

Aspinall, Archbishop Phillip

From: Aspinall, Archbishop Phillip
Sent: Wednesday, 8 February 2006 1:07 PM
To: REDACTED
Subject: FW: Re^{BYG}

REDACTED

Trying again as the first message didn't get through.

Phillip

From: Aspinall, Archbishop Phillip
Sent: Wednesday, 8 February 2006 1:02 PM
To: REDACTED
Subject: Re^{BYG}

Dear REDACTED

Thank you for your further email dated 31 December 2005. As I indicated to you late last year I have been on leave until late January and hence the delay in my reply.

In early January I did share your email with Mr Rod McLary, Brisbane's Director of Professional Standards, which I indicated to you would be necessary. I asked Mr McLary to liaise with the relevant Church authorities in Tasmania to address the requests you made in relation to following up^{BYG} and other victims of abuse. I also asked Rod to report the relevant information in your email to the Police in both Tasmania and Queensland so that any appropriate action may be taken. I understand from Rod that he put all that in train and that he has been in touch with you about the actions he has taken.

There is much in your email of which I was unaware. I didn't know that^{BYG} had taken legal action in the late 1990s and that he received a financial settlement from Daniels. I have not seen^{BYG}'s witness statement to which you refer. I have seen most of what has been reported in the media, I think, including news of the tragic suicide of the young man whom I also knew.

In terms of my involvement in court proceedings, the first time Daniels was charged and pleaded guilty, I was approached by his solicitors who asked if I would provide a written reference to the court for consideration in the sentencing hearing. I did so, acknowledging that Daniels had pleaded guilty to the charges and setting out what I had personally experienced of him. Daniels successfully concealed his abusive behaviour from me and many others.

Since coming to Brisbane in 2002 other victims of Daniels have contacted me. I have endeavoured to support them as best I can and have passed on all the information I have received to both the Police and the church authorities in Tasmania so that appropriate action could be taken and support offered.

I feel very much for^{BYG} and as I said previously if he feels that some conversation with me would assist him on his journey of healing then I am happy to be of whatever assistance I can be.

I must say, however, that I hesitate to contact^{BYG} out of the blue to offer him assistance. I say that not because of any lack of desire on my part to assist or to reach out to him. However, I have learnt that victims of abuse find their own ways to cope with their experiences and are probably the best judges themselves about what will help them along the way to find healing. The last thing in the world I would want to do would be to cause^{BYG} further pain or even to set back his journey to healing by making contact if that is not what he wants to happen. It was this concern for^{BYG} that was behind my suggestion in my previous email that if^{BYG} wished to be in contact with me I would be very pleased to hear from

8/02/2006

him. Alternatively if you could confirm with him that he would like me to be in touch with him then I would be happy to take the initiative. Knowing how deeply childhood abuse affects victims I wouldn't want to take a step that caused further hurt despite all the best will in the world. But please be assured that if I can assist, and would welcome that, then I am prepared to do what I can.

I have talked over my concern in this area with Rod McLary and he agrees that this is probably the best approach. Again should be aware that if he shares information with me then I may be obliged to report it to others. I say that not in any way to discourage him from speaking with me, but given his sense of betrayal by church leaders in the past I wouldn't want to add to that in any way.

Please be assured of my prayers for and for you.

Yours sincerely

Phillip Aspinall

8/02/2006
