



Catholic Education Centre

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J5B/JH:LTR/SAD

LS LR

REDACTED

Dear LS and LR

Thank you for the statement you sent me on 21st February relating to your son LG and allegations about the behaviour of a person associated with St Ann's Special School during the late 1980's and early 1990's.

I was most concerned when I became aware of these allegations, and would like to restate my commitment, and that of the Church, to supporting you in pursuing this matter.

I was pleased to have the opportunity to meet you and to say hello on Monday night. The Church has developed Principles and Procedures for responding to complaints of abuse against personnel of the Catholic Church of Australia. These policies and procedures are published in '*Towards Healing*' a copy of which I have enclosed with this letter.

As you may be aware, in SA there is a Professional Standards Resource Group appointed under the terms of these policies and procedures. Ms Pauline Verity is the Director of Professional Standards in South Australia.

I have discussed the matters raised by you with Pauline and the Vicar General for the Archdiocese of Adelaide, Father David Cappo. We are agreed that the matters are criminal in nature and consequently should be reported to the police in detail to ascertain if criminal proceedings should progress against the person concerned (please refer to items 37.1 and 37.4 in the procedures).

I would encourage you, in the first instance, to formally report these matters to the police. Should you require assistance in approaching and speaking with the police I would be pleased to offer a support person for this purpose. Please contact me directly if you would like to take up this support.

I have enclosed two forms for you to consider. One authorises the forwarding of your complaint to the police and the other one states that you do not wish your complaints to be forwarded to the police. I would strongly encourage you to give us permission to forward your complaint to the police.

I have written separately to Detective Sergeant Peter Rodney who is a member of the South Australian Police Child Exploitation Section. He is happy to personally take your call. Whilst I have not provided him with your name or contact details I have broadly outlined the allegations I have heard. I understand that if allegations are made to the police new investigations may reopen any past allegations or charges for review.

Detective Sergeant Peter Rodney can be personally contacted on 8463 7743. If he is not there you may be switched to another officer in the section or there may be a telephone answering service if no-one is present.

I reiterate my support to you should you wish to report these matters to the police.

In the normal course of events the police would then proceed to investigate and charges may be laid for a court to determine. Following the finalisation of the matter by the police and the outcome of any charges if the police decide to proceed, the Church would then proceed with its guidelines for receiving your complaints following the policies and procedures outlined in *Towards Healing*.

This police contact as a prior step to our own procedures is important to ensure that allegations of a criminal matter are first received by the proper authorities for taking such statements and evidence.

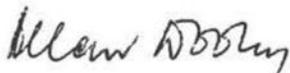
In recent years the Church has learnt much about working with families regarding concerns and complaints and believes that good processes are critical to a pastoral and professional determination of these matters, including how to move forward together, whilst at the same time ensuring that your situation is treated with respect, confidentiality and with care.

I assure you of the support of Catholic Education in SA as you further consider ways to bring your concerns forward in order that there can be a just and pastoral outcome for your family and all concerned.

I appreciate the trust that has been placed in me in bringing these matters to my attention and should you wish to speak with me further regarding the contents of this letter or if you would like further support in moving forward please don't hesitate to contact me (or Jane Swift) directly on 8301 6612. My secretary, Denny Williamson, will ensure that I (or Jane) are promptly informed of your call for return.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely



ALLAN DOOLEY
DIRECTOR

5th March 2002

Encl.