

Doc 17

8 March 2004

Ms Ann Hywood  
Diocesan Secretary  
Anglican Diocese of Adelaide  
26 King William Road  
NORTH ADELAIDE SA 5006

Dear Ann

I have been requested by the Board of Inquiry into the Handling of Claims of Sexual Abuse and Misconduct within the Anglican Diocese of Adelaide to assist the Board with its work, specifically to meet with the Board on 25 March 2004 when the Board will be in Brisbane.

I want to assist the Board in whatever way I reasonably can.

I am proceeding on the basis of the conversation between Mr Peter Read and yourself last week. Mr Read reports to me that you have informed him that I would be indemnified by the Diocese of Adelaide by reason of my having been Assistant Bishop in the diocese during the period in question. That is to say, that the normal indemnities applying in the commercial world for employees of an organisation would apply to me in providing assistance to the Board of Inquiry.

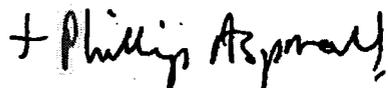
Clearly the matters being considered by the Board are very sensitive with potentially far-reaching implications for a number of people. It is in the interests of all concerned that information I provide to the Board be properly considered and prepared. Some legal assistance will be necessary to do that. As I am being asked to assist the Diocese of Adelaide with an initiative of the Diocese of Adelaide, I think you will agree that it is only reasonable that the Diocese of Adelaide meet the reasonable costs of doing so. The alternatives - that I meet those costs personally, or the Diocese of Brisbane meets them, or some other party meets them, are clearly inappropriate. I therefore seek confirmation that the Diocese of Adelaide will meet my reasonable legal costs incurred in my assisting the Board of Inquiry, as I have been requested.

You may be aware that in 2002-2003, the Diocese of Brisbane conducted an Inquiry similar in some ways to that now being undertaken by the Diocese of Adelaide. The Diocese of Brisbane both indemnified all persons assisting its Board of Inquiry and met all reasonable requests for legal assistance. I am attaching a form of indemnity based on that provided by the Diocese of Brisbane with my name inserted as the recipient. It makes clear the extent of the indemnity and its qualifications. You may find this useful in considering the definition of the indemnity that applies to me.

In order for me to assist the Board as far as I can, would you please provide me with copies of the following:-

- \* A file I created during my time in Adelaide entitled, I think, "Sexual Misconduct - Brandenburg" containing material created in the aftermath of Brandenburg's being charged and subsequent death.
- \* A file entitled, I think, "DRG Guidelines" which I created as consecutive revisions of the DRG guidelines took place.
- \* A file entitled simply "DRG", I think, containing documents concerning my dealings with the DRG.
- \* A file I created related to the development of child protection policy
- \* Back-up copies of all my emails during my time as Assistant Bishop
- \* Any other documentation relevant to me during my time as Assistant Bishop of Adelaide and related to the matters before the Inquiry.

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Yours sincerely



The Most Reverend Dr Phillip Aspinall  
Archbishop of Brisbane