

Professional Standards

From: Professional Standards
Sent: Wednesday, 27 April 2005 3:09 PM
To: REDACTED
Subject: RE: questions

Dear LS and LR

I am replying to acknowledge receipt of your email. Consideration will be given to your issues and they will be responded to in due course,
 Sue .

From: LS [mailto:REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 25 April 2005 5:09 PM
To: Professional Standards
Subject: questions

CONFIDENTIAL

Attention: Sue Cain, Director, Professional Standards Office, Catholic Church Office.

Dear Sue,

We are writing to draw attention to our concerns regarding the integrity of the Professional Standards Office within the Catholic Diocese of Adelaide.

In an article published in the Independent Weekly 14-21 November 2004, titled *"The Parents Who Abuse Sex Payouts"*, Alex Kennedy states, *"And it is known the church is aware of, and dismayed by, incidences where some families have used the money for purposes other than the direct benefit of the victim"*. The following day, 15 November, ABC News Radio reported that *"the Church is not unhappy with the article"*.

On Wednesday 17 November Monsignor David Cappo stated in an interview with Matthew Abraham on ABC radio that it was the *"first they had heard of this issue and they were devastated."* He went on to state that, *"none of these purported facts had come to the Archbishop's or my attention"*.

>From these exchanges there are clear contradictions with information passed on to the media from within the Church Office and the information from David Cappo and the Archbishop.

David Cappo states in the same radio interview that the *"vast majority of parents they are talking to are spending the money responsibly."* This would indicate that Church Office (Professional Standards we presume) has been in contact with parents to determine how they are spending the gift (no one has spoken to us, by the way). The Professional Standards Office is the only source of information on all families' contact details and in accord with David Cappo's comment, has sought information on how the money has been spent. In response to a complaint to The Australian Press Council, Ms Alex Kennedy asserts both to the Council and publicly in The Independent Weekly on 24 April 2005 that, *"...those families that The Independent Weekly investigated were contacted"*. How did Ms Kennedy obtain names and then know which families to contact? It would appear that there has been a gross breach of confidentiality. This is not the first time that details of families have been given to the media by the Church Office.

31/05/2005

On another matter, it is now six months since we sent a series of questions regarding the implementation of Towards Healing and the Report from the St Ann's Inquiry. Despite written assurances by the Archbishop on November 8 and November 16, that he will "*endeavour to answer your queries appropriately as soon as possible*", we are still waiting. We would have thought that six months would have been a more than adequate time to find some answers. On 17 November, David Cappo said on ABC radio that the questions are of a "*quasi legal*" nature. This is incorrect. They are questions about procedure of a non-legal process.

Whilst the Archbishop has offered to meet with us on a pastoral basis, as we have stated previously, we see a pastoral response is addressing our issues. The Towards Healing Process was offered to us as a means to assist us through this traumatic time, but now we are denied the opportunity to participate in this process. It is now over three years since the abuse at St Ann's came to light and still no one will speak with us. If the Archbishop, who is the chair of the Professional Standards Committee in Australia, is unwilling to address these issues then who will?

LS and LR