

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS RESOURCE GROUP

A state Branch of the National Committee for Professional Standards
Australian Catholic Bishops Conference

COPY

LR [redacted] and LS [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

24 May 2002

Dear LR [redacted] and LS [redacted]

Thank you for your letter of 15 May. In it you refer to a previous letter to which you have not received a reply. I am wondering, LS [redacted] if you are referring to the letter from the Parent Advovates to Father Cappo, a copy of which was sent to me? If so I understand a reply was sent. If you are not referring to that letter I am at a loss as I have received no other correspondence.

In your letter you ask for a review of process being dissatisfied with communication so far. If I can refer you to section 43.2 of Towards Healing it says "A complainant or an accused person who is entitled to a review of process may request in writing to the Director of Professional Standards a review of process within 3 calendar months of the completion of the process." As you know the process in relation to LG [redacted] has not actually started as the police have not given consent for it to do so. I refer you to section 38 of the same document "Responding to a Complaint" 38.1 reads in part "The following procedures apply only where the complaint does not concern a criminal matter..... or the civil authorities have decided not to take further action under the criminal law or child protection legislation." It is this section that guides me as to if I can proceed and when.

Please do not think I am unsympathetic to your current level of frustration, having to wait for decisions and answers is enormously stressful. Any independent enquiries implemented by the Archbishop or Catholic Education are independent also of Towards Healing although I am kept informed.

May I suggest that you write to the Archbishop to let him know how you feel about the lack of communication and the resultant dissatisfaction. I will let him have a copy of your letter to me and my response. I was sorry not to see you at the meeting last Monday, parents I have spoken to were appreciative of the opportunity to hear from the Archbishop and Detective Sergeant Rodney, a lot of issues seemed to be addressed.

Please ring me if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P.V.' or similar initials.

Pauline A Verity
Director

Cc Archbishop Wilson