

From: Peter Stuart [peter.stuart@flinders.edu.au]
Sent: Friday, 19 March 2004 2:13 PM
To: ahywood.churchoffice@anglicare-sa.org.au; PAspinall@anglicanbrisbane.org.au
Subject: Board of Inquiry - Diocese of Adelaide
 Dear Phillip,

During my meeting with the Board of Inquiry, a number of issues were canvassed, including what information was known in the Diocese of Tasmania about Bob Brandenburg. I recalled the events as I knew them, which led Anne to indicate (out of the meeting) that I was indicating that the Diocese of Adelaide knew earlier than April 1999, which was a date that has been quoted. I have not yet seen the transcript of my interview but either there or in some other place there had been some question of when you may have become aware of the information.

I felt that it was important for you to be aware of the information the Board had received which is detailed below.

Peter

I advise that I have contacted the Diocese of Tasmania who confirmed my recollections in this way – *The Mercury of 2 July 1998 carried a story with an interview with solicitor Mr Brian Hilliard reporting that a writ had been issued on behalf of Brett Skipper against the Anglican Church, Lou Daniels and Robert Brandenburg.*

A letter of that day went from Bishop Newell to Archbishop Ian George with a copy of that press report. There is no other record of the Diocese of Adelaide being advised of any progress. .”

I have since ascertained that Bishop Stuart Smith became Administrator of the Diocese on 3rd July when Archbishop Ian George left for the Lambeth Conference in England.

Bishop Phillip Aspinall was consecrated as bishop on 29 June 1998. He and his family were settling into Adelaide during that period. Shortly after moving to Adelaide, Bishop Aspinall also left to attend the Lambeth Conference in England.

Using the newstext.com.au service provide by News Limited I have confirmed that the article was contained on page 5 of the Hobart Mercury on Thursday 2 July 1998. The article clearly identifies “layman Robert Brandenburg, of South Australia.” Using the same service, I was unable to find any publication of these details in the Advertiser.

Given that Bishop Phillip had left the Diocese for a significant change in role and the Diocese of Adelaide had been formally informed of the newspaper article, I cannot recall anyone advising they had made separate contact with him.

I confirm my advice to you that:

a. Only the Bishop of Tasmania and the Acting Registrar of the Diocese of Tasmania had access to material provided by the Tasmanian report authors identifying the alleged perpetrators of sexual abuse referred to as P1 – P18 in the Tasmania Report. None of the other archdeacons, including Dr. Aspinall, or the Vicar-General were advised at any stage of the names on the list.

b. Mr Robert Brandenburg was not identified as any of P1 – P18. The first the Diocese became aware of his name was on 2 July 1998.

I will be forwarding this information to Anne Hywood (Diocesan Executive Officer). I will also be forwarding the information to Archbishop Aspinall.

Archdeacon Peter Stuart
 Executive Officer - Ministry Development Council

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