

THE PASTORAL RESPONSE OFFICE**Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne**

383 Albert St, East Melbourne, VIC 3002

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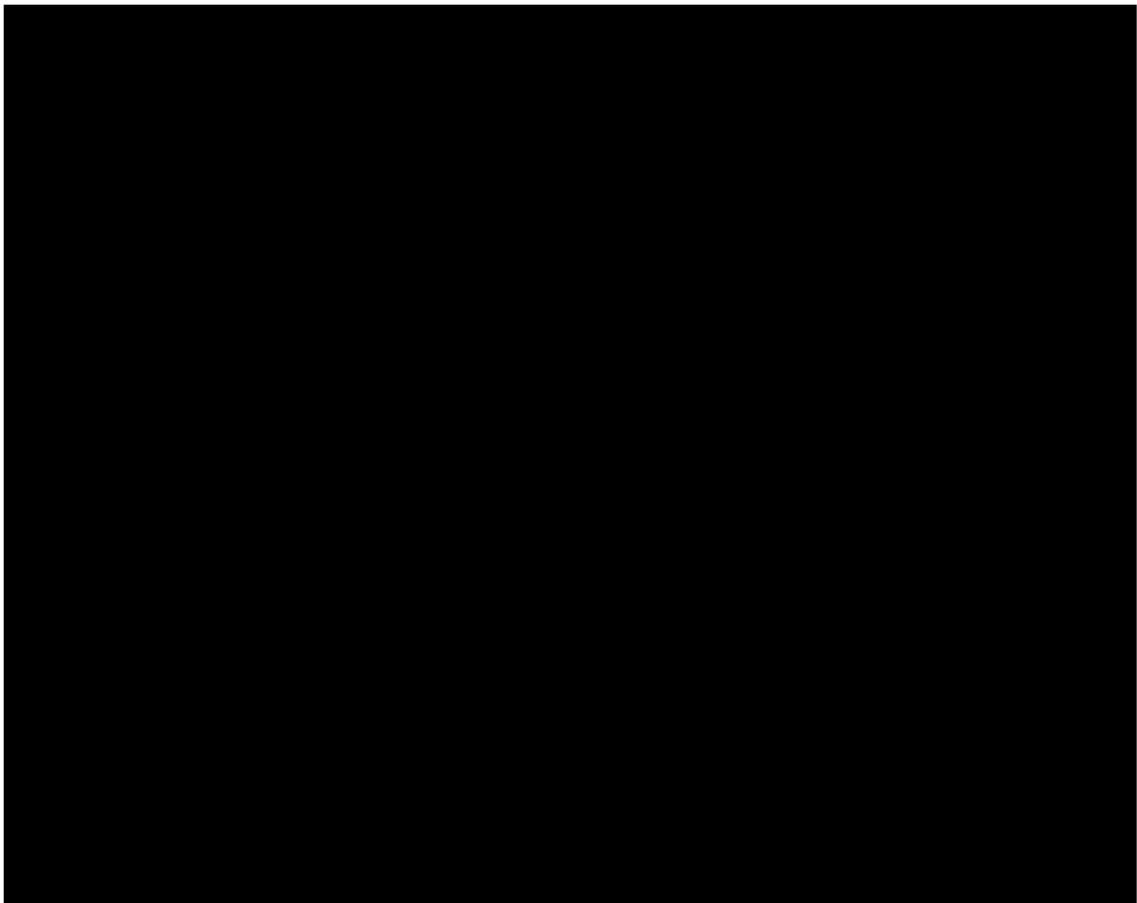
Carelink
Professor Richard Ball
163 Victoria Parade
Fitzroy 3065

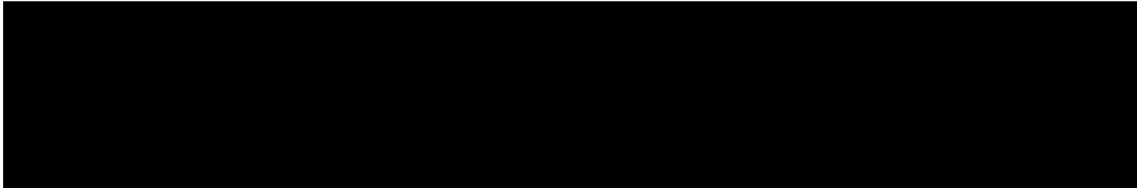
CONFIDENTIAL MEMO

16 December 1996

Dear Professor Ball,

I am writing to you in relation to two matters for your earliest consideration.






The second set of issues concern the Foster family. You will be aware that I discussed with yourself and Sue that Mr and Mrs Foster are of the strong opinion that your professional role in providing a report to the defence counsel for Fr O'Donnell represents a conflict of interest for them. Their feelings have not changed in this regard over time nor has the Archbishop's statement of policy assisted them, at present, to reach a resolution.

This is an extremely delicate situation which calls for the prioritising of financial coverage for the ongoing care of their daughter Emma, a victim of sexual abuse by Fr O'Donnell. This provision had been approved through the office of the Vicar General, with previous hospitalisation accounts for Emma and therapy for Mrs Foster via Patricia LoCascio (psychologist), being paid.

The Fosters have conveyed that their trust of the Church and its agencies is vital to their recovery. I have consequently encouraged them to speak with Sue Sharkey, as your representative, to try and resolve their need for financial provision via Carelink. They have requested that I raise these matters with you in the first instance.

Meanwhile Mr Foster has sent his recent bills, in regard to Emma's care, to the Pastoral Response Office. I have informed him that the Vicar General's Office no longer manages accounts and that the matter of payment has to be directed to your attention. The relevant accounts will be forwarded today to Carelink.



Thank you for your earliest consideration to these matters.

Yours faithfully



Helen Last
Co-ordinator.

cc Vicar General