

Copy Fr Spence file

JRS/MMcC

10 August 1999

Messrs Thynne and Macartney  
Solicitors  
GPO Box 245  
BRISBANE Q 4001

Dear Sirs,

Attention Mr Moore  
Re: *Frank Derryman and Joan Isaacs*

I have spoken with Mr Laurie Rolls, who advises CCI, and he has indicated that he will come to Brisbane soon to discuss this and other matters. In point of fact, we will be looking to Q.B.E. for cover in this matter.

In other cases CCI has taken the hard legal line, with a denial of liability. You have informed me that Ms Isaacs' solicitor is obtaining medical and psychological assessments. We could indicate that we are prepared to examine these if they wish to submit them. At a later date you may think it wise to get other assessments if we decide to negotiate.

I have read the letter Bishop Gerry sent to Ms Isaac. It was drafted by Mr Rolls, who was under the mistaken belief that Derryman had pleaded guilty. I am informed by Derryman's brother-in-law that this was not the case, that he pleaded not guilty. In these circumstances, the letter of apology was not carefully worded, though we can argue that it was not an admission of liability on the part of the Church. It does affirm Derryman's guilt, of which I don't believe there was evidence to warrant such an apology or admission.

But that is done now. I would be grateful if you would write to Ms Isaac's solicitors pointing out that the Bishop has written to his client expressing his sympathy at the distress she is experiencing, but in no way acknowledging any responsibility on the part of the Archdiocese. You may care to take the moral position of asserting that it is unthinkable that the Archbishop of the time or any Archdiocesan authority would have countenanced the actions she complains of.

If you believe it wise, we could indicate a willingness to examine any assessments of Mr Isaacs relevant to her complaints as I have mentioned above.

I suggest that a copy of your letter be sent to Q.B.E.

Yours faithfully,

The Very Reverend Doctor James R Spence  
CHANCELLOR