was spent at the meeting discussing how we should handle uninsured or uninsurable risks. A number of options were mentioned. A fuller list would include:

Option A - Any awards or claims be met in the first instance by the school/agency/parish which incurred the liability. It is obvious that this would create financial hardship for any new or heavily indebted schools/agencies etc.

Option B - The Diocese meet the whole of the costs. As discussed at the recent meeting the Diocese has limited resources to entertain this proposal.

Option C - A proposed levy on all schools, parishes and agencies to build up a fund to meet the costs. This would effectively be a form of self-insurance.

Option D - Sale of Diocesan assets.

Option E - A combination of any of the above.

My own view is that it will be best for the Diocese as a whole if we are all prepared to share this and future burdens and so ease the load on any one school, parish or agency. We need to bear in mind that an allegation could emerge at any stage in relation to any school or organisation and that none is immune to this risk.

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BRISBANE 4000

Abuse?
CHAIRS/schools
to send info
in to Abuse
? Contributions

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As you will appreciate, I would like you to explore these proposals in a sensitive and compassionate manner and I should be grateful for your responses, preferably by the end of May.

Once again, thank you for considering these important matters.

Yours in Christ

The Most Reverend Dr Phillip J Aspinall
ARCHBISHOP OF BRISBANE

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Consents to
respond to
Archbishop
by May 2002