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REDACTED

7 April 1999

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Dear Sir/Madam

**Louis Victor Daniels**

I have been asked to provide a character reference for Louis Victor Daniels in relation to charges he is currently facing in the Supreme Court of Tasmania.

I am aware of the nature of the charges against Mr Daniels and that this reference will be used in court on a plea in mitigation.

I have known Mr Daniels for nearly thirty years through our mutual involvement in the Anglican Church.

I first met Mr Daniels when I was part of a group of children prepared by him for confirmation in the Parish of Moonah around 1969. Subsequently I attended numerous events for children and young people in the Anglican Church including residential camps in which Mr Daniels exercised leadership roles. For many years Mr Daniels was the driving force behind the Church of England Boys' Society in Tasmania and indeed made significant contributions nationally over an extensive period. Training high quality leaders and developing effective publications for use in this work were among his priorities and were areas in which he excelled.

I came to know Mr Daniels most closely as a young adult when, in the years 1980-84, I was employed by the Anglican Church in a variety of capacities to undertake work with children and young people in Tasmania as well as a variety of Christian education roles. I succeeded Mr Daniels as Youth and Education Officer for the Diocese of Tasmania in 1981. It then fell to me to maintain and develop many of the initiatives commenced by Mr Daniels. These included a camping programme for children and young people together with an associated leadership training programme, the Youth Synod which was spreading to other parts of the country, adult theological education programmes, Christian education in state schools and many others.

In these years Mr Daniels was something of a mentor for me personally. He is a highly skilled teacher of children, young people and adults alike. In all these areas Mr Daniels not only taught and inspired me, and a whole generation of Anglican leaders, but gave himself wholeheartedly to these tasks himself with a passion and capacity for work rarely seen.

These qualities continued unabated in Mr Daniels' work in subsequent years. I continued to have some contact with Mr Daniels while studying in Melbourne from 1985 and served as one of his colleagues in the Diocese of Tasmania following ordination in 1988.

Mr Daniels has demonstrated himself to be a skilled parish priest able to inspire and enthuse, motivate and encourage, guide and care for people of all ages, from the very young to the elderly and incapacitated. He has ably shown rare capacities to bring out the best in people in difficult circumstances.

In my many years as a friend and colleague of Mr Daniels in a wide variety of contexts and situations I have never seen him behave in a way I thought inappropriate. Still less have I discerned in him any intention to harm another person. On the contrary, my experience of Mr Daniels is not only of an honest, if somewhat private, person but of a compassionate person with a keen insight into justice and a preparedness to speak and do what is right even at some risk or cost to himself. He has contributed much to the lives of many individuals and to a large number of communities throughout Tasmania and beyond.

I hope these significant contributions to the well-being of many may be given consideration in the matters before the court.

Yours faithfully,

(The Rt Rev'd Dr) Phillip Aspinall  
Assistant Bishop  
Diocese of Adelaide