



*Brisbane Archdiocesan Chancery*

Copy Fr Spence file

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5<sup>th</sup> October 1999

Mr Laurie Rolls  
GPO Box 180B  
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Dear Laurie,

**Joan Isaacs - Derryman**

I had a long (over an hour) discussion with John Moore this afternoon. He read to me the material which I had been unaware of. The poor woman has had a sad life. Her health has been poor; I was told she has had 10 gynaecological operations! Briefly, her adult history is that she was married at age 20 years in 1973. She bore two children, the first in 1976, the second in 1978. Each was a very difficult delivery. After the second she underwent a hysterectomy.

She has stated that she suffered depression brought on by "childbirth and marital strife". Elsewhere, John Moore informs me, she stated that her depression started in 1993.

There is evidence that her mother, who died last year, suffered from depression, having a major breakdown when Joan was seven years of age.

I still have trouble seeing a nexus between the events of the late sixties, and the later difficulties in her life in the nineties. I have suggested to John Moore that we need to know what and when were any disturbances and how soon after the abuse occurred did they appear. John suggests that we write to Joan's solicitors, strongly condemning Derryman for the abuse. I am reluctant to so formally admit the fact of the abuse, even though he has been found guilty. I believe we should express our concern at the distress she so obviously feels, concentrating on what might be done byway of therapy to alleviate this, rather than get into the area of apology once again.

I believe we should now offer once again the services of Towards Healing. There is an estimate of two years' counselling, sessions fortnightly at \$150 per hour. This would amount to \$3900. I would suggest that, if she agree, we pay the bills, rather than give her a lump sum, which might be used to pay legal fees.

John Moore feels that her solicitors will be outraged at this low figure. If, in fact, Mr Deed has admitted that she has no case, then his outrage might well mirror his concern for the payment of his costs. I would not shed any tears for him.

We have yet to hear from QBE on this matter. Mr Deed is pressing for a resolution but I would want to be sure that both CCI and QBE have been given the opportunity of taking part in these early negotiations.

With every good wish

The Very Rev Dr J R Spence  
Chancellor