

**Lorraine Tobin**

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**From:** REDACTED on behalf of Father J G Nestor  
**Sent:** Thursday, 6 July 2006 7:36 PM  
**To:** Bishop Peter Ingham  
**Subject:** From Fr J G Nestor: Copy of letter to follow

REDACTED

July 6, 2006

Bishop P Ingham  
 Bishop of Wollongong  
 Diocesan Offices  
 Market St  
 Wollongong NSW 2500

Dear Bishop Ingham,

Thank you for seeing me yesterday, and for the opportunity to have Fr Comensoli explain the workings of the Ombudsman's Office as it related to the diocese.

I was still not completely satisfied that I had fully grasped the explanation and so took the opportunity to speak with an officer of the Child Protection Unit of the Ombudsman's Office today.

I am now writing at their suggestion to ask whether the Diocese intends to submit the Part A notification of an investigation to take place. The officer with whom I discussed the situation was not sure that the matters raised (by Assessors and/or the Professional Standards Resources Group) in 1998, as I did my best to explain them, would constitute Reportable Allegations. Hence the officer's (and so my) unsureness as to whether we are dealing with a matter submitable to the Ombudsman's Office under the relevant Acts.

It was my understanding yesterday that you did intend to submit notification (Part A) but for some reason had not yet done so, in spite of the 30 day requirement. Please be so good as to explain if this is the case.

My reason for asking this question is that if the diocese does, as I believe, intend that the Ombudsman's Office be involved, I intend to make a Formal Complaint to that Office, regarding Conflict of Interest and Lack of Procedural Fairness in regard to the Diocese conducting/continuing the enquiry. I can discuss the finer details of these matters if you wish.

As I indicated yesterday, I believe that the Diocese's conduct in- and response to- of the Court case and subsequent inquiry by the Church, was reckless- a position underlined by the Congregation for Clergy. This makes the conduct of any further enquiry- such as the one you propose- problematic.

Not directly concerned with the Ombudsman's Office, but of importance too, is that the Diocese is apparently proposing to start an inquiry on matters being presently judged by the Apostolic Signaturae, and thus preempting that body as well as causing a complication in the connection between Church and Civil Law. As I stated yesterday, the matter has been handled very poorly by your predecessor and it is my opinion that any action by you should be very carefully considered and executed.

I thank you also in regard to making my file available for viewing at the Chancery in the near future and I will contact Fr Comensoli soon in this regard.

Yours sincerely in Our Lord,

Father J G Nestor

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