



# DIOCESE OF BRISBANE

*(Anglican Church of Australia)*

DIOCESAN REGISTRY  
ST MARTINS HOUSE, 373 ANN STREET, BRISBANE 4000



18 June 1998

jj

Ms C Palmer  
Christian Wholeness Counselling Centre  
75 Pitt Road  
BURPENGARY 4505

Dear Ms Palmer

RE: BSB [redacted]

Bishop Noble has passed on to me your letter to him about BSB [redacted]

First let me say that the Diocese is very grateful to you for the positive counselling that you have been able to provide to BSB [redacted]. Let me say also that we are all deeply concerned about events concerning BSB [redacted]. You must accept that the matter is being treated with the greatest seriousness.

I have written to BSB [redacted] expressing the sorrow that we feel. It is our attempt to apologise for any breach of trust and confidence by Mr Lynch.

The protocol for dealing with complaints of sexual abuse against church officials was developed after careful consideration and is now applicable within the Diocese. As you will appreciate, the matters dealt with by the protocol are very broad and we are yet to see whether the protocol provides satisfactory solutions to events that occur. The protocol is primarily concerned with resolving disputes between a complainant and a respondent. Where the respondent is deceased, the protocol has little if any application.

One aspect of the protocol which we feel will be important is the support provided to the complainant (and to the respondent) in each case as the issues are dealt with. We feel that excellent support has been provided in this case to BSB [redacted] by Mrs Thompson and by you.

The school has taken positive action to identify people who might have been affected by Mr Lynch. The school will continue to do so and will respond promptly to any new concerns that arise.

Mr Case was a friend of Mr Lynch. He had known him professionally for 23 years. They often worshipped at the same chapel at St Paul's. It is true to say that Mr Lynch had the trust and confidence of Mr Case built up over a long period during which there were no complaints about him but many compliments.

Mr Case has been hurt by the events that have occurred and he feels sorrow for those affected by Mr Lynch's behaviour.

The Anglican Church of Australia – Diocese of Brisbane  
*(The Corporation of the Synod of the Diocese of Brisbane)*

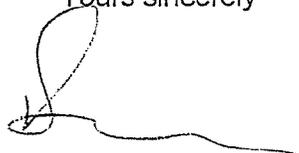
-2-

The need for confidentiality raised in your letter is also a continuing difficulty in dealing with events in schools. BSB confidences need to be observed as do the confidences of anybody else who might have been affected, however remotely. It may sometimes appear to people who are not involved directly in these issues that because there is silence, there is also an uncaring attitude by the Church. Nothing could be further from the truth but the need to respect the confidences of students is of primary importance.

As I have mentioned in my letter to BSB we are devising systems that will better protect us in future. In that sense, the events that have occurred can be looked on as of positive benefit – improving the welfare of members of our school communities throughout the Diocese.

Thank you for raising the issues with us and providing your careful advice to BSB I will be happy to discuss these issues with you if you should wish to do so.

Yours sincerely



**B YORKE**  
**GENERAL MANAGER**