

McLary, R-Standards Director

From: Aspinall, Archbishop Phillip
Sent: Tuesday, 03 January, 2006 9:08 AM
To: McLary, R-Standards Director
Subject: Fw: confidential

Rod

I have received the further message below from [REDACTED]

I am concerned on two fronts. First, that [REDACTED] has not obtained [BYG] permission to disclose this information. Secondly I am not sure whether my approaching [BYG] out of the blue offering assistance would be helpful to him, though I acknowledge that [REDACTED] believes it would be positive. As you know victims find their own ways to cope with their experiences and probably need to judge for themselves how they wish to deal with it. I would value your advice as to the wisdom of me acting on [REDACTED] request or whether it would be better to repeat my suggestion to her that [BYG] get in touch with me if he would like to have contact. Certainly if he believes it would be helpful to him I am prepared to assist in whatever way I can.

In any case now that [REDACTED] has made this report would you please take the following actions:

1. Report this information to the Police, probably both in Queensland and Tasmania.
2. Report the information to the Bishop and DOPS in Tasmania spelling out [REDACTED]'s request that the Church reach out to [BYG] and other victims of Daniels who, according to [REDACTED] are known to the Church in Tasmania. I don't know whether [BYG] is entitled to apply for financial compensation from Tasmania in addition to the payment he apparently received from Daniels. There should be no problem with the provision of an apology and professional counselling. Tasmania might consider reimbursing [BYG] for the costs of counselling he has already incurred himself. Please make that request suggestion.
3. Notify [REDACTED] that these steps have been taken. I plan to reply to her email myself as well to respond to a number of her remarks. I will copy that to you too for the file.

Thanks

Phillip

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
 To: Aspinall, Archbishop Phillip <PAspinall@anglicanbrisbane.org.au>
 Date: Sat Dec 31 17:04:00 2005
 Subject: confidential

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Archbishop Phillip

Thank you so much for replying to my note.

How one leaps to conclusions!

I assumed, as I believe [BYG] does, that you would have knowledge of all Daniels' child victims.

To the best of my knowledge – I was out of Tassie and only heard the stories much later, in bits and piece- this is the relevant background.

You know ^{BYG} from the Berriedale parish where, during the breakdown of his parents' marriage and their struggle with ^{REDACTED} ^{REDACTED} made ^{BYG} a very sensitive and vulnerable boy in the Berriedale parish where his Mum was attending Church at the time. My brother ^{REDACTED} was drinking heavily at the time. Years after the sexual abuse by Daniels, ^{BYG} had the courage on his own to pursue Daniels personally in the courts and finally received a financial settlement from Daniels, not the Church. My understanding is that ^{BYG} was encouraged to legally pursue Daniels because the Church was washing its corporate hands of him. He has NOT disclosed the sexual abuse to his mother or father or ^{REDACTED} or beloved grandfather. Only to my ^{REDACTED} and me. When I told ^{BYG} a few months ago that (knowing my brother well) if ^{REDACTED} had known at the time, he would have "killed the bastard" ^{BYG} was taken aback as if he doubted that his Dad loved him or would have cared. ^{REDACTED} is another authority figure who failed to protect him or pick up the signs.

His fellow victims from the CEBS who had, together with ^{BYG} originally brought the abuse personally to the attention of the Bishop of Tasmania (they were in their mid teens) couldn't face joining him in the legal process which ^{BYG} started in the late 1990s. Understandably, he still has strong feelings of betrayal by all those in authority in the Church. I understand that one of the other victims committed suicide not so long ago (last year?) when the whole tragedy was again the subject of a Hobart court hearing. I seem to recall that you were involved in those proceedings, having been a character referee for Daniels at one stage ^{BYG} assumes, I think you would have followed these proceedings closely and seen/had access to his witness statement from years ago, which was made available to these recent Court proceedings.

To my knowledge there has been no follow up by the Anglican Church of those early Daniels victims like ^{BYG} If so, surely that can be remedied.

Could I encourage you to have it checked, whether Daniels' victims (including ^{BYG} and his friends) were ever followed up – given an apology- by the appropriate people in authority and professional counsellors, and if not, to do so now?

That's what I'm hoping for – the Church/you to take the initiative in reaching out to ^{BYG} and honestly acknowledging what happened in his youth, and his brave journey of survival. He has so much anger and pain still about the cover up by the Church and its then leaders, about "good men" doing nothing. To his enormous credit ^{BYG} has personally invested in professional counselling to help him with the flashbacks and anger and the sad legacy of a dysfunctional family and sexual abuse by a priest. He wants honesty. His car ^{REDACTED} is flourishing. He yearns for peace and balance in his personal life. You two would really like each other, I have no doubt. He remembers your Dad with fondness also- involved in his confirmation.

^{BYG} is off on 1 January to the ^{REDACTED} He and his wife ^{REDACTED} will have a holiday in Europe after January and return home late February. ^{REDACTED} pretty impressive for a young chap!

^{REDACTED}

REDACTED

PS Out of the blue, in a phone call on Boxing Day to brother [REDACTED] he asked me if my refugee work ever brought me in touch with you. I told him we had met when you visited the [REDACTED] Centre a few years back. If I did see you, would I pass on [REDACTED]'s good wishes, he asked. He remembers you as a kid in his class, and something about a bushwalk through Cradle Mt Reserve, and thinks you are a great straight shooter of a man.

Could have knocked me over with a feather! Only my husband knows I finally contacted you, and then only after thinking about it for a very long time.

-----Original Message-----

From: Aspinall, Archbishop Phillip [mailto:PAspinall@anglicanbrisbane.org.au]

Sent: Friday, 23 December 2005 10:21 AM

REDACTED

ject: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

My secretary has passed on to me your email of 22 December 2005 regarding [REDACTED]

I am certainly prepared to assist [REDACTED] and his process of healing in any way I can. If he would like to meet with me I would be pleased to do that.

I'm afraid, though, I am not as well informed about [REDACTED]'s story as you and apparently he may think. I don't believe I have seen 'all the [REDACTED] work' to which you refer and have not been privy to the details of 'the damaging issues from his childhood in Hobart.' Please [REDACTED] give me if I am mistaken but I don't believe any of this material was shown to me during my time in Tasmania and nor do I recall any such material coming to me since.

I assume you are referring to experiences of abuse he suffered as a child.

As I say if I can be of any assistance or support to [REDACTED] then I would welcome an opportunity to do what I can. I would be pleased if [REDACTED] would like to be in touch with me and then we could arrange a time to meet.

[REDACTED] should be aware that if he reports to me any experiences of abuse as a child then I would be obliged to report those matters to the Police and to the Director of Professional Standards in this Diocese who in turn would be obliged to pass it on to the Church authorities in Tasmania. I recognize that any such matters might already have been reported to the Police and to the church authorities and the

proper processes undertaken, as you refer to 'his courageous action so long ago'. I would also take advice from our Director of Professional Standards as to whether he should also be present at any meeting between [BYG] and me. I mention this simply so that [BYG] might be fully aware of my obligations should he wish to speak with me.

At the same time, as I have said, if I can assist in any way I would be very pleased to do so. If [BYG] would like to be in touch please encourage him to give me a call [REDACTED] You and he should know that after today I will be on leave until Friday 27th January 2006 which will be my first day back in the office.

I look forward to hearing from you or [BYG]

This comes with my best wishes for a happy and holy Christmas,

Yours sincerely

Phillip Aspinall

This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received this email in error please notify the system manager.

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