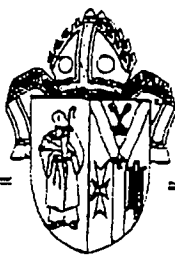


ANGLICAN
CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA



The Archbishop of Brisbane
The Most Reverend Peter Hollingworth

10 September 1999

MEMORANDUM

to: The General Manager
from: The Archbishop
re: Clergy Complaint No. 5.

This matter involves a priest in the diocese of Brisbane now retired and with a Permission to Officiate from me. Some four years ago the parents of two boys came to inform me that there had been a family conference and the boys had alleged that the person concerned, when as a layman and school bursar, had been involved in sexual practices with them when they were in their early teens. The man concerned was subsequently ordained as a priest in 1986 without any knowledge of these matters on the part of the Archbishop of the day. After considerable discussion involving Bishop Noble, myself, the parents and indirectly the boys, the priest concerned made his confession, expressed his deepest apology and regret to the family, shared the matter with his wife and I then proceeded to make a plan with him about how to handle matters from here onwards.

I asked him to write to me regularly, which he has done throughout the remainder of his ministry in a country parish. I instructed him not to have any contact with young people on his own, nor to be involved on his own in any youth groups or activities. I believe he has carried out these instructions faithfully.

Since his retirement eighteen months ago, he has been requested by various clergy to undertake locum tenencies in various parishes and these have all been very satisfactory.

Last year, the young man concerned, who lives interstate and who remains angry, made a 'phone call where the priest had been previously serving and the matter was dealt with by Bishop Charles who was then Bishop Administrator of the diocese in my absence at the Lambeth Conference. The priest concerned is well aware of these periodic threats that come from the young man and to date there has been no indication that he intends to carry out those threats involving legal action.

Whenever these threats occur I inform the priest as a means of warning him that he is not out of difficulty and must behave with the utmost care and circumspection. The situation continues to be closely monitored and I have no reason to believe that there are any risks involved in his carrying out locum tenency duties. The biggest concern to the insurers is, of course, if the young man at some state decides to take legal action involving events that occurred when the said person was a layman.

I intend to speak with him, as he is about to embark on another locum tenency in the country, warning him that the diocesan insurers have again raised the question and are seeking another internal report from me.

