

RED To: Most Rvrrnd Peter Hollingworth

Date: 8/9/96 Time: 11:26:00

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To: The Most Reverend Peter Hollingworth

Dear Sir

I am writing this as I have just returned to Melbourne from a visit to my family in Brisbane and am very upset by an issue that has greatly affected my family, and especially a brother of mine. For months or years he was molested by a man who was at the time a CFBS leader and lay preacher at the church we attended, and the bursar at Churchie, the school that my brother and I were attending.

Throughout the time he was preparing for the priesthood he was scarring many people's minds, perhaps affecting some for life.

I know that you know of John Elliott's activities and of my brother's case. WHAT I CAN'T WORK OUT IS WHY YOU, SIR, WOULD HARBOUR A MAN WHO YOU KNOW HAS SEXUALLY ASSAULTED CHILDREN FOR YEARS, by letting him have a nice job in a quiet town, away from the vicinity of his disgusting crimes. I do not see how a man who, it seems, has spent many of his waking hours for many years fantasising about young boys and messing with their minds could possibly be a fit person to hold the position of trust and responsibility in which you have placed him (a position that places him in the eyes of the congregation as someone who is a spiritual and moral example and guardian)! Society considers his type to be the lowest of the low, as cold-hearted devils. Why do you want to hold him up as a messenger of God?

I'm sure that John Elliott feels that a regrettable chapter of his life has closed, that by coming out with it as he did, that everything will be healing or be healed. I can imagine that by being in his current position, he can feel even better about himself, that he is making up for his crimes (and they are not just sins, sir, they are crimes), and that everything will be sweet. Perhaps you too believe this, Sir, and that is why you are happy for him to be a priest. Because it is best for him. Well, guess what? Things are not sweet for many boys and men who have been raped or manipulated by him. People like my brother may never get over it. My brother is not obsessed with revenge, but surely it is not too hard to see that when his attacker is so easily forgiven and kept under your wing, my brother is denied the right to properly work through his feelings regarding his own guilt (or lack of) and his anger towards his aggressor. It seems to him that the rest of the world is more interested in the feelings of the rector of Dalby.

It is common knowledge that most paedophiles cannot easily stop their practice, even when they have confessed what they have done and desperately want to never do it again. How will you feel if you find out at some point in the future that he has been doing such things again in Dalby? Some people would certainly consider you just as guilty as the aggressor himself.

REDACTED

To: Most Rvrd Peter Hollingworth

Date: 8/8/95 Time: 11:29:44

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I have not sent you a letter in a sealed envelope because I have got this issue on my mind and I want you to read it as soon as possible, so that you can send me a response as soon as possible. Frankly I don't care if others in the office read this. If you don't respond to this letter then several million others may get the chance to read it, because I will publish it in newspapers and send it to television stations.

Yours, REDACTED