

ANGLICAN
CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA



The Archbishop of Brisbane
The Most Reverend Dr Phillip Aspinall

29 March 2004

~~10 December 2015~~

Mr John Witham
Executive Officer to the Board of Inquiry
PO Box 8618
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Dear Mr Witham

Following my interview with the Board on Thursday 25th March 2004 I wish to provide supplementary material in response to two answers I gave during the interview. In addition I wish to respond in writing to those parts of the testimony of Dr E Sandercock and The Reverend Don Owers provided to me by the Board on 27 February 2004. I also enclose a copy of the document 'Assistant Bishop – Ministry Profile' which details my responsibilities as Assistant Bishop in Adelaide in relation to the Archbishop.

I ask that the Board consider this supplementary material when reviewing the evidence to which it relates.

In the course of the interview the Presiding Member asked, '*...when, Archbishop, did you actually leave Tasmania to come to Adelaide?*' I responded, '*I was consecrated on 29 June 98, as you say. That was only about ten days before the Lambeth Conference occurred in London. So I was actually in Adelaide for about a week and I spent that week basically meeting some people and familiarising myself. I then went back to Tasmania to pack to go to Lambeth. I was in Lambeth for about three weeks. I came back from the Lambeth Conference in the middle of August and I think around the 16th or 17th of August we left Tasmania and arrived in Adelaide a few days after that. So I was really there, on duty, from some time in the second part of August. I could find those dates specifically for you if it is important.*'

I have now consulted my diary and can confirm the following relevant dates in 1998:

24 June	Departed Hobart for Adelaide
29 June	Consecrated bishop, St Peter's Cathedral Adelaide
10 July	Returned to Hobart to prepare for Lambeth Conference
14 July	Departed Hobart for Lambeth Conference
12 August	Returned to Hobart from Lambeth Conference to prepare to relocate to Adelaide
18 August	Departed Hobart to relocate to Adelaide
19 August	Arrived Adelaide
22/23 August	Furniture and effects arrived Adelaide

In the course of the interview the Presiding Member asked: '*...were there any concerns expressed at about that time as to how widespread this [Brandenburg's abuse] might be?*' I responded, '*No, I*

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don't believe there were. I think at that stage we had been informed about one complainant. The police, I believe, told John Roffey and Don Owers that they suspected there were more.'

On reflection, I should have made it clear that it was not only the police that apparently suspected that there were more victims. The Reverend Don Owers did too. Further, both the Archbishop and I were concerned at the suggestion that the abuse might have been widespread. However, at that stage one complainant or victim had been identified, so far as I knew, and the matter was under police investigation.

I confirm that, prior to the interview and in the Board's letter to me of 17 March 2004, I was advised that no allegations of impropriety, neglect of duty or other such matters on my part have been made to the Board.

I note that none were put to me during the interview.

I also confirm that at the conclusion of the interview the Presiding Member advised me that if the Board intends to make any criticism of me, or to report any allegations against me, that I will be given an opportunity to respond to such matters before the Board's report is finalised.

Finally, I confirm that at 6pm on Wednesday 24 March 2004 I received by email a copy of the Diocese of Adelaide's submission to the Board excluding the attachments/appendices. I confirm my advice to the Board that I did not have time to consider that material properly prior to my interview with the Board at 8.30 am the following morning. In addition, I confirm that, following my interview with the Board, on 25 March 2004 I received from the Diocese of Adelaide copies of some of the file material I had requested on 8 March 2004. I have yet to peruse both the Diocese's submission to the Board and the file material provided. On doing so, should I have any supplementary submission to the Board I will get it to you as soon as I am able.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Yours sincerely

The Most Reverend Dr Phillip Aspinall
Archbishop of Brisbane