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**MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 7
NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON CHILD ABUSE ISSUES
ST. MARY'S PROVINCIALATE, BALMAIN
3rd May 1996**

Present: Brian Brandon (Chair), Tony Shanahan, Julian McDonald, Tony Hempenstall,
Ian Hunter, Tom Kruger, Des O'Grady, Michael Godfrey

1. **Prayer:** led by Michael Godfrey
2. **Minutes:**
Minutes of Meeting No. 6 were approved
3. **Matters arising from Minutes:**
 - (a) Julian reported on the Bishops' Conference attended by Helen Clarke and himself. They gave tentative approval to the Pastoral letter, pending the ACLRI Conference in July.
 - (b) *Item 10* Brian has not forwarded costs - awaiting amended statement of costs from W.A.
 - (c) The Chairman noted that all papers relating to the meeting are confidential.
4. **Brief Update on criminal/civil cases**
 - 4.1 *Victoria/Tasmania*
Two cases of police investigations discontinued. Adjournment of one criminal case till June - a second case also scheduled for June.
Some moves for settlement for individual litigation cases.
 - 4.2 *N.S.W.:*
Royal Commission hearings have been a focus.
A case has arisen in PNG requiring attention.

5. Meeting with Howard Harrison and Mitch McKenzie

5.1 *Legal Issues "Melbourne 23" and "The 200"*

Following discussion the following action steps were resolved:

- (a) Tony to initiate a meeting with Julian and Archbishop Hickey
- (b) Howard, Mitch to initiate a meeting with Paul Gamble
- (c) Following the above meetings, Julian to call a combined meeting of our lawyers and the Archbishop's lawyers, together with Julian, Tony and the Archbishop

5.2 *Insurance:*

Mitch recommended that all Provinces move towards having common insurers. Howard to contact Paul Noonan re responses to questionnaire seeking additional particulars. Tony to initiate a preliminary approach to C.C.I. Tony to extract legal costs in relation to the Slater & Gordon proceedings and to forward to Howard and to Brian. Julian to provide a statement of updated costs to Brian.

5.3 *Settlement:*

Howard authorised by the meeting to offer a \$4m settlement with a ceiling of \$5m. Tony to initiate a steering committee to look at framework and operation of a trust fund.

5.4 *Other areas of Litigation:*

St. Joseph's Geelong claims are being run by C.C.I.

5.5

Julian reported on the Wood Royal Commission. He noted that a confidential report from St. Luke's had been subpoenaed.

5.6 *Barry Coldrey:*

Continuing to work on individual cases as directed by Carroll & O'Dea

5.7 *Release of archival material to the media:*

Howard queried whether appearing on TV to argue about past failings is ever productive. Any questions re insurance or compensation are sub-judice. Howard will write to Four Corners indicating that Julian is not available to appear. The meeting agreed to provide access to archival material which the ABC already has from the Compass programme.

6. General Issues:

6.1 *Funding of settlement.*

Provinces are asked to look at possibilities for funding of any settlement.

6.2 *Authority for settlement.*

Julian and Brian to ensure that Province leaders are kept in touch with settlement issues.

6.3

Discussion ensued on the future role of NCAAI and potential expansion of the role. The matter will be taken further at the next meeting of Provincials.

6.4 *Treatment of Offenders Project.*

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has approved the project and it will be discussed at the next meeting of ACLRI

6.5 *Canberra Thinktank* re personal development. Michael to follow up a nomination and notify Julian

7. Date of Next meeting: *Thursday, 20th June*

Meeting Closed at 5 pm