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15 September 1999

The Very Reverend Dr James R Spence
Chancellor
Brisbane Archdiocesan Chancery
GPO Box 1291
BRISBANE QLD 4001

*Spence
in
file*

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Father Spence

Re: Frank Derriman / Joan Isaacs

Thank you for your letter of 10 August 1999. We also refer to our telephone discussion with you and with Mr Laurie Rolls on 14 September 1999.

As explained, we are being pressed by Peter Deed of Cranston McEachern to respond in relation to Joan Isaacs' claim for compensation.

We note that you have already received a copy of the submission material sent to Laurie Rolls by Cranston McEachern. We also enclose:-

1. Further response (and enclosures) received from Cranston McEachern of 10 September 1999;
2. Our "holding" response of 14 September 1999. [We provided this preliminary response as we were told that Mrs Isaacs is continually contacting Mr Deed over the matter.]

It seems to be suggested that Mrs Isaacs will not pursue a civil claim through the Court system, although one wonders what will occur if there is no favourable response to her request for monetary compensation in the sum of \$231,609.00.

It seems to be suggested that Mrs Isaacs was the person referred to in the District Court sentencing by Judge Maguire on 10 December 1998. If this is so, this would suggest that there was sexual abuse (not of a serious kind) that took place. This is in conflict with the

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comment made by Laurie Rolls by phone on 14 September 1997 that Peter Deed had privately admitted to him that Isaacs had no case. In any event, it is clear that Mrs Isaacs has suffered major health problems and her family has had a history of depression. She has also required repeated surgery. Dr Grant in his report has conceded:-

"There is a family history of probable depression in the mother which probably meant that Ms Isaacs had some constitution predisposition to developing depression. However, the abuse was a significant factor in first triggering her depressive illness. Latter factors such as childbirth and marital strains were relevant in further precipitating episodes of depression. She has required quite extensive psychiatric treatment and remains in therapy and on medication. It may be that Ms Isaacs would have developed depression even if the abuse had not occurred, but it is very likely that the abuse has acted as a triggering and aggravating factor".

We note that the instances occurred in 1967 / 1968 / 1969. We need to determine whether or not this claim is to be handled by CCI or by QBE. It would seem that this particular claim would run into the CCI coverage period. We have not, as yet, written to CCI direct, nor have we written, in the Isaacs case, to QBE. Please let us know if you would like us to do so.

We look forward to discussing this case further with you.

Yours faithfully

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