

May 1 1998

REDACTED

Mr H Murray

REDACTED

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Mr Murray,

Thank you for your letter dated 22 April 1998.

I am of course willing to comply with any lawful direction of the Bishop.

I am concerned that in a variety of ways the Code of Canon Law, "Towards Healing" guidelines, and the requirements of natural justice have not been complied with. I am concerned that the actions of the Diocese prior to my being charged, and in the period leading up to my trial, and following my acquittal, demonstrate a pre-conception in relation to my conduct.

Further, I am concerned about disclosure, of what is said by me, to third parties without my consent, giving rise, for instance, to a possible liability under civil law, eg. defamation.

Subject to the above concerns, I am willing to be interviewed.

It may be helpful if I comment briefly on the allegations at this stage:

1. I deny inappropriate behaviour, in the circumstances of my particular relations with the family, and in the context of the time. I concede, that in the present context, having regard, inter alia, to "Integrity in Ministry" and with the benefit of hindsight, the sleeping arrangements might be regarded as inappropriate. The allegation must be considered in the context of common practice of other priests at the time. Moreover, the sleeping arrangements were similar to those on two previous occasions when I had stayed at the **REDACTED** home at Mr and Mrs **REDACTED**' insistence.
2. to 5. I deny these allegations. I believe that, if properly investigated, these allegations will be shown to have arisen either following extensive media publicity, or following the soliciting of complaints. As to allegation 5, I left Australia in ~~August 1994.~~ ^{the}

I wish to see any report by you so that I can, if appropriate, make comments.

I have always maintained my innocence of the alleged offence in respect of which I was ultimately acquitted. I continue to maintain my innocence.

Yours sincerely, ^{...}

Fr J.G. Nestor.